CREATIVE MARKS



FOCUS

SPRING 2014

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (CAPAC, INC.)



COME OUT AND PLAY AT OLD HICKORY!



Pick up your clubs and get ready your swing to join us for **Scene on The Greens-Take Two!** Our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament is a month away and promises to be another relaxing day of fun and laughs for all. Captain's Choice/Best Ball will be the game. \$125/ golfer or \$500/team.

To sign up online, visit www.capacweb.org. Event and Hole sponsorships are still available. Register today!



Can They Hold Onto 1st Place?

Despite pouring rain, players took to the greens during our 2013 tournament. With a bold winning lead above the rest, (pictured I-r, with Celebrity Guest Michael Williams in orange, center) William Williams, Dr. Luke Torian & Danny Hopson took home the 1st Place Trophy.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July Annual Golf Tournament 25 Old Hickory Country Club

Aug CAPAC Bailamos Dancers Auditions 1-2 James McCoart Building

Oct CAPAC's 10th Anniversary Gala
11 Hylton Performing Arts Center

ANGLES

Heavyweight champion Joe Louis (2nd from left) and golf pioneer Charlie Sifford (2nd from right) played their fair share of rounds at Langston Golf Course in northeast D.C., opened in 1939 amidst all segregated courses in the DC area.

Photo courtesy Jimmy Garvin Legacy Foundation



DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

Denise M. McPhail



CAPAC Executive Director Denise McPhail with fellow alums of the Lean, Mean 2013 Leadership Prince William Class at the June 13th Evening of Excellence Awards Ceremony

As I look toward our 10th anniversary celebration, I salute the tireless efforts of Board President Loretta Freeman and the loyal volunteer professionals who have dedicated their time over the years to advance the mission of CAPAC. With an amazing sold-out seven shows of The Wiz. I commend the work of Chaz Pando and Tyrell Lashley at the helm of a dynamic Production Team, who thought highly enough of CAPAC's

leadership to nominate me for the Kathy Ellington
Award and Loretta for the Leadership Prince William Vision Award. During the awards ceremony, I was touched by the support for our work. This fall, we will work with Bill Reeder, Dean of GMU's College of Visual & Performing Arts, on long-term strategic planning to coalesce our Board, fortify our fiscal foundation and expand our programming.

We are excited to see doors continually open to strengthen CAPAC's future,

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR ANNIVERSARY ARTS BENEFIT GALA

CAPAC'S FIRST DECADE

Cultivating Community Through The Grts

An evening of elegance and arts is prepared for our members, supporters and friends who will join us for our 10th Anniversary Arts Benefit Gala on Saturday, October 11th at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Seating is limited so if you want to share our special moment, don't delay in purchasing your tickets online at www.capacweb.org.

Tickets are \$80/guest and must be purchased in advance. We will do our best to accommodate group seating requests based upon the order of ticket purchases.

If you would like to show your support by becoming a sponsor or purchasing an ad in our souvenir journal, email us at give@capacweb.org.

So You Think You Can Dance?

CAPAC AMBASSADORS—Dancers Wanted

The CAPAC Ambassadors are a touring ensemble created in response to the community's demands for quality performances outside of the theater. Under the direction of choreographer Ms. Catrina Stroman, the **Bailamos Dancers** will be the newest part of the ensemble, to be comprised of dancers ranging in age from 10 to adults. Auditions are scheduled on the dates below at the James McCoart Building's Powell's Creek Conference Room, located 1 County Complex Court in Woodbridge. *Experience preferred*.

Friday, August 1 6:30pm - 7:30pm Saturday, August 2 10:00am - 12:00pm

For details on how to prepare for your audition, please visit our website at: www.capacweb.org/auditions

GIFT THE ARTS

Friend	\$1+
Patron	\$100+
Benefactor	\$500+
Advocate	\$1000+
Champion	\$2000+
Hero	\$3000+
5-Star Group	\$5000+
Lyrical Club	\$7500+
Ovation Circle	\$10000+

Your tax-deductible donation is welcome along the spectrum of support that will keep us thriving and elevating our work.

We thank you for your generosity.

To request a Donor Commitment Packet, email us at: give@capacweb.org

Please make checks or money orders payable to CAPAC and submit to your CAPAC rep or mail to:

"The life we live becomes the meat of artistic expression." "I am always becoming."

LINES

~ Ruby Dee, actress, writer, activist (1922-2014)

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SEEN & HEARD: Take Our Seat in the Merchant Hall



The next time you are in the Merchant Hall, the main performance theater of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, take our seat: 219.

As one of the Hylton's Founding Residence Arts

Partners at the Hylton, CAPAC proudly joined its "Take A Seat" campaign in 2009 to help raise funds to build this European-style opera house.

In May, we celebrated the end of our journey

to pay off the cost of the seat and the fulfillment of our promise.

Our engraved name tag now proudly appears on one of the 1,200 seats in this state-of-the-art modern space.

ART EFFECTS: Inaugural Arts Council Poet Laureate Circle

On June 14th, Prince William County became the first county in Virginia to launch a Poet Laureate Program and announced its first Poets Laureate during a special "Poetry & Jazz on the Lake" event in Occoquan.

The 14 nominees were inducted into the inaugural Prince William County Arts Council Poet Laureate Circle and will collaborate on projects to promote the art of writing poetry.

CAPAC Board Member Dora Muhammad was one of the local poets honored with induction. Here is an excerpt of her poem *Maya's Song* she recited at her induction.

the art of your heart beat beat beating bare bold fierce rhythms wise are your words opening visions streaming dreams across the universe sky birthing galaxies of possibility within us through contractions of dawn and dew and solar dust literary light casting compassionate mornings the lyrics of your life accompanied melodies of freedom for our spirit tap tap tapping out transparencies of truth revealing voice blessing hope uncaging power out of forgotten traces in narrow spaces from the incongruent shapes of our lives you taught us to sketch symmetries

of grace

to see humanity

face-to-face



CAPAC Board Member Dora Muhammad's spoken word at the Prince William County Arts Council Poet Laureate event was her poem in memory of her mentor Dr. Maya Angelou

Do You **LOVE** The Work Of **CAPAC**?

Our mission is to provide educational excellence, enrichment and quality entertainment through the arts while inspiring the community to participate in cultural diversity.

Here's How **You** Can Show **Support**...

Become a member

Give a tax-deductible donation

Audition for a role

Volunteer on a production crew

Support a committee

Advertise in a program souvenir book

Spread the word

ENJOY THESE BENEFITS WITH YOUR ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

- · Reserved Seating for Mainstage Productions
 - Ticket Exchange
- · Listing in Program Books
- · **Discount on Ads** in Program Books
- · Opening Night (or Closing) Reception (selected performances)

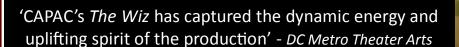
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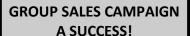
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The support of the family and friends of the cast, crew and CAPAC leadership was key in our success at the box office. The initiation of our first Group Sales Campaign was also integral in generating this support. We recognize the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Girl Scouts Troop 6038, and The Upper Room Christian Cathedral for their patronage through this special campaign.







Over the two-week run of *The Wiz*, CAPAC once again set ground-breaking records at the Hylton Performing Arts Center with a fully sold out run of shows.

Garnering five stars from *The Washington Post's* DC Metro Theater Arts, the production was heralded as "big, flashy and funky," "hugely complex," but never

"overwhelming or overwrought."

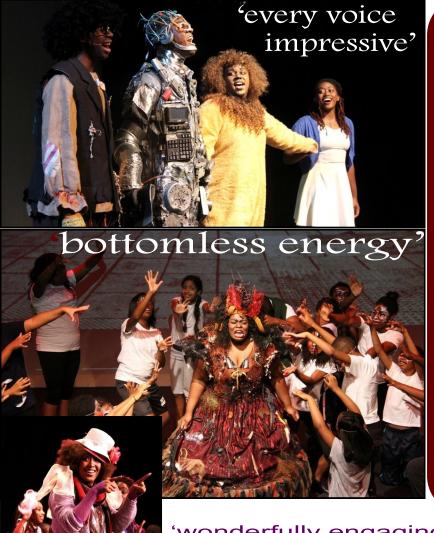
With a cast and crew of nearly 60 children, teens, adults and a dog, Director Chaz Pando remained undaunted in the creative challenge of bringing his vision to the stage in his first large-scale musical directorial debut.

Here are excerpts of the *Post* review:



The costumes ... the most impressive and professional I have seen on a local stage ... practically sculptures, an astounding mélange of fabric and found objects that somehow

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CLOSING PERFORMANCE IN MEMORIAM



(I-r) Kay Harris, Kyrai Martin and Sheila Anderson receive flowers on behalf of CAPAC from Executive Director Denise McPhail before the final show

During the production period of The Wiz, members of the Production Team lost family members yet their resilient spirit allowed them to endure to the end. Our closing performance was dedicated to the memory of these loved ones.

Deacon Elijah Salters father of Sheila Anderson, Stage Manager

Shannon Jones sister of Kay Harris, Choreographer

Alma Marie Thompson mother of Traci Thompson, Backstage Manager & Kyrai Martin, Assistant Choreographer

wonderfully engaging choreography'

held together despite the highly kinetic dancing in the show.

The Cowardly Lion (Roy Patten Jr.) had the audience eating out of the palm of his paw... nailed the essence of the grandstanding but terribly insecure Lion ... his fourth-wall-breaking asides had the audience in stitches.

Kanysha Williams' incredible acting and singing (as Dorothy) culminated in a spinetingling rendition of "Home," which received a well-deserved ovation.

(Rayshun) Lamar (The Wiz) made me find religion Saturday night ... due to his unbelievable energy and astounding vocal ability. The tornado, the yellow brick road, and the sleep-inducing-poppies were all communicated by dancers. The actors' bodies became the canvas that Mr. Pando used to tell his story.

The curtains may have closed, but this production left an indelible mark on all of our hearts.





SPOTLIGHT: GIFTED HANDS BEHIND CAPAC CURTAINS





(IT'S OK TO USE A PATTERN TO GIVE STRUCTURE BUT I LIKE TO CREATE MY OWN PATTERN. I AM ABLE TO PUT MYSELF IN IT."

An instinctive fascination with the creative process grounds the work of Arnita Jordan. Ever since her aunt sat her down as a nine-yearold to teach her to sew, she has been inspired to create. "It's ok to use a pattern to give structure but I like to create my own pattern," she shared. "I can't go wrong because I made it up. I am able to put myself in it in some way."

Her grandfather, who was a painter, was one of the greatest influences on her artistic development. While she paints, Arnita's art reaches into photography, embroidery and hand-crafted gifts and party favors. The diversity of her craftwork is

enjoyed by the clientele of her business, A Special Touch by Arnita (www.aspecialtouchbyar nita.com) which offers made-to-order custom products for all occasions as unique as patient examination robes for a doctor's private practice to air freshener dolls with painted wooden faces.

Her range of items includes fans and purses, to ethnic attire and ministry robes. Children and seniors hold a special place in her heart — whether its making puppets for classroom mobile art cart when her daughters attended elementary school or currently designing bibs with inspirational sayings for the elderly sick. It

brings Arnita great joy to tailor one-of-a-kind pieces for her clients such as a memorable order for a robe of many colors.

"I like the challenge of thought to make their vision come to life," she described of her pro-

Arnita joined CAPAC as a backstage volunteer when her two girls participated in CAPAC's first production, "I Am One Send Me - The Life of Jennie Dean." She continued to add the God-given talent of her sewing artistry over the past decade to CAPAC costumes.

Humbly summarizing her commitment: "I was put here to do something with my hands."







THE POETTREE

We, unaccustomed to courage exiles from delight live coiled in shells of loneliness until love leaves its high holy temple and comes into our sight to liberate us into life.

Love arrives and in its train come ecstasies old memories of pleasure ancient histories of pain. Yet if we are bold, love strikes away the chains of fear from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity In the flush of love's light

we dare be brave And suddenly we see that love costs all we are and will ever be. Yet it is only love which sets us free.



Touched By An AngelBy Maya Angelou
1928-2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Loretta Freeman, *President*Alonzo Wilson, *Treasurer*Vernell Lewis, *Secretary*Sheila Anderson
Janice Broome Brooks
Deidre Crawford
Chalet Jean-Baptiste
Dora Muhammad
Chaz Pando
Pamela Sessoms

SPOTLIGHT: GIFTED HANDS BEHIND CAPAC CURTAINS



With an incomparable passion for sewing, Remeja Thompson has shared her talent with CAPAC for the past four years. Since the age of 10 when her hands first embraced a sewing machine under the guidance of her mother, Remeja is always in awe when she sees her clothing on a person.

She understood her abilities to be her gift from God not only because it was so natural and easy for her, but after her realization that it wasn't as simple for other people to do it. As a professional seamstress running her own business, SewDiva, she has designed a wide

(I HAVE DONE MORE WITH ONE HAND THAN I EVER DID WITH TWO HANDS,"

array of products for her clientele, from wedding gowns, home décor, and garments for Biblically-themed church plays.

Her greatest accomplishment was her work on the design team for *The Wiz* because of the variety of concepts. She says her heart has been filled by the overwhelmingly positive responses to her work on The Wiz.

And one can certainly gain a greater appreciation for her work when you learn that she lost her hands in a medical incident which caused her to give up sewing for three years. But she refused to give up, relying on her faith in God to continue with her work. Her resilience is evident in a sewing room fitted out with seven different machines, walls covered in pictures, patterns upon patterns, and fabric of works in progress trickling over to her living

room and kitchen.

Her entire home is her creative sewing studio where she sews in the morning; and during the day; and at night until about 2am; and when she can't sleep. Remeja is always sewing.

Her vision is to design a line of women's clothing, teach sewing and one day live above a sewing loft.

"I have done more with one hand than I ever did with two hands. It is not a handicap or a disability. It's more a challenge," she said.

"It pushes me to do more and believe that I can do anything. Not only that I can do this--but do it even better," she shared, as she put on the finishing touches on a men's seersucker two-piece one-button suit, with pleated pants and cuffs.

CAPAC COMMITTEES

There is a place for your time and talent at CAPAC. Join one of our committees to help further the vision and expand our programming reach. If you desire to become more active within our organization, email us at capac4va@capacweb.org

