



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **Hurricane Katrina Memorial/Celebration in New York!**

Survivors from The Storm Commemorate Life through Visual/Performance Arts Showcase. Fundraiser Supports Struggling Artists from Katrina and Abroad.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2006: Kumble Theater at 8:00 pm (Brooklyn)**

Brooklyn, NY - - **Artists For Life**, the non-profit organization of **AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc.**, presents **art/work**, a visual and performance arts show benefit for and by Hurricane Katrina survivors displaced in New York. The special event gives the city's newest community of talented artists from the Gulf region a grand opportunity to tell their own stories about "The Storm," and life in general. The program features live performances and art exhibits by artists-survivors and local favorites, including well known poet and photographer, **Saddi Khali**; all male a capella group **Crescendo**; soul/funk recording artist **Tondrae**; spoken word artist **Eliza B**; respected painters **Vidho Lorville**, **Paul DEO**, and many others. Poet legends **Abiodun Oyewole** (of The Last Poets) and **Camille Yarbrough** are two of the co-hosts for the program. The showcase, which is appropriate for the entire family, doubles as a fundraiser for Katrina artists in New York. Tax-deductible donations can be made through **Twenty First Century Foundation** (see details below).

*art/work* will take place **Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at 8:00 pm** at the **Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts**, located at **Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus**, at the corner of Flatbush Avenue Extension and Myrtle Avenue (across from Junior's Restaurant). **Tickets are on sale now for \$25** (students with college ID and senior citizens, \$15) and are available at the Kumble Theater Box Office (open Monday - Friday from 1 pm to 6 pm) or at [www.tix.com](http://www.tix.com). For box office inquiries, call 718.488.1624. For event information, call 718.756.8501.

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## The Purpose

A year later, many of the Hurricane Katrina survivors who were evacuated to New York still need housing, employment, and support services in order to re-construct their lives with dignity. Even while dealing with the personal trauma of "The Storm," many of the artists here have been contributing to and enriching the cultural landscape of New York City - doing shows, teaching youth workshops, and much more - often for free. Some New Yorkers have pledged their support, and unfortunately far too many have demonstrated false generosity.

*art/work* will showcase activism at its artistic best. It does this through the arts and is focused on giving these survivors an opportunity to satiate their need for a fresh beginning. **Saddi Khali**, from New Orleans, is the Artist Coordinator and says, "We miss home, and it's just as important that we feel at home where we are. It is valuable that we, as artists, are afforded the opportunities, the creative spaces, and the resources to rebuild, no matter the location so that we can be better than before. We thank those caring New Yorkers and Artists For Life for helping us be ourselves again." *art/work* celebrates life, re-affirms the power of art, and raises awareness about what Katrina represents, even at the one-year anniversary mark.

## The Program

Gulf-style song, dance, poetry, spoken word, and live music...sprinkled with a little New York flavor from local favorites, will command the stage inside the Kumble. Outside, some of New Orleans most gifted visual artists will display their work in the expansive lobby. The program also features performances from several generation of survivors, including children, and will close with a special New Orleans style tribute to the ancestors known as "second line."

## More On Artists For Life

In September 2005, AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc. established Artists For Life as its non-profit organization. Its long-term goal is to service a national network of progressive artists with emergency funding, technical assistance, and free professional development resources (its immediate *focus*, however, is on the artists-survivors who are displaced and now living in New York). Monies raised through Artists For Life are earmarked for items, such as:

- Providing artists' stipends for all performances
- Creating a multi-media information network of directories, artist collectives, and other creative and artist-related resources
- Purchasing needed artist supplies, such as instruments, paint, canvases, etc.
- Facilitating professional development workshops and seminars

- more -

## Ways To Help

Individuals, organizations, and businesses related to or simply supportive of the arts communities can support Artists For Life in a variety of creative ways. Financial donations can be made through the Twenty First Century Foundation (21CF) - a 501(c) 3 public foundation founded by African American economist and philanthropist **Robert S. Browne** (who began his teaching career at New Orleans' Dillard University). 21CF is the oldest, endowed Black foundation with a mission to advance charitable giving in the Black community.

All gifts made to AFL are tax-deductible. Kindly direct your contributions to:

**Twenty-First Century Foundation**

271 W. 125th Street - Suite 303

New York, NY 10027-4424

\* *please write* **Artists For Life** *in the memo*

\* Credit or debit card contributions can be made online at [www.21cf.org/Donate.html](http://www.21cf.org/Donate.html)

To date, *art/work's* key sponsors include **The Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts** (Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus), **New York University** (Department of Student Diversity Programs and Services), **Blue Ridge Foundation New York**, and **African Voices**. General and media sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please contact April Silver for more information (see directory below).

For more information, please refer to the following directory:

- General Information            718.756.8501 /main office
- Artists Relations             Saddi Khali / s.khali@akilaworksongs.com
- Sponsorship                 April Silver / artistsforlife@akilaworksongs.com
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