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KARAMU HOUSE CANCELS FIRST TWO WEEKENDS OF UPCOMING PRODUCTION, HOODOO LOVE

The regional premiere of Katori Hall's *Hoodoo Love* is postponed.

(Cleveland, Ohio)—Like many theatres from around the country, Karamu House has been faced with the difficult decision to reevaluate its performance schedules. With the health and safety of Karamu House patrons, talent, crew and staff top-of-mind, and in response to Governor DeWine's order that prohibits mass gatherings, Karamu has made the difficult decision to cancel all March performances of *Hoodoo Love*.

Patrons who have purchased tickets to any one of the canceled *Hoodoo Love* performances can exchange them for a future performance of *Hoodoo Love*, currently scheduled for preview on Thursday, April 2, 2020 and opening night on Friday, April 3, 2020.

The Board of Directors and leadership team of Karamu House will be meeting regularly to assess the constantly evolving situation and make additional performance schedule changes, if needed. Any additional changes will be immediately communicated to our patrons, talent, crew and staff.

Karamu House remains committed to being a joyful gathering place—a long-standing pillar of not only Cleveland, but also African American theatre. As a non-profit arts organization, Karamu House depends on the continuing support of patrons, donors, and the community during these uncertain times. Our mission to produce professional theatre, provide arts education, and present programs for all people while honoring the African American experience will not waver.

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About Karamu House

Recognized as the oldest African American performing arts institute in the nation, Karamu House is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and featured in the Smithsonian's African American Museum. Legendary artists including Langston Hughes, Ruby Dee, Robert Guillaume, Ron O'Neal, Bill Cobbs, James Pickens, Jr., Vanessa Bell Calloway and Imani Hakim have been associated with the 104-year old "place of joyful gathering" (the meaning of "Karamu" in Swahili.)

In 1915, Oberlin College graduates Russell and Rowena Jelliffe opened the Playhouse Settlement in an area called Cleveland's "Roaring Third." The Jelliffes wanted to build an environment where people of different races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds could come together to share common ventures through the arts. Karamu was established as a gathering place for racially diverse

members of the surrounding community at that time. Today, Karamu is a beating heart for the entire community, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification, or age. Core programs include socially relevant and professional quality theatre; arts education programming for all ages; and community programming, such as comedy, live jazz, and spoken word performances, that invites participation and engagement, reflection, and a re-commitment to cultural values.

For more information, visit www.karamuhouse.org.