



BLACK  
ENSEMBLE  
THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER  
CONTINUES ITS FIVE PLAY SEASON OF EXCELLENCE  
*DEDICATED TO THE MUSIC WITH*  
***“NOTHIN BUT THE BLUES”*****

***Performances begin June 19, 2010***

CHICAGO – **The Black Ensemble Theater** continues its Five Play Season of Excellence *Dedicated to the Music* with the World Premiere production of ***“Nothin But The Blues.”*** Written by Joe Plummer and produced and directed by Black Ensemble Theater Founder and Executive Director Jackie Taylor with Co- Director Daryl Brooks, *“Nothin But The Blues”* brilliantly tells the story of one of the most notorious blues clubs in the history of Chicago. Running through August 29, preview performances begin June 19 at the Black Ensemble Theater, 4520 N. Beacon Street, with the official press opening on Sunday, June 27 at 3:00pm.

By recreating the infamous blues club, Theresa’s Lounge, *“Nothin But The Blues”* will come alive at the Black Ensemble Theater. Theresa’s, owned and operated by Theresa Needham, inhabited a basement on Chicago’s South Side and established its reputation as one of Chicago’s most prominent blues clubs! From its opening in 1954 until it closed in 1983, legends such as Junior Wells and Buddy Guy performed there. *“Nothin But The Blues”* explores the ups and downs that the club experienced while taking us through the joys, sorrows and surprises that can only be lived through the blues. With a whole lot of dancing, drinking and music, of course, as the title says the show is *“Nothin But The Blues.”*

“The blues have such a rich history in Chicago culture and this show is meant to celebrate that history as well as the way in which the blues has shaped the world we live in today,” said Taylor *“Nothin But The Blues”* features some of the most influential music and artists and we are doing our best to carry on their legacy.”

Rhonda Preston will star as the legendary club owner, Theresa Needham alongside Rick Stone as The Old Man. *“Nothin But The Blues”* also stars Lyle Miller, Kevin Roston Jr., Noreen Stark, Candace Edwards, Trinity Murdock and Lawrence Williams.

(more)

Musical Director Robert Reddrick is joined by a four-piece orchestra that includes Tracy Baker on bass, Herbert Walker on guitar, Mark Moutrop on piano.

In addition to directing, Taylor is also costume designer and is joined on the production team by Victoria Cammon (stage manager), Denise Karczewski (lighting design), and Carl Ulaszek (set design).

### **Performance Schedule & Tickets**

Running through August 29, performances for “*Nothin But The Blues*” are Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Preview performances will be held Saturday, June 19; Sunday, June 20; Friday, June 25; and Saturday, June 26, with the official press opening on Sunday, June 27 at 3:00 p.m. Preview tickets are priced at \$40 and regular tickets are \$45. Discounts are available for students, seniors, and groups. Tickets, including group tickets, are available by calling the Black Ensemble Theater Box Office at 773-769-4451, or visiting [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). All performances will take place at The Black Ensemble Theater, 4520 N. Beacon Street.

Additionally, there will be a Grand Opening benefit reception following the opening performance on Sunday, June 27, featuring food, drinks and an opportunity to mingle with the cast and company. Tickets for the Grand Opening reception, including prime theater seating, are priced at \$100.

### **The Black Ensemble Theater**

The Black Ensemble Theater Company was founded in 1976 by Jackie Taylor, who has written and directed more than 100 productions for the company. In addition to its main stage productions, the Black Ensemble Theater Company produces ‘Plays with a Purpose,’ a series of original youth-oriented musicals, designed to teach students positive life lessons and values, as well as several community-based programs that use theater arts to enhance and enrich the lives of countless youth, students and families.

Black Ensemble Theater is in the final stages of its capital campaign to build a new home for the company, the Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center. Of the \$15 million needed for the project \$13 million has been raised to date. The Black Ensemble Theater expects to break ground and begin construction this summer.

The mission of the Black Ensemble Theater Company is to eradicate racism and its devastating effects upon society through the theater arts. For more information on the Black Ensemble Theater Company, please visit [www.BlackEnsembleTheater.org](http://www.BlackEnsembleTheater.org) or call 773-769-4451.

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