



## ARTS-A-FIRE YOUTH THEATER TROUPE

# IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, August 11, 2010

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### **ARTS-A-FIRE Youth Theater Troupe To Present Drama "Smoldering Fires" – September 17-19**

Memphis, TN, -- Memphis Black Arts Alliance's Arts-A-Fire Youth Theater Troupe will present the second play in their 2010-2011 season on September 17-19. "Smoldering Fires," is a drama by African American author and playwright Kermit Frazier. Through the story of two unlikely friends, the play applies the ideals and struggles of the civil rights movement to contemporary life. Show times are 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, September 17-18 and 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 19 at Evergreen Theatre. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for MBAA members and \$10 for children under 14 and groups of 10 or more. Call 901-948-9522 for more details.

Directed by FireHouse Community Arts Academy's Naomi Williams Moody, "Smoldering Fires" features two 12-year-old friends, Dashaun Johnson and Corey Tyler. Dashaun can barely make it through the school day without getting in trouble. Corey excels. But the two have a special bond, and together they share a dream of cleaning up their violent and drug-infested neighborhood urban neighborhood. They fashion their fight after a young activist who fought during the Civil Rights Movement.

Sponsored by the FireHouse Community Arts Academy of the Memphis Black Arts Alliance, the Arts-A-Fire Youth Theater Troupe annually provides more than 50 young people, ages 7-17, the opportunity to excel on stage, to learn production and stage management and set design as well as to act, sing and dance before a live audience. The first production of 2010-2011 was "Amazing Grace," which was presented in July 23-24 at Evergreen Theater.

Other plays by Kermit Frazier include *Little Rock*, *Kernel of Sanity*, *Legacies*, *An American Journey*, *Shadows and Echoes*, *Dinah Washington Is Dead*, *Class Reunion*, *Outside the Radio*, *Sacred Places* and *Interstices*. He was a head writer for the popular children's mystery series *Ghostwriter*, and has also written for *Gullah Gullah Island*, *The Cosby Mysteries*, *The Misadventures of Maya and Miguel* and *The Wonder Pets*. Frazier's articles, reviews and short stories have appeared in such magazines and journals as *The Chicago Review*, *American Theatre*, *Black World*, *Essence* and *The New York Times Book Review*. Frazier teaches at Adelphi University.

For additional information on tickets, or how to join the Art-A-Fire Youth Theater Troupe, call Executive Director Bennie Nelson West at (901) 948-9522 or visit MBAA's FireHouse Community Arts Center at 985 South Bellevue Blvd. during office hours --10 to 6 pm Mon- Friday, Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm.

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