



**Press Release – For Immediate Release
Montreal, February 17, 2009**

Black Theatre Workshop presents

Written by George Boyd
Starring Tyrone Benskin
March 17 – April 5

Le Code Noir

MEDIA CALL MARCH 16

A HERO TO MOST BUT OUTSIDER TO ALL

“I sat for ten portraits. Of those ten, only one survived. The others – along with almost all of my music; my operas, my symphony...were thrown upon pyres of the mobs of the revolution. All...my...life’s...achievement...” - Joseph Boulogne from *Le Code Noir*

February 17, 2009 – Joseph Boulogne is a hero to most, outsider to all and forever punished by the laws of *Le Code Noir*. Black Theatre Workshop is proud to present this year’s mainstage production and world premier of *Le Code Noir* based on the tragic life of Joseph Boulogne: Le Chevalier St. George, otherwise known as Black Mozart, who rose from a life of slavery to become one of the most influential composers in history. Written by George Boyd, directed by Richard Donat and starring Tyrone Benskin, *Le Code Noir* will be presented from March 17th to April 5th, 2009 at the Segal Centre for the Performing Arts.

Set in 18th century France, *Le Code Noir* tells the story of Joseph Boulogne, composer, musician, and swordsman, who led a life of adventure. Some even say he was the inspiration for D’Artagnan of Alexander Dumas’ *Three Musketeers*, and that he had a love affair with Marie Antoinette. He lived during the time of *Le Code Noir*, a decree by Louis XIV that set the conditions for slavery in France. This law, often enforced on Boulogne by his own father, was forever in his shadow as he fought to become one of the most influential composers of his time. From the playwright that brought you *Wade in the Water*, Black Theatre Workshop presents a tragic tale about the incredible life of Joseph Boulogne: Le Chevalier St. George.

This remarkable play features a large and talented cast, intricate 18th-century costumes by Marie-Genevieve Morin, and atmospheric sets and lighting designs by Eric Mongerson, as well as maintaining our mandate of telling untold stories from the African Diaspora.

Black Theatre Workshop's productions are reaching new levels this year as we come closer to our 40th anniversary, and today we stand as the only African-Canadian Theatre company in the world. Whether for BTW's Mainstage productions, school tours for Black History Month, Youthworks performance troupes, or for community arts development projects, all contributions are dedicated to encouraging and promoting the development of a Black and Canadian Theatre. To purchase tickets call our box office at **514-932-1104 ext. 225**. For more information on Black Theatre Workshop go to our website www.blacktheatreworkshop.ca.

-30-

MEDIA CALL LE CODE NOIR

WHEN: Monday, March 16th at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Segal Centre for Performing Arts, 5170 Cote-Ste-Catherine

WHO: Cast and Crew of Le Code Noir

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