

June 8, 2015
For Immediate Release
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Dominion Entertainment Group Announces the Hit Comedy *Jar the Floor*

June 8, 2015 (Atlanta, GA) - Dominion Entertainment Group is proud to announce the hit comedy, ***Jar the Floor* by Cheryl West**, directed by Robert John Connor. ***Jar the Floor* is a laugh out loud comedy about mothers and daughters and their complex relationships.** Presented at **Fulton County's Southwest Arts Center, *Jar the Floor* runs September 16 -October 4, 2015.**

Cheryl West's unflinching exploration of familial bonds shared among women **explodes with ferocious humor and disarming humanity** in *Jar the Floor*. Four generations gather to celebrate Madear's 90th birthday. Over the course of the celebration ghosts, secrets, and a surprise party guest test the boundaries of already fragile relationships. As the celebration comes to a close, some women find resolution in change while others remain steadfastly in the past.

Starring Bernadine Mitchell, Donna Biscoe, Cycerli Ash, D. Woods, and Cara Mantella.

" 'Jar the Floor' explores the legacy of guilt and hostility that is passed from even the most loving mother to a daughter, and at the same time it shows that particular intimacy to be innately funny and wonderful." - LA Times

Cheryl West's *Jar the Floor*. Directed by Robert John Connor. September 16 - October 4, 2015 at the Southwest Arts Center, 915 New Hope Road, Atlanta, GA, 30331.

CALENDAR INFORMATION:

Cheryl West's *Jar the Floor* at Southwest Arts Center, 915 New Hope Road, Atlanta, GA 30331, September 16 - October 4, 2015.

Performances: Sept 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, Oct 1, 2, 3 @ 8 PM; Sept 19, 26, Oct 3 @ 2 PM; Sept 20, 27, Oct 4 @ 4 PM; Sept 23 & 30 @ 11 AM

Tickets: \$15 - \$35 Available at: BrownPaperTickets.com OR 800.838.3006. For ticketing information email: ticketing@dominionent.org

MEDIA NIGHT:

On Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 8 PM members of the media are invited to join us for a performance of *Jar the Floor* at Fulton County's Southwest Arts Center. Please RSVP to Jenn McEwen at jennifer.n.dwyer@gmail.com no later than Tuesday, September 1, 2015. Seats are subject to availability.

ABOUT THE CAST:

Bernadine Mitchell (Madear) is an Atlanta native who has performed nationally and internationally in a wide range of roles that includes Mahalia Jackson in *Mahalia*, Bessie Smith in *Bessie's Blues*, Mrs. Potts in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, Velma and Mother Shaw in *Crowns*, Alice in *Big River*, the Matron in *Chicago*, Antigone in the international tour of *The Gospel at Colonus* and Rose in Lee Breuer's *Prelude to the Death in Venice*. Bernadine received the **DramaLogue Award** in Los Angeles for her portrayal of Bessie Smith at the San Diego Repertory Theatre, The **Helen Hayes Award** for Outstanding Lead Actress for her performance of Lady from the Road in *Blues in the Night* at the Arena Stage in Washington, DC and for her performance as Mahalia in *Mahaila*. She also received the Susi Bass Award for her Mahalia performance. Bernadine has been a featured performer with the *Atlanta Symphony Orchestra*, *The Harlem Gospel Singers*, and in the films *The Guyana Tragedy* and *A Resting Place*, starring Morgan Freeman. Bernadine was a vocal and musical theatre major at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association.

Donna Biscoe (Lola) is honored to appear in *Jar the Floor*! She is a graduate of Clark College and some of her favorite theatre appearances are: *Tree*, *The Green Book*, *Gee's Bend*, *Waiting to Be Invited*, *Our Town*, *Doubt*, *Blue*, *Cool Drink Of Water*, *Crumbs From The Table of Joy* and *Holiday Heart*. Some of her television and film credits include: *Rectify*, *Blood Done Sign My Name*, *3 Can Play That Game*, *Daddy's Little Girl*, *The Gospel*, *Pandora's Box*, *One Missed Call* and many others.

Cylerli Ash (Maydee) received her BA in Theater (2006) from Rutgers University (New Brunswick) and her MFA in Acting (2010) from the University of Tennessee. She is a proud member of Actors Equity. Some Theater credits include: Delia, Missy Mae (Spunk): Christmas Past (A Christmas Carol): Sophie (Flyin' West): Marion (Secret Rapture): Sally (Lie of the Mind). In Film Cylerli has worked on several projects as a principle character along with well known actors/artists :Some include: Lisa Raye McCoy, Tommy Ford, Carl Payne, Mel Jackson, Forever Jones, Van Vicker and Christopher B. Pearman, Dorian Wilson and Michael Keith.

Cara Mantella (Raisa) has worked on stages in and around Atlanta including The Alliance Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Theatre in the Square, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Actor's Express, Horizon Theatre, Stage Door Players, and Théâtre du Rêve. Film: *The Good Lie*, *Trouble with the Curve*, *Premature*, *90 Minutes in Heaven*. TV: *H.R.*(Pilot), *Army Wives*, *Drop Dead Diva* (Lifetime), *Christmas Cupid*, *My Future Boyfriend* (ABC Family), *The Game*(BET), *Royal*

Pains (USA) and the webseries *That's Educational* (www.thatseducational.com). She has her BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. www.caramantella.com

D. Woods (Vennie) developed her love for the Arts growing up in Springfield Massachusetts, where she trained and performed in many dance and regional theater productions. Re-locating to Atlanta Ga in her high school years, D. Woods attended Tri-Cities High School of Visual and Performing Arts, performed with the Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble and trained on scholarship at the Alvin Ailey School in New York. While studying at New York University's Tisch School of the arts and Gallatin School of Individualized Study, D. Woods became quite popular as a dancer and singer in many circles, landing her on music videos and tours of major recording artists and eventually on the MTV show "Making The Band". D. Woods and her pop/r&b group Danity Kane achieved chart topping and platinum status as well as recognition in the Guinness Book of World Records! Taking all that she has learned, D. Woods is now the CEO of her record label Woodgrane Entertainment/SonyRED and has gained recognition numerous times on the Grammy Academy's Ballot for Nominations. She has been most recently seen in *Shaking The Rafters* produced by Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre, TVOne's *For The Love Of Ruth* starring Denise Boutte and Loretta Devine, and *Blackbird* starring Isaiah Washington and Academy Award Winner Mo' Nique. *Blackbird* is available now on DVD and Video On Demand everywhere and the film's soundtrack, presented by Woodgrane Entertainment, is available now on iTunes!

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM:

Robert John Connor (Director) winner of 15 Shuler Hensley Awards has worked in the arts and entertainment industry in a variety of areas for over 30 years. A graduate of Morehouse College, Robert studied music, radio film and television. At Morehouse he studied acting under the renowned actor/director Lamar Alford and Joan Lewis. He studied voice with Dr. Uzee Brown and film and media with Dr. Herbert Eichleberger. Robert went on to pursue acting and music and has appeared in a variety of stage productions including: *Crowns*, *Urinetown*, *Queen of the Blues*, *Higher Ground*, *Come out of the Rain*, Tyler Perry's *I Know I've Been Changed* and *Jezebel*. Some of his film and television credits include appearance on: *A Different World*, *The Cosby Show*, in the film *Glory*, and *Showtime at the Apollo*. As a musician Robert has recorded and arranged vocals for a variety of artists, jingles for national and international products and has sung with a variety of artists including, Michael Buble, Gladys Knight, Barry Mannilow, Byron Cage and Cassi Davis. Robert went on to earn a Masters of Fine Arts in Performance and Dramatic Media from the University of Georgia and has directed productions including: *Dreamgirls*, *The Amen Corner*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Execution of Justice*, *Black Nativity*, *Hairspray*, *Miss Saigon* and the world premiere of the amateurproduction of *The Color Purple*.

Dominion Entertainment Group is An Arts and entertainment organization founded by Robert Connor. It's mission is to provide high quality arts and entertainment to the global arts community. This production of *Black Nativity* is made possible by the generous support of: AmarGold, LLC, PSDG, Inc, Blacklight Productions, Inc., Starborn Media, LLC. And a host of other generous supporters.

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