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AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
SHAKESPEARE COMPANY  
*"Envisioning the Classics With Color"*



**AFRICAN-AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY CONTINUES ITS 19<sup>TH</sup>  
SEASON WITH AN ENCHANTING HOLIDAY PRODUCTION OF  
"CINDERELLA"**

**The Perfect Entertainment for the Entire Family!**

**December 7-22, 2013. 8 Performances Only!**

**SAN FRANCISCO (November 5, 2013)** – San Francisco's African-American Shakespeare Company continues its 2012-2014, season with an enchanting production of CINDERELLA. Back by popular demand this timeless tale, brought to whimsical, magical life just in time for the holiday season, is an uplifting re-telling of the classic fairytale, featuring all of the pageantry, hilarity, and charm of the original, but with a soulful twist. African- American Shakespeare Company's Artistic Director, L. Peter Callender directs this edition of CINDERELLA, with original music and lyrics by Angel Burgess, Robert Michael, and Taylor Peckham.



CINDERELLA plays December 7 through 22 (press opening: December 7 at 3:00 p.m.) at the Buriel Clay Theater located in the African American Art & Culture Complex in San Francisco. For tickets (\$12.50 - \$37.50) contact Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006 or [www.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com). For more information, the public may call (415) 762-2071, ext. 6, or visit [www.African-AmericanShakes.org](http://www.African-AmericanShakes.org).

This heartwarming story finds Cinderella, a young, beautiful dreamer, toiling away as a lowly scullery maid for her evil stepmother and (oddly masculine) stepsisters. With a little bit of magic, Cinderella finds her Prince Charming and learns that anything is possible, even miracles. Featuring music, songs, and dancing, this new edition of CINDERELLA is the perfect holiday treat for the entire family.

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## Cast of the AASC Production of CINDERELLA

Featuring a cast of 23, African-American Shakespeare Company has assembled a gifted ensemble for CINDERELLA, including:

Kimille Stingily	Cinderella
Dedrick Weathersby	Prince Charming
Clara McDaniel	Evil Stepmother
B. Chico Purdiman	Shaniqua, Evil Stepsister
Twon Marcel	Zonita, Evil Stepsister
Eleanor Jacobs	Grandmother
Monica Cappuccini	Fairy Godmother
Dwight Mahabir	The Duke

Director L. Peter Callender focuses the AASC production of CINDERELLA on children. “A *Christmas Carol* is a show that adults can take their children to. But our CINDERELLA is a holiday show *that children can take adults to*,” he explains.

“There are lots of children in the show, singing and dancing, and having a great time with Cinderella, Prince Charming, and all the other kids in the audience. This year’s original music is new and never heard before, and thanks to the talents of singer/songwriter Angel Burgess and her collaborators, it’s superb.”

“For me,” Callender continues, “it’s exciting to watch the kids in the audience becoming overjoyed at seeing a prince and a princess who look just like they do,”

The rags-to-riches story we know today as “Cinderella” can be traced to many stories and legends dating back to ancient China. Today, some 1,500 variations of the story exist. Charles Perrault’s French version of the tale, which was written to entertain the 17th-century court of Louis XIV, is the basis for the Western versions of the Cinderella tale, and the basis of the ‘50s Disney film. However, the AASC version, while true to the well-known characters (except for the drag step-sisters) is totally a new and different take on the classic. AASC wrote this version, which empowers children to be all they can be. It’s fun, it’s madcap, it’s tuneful and energetic, and as Callender says, “kids just love it!”

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### About the Director

*CINDERELLA* director, L. Peter Callender, is Artistic Director of AASC and Associate Artist at California Shakespeare Theater. Mr. Callender received his formal training at the Juilliard School in New York City, Webber/Douglas Academy in London, and the Tadashi Suzuki Company in Togamura, Japan. He has appeared in over 20 Shakespeare plays around the country and abroad, teaches Acting Shakespeare locally and in private sessions, and is an award-winning Bay Area veteran actor appearing at Berkeley Rep, A.C.T., Aurora Theater, Marin Theater Company, The Magic Theater, San Jose Stage and many, many others locally, regionally and on Broadway. His directing credits include: *Twelfth Night*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at AASC; *Fences* and *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Harbor Theater in Fairfield; *Dinner at Eight* and *Glengarry Glen Ross* at SOTA, San Francisco and *Gilded Six Bits* for WordForWord (France Tour). Mr. Callender will also direct the upcoming *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* closing out AASC's 19th season!

### About African-American Shakespeare Company

African-American Shakespeare Company was introduced in 1994 to create an opportunity and a venue for actors of color to hone their skills and talent in mastering some of the world's greatest classical roles. The company is dedicated to producing classic stage works from an African-American cultural perspective, providing opportunities and accessibility for minority artists and their communities to view these works in a manner that is inclusive of their cultural heritage. African-American Shakespeare Company has produced over 30 productions, toured to over 97 schools, and reached over 105,000 patrons through its main stage productions and arts education program.

African-American Shakespeare Company Executive Director **Sherri Young** is a M.F.A. graduate from the American Conservatory Theater. She founded the African-American Shakespeare Company and has been its Executive Director since. Young has directed over 17 productions, produced and executed four programs for the organization, and speaks at various colleges, universities, and conferences across the nation; she hires and manages the 60 company members that perform productions throughout the Bay Area. Ms. Young formerly served as Commissioner for the City and County of San Francisco's Art Commission agency serving under Gavin Newsom.

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## **Show Times and Tickets**

### **SHOWS:**

#### Opening:

Saturday, December 7 at 3:00pm (also press opening and gala performance)

#### Runs:

Saturday, December 7 at 8:00pm

Sunday, December 8 at 3:00pm

Saturday, December 14 at 8:00pm

Sunday, December 15 at 3:00pm

Saturday, December 21 at 3:00pm

Saturday, December 21 at 8:00pm

Sunday, December 22 at 3:00pm

### **WHERE:**

Buriel Clay Theater at the African American Art & Culture Complex 762 Fulton Street (at Webster), San Francisco, CA

### **TICKETS:**

For tickets (\$12.50-\$37.50; Opening Day, 3:00 pm, \$15-\$40) and information, the public can call 1-800-838-3006 or visit [www.African-AmericanShakes.org](http://www.African-AmericanShakes.org)

### **PHOTOS:**

High-resolution digital color photos may be accessed at

[http://www.African-AmericanShakes.org/Media/Media\\_PressPage.htm](http://www.African-AmericanShakes.org/Media/Media_PressPage.htm)

### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**Cinderella.** San Francisco's African-American Shakespeare Company presents an enchanting production of this timeless tale, brought to whimsical, magical life in time for the holiday season, featuring all the pageantry, hilarity, and charm of the original, but with a soulful twist. This heartwarming story finds Cinderella, a young, beautiful dreamer, toiling away as a lowly scullery maid for her evil stepmother and (oddly masculine) stepsisters. With a little bit of magic, Cinderella finds her Prince Charming and learns that anything is possible, even miracles. Directed by African-American Shakespeare Company's Artistic Director, L. Peter Callender, with original music and lyrics by Angel Burgess, Robert Michael, and Taylor Peckham. Opening Sat. Dec 7 at 3:00 pm, Runs Dec. 7, 14, 21 at 8:00 p.m.; Dec. 7, 8, 15, 21, 22 at 3:00 pm. Tickets \$12.50- \$37.50; \$25-\$50 for Opening Day. Buriel Clay Theater at the African American Art & Culture Complex 762 Fulton Street (at Webster), San Francisco. 800-838-3006, [www.African-AmericanShakes.org](http://www.African-AmericanShakes.org)

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