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Penny M. Landau

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Take Wing And Soar Productions presents
Euripides' MEDEA, Starring Tony Award Winning Actress
Trezana Beverley, in a new translation by Nicholas Rudall, Directed
by **Petronia Paley** at The National Black Theatre | February 15th -
March 2nd

[New York, NY - January 21, 2008] **Take Wing And Soar Productions** proudly presents Euripides' **MEDEA**, at the **National Black Theatre**, from **February 15th - March 2nd**. In a new translation by **Nicholas Rudall** & directed by **Petronia Paley**, **MEDEA** stars Tony Award Winning actress **Trezana Beverley**.

In this masterly written drama of passion, suffering and the sensitivity of injured love are strongly drawn, until they culminate in the awful deed of vengeance. Veteran classical actress & director **Petronia Paley** leads The TWAS Classical Actors of Color as they join Tony Award Winning Actress **Trezana Beverley*** in the role of Medea, who will stop at nothing to repay Jason for the ultimate betrayal of his family and the woman he promised to love forever. Joining her in the starring roles are **Ian Stuart***, **Renauld White*** & **Dathan B. Williams***.

Featured in the cast are **David Heron**, **Mary E. Hodges***, **Sharita Hunt***, **Marishka Phillips***, **Beverley Prentice**, **Bryan Webster***, **Natasha Yannacanedo***, & **Ma'at Zachary**. Scenic Design is by **Christophe Pierre**, Costume Design by **Ali Turns**, Lighting Design by **Joyce Liao**, Sound Design by **David D. Wright** with original live music composed & performed by **David D. Wright**.

Artistic Director and Producer of **MEDEA** is **Debra Ann Byrd**, Producer is **Jacqueline Jeffries** & Associate Producer is **Flora Gillard**.

Trezana Beverley [Medea] won the 1976 Tony Award for her performance in the Broadway production of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf*. Ms. Beverley has since created a unique signature in the American theatre. She is not only recognized as one of our country's great actresses, but is also a master acting teacher, director & singer. She has been a guest director on the theatre faculties of NYU Tisch School Of The Arts, Rutgers University, Brandeis University, City College, SUNY Purchase & currently, The Julliard School. Trezana was an artist in residence at the PlayMakers Repertory Co. in Chapel Hill, NC for two years where she was able to further develop her original performance genre DanzActing™. Her recent regional directing credits include *Salome*, *Yellowman* & *String Of Pearls* & her directing work on *Salome* was sighted in American Theater Magazine [September 2003]. This past spring, she made her New York commercial theatre debut with the production of *The Darker Face Of The Earth*.

Ian Stuart [Aegeus] was last seen at TWAS in the Classical Lab presentation of *Oroonoko*. Theatrical credits include Broadway (*Caesar* & *Cleopatra*, *Run For Your Wife*, *Racing Demon*) & Off-Broadway, London's West End, six National Tours & dozens of regional theatres in plays by

Ayckbourn, Christie, Coward, Shakespeare, Shaw, Simon, Stoppard & Wasserstein. Most recently, he played in Keen Theatre's *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheim* & at the Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, *Henry V* & *Richard III*. He has recorded numerous audio



books, provided voice-overs for TV & radio commercials & made guest appearances on various soaps, Comedy Central's "Strangers with Candy" & "Law & Order."

Renauld White [Tutor] is an actor & model & was the first African-American man on the cover of *GQ Magazine*. His other credits include Caesar in *Julius Caesar* & Olokun in *Obatala*, both Off-Broadway.

Dathan B. Williams [Jason] was recently seen as Sgt. Foley in the musical reading of *An Officer & A Gentleman* at Amas & as Teddy Horne Sr. in *Stormy Weather, Imagining Lena Horne* at The Prince Music Theater. This is his third association with TWAS, having appeared as The Messenger in *Medea* & as Cassius in *Julius Caesar*. He has performed classical roles with The Stratford Shakespeare Festival (Tyrone Guthrie Award) for 2 Seasons, the Folger Theatre, The Orlando Shakespeare Festival, Instant Shakespeare Company, Tulsa Rep, Madison Rep, Chicago Equity Theatre, Stage One, The Actors Theatre of Louisville, Source Theatre & The Florida Shakespeare Festival. Other select credits include *Show Boat* on Broadway & *The Octoroon, In Tune With the Universe, Robeson, Scenes From the Unexpectedness of Love, The In-Gathering & Hallelujah, Baby!* (all Off-Broadway). His National Tours have been *The Color of Justice, Show Boat, The Wind in the Willows & The King & I*.

Petronia Paley [Director] was last seen as Dr. Selene Slater-Bernaud in The Ensemble Studio Theatre's *On The Way To Timbuktu*. Other roles include Clytemnestra in the Classical Theatre of Harlem's *Electra* (Audelco Award Winner), Gertrude in *Hamlet* (Take Wing And Soar Productions), *It Hasn't Always Been This Way* (New Federal Theatre), Dr. Iris Preston in EST's *Relativity* (Audelco Award Nomination), Gratiana in *The Revenger's Tragedy* (Red Bull Theatre), Ethel in *On Golden Pond* on Broadway & the Kennedy Center, Madame Ranevskya in the *Cherry Orchard* (The Classical Theatre of Harlem - Audelco nomination), Jocasta/Eurydice the *Oedipus Plays* (Shakespeare Theatre), Regan in *King Lear* (Yale Repertory) Hecuba in *Trojan Women* (Shakespeare Theatre - Helen Hayes Nomination), Prosecutor in *The Trial...* (New Federal Theatre - Audelco Award). She is a veteran of daytime television creating long running characters on "Guiding Light" & "Another World." Her directing credits include *How Many Goodbyes Must We Say? & Spic Chic, Can We Dance?* & staged readings for the Schomburg Center for Black Culture, Take Wing And Soar Productions & The Ensemble Studio Theatre. She has written the plays: *The Empty-Hand Traveler Set No Limit to Her Desires, The Psychogenesis of Sexuality, Letters* (a collaboration) & *On the Way to Timbuktu*. Ms. Paley created First Reading at the Nuyorican Poets Café. She has taught acting & solo performance at the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center & acting to beginning & second year students at The Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre & scene study at New Federal Theatre. She is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre, the Red Bull Theatre & the Actors Studio & created the Actor Acting Workshops.

Take Wing And Soar Productions, Inc. founded in 1999 by classically trained actress Debra Ann Byrd, is women-led New York State, 501(c) 3 Professional Theatre Arts Corporation, dedicated to supporting women, youth & classically trained actors of color. Take Wing And Soar Productions exists primarily to help classical actors of color to realize their full potential. Thanks to the generosity and support of Dr. Barbara Ann Teer, TWAS Inc. has been a professional theatre company in residence at the National Black Theatre for the past four years. Take Wing And Soar Productions is a Member Organization of The Arts and Business Council, the Harlem Arts Alliance and the Alliance of Resident Theatres New York. For more information about TWAS Inc. visit us online at www.takewingandsoar.org

***DENOTES MEMBER AEA**

DATES: February 15th – March 2nd
TIMES: Wed – Sat @ 8pm, Sat @ 2pm & Sun @ 3pm
Opening Night Gala Performance February 19th @7pm

THEATRE: National Black Theatre ~ North Tower
2031 Fifth Avenue @ 125th Street

TICKETS: Gala Performance \$50; General Admission \$18 Adults; \$15 Students & Seniors;
TDF Vouchers Accepted; Group Sales Available.

RESERVATIONS: SmartTix (212) 868-4444 or www.smarttix.com

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