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## THE NATIONAL THEATRE TO PRODUCE THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL *FELA!*

It was announced today that in November 2010, **The National Theatre**, one of the world's most prestigious venues, will produce *FELA!*, this season's most heralded new musical on Broadway. Performances at The National's **Olivier Theatre** are slated to begin Saturday, November 6, with an official Opening Night set for Tuesday, November 16, 2010. *FELA!* will perform in repertory at the National with William Shakespeare's *HAMLET* for a limited run.

Directed and choreographed by Tony<sup>®</sup> Award-winner **Bill T. Jones**, *FELA!* will open in London starring **Sahr Ngaujah**, who originated the role and currently appears in the Broadway production. **Kevin Mambo**, who shares the role with Mr. Ngaujah in NYC, will also join the otherwise all-British cast for a limited run. The Broadway production will continue its open-ended run.

Producing a hit Broadway musical with its original star on the Olivier stage is unprecedented for The National. *FELA!* is considered for inclusion in The National's acclaimed **NT Live** series, a new initiative to capture productions on the National Theatre's stages live, in high definition, and broadcast via satellite to movie theater's around the world.

Also announced today: due to the extraordinary interest in *FELA!*, both nationally and internationally, the producers have enlisted Margaret Selby of Columbia Artist Management, to coordinate the bookings.

*Fela!*, the new musical based on the life and music of groundbreaking African composer, performer and activist **Fela Anikulapo-Kuti**, is currently enjoying a critically acclaimed run at Broadway's **Eugene O'Neill Theatre (230 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street)** starring, in addition to Mr. Ngaujah and Mr. Mambo, **Lillias White** and **Saycon Sengbloh**. This new musical is directed and choreographed by Tony<sup>®</sup> Award-winner **Bill T. Jones** (*Spring Awakening*), with a book by **Jim Lewis** and **Bill T. Jones**. **Sahr Ngaujah** and **Kevin Mambo** play the title character at alternate performances, while the world renowned **Antibalas** and other members of the NYC Afrobeat community, under the direction of **Aaron Johnson**, perform Kuti's rousing music live onstage. *Fela!* was conceived by **Bill T. Jones**, **Jim Lewis** and **Stephen Hendel**.

Tickets for *Fela!* on Broadway are available through [www.Telecharge.com](http://www.Telecharge.com), by calling (212) 239-6200 or in-person at The Eugene O'Neill Box Office. For more information about *Fela!* please visit [www.FelaOnBroadway.com](http://www.FelaOnBroadway.com).

From **March 16 – April 25**, the schedule will be as follows: Tuesday at 7pm, Wednesday – Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 2pm & 8pm and **Sunday at 3pm & 8pm**.

From **April 27**, the schedule will be as follows: Tuesday at 7pm, Wednesday – Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 2pm & 8pm and **Sunday at 2pm & 7:30pm**. There is no performance on Sunday evening, June 13.

The Broadway production of *Fela!* is produced by Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, Will & Jada Pinkett Smith, Ruth & Stephen Hendel, Roy Gabay, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Edward Tyler Nahem, Slava Smolokowski, Chip Meyrelles/Ken Greiner, Douglas G. Smith, Steve Semnitz/Cathy Glazer, Daryl Roth/True Love Productions, Susan Dietz/Mort Swinsky and Knitting Factory Entertainment. In association with Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson.

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