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PATIENCE WEPT OFFERS NEW PERSPECTIVE TO AIDS CRISIS
Arts Creates Life and Duke Ellington School of the Arts
Present Powerful Multi-Disciplinary Performance

Washington, DC – February 7-9, Arts Creates Life and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts will present a powerful multi-media theater experience paralleling the lives of AIDS orphans in the U.S. and in Africa.

Written by Mark A. Williams, this play is about the extraordinary resilience of children in Washington, DC and in Africa, and how they live similarly amidst despair. The play tells the story of what these orphans can teach us about hope, patience, and the power of the human spirit through drama, visual art, music, and dance.

The AIDS pandemic affects people aged 15 to 26 most dramatically. The disease is the leading cause of death for young African American women. In parts of Africa, one in three people lives with AIDS. The production's participants will conduct interviews with AIDS orphans and others whose lives have been affected by the disease; the interviewees' words and photographs will be incorporated into the production.

The project aims to educate viewers about the AIDS crisis and communicate the importance of continuing to educate one's self about the disease. Performances at the Ellington School will help raise funds to send the production to Senegal, West Africa, where participating students will perform at the Dakar National Theatre and participate at HIV/AIDS conferences with Senegalese high school students this coming June.

Tickets available at the Ellington Theatre box office at 202.337.4825. All seats \$15.

Performances: Wednesday, February 7, 8 p.m.
Thursday, February 8, 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Friday, February 9, 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.*

Arts Creates Life is an international grassroots organization committed to developing global citizens who, then, become weapons of mass reconstruction by training them to use art as a vehicle to understand and confront issues that plague humanity. Our vision is to create leaders who value, support, and protect life through service. The program is based on the following theory: Theatre is an efficient way of liberation; it can educate, inform, organize, and influence action.

Duke Ellington School of the Arts is an accredited college preparatory public school of the District of Columbia offering pre-professional training in museum studies, literary media, visual arts, dance, theater, instrumental and vocal music. Ellington offers students an educational experience that combines both academic studies and artistic development. Our vision is to meet the needs of talented students who are considering careers in the arts by providing intensive arts instruction of the highest quality and strong academic curriculum and to prepare students for post-secondary education and/or pre-professional careers. Ellington's unique partnership with The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The George Washington University provides significant opportunities to the students, faculty and staff.

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