



7 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Sept. 3, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Sandra Lanman
(908) 249-5581 Ext. 18
Box Office: (908) 249-5560

Pearl Cleage's FLYIN' WEST Opens
Crossroads' 15th Anniversary Season

NEW BRUNSWICK - FLYIN' WEST, a historic drama celebrating the determination and fortitude of 19th-century African American homesteaders in the all-black town of Nicodemus, Kansas, will open Crossroads Theatre Company's 15th anniversary season, Sept. 21-Oct. 24.

The play will be in previews through the 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Sept. 26. The opening night performance is Sunday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Special funding for this production has been provided by AT&T. The play originally was produced last year by the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta in association with AT&T: OnStage.

A distinguished cast lead by veteran actress Olivia Cole and featuring Tony Award-winner Trazana Beverley, Erika L. Heard, Herman LeVern Jones and Crossroads returnees Denise Burse-Mickelbury and Count Stovall will dramatize the largely unheralded African American pioneers who carved out new lives and created new communities on the open, often intimidating prairie.

Written by Atlanta playwright/essayist Pearl Cleage and directed by Crossroads' Artistic Director Ricardo Khan, FLYIN' WEST is set in 1898 in Nicodemus. The town, 240 miles west of Topeka and named for an African-born slave who bought his own freedom, was destined to be "The Largest Colored Colony in America," according to its promoters. It was settled by emancipated slaves who took advantage

(more)