

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS THREE
PERFORMANCES OF "MY EYES ARE THE CAGE IN MY HEAD" BY POET
AND PLAYWRIGHT, RON ALLEN.**

December 1, 2008 - Skid Row-based theater group, Los Angeles Poverty Department, presents "my eyes are the cage in my head" written and directed by Ron Allen, a performance work about the effect of colonization and recurring behavior in a parallel universes of power and subordination.

Performances will take place Saturday December 20 at 7 p.m. at **The Box Gallery**, 977 Chung King Road in Chinatown; Saturday December 27 at 7 p.m. at the **Church of the Nazarene**, 419 East 6th Street, on Skid Row; and Sunday December 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the **Industry Cafe & Jazz**, 6039 Washington Blvd, in Culver City. All performances are free.

"my eyes are the cage in my head" examines the language and context of character and ideas that creates class, superficial beauty, paranoia, quantity and addiction. This work seeks to stimulate discussion and public discourse about personal and social transformation.

Ron Allen is a poet, playwright and teacher who lives and works in Los Angeles. This work depicts the reality of a tethered humanity in search of itself through desire and self-destructive relationships. Allen subverts language to teach and deconstruct social models and create visions of new worlds. This project continues LAPD's relationship with Allen, building on the 2006 production of "Fried Poetry", presented at Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center and Skid Row's James Wood Community Center. Allen also taught in LAPD 's 2007 summer changeXchange workshop.

'Ron Allen's raw, ultra-poetic examination of the African American experience rips into its targets to locate the true nature of freedom within one archetypal black man's mind.'
- LA WEEKLY

ABOUT LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

Los Angeles Poverty Department was founded in 1985 by director, actor, activist, and writer John Malpede and is based on Skid Row, the community with the largest concentration of homeless people in the U.S. LAPD creates performance work that connects lived experience to the social forces that shape the lives and communities of people living in poverty. For more information, www.lapovertydept.org

"The Los Angeles Poverty Department, despite the homeless status of many of its members, has thrived for years from its downtown outpost and continues to offer theater that's often stunning in its honesty and lacking in pretension." - L.A. WEEKLY

"The Los Angeles Poverty Department has become one of the country's most outspoken and profound theater troupes." - REAL DETROIT

"For LAPD the weapons are words, explored by actors who have seen policies turned into street-level experience." - LOS ANGELES TIMES

ABOUT SKID ROW

Skid Row Los Angeles is the poorest area in the city. Skid Row Los Angeles has the largest concentration of homeless people of any neighborhood in the US. Despite its poverty, Skid Row is an amazing place with amazing human and community strengths:

- Skid Row LA has the largest concentration of the most affordable housing in Los Angeles County.
- Skid Row has the largest concentration and most comprehensive set of services for homeless people in Los Angeles.
- Skid Row is the biggest recovery culture anywhere. Skid Row's highly developed drug recovery consciousness includes free recovery programs and numerous AA, NA and CA groups.

The Skid Row community has long been a generative site for visionary answers to social problems. These visionary initiatives have come about through individual and collective concern by community members and moments of enlightened public policy and visionary NGO efforts. Largely underappreciated is the extent to which the visionary efforts have been the work of community members. Without the civic engagement of citizens of Skid Row, the housing stock would not have been preserved, the people and social services would have been dispersed and the Safe Haven recovery community would not exist.

LAPD's production of "**my eyes are the cage in my head**" is funded in part by the City of LA Cultural Affairs Department and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funders of LAPD include the Animating Democracy Initiative of Americans for the Arts, with funding from the Kellogg Foundation; The Creating Public Value program of the California Arts Council and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; and The National Endowment for the Arts - Theater Program.