

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **It's a Revival at ASF: *Crowns* Returns by Popular Demand!**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONTGOMERY, AL (September 10, 2007) Regina Taylor's musical *Crowns* was a sell-out success at ASF last season and the theatre hopes to do it again when the spirited gospel musical returns to the Octagon theatre from October 12 to November 11, 2007. Once again the show will serve a generous helping of inspiring gospel music, including "In the Morning," "Marching to Zion," "His Eye is on the Sparrow," "Just a Closer Walk," and "Mary Don't You Weep."

ASF hopes to see some of the new audiences garnered by *Menopause the Musical* in the seats for *Crowns*. Like *Menopause*, *Crowns* tells the story of bold and vibrant women and their traditions through humor and love and is full of touching and uplifting live music. *Crowns* will also feature *Fredena Williams*, the bold and beautiful voice of Power Woman from the first weeks of *Menopause the Musical* at ASF.

ASF audiences will recognize even more familiar faces in the cast of *Crowns*. Margo Mooror (Jeanette), from last season's production of *Crowns* and *Gee's Bend*, as well as Laiona Michelle (Wanda) and James Bowen (Man) from last season's production of *Crowns* will return to the ASF stage in this production of *Crowns*. Afton Williamson, a Master of Fine Arts student who appeared as Aunt Spiker in *James and the Giant Peach*, and Letta in *Death of a Salesman*, will be playing Yolanda, the streetwise young woman who learns the value of tradition from her grandmother. New additions to the cast include Jenelle Lynn Randall (Velma) and Linda Boston (Mother Shaw).

Tickets for the first preview performance on October 12 and the Opening Performance on October 14 are nearly gone, while tickets to the October 13 preview will be available through a promotion with Clear Channel station Hallelujah 104.3 for only \$19. *Crowns* runs through November 11. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$19 to \$42. Tickets for patrons between ages 6 to 18 are \$20 and ages 19 – 25 are \$26. Special ticket rates are available for groups of 10 or more. For more information, call the ASF Box Office toll free at (800) 841-4273 or go online at [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net).

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount's gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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## Fact Sheet

### The revival of *Crowns* by Regina Taylor

2007-2008 Season

Produced by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival

**Dates:** **Previews:** October 12 and 13, 2007

**Opening:** October 14, 2007

**Regular Performances:** October 16 – November 11, 2007. Tuesdays - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

**Prices:** Preview performances and Opening only \$19! Tickets range in price from \$19 - \$42. Ages 6 – 18 only \$20, 19 – 25 only \$26! To purchase, call the ASF Box Office at (334) 271-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-841-4273. Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net).

**Website:** [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net);

**Location:** The Octagon Stage in the Carolyn Blount Theatre, home of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, located in the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park, on Woodmere Boulevard just off East Boulevard.

<b>Production Staff:</b>	<i>Director</i>	Janet Cleveland
	<i>Musical Director</i>	Bill Sims, Jr.
	<i>Scenic Designer</i>	Chris Carothers
	<i>Costume Designer</i>	Susan Branch
	<i>Lighting Designer</i>	AnneMarie Duggan
	<i>Sound Designer</i>	Brett Rominger
	<i>Dramaturg</i>	Susan Willis
	<i>Voice and Dialect Coach</i>	Sarah Felder
	<i>Movement Coach</i>	Denise Gabriel
	<i>Stage Manager</i>	Tanya Searle*

<b>Cast:</b>	<i>Jeanette</i>	Margo Moorer *
	<i>Velma</i>	Jenelle Lynn Randall*
	<i>Yolanda</i>	Afton Williamson †
	<i>Mabel</i>	Fredena J. Williams*
	<i>Man</i>	James Bowen*
	<i>Wanda</i>	Laiona Michelle*
	<i>Mother Shaw</i>	Linda Boston*
	<i>Piano</i>	Mark Sampson
	<i>Percussion</i>	Kinah Boto
	<i>Understudy</i>	LaShanna Price

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association

†Member of Graduate Acting Company

**Audience:** **Recommended for ages 12+.** All patrons must have a ticket, regardless of age. Children under the age of six are not admitted to the theatre.

**Synopsis:** A gospel musical in which a streetwise young woman goes to live with her grandmother in the south and learns of the rich tradition of African American women and the beautiful hats that they wear to church.

**Setting:** The grandmother's home, church, the memories of various characters.

**Co-Sponsors:** Martha and Tranum Fitzpatrick

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