

# MEDAL OF HONOR RAG

by Tom Cole

Directed by Kenneth Johnson

Pacific  
Stages

presents The Salon Staged Readings

Producer  
Jeryll W Adler

Associate Producer  
Jelayne Miles

Cast of Characters  
in order of appearance

Sergeant D. J. Jackson ..... Russell Hornsby  
Doctor..... Victor Talmadge  
The Guard & Stage Directions .....Adam John Meyer  
Letters from American Soldiers in Iraq & Afghanistan read by Emma Koffroth, Rudy Pivaral & Darren Sarkin.

**Russell Hornsby** Fresh off the stage in August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, he is currently the lead in Paul Fitzgerald's *Forgiven*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. He will next be seen as the lead in ABC Family's latest drama series *Lincoln Heights*. The Oakland native attended Boston University's well respected theatre arts program, and then studied with the British Academy of Dramatic Arts at Oxford University. Russell then moved to New York City, performing leading roles in productions such as *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Joe Louis Blues*, and *Six Degrees of Separation*. He made his debut on the Off-Broadway stage playing the character of Young Blood in August Wilson's *Jitney*. He was recently on Broadway in *Intimate Apparel* opposite Viola Davis. Russell's television and film work includes; series regular roles in *Playmakers* as aging running back Leon Taylor, *Haunted* as Detective Marcus Bradshaw and *Gideon's Crossing* as Chief Resident Dr. Aaron Boise; as well as lead roles in the films *Big Fat Liar* and *Keep the Faith*, a television movie for the Showtime network. Most recently, he was seen in Jim Sheridan's *Get Rich or Die Tryin* opposite 50 Cent and *Edmond* opposite William H. Macy.

**Adam John Meyer** is an Antaeus Academy Member, based in North Hollywood, where he is constantly working with Jeanie Hackett and Nike Doukas on Classical Theatre. This work will be featured in the upcoming NoHo Fest and Classics Fest. Adam has worked in theatres throughout the country, most notably at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and Cortland Repertory Theatre. He started Trama Theatre Company in Chicago and played Hamlet just before coming to Los Angeles. He is a Southern Illinois University at Carbondale graduate where he got a B.A. in Theatre. Film/TV: TV credits include *Untold Stories Of The ER* on TLC and *Ella & Me* a pilot for Animal Planet. Currently, Adam is working with his brother, Mike Meyer, on producing a dark comedy called *Midnight Jogger* to be filmed in the summer of 2007.

**Victor Talmadge\*** is an actor, playwright, and director. He plays Dr John Watson in the world premiere of Steven Dietz's *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* which opens at The Pasadena Playhouse May 10. He has performed on the New York stage and in regional theaters throughout the country including The Stratford Theatre Festival of Canada. His roles have ranged from Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* to Scar in the Los Angeles production of *The Lion King* and The King in the Broadway National tour of *The King and I*. Mr. Talmadge boasts extensive film and television credits. He has worked with such notable directors as Francis Ford Coppola, William Friedkin, David Fincher, Michael Apted and Chantal Ackerman, among others. Most recently, he was in Touchstone Picture's *Hidalgo*, and can currently be seen in *Big Momma's House II*. His play, *The Gate of Heaven*, was awarded The Nakashima Peace Prize and has been produced at The U.S. Holocaust Memorial, The Old Globe, Ford's Theater, and The Annenberg Center, and other venues around the country. As a director, Mr. Talmadge has presented both experimental and classical pieces. He was the artistic director of *The Victory Project*, a collaborative event with the NYC school system, Columbia University graduate theater students, and professional theater artists, created as a response to the tragedy of 9/11.

Actors appear courtesy of Actor's Equity Association - \* Member of Pacific Stages Artists Company.



The Salon Series 2005-6 Season

April 30th, 2006

The Event Committee  
Karen & Tom Ackland  
Jeryll W. Adler, Executive Director, Pacific Stages  
Sherry & Ian Kramer  
Kelly McDowell, Mayor of El Segundo  
Jelayne Miles, Associate Producer  
Mim Eichler Rivas  
Karol & Greg Shrodes  
Cindy & John Smet  
Melinda & John Watson  
April & Gary Wayland

Our April Salon features MEDAL OF HONOR RAG by Tom Cole. The time is April 23, 1971, the place Valley Forge Army Hospital, Pennsylvania. A black winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, and a psychiatrist, both guilty survivors, verbally spar until the doctor draws out the horror and disgust that has traumatized the young Sergeant, D.J. Jackson. His barriers crumbling, D.J. turns on the psychiatrist and exposes the man behind the professional facade. "Twenty five years ... since [its] premiere, MEDAL OF HONOR RAG retains its relevance, its power, its tortured compassion... [It] remains absorbing theatre and a bracing reminder of time past and distance yet to be traveled." N.Y. Times.

Playwright Tom Cole was born in Patterson, NJ in 1933, and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Harvard. The author of a number of award-winning short stories, this work marked his playwriting debut. He has since enjoyed an active career in stage and film, writing several plays under commission from Milwaukee Repertory Theater, including *Fighting Bob*, produced off-Broadway in 1981, and an active association with film directors Irvin Kershner, Martin Rosen, writers Joyce Chopra, and Joyce Carol Oates. He has received numerous awards, including the Rosenthal Award of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the CINE Golden Eagle, and a playwriting fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts.

Our director, Kenneth Johnson is a Producer, Director and Educator. He is currently the Chairman of the Theatre Department at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts where he recently directed *The Laramie Project* by Moises Kaufman. Directing credits at the school include *Raisin In The Sun*, *The Colored Museum*, *Fires In The Mirror* and *The Amen Corner*. Mr. Johnson is also a founding member of Crossroads Theatre Company and directed *Playboy Of The West Indies* by Mustapha Mutura, *Slow Dance On The Killing Ground*, *To Be Young Gifted And Black*, *Buses* and *Tod*, *The Boy Tod*. He has worked as a director and producer at theatre companies around the country and the world, including the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Kennedy Center and Fords Theatre in Washington D.C, The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, the Market Theatre in South Africa and the Royal Court in London. He has worked with many giants in the American Theatre including Joseph Papp, George Wolfe, Ntu Zake Shange and Ruby Dee to name a few. Broadway credits include *Sheila's Day* by Mbongeni Ngema and the Assistant Director for the Broadway production of *Angels In America*.

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A very special thanks to all who have donated their hard work and heart to this Salon series, and to the wonderful actors who have so graciously shared their talent. We applaud your vision and generosity.

We also thank Melanie & Richard Lundquist, and Continental Development Corporation.  
You are home to our dreams, and an exceptional example of the best our community has to offer.

We welcome you all.

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