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The African American Imprint

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS  
SPECIAL THEATER SHOW  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH *AMERICA I AM* EXHIBITION**

Philadelphia, PA – Visitors to the *America I AM: The African American Imprint* exhibition at the National Constitution Center will have the opportunity to witness a moving theatrical experience based on first-hand accounts of the lives of brave African American women who entered the armed forces during World War II.

Set in a time when the U.S. military was segregated and many African Americans were determined to make a stand against racial discrimination, the dramatic presentation, “She Went to War,” will illuminate the many struggles and victories experienced by African American women in our nation’s military service and the impact they had on American culture and society.

This special theatrical production will open on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, and will run every day from Tuesday through Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. During the month of February, the show will also run on Sundays between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. In March and April, the show will only run on Saturdays and Sundays between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Additional performances are scheduled at the African American Museum in Philadelphia to coincide with their *Soul Soldiers* exhibition on Saturdays in February and March from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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## ADD ONE/THEATER SHOW

Wendy Staton will perform "She Went to War" at the National Constitution Center. Staton has worked at the Arden Theatre, Wilma Theatre, Adrienne, Walnut St. Studio 5, Theatre Catalyst, Freedom Theatre, Barnard College, Barnstormers Theater, and Allen's Lane Theatre, and with Pig Iron Theater Company and the Philadelphia Theatre Workshop. She has performed in Delaware Shakespeare Festival's "Romeo and Juliet" and Pig Iron's "Love Unpunished", "Beautiful Thing", and "The Piano Lesson." Her film credits include "Unbreakable", "Cover", and the award-winning films "Inclinations" and "Pants? Skirt? Lipstick?" Staton has also appeared in several regional and national commercials and print ads, most recently for Amtrak and the American Diabetes Association. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University and her Juris Doctorate from Columbia Law School.

Kimberly Fairbanks will perform "She Went to War" at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. Fairbanks has performed with Interact Theatre Company, Theatre of the Seventh Sister, The Brooklyn Playwrights Reading Series, NJ Repertory Company, Walnut Street Theatre, Azuka Theatre Collective, First World Theatre Ensemble, City Theatre, and Theatre Exile. In addition to her theatre credits, she can be seen and heard in numerous voiceovers, commercials, and independent films. Fairbanks' most notable on-camera credits include the role of Gail in *It's a Miracle* (PAX TV) and the role of Dr. Houseman in *The Fall Before Paradise* (Eden Productions), which received awards in the Directors View Film Festival and the New York International Independent Film & Video Festival.

"She Went to War" is written, designed, directed, and produced by the Theater Programs department at the National Constitution Center.

From January 15 through May 3, 2009, the National Constitution Center will host the world debut of **America I AM: The African American Imprint**, celebrating nearly 500 years of African American contributions to this country. The exhibition will present a historical continuum of pivotal moments in courage, conviction, and creativity that solidifies the undeniable imprint of African Americans across the nation and around the world.

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## ADD TWO/THEATER SHOW

Featuring more than 200 artifacts culled from every period of U.S. history, the exhibit will include objects, texts, religion, music, narration, and media. An interactive component of the exhibition will allow visitors to leave their own video “imprints,” and this collection will grow throughout the life of the exhibition with the potential to become the largest recorded oral history project in U.S. history.

Admission to **America I AM** is \$17.50 for adults, \$15.50 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center’s main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production “Freedom Rising”, is included. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. There is no upcharge for school groups to tour **America I AM**. iPod audio tours are also available and cost \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

The exhibition is developed in partnership with Tavis Smiley, and organized by Cincinnati Museum Center and Arts and Exhibitions International (AEI). **America I AM** is made possible by Walmart Stores, Inc., which serves as its presenting sponsor. The exhibition is sponsored by Northern Trust and is presented locally by Coca-Cola. CBS 3 is the official media partner for the Center’s showing of **America I AM**.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia’s Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, “Freedom Rising”. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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