Thank you from Passing the Torch Through the Arts!

We felt that we must share the great reviews and a short commercial from our newest production of

Here is a link to our "Bill Cosby is Dead?" commerical

"Bill Cosby is Dead?" by Michael Monasterial

That will be closing at Woodstock Community Center 56 Rock city road Woodstock Ny
Sat Feb 25 at 8pm

Review: 'Bill Cosby Is Dead?'

By BY JAMES F. COTTER

For the Times Herald-Record
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WOODSTOCK - "Bill Cosby Is Dead?" is a provocative question to ask in celebrating Black History Month. Rumors spread in February and August 2010 that he had died, and Cosby offered an immediate "rebuttal." As part of the African American Theater Festival, Passing the Torch Through the Arts and the Haitian People's Support Project presented Michael Monasterial's new play "Bill Cosby Is Dead?" Saturday night at the Woodstock Community Center, and it will be repeated this weekend.

This musical theater offers a review of Cosby's life from his early youth and stand-up comedian days in the 1950s to his television role in "I Spy" in the '60s and the '80-'90s hit sitcom "The Cosby Show." His private life becomes the focus as we follow the 10th-grade dropout who joins the Navy, finishes high school and college, and ends up with a doctoral degree in education.

The choices he made fashioned not only his career but also the man himself - resilient, funny, loyal to family, dedicated to good causes for race and society. While remaining balanced and objective, it's a well-acted tribute to an American icon and true hero.

If you go ...

What: "Bill Cosby Is Dead?" by Michael Monasterial

Where: Woodstock Community Center, 56 Rock City Road, Woodstock

When: 8 p.m. Feb. 24-25

Admission: $10 at the door

Call: 901-6820

Monasterial plays Cosby as a living dynamo, full of ideas and himself, ever ready to try something new in exploring his talents and dreams. In Act 2, another Cosby emerges as he faces challenges: his daughter's drug addiction, charges of an illegitimate child, his son's murder by a roadside robber, and his controversial speeches calling on middle-class blacks to take charge of their children.

By his side is Camille, portrayed by Evelyn Clarke as a no-nonsense partner, intelligent, independent, critical and yet supportive. Clarke also plays other parts with versatility and comic timing: Cosby's mother, a fan and chorus singer. Next weekend, Lucinda Carr will portray the mother.

Stephen M. Jones also has several roles. He starts out as God who summons Cosby to face a "This is your life" review of his good and bad deeds, then becomes an audience fan, Cosby's father, brother in later life, and other characters. Lerone Simon is Cosby's younger brother Russell, then an NBC agent, Cosby's son and a critic of Cosby's failures in film and business.

Pat Monasterial begins as a fifth-grade teacher who faults student Cosby for disrupting class; she then serves as an announcer of the decades that trace his life and career. Michaela Talley makes Cosby's daughter a forceful presence as she accuses him of not giving her freedom to be herself and helping to cause her drug addiction.

He defends himself so vigorously that Camille remonstrates that his reactions prove the point: Cosby has to have things his way. On the other hand, isn't he usually right?

Pat Monasterial, Talley and Clarke act as a singing trio who divide the scenes with classics

from the '40s to the '90s, from "Mairzy Doats" and "Rum and Coca Cola" to "Shout" and "Beat It." They add the musical dimension that recalls that Cosby also entertained by singing.

However, it is as a comic that he excelled. A highlight of the evening is a 1957 monologue on the Johnny Carson show. Cosby talks to God who tells him to build an ark, but he has no idea of what an ark is or what cubits could possibly mean. Baffled but so well-intentioned, time and again Cosby strikes a chord that rings true for most of us. With and through him, he makes us laugh at ourselves.

"Bill Cosby Is Dead?" Not really: He is alive and kicking in this original revue in Woodstock.

This is a good time to see this show as this may be the last performance for Passing the Torch through the Arts in the hudson Valley. Funding is such a difficult task for any arts org and it seems that some company's are better than others at making ends meet. We just can't afford to keep producing, what we love and what is is vital in our Hudson Valley Community, without more support.

Please join us, as we make history or the entire

Blach History Festival:

Fredrick Douglas Feb 25th at 4pm
30 days to Life Feb 25th at 6pm

Passing the Torch Through the Arts will present the Life of Bill Cosby, Fredrick Douglas as part of our Black History Geniuses series of New plays

Come Catch the Fire of Inspiration!

Passing the Torch Through the Arts
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Beacon, New York 12508

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