HANOVER THEATRE & CONSERVATORY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE Ain't Too Proud Panel Discussion Brings Industry Professionals Focused on Fashion & Beauty to The Hanover Theatre on November 9 at 5pm!

Top Photo: UK Cast of Ain't Too Proud, Photo by Johan Persson
Bottom Photos (L-R): Kira Troilo, MarHadoo Effeh, and Perri Sylvester

Worcester, Mass. (November 5, 2024) The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts' Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee is pleased to present the ***Ain't Too Proud Panel Discussion,*** conversations about beauty and fashion onstage celebrating communities of color with industry professionals including the current wardrobe supervisor of

Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations. This **FREE** public discussion will take place at the McDonough Room in The Hanover Theatre Conservatory & Event Center on **Saturday, November 9 at 5pm**!

RSVP Today!

The legendary Paul Tazewell recently became a 2024 NAACP Theatre Award winner recipient for Best Costume Design for *Ain't Too Proud*. His designs can also be seen on Broadway in the Tony Award® winning productions of *Hamilton* and *Suffs*. And audiences have eagerly caught glimpses of his work in the upcoming feature film, "Wicked". Inspired by Tazewell's work and the incredible legacy of the Temptations, panelists will discuss the changing landscape of beauty and fashion onstage joined by the current wardrobe supervisor of the national tour of *Ain't Too Proud*.

Other esteemed panelists include Kira Troilo, a Boston-based creative, the CEO and founder of Art & Soul Consulting, and the creator and founder of Inclusive Stages. Troilo is also the author of the e-book "'Black Hair' Is Hair: An Entertainment Industry Guide to Understanding, Budgeting For & Working With Textured Hair." Her comprehensive e-book is designed to fill the knowledge gaps that are causing confusion, a lack of empowerment and exclusion in production spaces across the nation. There is no other guide like this for theatre and entertainment and it's available now.

Joining Troilo on the panel are MarHadoo Effeh and Perri Sylvester who recently worked together on The Hanover Theatre Repertory's fall production of *The Crucible*. Effeh is an actor and arts activist, based in the New England area with experience in several theatrical and film productions. She uses her artistry as activism, coordinating and uplifting arts education initiatives in underserved communities with organizations like Company One Theatre in Boston, and The Grow Hope Foundation based in her hometown of Brockton. Perri Sylvester is the wardrobe manager for The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory. She teaches costume design classes at the conservatory, costume designing for the Youth Acting Company, acting as wardrobe manager for THT Rep shows, *The Nutcracker*, and Youth Ballet Company productions, as well as being the costume manager for the Youth Summer Program.

All community voices interested in costumes, fashion, hair, makeup and celebrating communities of color onstage are welcome to join the conversation! Light refreshments will be provided.

This discussion follows last season's meaningful *Jagged Little Pill Panel* and *Illuminations in Casting*, a deeper look at inclusive casting choices. Prior panelists include the executive director of the Mass Cultural Council, Michael Bobbitt, Kristie Raymond, Sabrina Avilés, Troy Siebels, Nicole Jessica Morin, and more!

RSVP for free to join the ***Ain't Too Proud Panel Discussion*** today! All ages and experience levels welcome. For more information, please contact the box office at 877.571.7469 or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org. Learn more about The Hanover Theatre's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee here.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory (THTC) provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre and design to more than 600 young people and adults from across central Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with The Hanover Theatre Repertory (THT Rep) and on The Hanover Theatre's world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and provides financial aid for those in need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra University, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester's BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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