



LEWIS FAMILY
PLAYHOUSE
AT VICTORIA GARDENS
CULTURAL CENTER
RANCHO CUCAMONGA

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Cristina Gorka,
Community Services Coordinator,
Community Services Department

PHONE: (909) 774-3707

EMAIL: Cristina.Gorka@CityofRC.us

MAINSTREET THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE IN A SUITE OF DANCES BASED ON THE BELOVED BOOKS OF EZRA JACK KEATS

***“The Snowy Day,” “Goggles,” and more to be presented for only
two Performances at the Lewis Family Playhouse!***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2019

Rancho Cucamonga, California - MainStreet Theatre Company is thrilled to be presenting the acclaimed Lula Washington Dance Theatre for a very limited run in early March. A suite of dances based on **The Snowy Day, and other Books by Ezra Jack Keats** plays for two performances on Saturday, March 9, 2019. Tickets are priced at \$18.00 for general admission, and \$16.00 for seniors and youth up to age 12.

Lula Washington Dance Theatre (LWDT) is a Los Angeles-based repertoire dance ensemble that performs innovative and provocative choreography, mostly by Lula Washington. The Company tours internationally and has been received with acclaim and admiration. Lula Washington has steadfastly focused on using dance to explore social and humanitarian issues, including aspects of African-American history and culture. The company has performed at the Lewis Family Playhouse in the past, but this is the first time they'll be performing a piece specifically for young audiences.

-more-

Lewis Family Playhouse at Victoria Gardens Cultural Center

12505 Cultural Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739 · Administration: (909) 477-2775 · Fax: (909) 477-2774

Box Office: (909) 477-2752 · Fax (909) 477-2753 · lewisfamilyplayhouse.com



Owned and operated by the City of Rancho Cucamonga

Lula Washington The Snowy Day – Page 2

LWDT was founded in 1980 by Lula and Erwin Washington in the inner-city area of South Los Angeles, California. Since then, LWDT has risen to become one of the most admired African-American contemporary dance companies in the West – known for powerful, high-energy dancing, unique choreography, and exceptional educational residencies

The Company is composed of young, athletic dancers, many of whom were groomed in Lula Washington's inner-city dance studio. While Lula Washington encourages her dancers to be excellent performers, she also emphasizes the importance of being leaders in their communities.

Because most MainStreet performances are based on books, this piece is ideal for the Theatre Company's audiences. The suite of dances is inspired by the Caldecott medal winning *The Snowy Day*, along with *Goggles*, *Louie*, *Regards to the Man in the Moon*, and *Keats's Neighborhood*, an anthology of many other Keats stories. It's conceived and choreographed by Tamica Washington-Miller, LWDT's Associate Director, with original music by Liz Story and Marcus L. Miller.

The dances evoke the joy we see in Keats' books, as the children play and work together to navigate their neighborhood, using wit, compassion, creativity and resourcefulness to overcome challenges that face many urban youths throughout the U.S. The 45-minute suite will bring the books exuberantly to life and will include dialogue, narration, and lots of imagination! MainStreet is thrilled to introduce contemporary dance to their audiences, and recommends it for the whole family, including children as young as 5.

Families are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to interact more with the story through fun activities tied to the theme of the show. Both public performances will include a pre-show art activity in the lobby, and a Q & A with the dancers after the performance. In addition to the two public performances on Saturday, March 9th, there will be four performances specifically for school field trips on March 7th and 8th.

MainStreet Theatre Company, included in American Theatre Magazine's 2016 list of "20 Theatres you should take your kids to," has been the resident Equity Company at the Lewis Family Playhouse since 2006, and is known for producing high quality and innovative productions of plays and musicals for the whole family.

An intimate, 560-seat venue, Lewis Family Playhouse is the crown jewel of the three-acre, 89,000-square-foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. The complex at 12505 Cultural Center Drive is conveniently located off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard, as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens with free parking available. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

-more-

Lula Washington The Snowy Day – Page 3

For more information – For additional information or to purchase tickets for any of our performances please visit www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com or call (909) 477-2752 or (877) 858-8422. Follow us on social media—Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and YouTube—and download our app, LF Playhouse, available in the App Store and Google Play. #LewisFamilyPlayhouse



Follow, Like, Add, and Subscribe!

###