



**Karamu House Inc.
2355 East 89th Street
Cleveland, OH 44106
216-795-7070**

**Contact: Vivian C. Wilson
216.795.7070 x 215**

ILLINOIS NATIVE KATRICE MONEE HEADD AMONG KARAMU HOUSE 2008 HALL OF FAME HONOREES

CLEVELAND – June 20, 2008 – Illinois native Katrice Monee Headd is making a name for herself in the local theater community. Karamu House will honor the young actress as the 2008 recipient of its “On the Rise” award during its Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on June 28.

Headd has not forgotten her years growing up in the Bloomington-Normal, Ill. community, but she is now proud to claim Cleveland as her home. The talented 28-year-old Headd expresses gratitude for her many gifts through acting, dance and poetry.

She graduated cum laude in 2003 from Kent State University with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts and theater. Since then, Headd has appeared in multiple Karamu productions and has performed at Cleveland’s Ingenuity Festival of Art and Technology.

Her Karamu works include “Purlie Victorious” and portraying Nikki Giovanni last year in “The Fire Inside: The Story and Poetry of Nikki Giovanni.” Headd choreographed “A Colored Funeral” and was a member of the ensemble. She also performed in “Permanent Collection” and “The Colored Museum.”

Productions on other stages include “Oklahoma” and “Chorus Line” at Porthouse Theatre, and “Chicago” and “Side Show” at Kent State's Stump Theatre.

Headd is an acting coach and mentors youth and young adults through Barbizon Model & Talent Agency preparing them for the International Modeling and Talent Association.

Actor James Pickens of television’s “Grey’s Anatomy” and entertainer Kym Whitley, will co-host the Karamu Hall of Fame induction ceremony at 20/20 in the Flats. Pickens and Whitley are also Clevelanders and Karamu alums.

“If These Walls Could Talk” is the theme of the Hall of Fame event. This year’s inductees include actors Al Fann, Jean E. Hawkins and R. Joyce Whitley, playwright Langston Hughes, former executive director Kenneth E. Snipes, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones and musical directors Helmuth Wolfes and Benno D. Frank.

Prior to the ceremony, Hawkins, Fann, Headd, Pickens and Kym Whitley will field audience questions during “Inside the Performer’s Dressing Room” at Karamu. NewsNet 5 anchor Danita Harris Pratt will moderate the free event at Karamu. A dinner and the inductions will follow at 6 p.m.

Hall of Fame sponsors include Medical Mutual, The Cleveland Clinic, National City, Gross Builders, Positively Cleveland, the Plain Dealer and the David Group.

Tickets are available by calling Vivian C. Wilson at 216.795.7070, ext. 215, or by visiting Karamu’s Web site at www.karamu.com.

Karamu holds the honor as the country’s oldest multicultural theater and can trace its humble origins to 1915. The name Karamu is Swahili for “a place of joyful gathering.” Nestled in an urban community, the center offers additional services, including an early childhood development center, after-school programs, cultural and arts education outreach and senior citizen activities.

Karamu House has been an important part of the Cleveland community for nearly a century. From a unique vantage-point within the African-American community, Karamu has fostered true interracial understanding and cooperation, an awareness of cultural diversity and an appreciation for the rich African-American cultural heritage.

###