



BRUCE ROBINSON,
Founder/Executive Artistic Director

FreshVisions Youth Theatre Company

Transforming Kids and Communities Through the Arts™

For Immediate Release Contact: Bruce Robinson (267) 226-7135

(Start 2/1/08 – End 2/25/08)

, *“Marching to Freedomland 2: Giants of the Civil Rights Movement”*

The FreshVisions Youth Theatre Company proudly presents, for Black History Month, one of its most highly requested productions, *“Marching to Freedomland 2: Giants of the Civil Rights Movement”* at the FreshVisions home theater, The Germantown Theatre Center, 4821 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia PA. The production will run for 5 performances (two weekends). Show dates and times are: **Fridays, Feb. 15th and Feb. 22nd at 8:00pm; Saturdays, Feb. 16th at 3:00pm; Sundays Feb 17th (special fundraiser show) and 24th at 3:00pm. Tickets for all performances, with the exception of the Sunday Feb. 17th fundraiser, are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. The Sunday Feb. 17th at 3:00pm, is a special show/reception fundraiser for the company. All tickets will be \$25.00 each. This piece suggested for children ages eight and above. For further information, and group rates call (267) 226-7135.**

“Marching to Freedomland 2: Giants of the Civil Rights Movement” takes a searing and heartfelt look at the quest for African American freedom during the civil rights era of the late 1950's and '60's. Written and directed by Executive Artistic Director Bruce Robinson, winner of the 1998 Barrymore Award for Theatre Excellence in community service. This piece spotlights the big and "little" giants that helped to change a world and places a particular emphasis on the important role that young people played in that special time of struggle, sorrow and ultimate victory.

“Marching to Freedomland 2: Giants of the Civil Rights Movement” is captivatingly told through dramatic vignette, with dances by ace choreographer, Tanya Scott and with music by famed drummer/percussionist, Tom Lowery. Featuring special appearances by FreshVisions' veteran, professional actress, Briana Bailey as “Rosa Parks; and with Carol E. Lumford as Mamie Till and Fanny Lou Hamer. Also, starring are youth actors Jovian Bailey as the renowned Ella Baker, Michael St. John as Malcolm X and Justin Coffey as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As unbelievable as it may seem, it's been nearly 45 years since Dr. King's immortal “I Have A Dream” speech which he so stirringly gave at the “March on Washington D.C.” in 1963. It was the highlight of the phenomenal movement that he so symbolized and which he, along with countless others, gave his life for. As the years pass, and we lose more and more of our revered icons of the civil rights movement, such as Rosa Parks and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, just within the past few years, it is imperative that we keep remembering, acknowledging and paying proper homage to them and the cause which they embodied. A cause which shook and changed an entire world. In *“Marching to Freedomland 2: Giants of the Civil Rights Movement”* we encounter both the movement's celebrated heroes, as well as the unsung, rarely celebrated, ordinary heroes whose sacrifices, pain and forbearance helped to make a “dream” possible.

In *“Marching to Freedomland 2: Giants of the Civil Rights Movement”* we have retooled and extended this classic piece with new scenes and added vignettes which will bring an even deeper resonance to our audience. And which adds an even greater power and clarity to our central purpose. And that purpose is to reach into the history of the movement; not to tell the whole story -- that’s beyond our powers -- but rather to capture the spirit, joy, commitment, bravery, mood, and soul of the story. To present compelling snapshots of the essence of the movement, if you will. As noted above, the play celebrates the special role of the young; the contributions and unique impact they made on the movement. And the young, powerful and skilled youth actors of FreshVisions' serve as a bridge back for their peers, and for the rest of us by tapping into their own strength, fortitude and determination as a reminder of what the power of the human spirit can accomplish when the clear and unwavering goal is to achieve simple human dignity and equality in spite of the most inhuman and seemingly insurmountable of obstacles.

“Marching to Freedomland 2: Giants of the Civil Rights Movement” reveals, uplifts and educates as it entertains. It is a must-see event for the whole family. Of special note, the African American Museum of Philadelphia will host “Marching to Freedomland 2: Giants of the Civil Rights Movement” as part of their Black History Month Celebration on Saturday Feb. 9th at 3:00.