

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***JUNEBUG/JACK* JUMPS ONTO THE STAGE IN ONLY LOCAL PERFORMANCE**

Premiere African American theater company, New Orleans-based Junebug Productions and Appalshop's Roadside Theater will perform their original musical play *JUNEBUG/JACK* for one night only (as a part of their rehearsal process) on Wednesday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Appalshop Theater at 306 Madison Street, Whitesburg, Kentucky. Admission is free.

Take two of the most vital oral traditions in the South . . . season them with the blues, bayou funk, and four part harmonies . . . add guitar, banjo, and fiddle . . . and you've got the recipe for *JUNEBUG/JACK*, a lively collaboration between Roadside and Junebug.

Junebug Productions and Roadside Theater make their theater from the stories and songs that are woven through their people's history and culture. During the 1960's Civil Rights struggle, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee invented Junebug to represent the collective wisdom of ordinary black people. He is the descendent of African praise singers and griots.

Jack is the archetypal Appalachian hero, a boy of indefinite age living in poverty with his widowed mother. Jack's story varies according to the difficulties and powerful forces he encounters, but humor is always an important part of the tale. Together, the stories of Jack and Junebug represent the triumph of wit over power, of the human spirit over oppression.

As important as the stories in *JUNEBUG/JACK* is the music. The fifteen original and traditional songs are sung in powerful a cappella harmonies or accompanied by guitar, fiddle, and synthesizer.

The seed of the *JUNEBUG/JACK* collaboration was planted in 1981 when the Roadside and Junebug companies decided to perform their separate plays for each others' home audiences, one predominately black, the other predominately white, both economically hard pressed. The response of both audiences was overwhelmingly positive. In 1991 the two companies decided to take the idea one step further by putting together a new play that would be a combination of material from the two theaters' cultures - *JUNEBUG/JACK*.

The New Orleans TIMES-PICAYUNE said of the play, "Rather than recycling warm platitudes or shaking angry fists, *JUNEBUG/JACK* demonstrates a sensitivity to black-white differences while also highlighting some of those areas where traditions, legends, experiences, interests and even music overlap."

Come out and experience this lively rehearsal performance of *JUNEBUG/JACK* on Wednesday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m.! Admission is free but seating is limited so come early for the best seats! For more information, call 606-633-0108.