

SUMMER ARTS ACADEMY

CMHA's Lakeview Terrace children perform "The Call of the Fantastic"

The Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) and CMHA work to make creativity a cornerstone in the education of our youth. On Friday, August 13, 2010, fifty-five children from Lakeview Terrace performed the play *The Call of the Fantastic* at the community center.

Since 1999, CPT has offered children at Lakeview Terrace opportunities to learn theatre arts through its nationally recognized after-school program, Brick City Theatre. This year CPT developed a new inter-disciplinary summer program offering expanded instruction in drama, dance, and music for children ages 7 through 14. Under the guidance of CPT teaching artists, the children acquire knowledge and facility in expressive movement, songwriting, Guinean drumming, story-telling, and other performance forms. Participants also develop important literacy skills, self-awareness, and confidence in navigating diverse social situations.

Children performed to a packed house, a fable in which two opposing worlds must come together to find the magic that has mysteriously gone missing from their lives. The play featured three songs developed by the students under the inspired tutelage of the late Chifton W. Beasley, in chic the performance was dedicated. The show was made possible by the generous support of CMHA, Ohio's Children's Foundation, the Ellie Fund, The Hankins Foundation, Target Foundation, US Bancorp, The Harry K. Fox and Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation, Michael Talty and the Helen Talty Charitable Trust. A special thank you goes out to Brett Keyser, director, Mohamed Tounkara, drum leader, BerRonica Steele, CMHA Property Manager, Debra Goolsby, CMHA AMP Leader and the Cleveland Public Theatre staff.

"We worked very hard on this performance. It was a six-week journey where we stretched our bodies, our voices, and our minds trying to open new avenues for our imagination to stroll down," said Brett Keyser, Director of the performance. "The young people performing have taken important steps this summer along the path toward a creative life—by which I mean a life of their own choosing, shaped by their own courageous and creative choices."