

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER'S AWARD WINNING "FREEDOM RISING" SHOW PERFORMED FOR REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES DURING CIVICFEST 2008

Philadelphia, PA (August 13, 2008) – The National Constitution Center's award-winning theatrical production, "Freedom Rising," will be performed at CivicFest, a non-partisan event celebrating American democracy, held in conjunction with the Republican National Convention. Convention delegates and CivicFest visitors will have the opportunity to experience this unforgettable theatrical performance in Minneapolis and understand the visitor experience at the National Constitution Center. CivicFest will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Aug. 29 – Sept. 4, 2008. "Freedom Rising" will be performed several times daily throughout the event.

"Freedom Rising" is a state-of-the-art multimedia theater experience designed to connect visitors—in a direct, engaging, and unforgettable way—with the story of the U.S. Constitution. The production creates a stirring environment in which visitors come to see themselves as an important piece of the Constitution and the Constitution as a driving force in all of our lives. A 10-minute abridged version of the 17-minute show will be performed at CivicFest, containing the same multimedia components and dramatic storytelling as the original version performed at the National Constitution Center. The new version was designed and directed by the Center's Theatre Programs Producer Nora Berger-Green.

The traveling version of "Freedom Rising" being performed at CivicFest is also available to enhance the overall experience during upcoming conventions or conferences held at the

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Pennsylvania Convention Center. To book “Freedom Rising” for an upcoming conference, call 215.409.6748 or e-mail freedomrising@constitutioncenter.org.

Bi Jean Ngo and Brandon Young, actors at the National Constitution Center, will alternate performances of “Freedom Rising” at CivicFest.

Bi Jean Ngo has appeared in productions at World Cafe Live in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Theatre Company, La MaMa, and the Actors Studio in New York. She has also appeared in various commercials. Ngo is a graduate of Boston University and the Actors Studio in New York.

Brandon Young has worked with the Pennsylvania Theatre Festival, McCarter Theater, Hip-Hop Theatre Festival, and Philadelphia Theatre Company. He played Fletcher on the fifth season of HBO’s *The Wire* and has starred in *Streets 2 Suites* and *The Destruction of David*. He recently completed production on the short film, *Round on Both Sides*, directed by Marquette Jones. Young holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

“Freedom Rising” performances at CivicFest have been made possible with funding from the John M. Templeton Foundation.

About CivicFest

CivicFest: A Very Minnesota Celebration is a family-friendly, once-in-a-lifetime interactive and multimedia experience, featuring more than 35 educational and entertaining exhibits, historic memorabilia and artifacts celebrating Minnesota and American history, democracy and the U.S. presidency. CivicFest is being produced by Maxene Fernstrom and Gerard McTernan for the Minneapolis, Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee. For more information, visit www.civicfest.org.

About National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia’s Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to

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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. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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