

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAMA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS**

**Presents**

# ***We Are!***

**The Gospel for Teens Musical**



**The Mama Foundation for the Arts** proudly announces their musical production, ***We Are!***, a musical celebration of a generation featuring a full cast of teens; at The Dempsey Theater in Harlem (127 W. 127 Street). *We Are!* was conceived and written by Ken Wydro, Vy Higginsen, Knoelle Higginson, and Elijah Ahmad Lewis and directed by Mr. Wydro. The show features real-life stories about what teenagers are living through. *We Are!* is based on the Emmy award-winning *60 Minutes* story, in which Lesley Stahl highlights Vy Higginsen and Gospel for Teens as they spread their message through gospel, jazz, and R&B music. The music, stories and testimonies will inspire you.

The cast of *We Are!* features Jermaine Antonetty, Saige Bryan, Calvin Calloway, Lorna Courtney, Samantha Diaz, Adonis Drummond, Brielle Frage, Nytiera Francis, Marlon Gordon, Jessica Lyric Harp, Kaylah Harvey, Vy Higginsen, Ahmaya Knoelle Higginson, Raechel Mizrachi, Joseph Parker Jr., Kiara Ray, Yvette Rogers, Dominique Smith, Tunisia Solomon, Seteena Turner, Alanna Underwood.

Proceeds from the production benefit **The Mama Foundation for the Arts**, a cultural space in Harlem with a mission to present, preserve, and promote the history and fundamentals of gospel, jazz, and rhythm and blues music for current and future generations, as well as to provide quality training and employment in the performing arts to both youth and adults. A non-profit 501(C)3, the Mama Foundation for the Arts was founded in 1998 by Vy Higginsen, inspired by the worldwide success of her musical, *Mama, I Want To Sing*. Through the Foundation's **School of Gospel, Jazz and R&B** and its **Gospel for Teens** program, instruction in these musical art forms has been

offered to young people between the ages of 13 and 19 at no cost since 2006. The Gospel for Teens program has serviced hundreds of students in the past seven years, providing desperately needed support to musically gifted children and replacing arts programs taken out of many inner city schools.

Tickets for *We Are!* are available by calling the Mama Foundation for the Arts at 212-280-1045 or through [SmartTix.com](http://SmartTix.com) (212-868-4444). Special rates for groups and parties are also available. For more information, please visit [www.mamafoundation.org](http://www.mamafoundation.org).

Directions to The Dempsey Theater via Public Transit: - Subway: Number 2 or 3 express trains to 125<sup>th</sup> St and Lenox Ave; walk two blocks north, turn left on 127<sup>th</sup> St. - Bus: M2, M3, M7 Buses to 127<sup>th</sup> St.

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