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First Lady Mary Pat Christie Honors Crossroads Theatre Company's Legacy Month

Friday, March 14, 2014

Tags: [First Lady](#)

Trenton, NJ – Celebrating the contributions of African American theater to New Jersey's cultural landscape, First Lady Mary Pat Christie honored the legacy of New Brunswick's own Crossroads Theatre Company during a reception and performance at Drumthwacket, the Governor's official residence.

"New Jersey is home to some of the world's most talented individuals in every discipline imaginable. So, I am so proud to have this opportunity to honor the artistic and cultural legacy of one of New Jersey's most treasured performing arts organizations – The Crossroads Theatre Company," said Mrs. Christie. "For 36 years, Crossroads has created outstanding theater productions and showcased the creative gifts of so many theater professionals. The Governor and I are delighted to

celebrate these achievements during Legacy Month."

Mrs. Christie presented the theatre company with a [proclamation](#) recognizing Crossroads for its historical, cultural, educational and entertainment contributions to the Garden State. As part of the program, two of the theatre's young female actors performed a song for the group.

"Mrs. Christie has strong compassion for people and organizations that strive to make this great state even greater," said Marshall Jones, Crossroads Theatre Company, Producing Artistic Director. "Theater is entertainment that's handcrafted like a tailor made suit, not mass produced. It takes lots of hard work and dedication, so we at the Crossroads Theatre Company are so pleased to be recognized by Governor and Mrs. Christie for our accomplishments and artistic contributions to the Garden State."

Co-founded by Ricardo Khan and L. Kenneth Richardson in New Brunswick in 1978, the Crossroads Theatre Company is dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre of the highest standards of artistic excellence. It presents honest and positive portrayals of people of color from around the world and educates audiences by creating an understanding between people of all cultural backgrounds.

Over its 36-year history, Crossroads has provided an artistic home to artists including George C. Wolfe, Ntozake Shange, Mbongeni Ngema, Vernel Bagneris, Ruby Dee and the late Ossie Davis, Guy Davis. In April 2014, Walter Mosely will join this notable list of artists with the development and production of new works for theater.

Crossroads has produced the world premieres of George C. Wolfe's *The Colored Museum* and *Spunk*; Shange's *The Love Space Demands*; Ngema's *Sheila's Day* and Bagneris' *And Further Mo'*. Crossroads' production of *Ain't Nothin' but the Blues* moved to Broadway. Productions, including *Black Eagles* and *Flyin' West*, have gone to such venues as Ford's Theatre and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Public Theater in New York.

In 1999, the theatre company earned a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in America. It is the only African American theater company to be honored with that distinction.

For more information about Crossroads Theatre Company, visit:
<http://www.crossroadstheatrecompany.org/>

A copy of the Governor's proclamation [[pdf1MB](#)]

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First Lady Mary Pat Christie with Nikkaar Kishnani, Karizma Kishnani, Khailah Johnson, Normarie McClean at a reception honoring the Crossroads Theatre Company of New Brunswick.



First Lady Mary Pat Christie with Marshall Jones, MaameYaa Boafo, Jeremia Abiah

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