



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER
OFFERS A BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK AT LIFE
IN THE WHITE HOUSE TO WEEKEND VISITORS**
In conjunction with First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image exhibit

Philadelphia, PA - In addition to experiencing the artifacts included in the *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* exhibition, weekend visitors will get the chance to travel back in time to get a glimpse of daily life in the White House.

Visitors to the Center's new exhibit will meet Gloria, a young White House maid, setting up for tea in the Vermeil Room for Jacqueline Kennedy. Gloria will share some behind the scenes stories about life in the Kennedy household. Guests will also learn an array of delightful facts and details about many of our nation's first ladies and their impact on culture and society.

The role of Gloria will be played by **Kathleen Shadt** who recently interned in the National Constitution Center's Theatre Programs department. Gloria will socialize with visitors every Saturday and Sunday between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. throughout the months of October, November (excludes Sunday, November 4), and December. Additional holiday performances will take place on Friday, November 23; Wednesday, December 26; Thursday, December 27; and Friday, December 28.

Kathleen Shadt most recently interned at Live Arts/Philly Fringe, working on her acting with Brat Production's Eye-95-retarded. She appeared at this year's Fringe as Tammy in *Timing is Everything* with Java Drama. Shadt played the role of Jane Marvel in

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ADD ONE/FIRST LADIES WEEKEND PROGRAMMING

Kathryn Petersen's World Premiere Production of *Hearsay*, Irina in *Three Sisters*, Susan in *The Heidi Chronicles*, Du in *Keeley and Du* and *4.48 Psychosis*. She received a B.A. in Theatre Arts and English from Arcadia University. Shadt currently resides in Abington, Pennsylvania.

From October 5 through December 31, 2007 the National Constitution Center will host *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image*. The exhibition features more than two centuries of elegant inaugural and evening gowns, clothing and jewelry, White House furnishings and china, photographs and portraits, and campaign and personal memorabilia. It examines the demanding duties of the presidential partner and national hostess, explores how her role has evolved from ceremonial colleague to one of international celebrity and recognized political power, and illustrates the importance of the first lady's public image to the success of a presidential administration.

Admission to *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. 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. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

First Ladies is based on one of the Smithsonian's most visited permanent exhibitions and contains artifacts from the rarely traveled first ladies collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Behring Center. Organized by the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), *First Ladies* is made possible by A&E Network. Macy's is the local presenting sponsor and NBC 10 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of *First Ladies*.

Funding for the National Constitution Center's changing exhibits program has been made possible through a \$1 million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

ADD TWO/FIRST LADIES WEEKEND PROGRAMMING

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. 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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