



LEXARTS

In This Place... to be Presented at the DAC

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Lexington, KY, May 2, 2008 --- LexArts, in collaboration with writer/director, Ain Gordon, video artist, Joan Brannon, and the Pick Up Performance CoS. (PUPCS), presents *In This Place...* at the DAC, 141 East Main Street, May 22 – 24, 2008. This production is a public theatre project rooted in alternative histories of Lexington.

In This Place, a one-woman play starring Michelle Hurst and is about the history of the Oldham House, built by Samuel Oldham, the first free African-American to build his own home and own property in Lexington. Preliminary work began on this project in the fall of 2004 with Gordon's first research trip followed by subsequent trips in January and March of 2005 and several monthly trips since then. From these trips he selected possible sites and began planning his collaboration with Lexington-based filmmaker, Joan Brannon, who has created the projected images for the stage and a documentary on the making of this project.

Gordon has researched forgotten histories to evoke the multiplicity of Lexington's past. In addition to the event at the DAC, an "alternative marker" commissioned and designed by regional artists will be unveiled at the site of the Oldham House, 245 South Limestone.

"I love history and people more than plot," says Ain Gordon. "How can I re-imagine and re-engineer the relationship between fiction and fact? This is the question of my recent work."

Ain Gordon is a two-time Obie Award winner, a two-time NYFA Playwriting fellow and the recipient of a 1998 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Playwriting. His work has been seen in many national venues including the Marc Taper Forum in Los Angeles, ACT in San Francisco and the Krannert Center in Champaign Urbana, IL. Gordon is currently developing a multi-year project rooted in real and imagined histories of his home, New York City, entitled *Brooklyn Under Construction*. Gordon is Chair of the Danspace Project Artist Advisory Board in New York City and has been Co-Director of the PUPCS since 1992.

Last year, Gordon's father, David Gordon, and PUPCS brought *Dancing Henry Five* to the DAC to rave reviews and sold-out crowds. *In This Place...* promises to be a perfect follow-up performance.

In This Place... is made possible, in part, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Multi-Arts Production Fund founded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

In This Place...

Written and directed by Ain Gordon

Video by Joan Brannon

Where: Downtown Arts Center, 141 East Main Street

When: May 22 – 24, 2008

Time: 8 pm

Tickets: To purchase tickets call the LexArts Box Office at 859.225.0370

Cost is \$15 general admission; \$10 students

To schedule an interview with Ain Gordon or Michelle Hurst, please contact Alyce Dissette, the company producer, at 917.653.2116.

About LexArts

LexArts is a nonprofit community organization that works for the development of a strong and vibrant arts community as a means of enhancing the quality of life in central Kentucky. Through its annual *Campaign for the Arts*, LexArts raises millions of dollars in support of local arts. In turn, LexArts underwrites the operating expenses for a variety of Beneficiary Groups, offers affordable exhibition and performance space for arts organizations, as well as competitive grants for community outreach projects. Visit LexArts website at www.lexarts.org.

LexArts is supported in part by the Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Major support is provided by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

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