



THE CENTER FOR SUCCESS AND INDEPENDENCE

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION:

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****MEDIA ALERT**MEDIA ALERT**MEDIA ALERT****

HOUSTON'S AT-RISK YOUTH MAKE ACTING DEBUT

SEASONED ACTORS WORKED WITH TEENS TO BRING THE PLAY OF THE SUMMER SEASON

- WHO:** David Rainey, Alley Theatre Resident Company Actor
Ann C. James, Actor/Director/Producer/Teacher
- WHAT:** David Rainey and Ann C. James have spent this summer working with at-risk youth from **The Center for Success and Independence** to create the theatrical production of *The Journey of Leaders*. A reception will follow with an opportunity to view **TCSI** clients' artistic expressions.
- WHEN:** Saturday, August 14, 2004
2 pm
- WHERE:** Taft Street Coffee
2115 Taft Street
Houston, TX 77006
- COST:** Free
- WHY:** The Houston Chronicle called **The Center for Success and Independence** "a refuge for youth" that "has become a place of understanding, guidance and healing..."

It is the mission of **The Center for Success and Independence** to provide comprehensive, compassionate, and quality treatment to youth, ages 12-17, with behavioral, emotional and addictive disorders that are interfering with effective functioning in life. Utilizing sound clinical methods of treatment, clients will be prepared to successfully reintegrate into the community and to become fully functioning adults. For additional information about **The Center for Success and Independence**, see www.tcsi.org.

- WHAT ELSE:** David Rainey, an asset to Houston's theatre scene, is in his fourth season as an Alley Resident Company Actor and was most recently seen in the Alley's production of *Black Coffee* and the Alley's co-production of *Topdog/Underdog* with Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

Ann C. James has been a director in the Houston community for ten years. A theatre educator for fifteen years, Ann's specialty is working with at-risk youth. Ann has also done a great deal of work with the Alley Theatre, Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company and the Goodman Theatre. Ann is currently the founding Executive Director of dAdA Productions, a performance company dedicated to the empowerment of women.

INFORMATION

- ABOUT TCSI:** Robert Woods, M.Ed., Executive Director (robert.woods@tcsi.org) 713.426.4545
Marylou Erbland, Ph.D., Clinical Director (marylou.erbland@tcsi.org) 713.426.4545



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"Life can be hard, and adolescence can be tragically difficult when support systems collapse around you. Most of these children have had very little to lean on in life, and if we can make any kind of difference by taking time to teach and care for them, then it is worth the effort. This project in large part is a lesson in community, in people helping people. No one can do it alone.

Now that the show is ready, we need you to finish the project. Theatre is only theatre if there is someone to witness it. We are asking you to please support these children with your presence. They need to be reminded, and reminded often, that there is a community out there that cares about what happens to them. It is a small thing, but small things go a long way when you are in great need. So please give your time and support to the courageous effort made by these young people trying to get their lives on track."

- David Rainey

Alley Theatre Resident Company Actor

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