



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Alternate ROOTS Delivers Moving Performance Recalling Hurricane Katrina at CenterStage**



It's been more than a year since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines. In the aftermath of the storms, artists from both states came together through participation in Alternate ROOTS (an arts service organization) to create work that reflects their firsthand experiences. On Friday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m. at the CenterStage, come see the results of this collaboration. This full-length theatre piece incorporates video, hip-hop, dance, storytelling, and interesting mixtures of traditional and contemporary theatre styles. It is a work of art made powerful by the raw truth of their witness. After the performance, visit with the artists in a post-performance dialogue. Evacuees who are living in this area are encouraged to come and share their own stories.

*UPROOTED: The Katrina Project* encompass the bitter lessons of Katrina—the vulnerabilities of communities, the poverty and racism that created opportunities for a hazardous natural phenomena to turn into a politically entangled disaster of death and destruction, the exposure of governmental failings and disregard, and the weakness in the armor of the social justice community to rally an immediate response to the needs of its own. These lessons reach far beyond the Gulf Coast region; they are a major wakeup call for the whole of the United States and particularly so for the Southeastern region.

*UPROOTED: The Katrina Project* seeks to raise the voices of Katrina's survivors and connect them with the voices of all of America's marginalized citizenry.

*UPROOTED: The Katrina Project* is a collaboration between Alternate ROOTS and Holden & Arts Associates, which brings member-artists directly affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina to communities to engage in art for social change and deliver a taste of home to those internally displaced citizens throughout the country.

A group of southeastern performing artists creating original, community-based work founded Alternate ROOTS in 1976 at the Highlander Center in Tennessee. Among those present were Jo Carson, John O'Neal and Dudley Cocke, all of whom are still members of the organization. Their members include artists working in all disciplines: theater, dance, performance art, storytelling, mime, music, visual arts, media arts, and movement. Alternate ROOTS works on many levels to create opportunities for artistic expression and dialogue beyond the scope and ability of any single individual or organization.

This show is suitable for ages 18 and older. Tickets are \$15. To make reservations by phone, call our 24-hour Box Office at 703-476-4500 (press 3). Tickets for all CenterStage events may be reserved by telephone, purchased from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day at the Reston Community Center Information and Service Desk, or purchased in person during Box Office hours. Box Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and two hours prior to curtain times. Payment with Visa or Mastercard is required at time of reservation. For season telephone orders, brochures, directions or more information call 703-476-4500, and press option 3.

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Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For further information, contact the Reston Community Center at (703) 476-4500, Virginia Relay (800) 828-1120 (TTY) or visit the website at <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com>. The Reston Community Center is located at 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191. The Reston Community Center is completely accessible to persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

To request this information in an alternate format, call Esther Garcia, 703-476-4500.

**Reston Community Center**  
2310 Colts Neck Road  
Reston, Virginia 20191  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

