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KARAMU HOUSE TO INDUCT HAZEL MOUNTAIN WALKER AND CHARLES SALLEE AT 2007 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 8

CLEVELAND – July 30, 2007 – Karamu House will show its appreciation for the contributions of Hazel Mountain Walker and Charles Sallee at its 2nd annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony on September 8.

Walker credited with naming Karamu, is nominated in the Local Legend-Posthumous category. She served as a board member for 25 years and was an actress who performed in multiple Karamu productions, including “The Corn is Green”, “Family Portrait” and “Member of the Wedding”.

She was a dedicated schoolteacher who became principal of Rutherford B. Hayes Elementary School in 1936 and principal of George Washington Carver Elementary School in 1954 where she remained until her retirement in 1956.

Walker was a lawyer but never practiced. She passed the bar exam partly to prove, African American women could become lawyers if they wished. In 1961, Hazel was elected to serve on the Ohio State Board of Education. She resigned in 1963 and moved out of state. She died on May 16, 1980 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Charles Sallee will be inducted in the Fine Arts category. The painter and graphic artist fulfilled his dream of going to art school by winning the first Karamu Gilpin Players scholarship to the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA). In 1936, he was the first African American to graduate from this renowned institution.

While attending the art institute, Sallee taught art at Karamu, under the direction of Karamu founders Russell and Rowena Jelliffe, His works are preserved in collections at Karamu, the National Museum of American Art and Howard University both in Washington, DC., Cleveland State University and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

A Sallee mural is preserved in the Louis Stokes Museum at Outhwaite Homes and his work can be seen in the ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cleveland. He was a charter member of the avant-garde American Society of Interior Designers. In 1963, then Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze, appointed Sallee to the City Planning Commission as a member of the Fine Arts Advisory. He died February 15, 2006 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Karamu, the nation’s oldest multicultural arts center and springboard to success for scores of African-Americans, will also honor other alumni at its second annual induction ceremony. This year’s

event will be held at the Marriott Cleveland East Hotel in Warrensville Heights. Last year's sold-out celebration kicked off the first hall of fame in Karamu's 90-year history.

Other nominees in the "Hollywood & Broadway Meet at the 'Mu" hall of fame ceremony include:

- **Bill Cobbs** (National Legend-Living), began his career in the 1960s as an amateur actor in the Karamu House Theater and starred in "Purlie Victorious." After leaving for New York in 1970, he amassed an impressive list of credits and appeared in such films as "The Body Guard," "New Jack City," and most recently with Ben Stiller in "Night at the Museum."
- **Mike Malone** (National Legend-Posthumous). an internationally known director, choreographer, producer, teacher and administrator, Karamu Performing Arts Director and Interim Artistic Director who first staged Langston Hughes' holiday favorite, "Black Nativity" at Karamu.
- **Reuben and Dorothy Silver** (Local Legend-Living). Reuben arrived at Karamu in 1955 and served as its artistic director Karamu also provided an artistic home for Dorothy, who served in every capacity from actor and assistant director to resident guest director.
- **Congressman Louis Stokes** (Benefactor). Retired congressman and longtime supporter who secured more than \$500,000 in public and private funding for the organization.
- **Emily Laster** (Administrator), began as a volunteer in 1957 and retired in 1998 after holding numerous staff positions.
- **Chris Webb** (On the Rise), a high school student, poet and actor. He performed in Karamu's 2005 world premier production of "The Little Boy Who Shook Up the World: The Emmett Till Story" and had a role in "A Hip Hop Aesop" in 2006.

Karamu House has been an important part of the African-American theater community for many years and has fostered legions of alumni who have achieved fame nationally and internationally. Although its alumni are spread across the country, from New York to Los Angeles, they are a tight-knit group who hold fond memories of Karamu as their proving ground.

The list of corporate sponsors for the event continues to grow and includes The Presenting Sponsor National City, Cleveland Clinic Health System, Medical Mutual of Ohio, KeyBank and The President's Council. Companies interested in sponsoring the event or purchasing a program ad may call Melanie McCottry at 216-496-6108. Information on tickets to this year's dinner and induction ceremony is available by calling Vivian C. Wilson at 216-795.7070, ext. 215. All proceeds from this event will directly benefit Karamu House.

For additional information on Karamu, please visit our Web site at www.karamu.com.

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