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House of Restoration Africa Partners with Walker Theatre for RunDMC Concert During Superbowl

INDIANAPOLIS— The Madame Walker Theatre Center, one of 17 Super Celebration Sites, is proud to partner with the House of Restoration, Africa (HORA) to increase awareness and raise funds towards relief efforts in Sierra Leone. Godfrey Coker, a current IUPUI student and an African refugee in the US from 1999-2003, tells a remarkable story of being offered refuge in the U.S during the civil war in Sierra Leone, meeting DMC of the world famous 80's Pop/Rock group at the JW Marriott and coordinating a benefit concert with Budweiser as official sponsor of the event.

The concert will take place on the Main Stage of the Madame Walker Theatre Center on Friday, February 3rd at 8pm with an exclusive after party following. The after-party is limited to the first 225 at the door. General Admission tickets are \$45 in advance and will jump to \$100 day of show. A VIP ticket is \$65 and includes premiere seating and entrance to the meet and greet with DMC and on the 4th floor at the Walker. 100% of the proceeds from this concert will benefit the House of Restoration Africa. This concert is a pre-cursor to 3 other shows that will take place in England, New York City and in Ghana, South Africa.

In an effort to involve and engage the musician, a National *Super Bold Battle of the Bands* Competition will be held 2 weeks prior to the concert to determine which two opening acts will perform for RunDMC. This competition, January 20 at the Walker, is open to the public and will involve audience participation. Coordinated and hosted by Kyla Woods and Joseph "Allen Imagery" Woods, submissions for opening acts will be received between December 5 and December 26. Interested parties should visit www.superBOLDbattle.com for eligibility requirements. Both opening acts will receive a cash prize, in addition to opening for RunDMC in Indianapolis during SuperBowl 46 festivities.

"Music is a vessel that can bring people with different backgrounds, religious beliefs and political affiliations, together for a purpose. When hip-hop Royalty performs at the Madam Walker Theater, the richness in history and the magnitude of the message will definitely raise the awareness necessary for a worthy cause," explains Coker. Tickets for the Feb. 3 concert will go on sale December 19th at the Madame Walker Theatre Center and on www.ticketmaster.com.

Coker, who is speaking on behalf of his village in Sierra Leone and HORA, is being booked at colleges and Universities across the State to share his story. House of Restoration Africa serves to reach the underprivileged communities in Atlanta, Georgia and Ghana, West Africa to restore and heal their spirit and emotional well-being. Their mission is to bring hope to those who have no hope and bring life to those who have been hurt and discouraged in disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities.

The Madame Walker Theatre Center, an internationally recognized National Historic Landmark, preserves and builds upon the entrepreneurial and philanthropic legacy of its namesake by celebrating the best of African American culture and performance arts, by nurturing youth through arts education and by providing a welcoming venue for arts programming and entrepreneurial activities for all cultures in our community and nation.

Interviews with Godfrey Coker and DMC of RunDMC are available. Visit www.walkertheatre.com for details.

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