

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

April 15, 2009

**Contact:** Lesley Greene, Associate Producing Director, 607.272-0403; lesley@kitchentheatre.org

**TICKETS:** \$8-\$16 (senior, student, and subscription discounts available) and may be purchased in person at the Ticket Center in the Historic Clinton House, 116 N. Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY (corner Cayuga and Seneca Streets), by calling (607) 273-4497 or online at [www.kitchentheatre.org](http://www.kitchentheatre.org)

**GROUP RATES:** Discounts are available when you come with a group. For details, contact Marta Potter: marta@kitchentheatre.org or 272-0403.

**Photos available upon request. Artists available for interviews.**

The Kitchen Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Series Sponsors **CAT'S PAJAMAS**, **PURITY ICE CREAM**, and **TOMPKINS TRUST COMPANY** and Production Sponsors **Alan and Stevi Mittman**. This funding helps the Kitchen bring bold, intimate and engaging theater to life.

## Kitchen Theatre to present staged documentary about the lives of slaves

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**ITHACA, NY:** The Kitchen Theatre Family Fare series continues in May with **VOICES: THOSE WHO WORE THE SHOE**. It will be offered to Kitchen Theatre audiences for a limited engagement of two performances only: **Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17 at 1pm.**

It was with great urgency that in 1934 the Federal Writers' Project sent hundreds of writers across the country to interview former slaves and record their personal histories. Most of the former slaves were in their late 80's to early 100's, so it was imperative to collect their stories before they were lost to the historic record. The FWP recorded over forty thousand pages of transcript from these extraordinary interviews. Fifty-nine years later, actor/writer Harlin Kearsley used this vast collection of true stories to create **VOICES: THOSE WHO WORE THE SHOE**, a multimedia "staged documentary" that incorporates music, dance, and archival photographs to help recreate and examine an oft-neglected part of American history. Two professional actors (**Harlin Kearsley** and **Kimberlyn Crawford**) bring to life characters that lived during the period that begins in the time of slavery, continues through the Civil War and Reconstruction and ends with the Great Depression. A town hall style Q&A session follows each performance. The performance is appropriate for ages 10 & up

**VOICES** had its premiere in New York City in the fall of 1993. In 2000, the play was adapted for radio and aired on various National Public Radio stations across the country on February 22, 2001 and continues to air every Black History Month. Kitchen Theatre fans will remember Harlin Kearsley who appeared in the Kitchen Theatre Company's production of Tanya Barfield's **PECAN TAN** in 2005. Don't miss the chance to see **VOICES** live at the Kitchen Theatre Company, May 16 & 17.

The Family Fare series is sponsored by Cat's Pajamas, Purity Ice Cream, and Tompkins Trust Company, and this production has additional support from Alan and Stevi Mittman.

### Performance Dates:

Sat., May 16, 2009 at 1:00pm

Sun., May 17, 2009 at 1:00pm

**Bold, intimate, engaging...Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC)**, now in its 18th season, is downtown Ithaca's critically acclaimed and nationally recognized year-round professional theatre, with four performance series (Main Stage, Family Fare, Kitchen Counter Culture, Kitchen Sink). KTC provides an engaging mix of regional and world premiere plays and musicals to Central NY in an intimate 73-seat theater that encourages a bold relationship between audience and actor. The theatre is located in the historic Clinton House, a renovated hotel in downtown Ithaca, New York. KTC is the first not-for-profit recipient of the David R. Strong Memorial "Small Business of the Year" Award from the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce. The Kitchen Theatre Company receives public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the Tompkins County Room Occupancy Tax Fund. For the 2008-09 Season, the Kitchen Theatre Company also receives support from the Shubert Foundation.