



For Immediate Release

**“BREAKING GROUND WITH BILL T. JONES”
A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SERIES
BILL T. JONES MODERATES
“HARLEM, CULTURAL CAPITAL: NAMING THE FUTURE”
AT HARLEM STAGE GATEHOUSE ON JUNE 18**

“Harlem, Cultural Capital: Naming the Future,” the third of this season’s innovative community discussions, “Breaking Ground with Bill T. Jones,” takes place at Harlem Stage Gatehouse, June 18 at 7:30pm. The series is co-presented with Harlem Stage.

Embodying Jones’ natural sense of theater which typically fuses performance and provocative talk, the June 18 event will examine the future of Harlem through a variety of intellectual, political and cultural lenses. Guests include: the Harlem-based, Academy Award-nominated youth performance group from IMPACT Repertory Theatre; Green Worker Cooperatives founder Omar Freilla; “The Hip Hop Generation” author Bakari Kitwana; Village Academies Charter Schools Director of Community Outreach and External Affairs Clesont Mitchell; New Heritage Theatre Group Executive Producer Voza Rivers; and real estate developer Beatrice Sibbles. The evening will be moderated by Bill T. Jones, who titled the event in response to a line from a poem by Frank O’Hara: “Naming things is only the intention to make things.”

With lead sponsorship by Chase, a long-time supporter of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, “Breaking Ground” was created to explore issues of cultural identity, diversity, ethnicity, public policy, and Harlem’s changing international significance.

Harlem Stage Gatehouse is located at 150 Convent Avenue (at West 135th Street). Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.harlemstage.org or by calling 212-281-9240 x19.

MORE

**BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY
ADD ONE**

Bill T. Jones, the co-founder and artistic director of the Harlem-based **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company**, has received almost every major award in the arts including the 2007 Tony Award for his choreography in “Spring Awakening,” the 2005 Wexner Prize, the 2005 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, a 2005 Harlem Renaissance Award, the 2003 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, and a MacArthur “Genius” Award in 1994. Most recently, he received the 2008 Lewis Rudin Award for Civic Leadership. The *Breaking Ground* series is the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company’s new public program, extending Jones’ civic dialogues to serve the Harlem community.

Since its inception in 1983, **Harlem Stage/Aaron Davis Hall, Inc.** has earned national and international reputation for its world-class programming and commissioning of new works. Harlem Stage’s primary mission is to support and present the development of new work and the work of emerging artists, and connecting these stimulating new programs to its community. Harlem Stage has hosted such legendary artists as Harry Belafonte, Max Roach, Bill Cosby, Abbey Lincoln, Maya Angelou, and Tito Puente. On October 24, 2006 Harlem Stage opened its new facility, the Harlem Stage Gatehouse, a historically landmarked building recently awarded the Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award.

The **Harlem Stage Partners program** strengthens Harlem Stage’s long history of partnerships with significant artists and organizations co-presenting projects that exemplify the mission of the organization. The *Harlem Stage Partners* program is supported, in part, by Deutsche Bank and through public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

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This series is made possible by **CHASE** 

Chase has been engaged in the local Harlem community for nearly a century. With more than 3,000 bank branches across the country, Chase is a strong community partner investing in education, arts and culture, and economic development programs that allow people and communities to thrive.

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