

For immediate release  
January 28, 2009  
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## ONE-WOMAN TOUR-DE-FORCE KICKS OFF PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE'S 2009 SEASON

Minneapolis, MN – Pillsbury House Theatre presents the area premiere of *No Child...* by Nilaja Sun. *No Child...* will be directed by Noël Raymond and features Sonja Parks in a solo performance portraying all sixteen characters. Performances run **February 20 through March 22** on the Pillsbury House Theatre Mainstage at 3501 Chicago Avenue South in Minneapolis. Tickets go on sale Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 am and can be purchased by visiting [www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org](http://www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org) or by calling 612-825-0459.

*"Marvelous... Touching and funny."* —NY Times.

*No Child...*, a multi-award-winning, tour-de-force solo show, is one teacher's story of working in a troubled New York City school. *No Child...* is a sometimes joyous, sometimes moving story of art, redemption and the precarious state of America's public educational system.

*"Now I know what you're thinking: 'I know what's happening in the public schools. I watch the eyewitness news.' What I got to say to that? HUSH! You don't know unless you've been in the schools on a day-to-day basis. HUSH! You don't know unless you been a teacher, administrator, student, or custodial staff. HUSH! Cuz you could learn a little somethin'."* – Janitor Baron from *No Child...*

"*No Child...* couldn't be more perfect for Pillsbury House Theatre," states Raymond. "The piece isn't a Hollywood caricature where a teacher comes in and saves the students of an inner-city school. Instead it shows what really happens in schools every day. Sometimes teachers and students succeed and sometimes they don't. Where *No Child...* really shines is in the characters themselves. Nilaja has written characters so rich and unique that you'll forget one actor is playing them all. There's so much life, hope, and humor in them."

*"The show of the year. A gem that shows the power of theatre."* —NY Observer

"I'm so proud to be part of this production," says Parks. "President Obama has encouraged Americans to be of service in some way. Now, people are running around trying to find somewhere to volunteer or some way they can help. That is so encouraging, but we must remember not to ignore the obvious. Each of our schools need help every hour of the day. You

don't have to have a child in the public school system; you just have to care about the kids that are there. My hope is that this piece will help remind people (myself included) that the best opportunity to serve may be as close as the school on the corner."

*"An object lesson in what should not be missing from any life curriculum: hope."*

—*The New Yorker.*

**No Child...** first premiered in New York in 2005. Nilaja Sun crafted the script from her own experiences as a teaching artist for nine years in the New York public school system. "I created this piece to be a snapshot from the trenches, something entertaining and provocative that'll get people talking about the state of our public schools." **No Child...** has performed all across the country and won numerous awards including the 2007 Obie Award for Distinguished Performances and the 2007 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best New American Play.

*"Riotous, touching." —Time Out.*

**No Child...**

Written by Nilaja Sun

Directed by Noël Raymond

Featuring: Sonja Parks

Lighting Design: Mike Wangen

Sound Design: C. Andrew Mayer

Set Design: Ron Albert

Costume Design: Clare Brauch

**PERFORMANCE CALENDAR**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Pay What You Can</b>	<b>Adults \$18 Students/ Seniors \$13</b>	<b>Adults \$20 Students/ Seniors \$15</b>	<b>Adults \$20 Students/ Seniors \$15</b>	<b>Adults \$15 Students/ Seniors \$10</b>
	<b>February 19</b> 7:30 PM PREVIEW	<b>February 20</b> 7:30 PM OPENING NIGHT	<b>February 21</b> 7:30 PM	<b>February 22</b> 3:00 PM
<b>February 25</b> 7:30pm WATH	<b>February 26</b> 7:30 PM PSD	<b>February 27</b> 7:30 PM	<b>February 28</b> 7:30 PM PSD	<b>March 1</b> 3:00 PM
<b>March 4</b> 7:30pm WATH/AD/PSD	<b>March 5</b> 7:30 PM	<b>March 6</b> 7:30 PM	<b>March 7</b> 7:30 PM	<b>March 8</b> 3:00 PM
<b>March 11</b> 7:30pm WATH	<b>March 12</b> 7:30 PM	<b>March 13</b> 7:30 PM	<b>March 14</b> 7:30 PM ASL/PSD	<b>March 15</b> 3:00 PM
<b>March 18</b> 7:30pm WATH/PSD	<b>March 19</b> 7:30 PM	<b>March 20</b> 7:30 PM	<b>March 21</b> 7:30 PM	<b>March 22</b> 3:00 PM

WATH = Wednesdays at the House (Pay-What-You-Can) PSD = Post Show Discussion

AD = Audio Described ASL = Sign Language Interpreted

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org](http://www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org) or by calling 612-825-0459.

Pillsbury House Theatre is located at 3501 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN, 55407.

*The mission of Pillsbury House Theatre is to create challenging theatre  
to inspire choice, change and connection.*

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For media information including images, arranging interviews, and actor bios, please contact  
Neal Spinler, Director of Marketing, at 612.787.3622 or [spinlern@pillsburyhousetheatre.org](mailto:spinlern@pillsburyhousetheatre.org).