



Young Audiences Western New York

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YOUNG AUDIENCES DEBUTS NEW RESIDENCY ABOUT UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

BUFFALO, NY (2/22/10) – Young Audiences of Western New York, a nonprofit arts-in-education provider, has announced the public premiere of its new in-school residency program titled *Underground Railroad in Western New York*. The series will debut at Ujima Company's Theatre Loft on Elmwood on Saturdays March 12, 20, 27, and April 3. Each date features a unique performance, and interactive workshop, beginning at 1 p.m. Tickets are affordably priced at \$5 per family.

Underground Railroad in Western New York is an interactive program that gives students an opportunity to learn about our region's past, while increasing literacy and understanding of racial disparities. The residency was created by Young Audiences WNY with assistance from an advisory committee. It features some of the area's most outstanding African American Artists; Rodney Appleby, Annette Daniels-Taylor, Ntare Ali Gault, Robin Monique, and Reynold Scott.

The program, modeled on Young Audiences' successful Erie Canal residency, incorporates hands-on participation in dance, theatre, and writing. The residency was specifically designed for children and young adults ages 7-18, but the teaching artists note that it is a program easily enjoyed by all ages.

"Adults and children today all want to be entertained; they relate so much to all kinds of media," said Daniels-Taylor. "Using music, dance, theater and visual arts to teach history, and particularly the history of the Underground Railroad, is an effective way to immediately connect the information with the audience – students or adults."

During each performance and workshop, audience members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the program. "The *Underground Railroad* series premiere provides the public with a unique opportunity to participate in the creation of a residency before it goes into our schools," said Cynn timer Gaasch, Executive Director of Young Audiences WNY. "It is our goal to offer this residency in 20 schools in the 2010-2011 school year."

All performances will be held at Ujima Company's Theatre Loft, 545 Elmwood Avenue, in Buffalo. Fee for attendance is \$5 per family or individual educator or \$10 for a subscription to the entire series. Accommodations may be made for limited finances by calling 716-881-0917. Visit www.yawny.org for advance ticket purchase, additional resources and information on bringing this residency to your school.

Funding for this event has been provided by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, celebrating its 90 year. Additional support provided by the New York State Council on the Arts.

ARTS FOR LEARNING

16 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 881-0917 fax (716) 885-4483 info@yawny.org www.yawny.org





Young Audiences Western New York

Underground Railroad Residency Advisory Committee

Lillian Batchelor
Rhonda Bivins
W.Charles Brandy
Nicole Caroll
Annette Daniels-Taylor
Marianne Dixon
Ntare Ali Gault
Rahwa Ghirmatzion
Bishop William
Henderson
Lorna Hill
Sunnylee Mowery
Carol Murphy
Sara Rodland

Underground Railroad in Western New York premiere schedule:

March 13, 1 p.m. – **Annette Daniels-Taylor** performs *Nancy Goes to Seneca Falls*, the story of a wife, mother, and former slave living on the Erie Canal in 1848. **Reynold Scott** works with families to Write a Work Song, based on songs passed down through generations.

March 20, 1 p.m. – **Ntare Ali Gault** and the Njozi Chorus perform *Ancestral Links*, exploring a family’s history in the south and Western New York. **Annette Daniels-Taylor** works with families to write letters in the voice of young slaves.

March 27, 1 p.m. – **Rodney Appleby** works with families adopting historical roles, and making choices and considering their consequences in *Perspectives*.

April 3, 1 p.m. – **Ntare Ali Gault’s** workshop allows families to explore their own history. *Ballet La Touba*, led by **Robin Monique**, completes th series with a celebration of African culture through drum and dance.

ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES:

Founded in 1962, Young Audiences WNY programming is designed around the fact that an arts-rich education provides a child with the ability to look beyond facts and figures; to creatively meet new challenges as they arise. Plus, the arts make learning fun. Introducing curriculum-supportive, arts-based learning provides a varied and compelling environment—engage even the most reluctant learners and give day-dreamers a classroom as rich as their imagination.

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