

ANT NEWSFLASH
(Friday, June 17, 2005 – New York, NY)
<http://www.americannationaltheatre.org>

May 9th American National Theatre Founders' Celebration Lives Up to its Billing as Most Important Night of the Year in the American Theatre

More than 400 guests turned out on Monday, May 9th at New York's Dodger Stages to celebrate the founding of The American National Theatre. They also came to witness Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson's moving acceptance of the Arthur Miller Founders' Award, and to be treated to the *Voices of America* program, which featured some of New York's best-known actors performing a series of outstanding monologues and songs, selected from among 40 theatres and authors from across the United States.

James Naughton was the evening's ultra-charming host and Phylicia Rashad made the beautiful and eloquent presentation to Mr. Wilson of the Arthur Miller Founders' Award. Tovah Feldshuh added class and sparkle offstage and on as the narrator of the *Voices of America* program, directed by Randal Myler. These performances, the centerpiece of the evening, made perhaps the greatest case yet for the viability and need for The American National Theatre, which will present and celebrate the country's most excellent new work, with the original companies and creative teams, at a theatre center in New York.

During the cocktail hours, guests were treated to sumptuous food and drink, in a beautifully designed setting by Michael Sims, with music from students of the Julliard School and the renowned Warren Vaché Quartet.

Sean Cullen, ANT Board President, laid out the major goals for the coming year: to continue to build the Board of Directors, and to secure funding for The American National Theatre Festival, inaugural season, and for adequately staffing the organization.

By all accounts, the evening was a thrilling success, and continued to build excitement and anticipation for the first phase The American National Theatre Festival, which is scheduled to launch in June of 2006.

***Thank you for passing The American National Theatre Newsflash
to theatre-lovers around the world***

THE VOICES OF AMERICA PROGRAM

Musical Prelude

Larry Yurman (pianist) and Louise Owen (violinist)

Greetings and Introduction of James Naughton, Master of Ceremonies of the Voices of America Program

Sean Cullen, President and Founder of The American National Theatre

Welcome and Introduction of Tovah Feldshuh and The Voices of America Company

James Naughton, Master of Ceremonies of The Voices of America Program

Voices of America

(See below)

Performed by Tovah Feldshuh and the Voices of America Company

Remarks on Arthur Miller and Introduction of Phylicia Rashad, Presenter of The American National Theatre Arthur Miller Founders' Award

James Naughton

Presentation of The American National Theatre Arthur Miller Founders' Award To August Wilson

Phylicia Rashad

Acceptance of The American National Theatre Arthur Miller Founders' Award

August Wilson

Remarks on The American National Theatre and Festival

Sean Cullen

Closing and Adieu

James Naughton

VOICES OF AMERICA

Directed by Randal Myler

Narrated by Tovah Feldshuh

THE O'CONNOR GIRLS by Katie Forgette
(Seattle Repertory Theatre)

Performed by Carolyn McCormick

ALMOST, MAINE by John Cariani
(Portland Stage Company)

Performed by Johanna Day and Kevin Geer

FLAG DAY by Lee Blessing
(American Contemporary Theatre Festival)

Performed by Terrence Riggins

THE LOVE SONG OF J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER by Carson Kreitzer
(Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park)

Performed by Melissa Leo

"I Want to Fly" FLIGHT OF THE LAWNCHAIR MAN
Music & Lyrics by Robert Lindsay Nassif

Performed by Fred Berman

HAZARD COUNTY by Allison Moore
(Actors Theatre of Louisville)

Performed by Myk Watford

CURANDERAS! SERPENTS OF THE CLOUDS by Elaine Romero
(Arizona Theatre Company)

Performed by Zabryna Guevara

THE GRAVITY OF HONEY by Bruce E. Rodgers
(Asolo Theatre)

Performed by Catherine Curtin and Frank Wood

"Where's Mamie?" from FIRST LADY SUITE
Music and Lyrics by Michael John LaChiusa

Performed by Cheryl Stern

LAST OF THE BOYS by Steven Dietz
(McCarter Theatre)

Performed by Mary Louise Burke and Rob Sedgwick

BERNICE/BUTTERFLY by Nagle Jackson

Performed by Kathleen M. Brady

THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER, adapted by Rebecca Gilman
from the novel by Carson McCullers

(Alliance Theatre Company)

Performed by Zeljko Ivanek

JESUS HATES ME by Wayne Lemon
(Alabama Shakespeare Festival)

Performed by Johanna Day

DREAMS OF SARAH BREEDLOVE by Regina Taylor
(Alabama Shakespeare Festival)

Performed by Donnetta Lavinia Grays

"Candlesticks" from THE IMMIGRANT
Music by Steven M. Alper and Lyrics by Sarah Knapp

Performed by Jacqueline Antaramian