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MEDIA ALERT | SAVE THE DATE

January 29, 30, 31 and February 6 & 7, 2009

**651 ARTS and The Irondale Ensemble Project present
Pick Up Performance Company's**

IN THIS PLACE...

A Play by **Ain Gordon**
Performed by **Michelle Hurst**
Video by **Joan Brannon**



Photo David Perry, Lexington Herald Leader

(Brooklyn, New York – October 28, 2008) **651 ARTS will begin its 20th Anniversary Season** celebration by teaming up with Brooklyn's Irondale Ensemble Project for the *New York Debut* of Pick Up Performance Company's ***In This Place...*** a new play by award-winning writer, director and actor **Ain Gordon**. Inspired by the true story of Daphney and Samuel Oldham, the first free African-American couple to build their own house in Lexington, Kentucky, *In This Place...* is a one-woman tour-de-force, featuring the prolific New York City-based actress **Michelle Hurst**, with original video by filmmaker, Joan Brannon.

THEATER
MUSIC

DANCE

HUMANITIES

"A forgotten man is still better remembered than his wife."

Lexington, Kentucky is a city steeped in history. In 2004, award-winning writer/director/actor Ain Gordon was invited by Lexington, Kentucky's LexArts to delve into the city's depths to find a story to tell.

"When I first surveyed the city, I saw 4 or 5 generations of plaques all over the city. I thought 'they've done a great job here, they don't need any help'." Gordon stated. But despite Lexington's history as a major slave-trading center, there were only two plaques referencing African-Americans and just one that addressed slavery.

"I began to question the relevance of historical plaques and wondered what the forgotten and unmarked stories were," Gordon explains. As he surveyed the city, Gordon discovered an abandoned, unmarked house that upon further investigation turned out to have been built by Samuel Oldham, the first African-American landowner in Lexington.

"We need to understand the multiplicity of truth" he continues "there are histories that disappeared because certain lives were lived *under the radar*, they needed to be invisible."

Following a multi-year development process, including numerous interviews with local historians and archival research, *In This Place...* imagines the Oldham's lives and 19th century Lexington through the eyes of Samuel Oldham's wife, Daphney. In the play, Daphney comes back as a ghost striving to remember her "living days," in fact, her history. Interwoven are images of her after-life and a phantom Lexington populated by the famous and the disappeared, a land where every building that ever stood – still stands.

Performances will take place January 29, 30, 31 and February 6 and 7 at the newly renovated Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Fort Greene, Brooklyn – the new home of Irondale Ensemble Project. Full Press Release in early December 2008.

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

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