

Aronoff Center to host regional premiere of 'Promise of A Love Song'

Witness the regional premiere of *Promise Of A Love Song*, a musical drama created by The Exchange Project, a culmination of three nationally-acclaimed theatre companies, on Friday and Saturday, April 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Aronoff Center for the Arts, Jarson-Kaplan Theater.

Promise of a Love Song was developed out of a four-year exchange among the artists of three theatre companies and their home communities: Roadside Theater of Appalshop, an Appalachian theater ensemble from Whitesburg, Ky.; Junebug Productions, an African American theater company from New Orleans; and Teatro Pregones, a Puerto Rican troupe from the Bronx.

Promise combines a tapestry of stories as seen through the eyes of specific worlds and realities, which in turn become tales of love that bring culture to life—from the Appalachian mountains to the southern African American communities to the Puerto Rican neighborhoods of New York City. Each story is told in segments throughout the play, while poignant,

dramatic music - mountain music, jazz, boleros, and salsa - sustain and unite each tale with warmth, wit, humor and irony.

Promise Of A Love Song is presented in conjunction with *Voice From Home: A Celebration of Community Culture and Arts*, a collaboration between the Urban Appalachian Council, the Cincinnati Arts Association, and Appalshop. The Urban Appalachian Council is a non-profit organization that serves and celebrates Greater Cincinnati's urban Appalachian community. The Cincinnati Arts Association's mission is to offer high-quality, year-round programming that appeals to a broad range of entertainment tastes and interests. Appalshop strengthens Appalachian communities through media and performing arts and promotes diversity and cultural respect through national exchange programs.

Contributors to *Voices From Home: A Celebration of Community Culture and Arts* event in Cincinnati include: The Appalachian Community Development Association, The Cinergy Foundation, Community Arts Fund of the Fine Arts Fund, Crowne Plaza Hotel, The

Kroger Company, Media Working Group, the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Film Commission, Ohio Arts Council, Kentucky Humanities Council, Barbara and Ethan Stanley, and Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc.

Cincinnati is the second stop on Appalshop's two-year *Voice From Home* national tour. The tour will also visit San Francisco, Calif.; San Antonio, Texas; Anchorage, Ark.; Knoxville, Tenn.; and New York City. The tour will conclude with a celebration at Appalshop in Whitesburg, Ky. in June 2002. The *Voices From Home* national tour is funded in part by The National Endowment for the Humanities and The National Endowment for the Arts.

Ticket prices from *Promise Of A Love Song* at the Aronoff Center, Jarson-Kaplan Theater on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. are \$22 and \$16, and can be purchased at the Aronoff Center or Music Hall box office or any Ticketmaster outlet. Charge-by-phone at 513-241-SHOW (7469), or order online at www.cincinnatiarts.org. For group rates, call 513-977-4157.