

# SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

## Lucas Theatre and Memorial Health present Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa



Saturday, September 27, 8 p.m.

This group of traditional musicians is directed by Bamba Dembele, who is also a big star of the Super Rail Band of Bamako as well as the percussionist in the Super Djata band Karkar; as his striking force, he uses the country's traditional sounds and rhythms. The Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa's acoustics are powerful. The musicians use well known instruments, the Kora, N'Goni, the Balaphon, Djembe, Doundouns, and flute.

This orchestra uses all the musical styles of Mali: peul, malinke, sénoufo, bambara and like many other artists in this country, the Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa has gone overseas to open up new horizons for itself. The famous singer Oumou Sangare, for instance, started her professional career with this orchestra, and so did Toumany Diabate, the prince of Kora.

The Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa has offered astounding performances to its audience: Varied

percussion instruments, from the djembé to doundouns and other balaphons, excellent dancers whose muscles seem to be capable of any movement at any speed, and a very elaborate visual ensemble with colorful, inventive costumes. It is a modern ballet as if from another world, with graceful movements and a virtuosity, which have conveyed irresistible drive and force to the public. Between tradition and modernity, its repertory is rich and varied. The traditional rhythms, songs and dances are always represented in the troupe's various creations, as well as the Mandingo tradition.

"Fantastic! Never before has such a rich and colorful ensemble visited the UK from the shores of Africa." - London Times

Tickets are \$30, \$25 and \$20. Available by calling 912-525-5050 or online at [www.lucastheatre.com](http://www.lucastheatre.com) <<http://www.lucastheatre.com>>. Applicable fees may apply.



## Step Up Savannah with Hands On Savannah offers "Welcome to the State of Poverty" simulation, 9 a.m., Oct. 14 at the Civic Center

Hands On Savannah of the United Way of the Coastal Empire and Step Up Savannah, Inc. are partnering to host a poverty simulation on Tuesday, October 14. The simulation is open to the public and will take place from 9 a.m. - 12 noon at Savannah's Civic Center. The simulations, developed by Rowel (Reform Organization of Welfare) Education Association, require groups of 35 to 75 people to assume the roles of families living in poverty. The goal of each family is to survive for one month,

which takes place in four 15-minute "weeks." In this time, participants must maintain secure shelter, utilities, feed their families, make loan payments, meet living expenses such as transportation, handle unexpected emergencies, access local support services, and keep their children in school - all while subsisting at or below the poverty level.

Thousands of families in Chatham County are living at or below the poverty level. For them, every day can turn into an emergency, whether it is securing a place

to live, feeding their families, paying utility bills or finding and accessing transportation and support services to help them meet basic needs.

The simulation is open to anyone who wants to learn more about what it's like to live in poverty in our community. Participation is free but registration is required.

To register for the Tuesday, Oct. 14 simulation at the Civic Center, contact Shawnte Tyler by calling 644-6439 or by e-mail at [styler@savannahchamber.com](mailto:styler@savannahchamber.com)

## Assistant City Manager to Speak at the Hungry Club

Rochelle Small-Toney, Assistant City Manager for Public Development, will speak at the regular monthly breakfast of the Hungry Club Forum of Savannah, Inc. (HCFS), on Saturday October 4, 2008, in the Multipurpose Annex of the May Street YMCA, at 9:30 AM.

Ms. Small-Toney, was hired by City Manager Michael Brown on July 9, 2007. As chief of the Public Development Bureau, Small-Toney oversees eight departments focused on neighborhood livability,



Rochelle Small-Toney

affordable housing, poverty eradication, enforcement of zoning, development, and property maintenance codes, designing infrastructure

improvements, and small business loans.

"She says that she wants to hear from us, and we certainly want to hear from her", says Rev. Carol Q. King, president of the HCFS. She manages many of the areas that profoundly affect the quality of life in our community. We are anxious to hear her vision and to share views and discuss some of these vital issues and concerns with her.

For more information, please call Julia Wright at 233-0855 or Diana Harvey Johnson at 927-8425.

## Savannah State University to Perform Greek Comedy Lysistrata

Savannah State University will perform the Greek classic Lysistrata on October 2-4, 2008 at 8:00 P.M. and October 5, at 3:00 P.M. in Kennedy Theatre on SSU campus. The performance is sponsored by Savannah State University; tickets are \$10 general admission and \$5 for students/faculty.

Lysistrata, written in 411 BC by Aristophanes, is a comedy in which the first battle of the sexes ensues. The title character, played by Leneshia Dixon, asks the all the woman of Sparta, Thebes and Corinth to refuse sex with their husbands until a treaty for peace has been signed. This demand leads to a spectacle of comedy in

every way imaginable.

Director Teresa-Michelle Walker and Designer David I. L. Poole are excited about the African influence brought throughout the production. Designer Poole has managed to fuse the production concept of Greek and African theatre through the use of costumes, set, and masks. This is the first production of the 2008-2009 theatrical season at Savannah State University. Upcoming productions include Nora by Ingmar Bergman, Blues for an Alabama Sky by Pearl Cleage, and Pericles by William Shakespeare.

## "Custodial Parent's Day Out"

Parent & Child is proud to announce "Custodial Parent Day Out" for the community to be held September 27, 2008, 505 East 54th St., Noon-2pm. All custodial parents and their children are encouraged to attend this free event. The purpose of this event is to recognize and salute custodial parents in Chatham County.

Parent & Child services mission is assisting families and youth in meeting life's challenges through the development of strength-based resources, community partnerships and the provisions of

See Parent's Day, page 12

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