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For immediate release. SECOND EPISODE OF NOT A MOMENT, BUT A MOVEMENT "BLACK NOURISHMENT" FEATURING SPOKEN WORD, MURALS AND MUSIC PREMIERES APRIL 15 AND IS AVAILABLE THROUGH JUNE 15, 2021

Local Musician Sugi Dakks is Joined by Poets Siaara Freeman, Royce Hall, Jali Ajani Nafula, Prentice Powell, Tru Sound, Yazmin Monet Watkins, Chris Webb, Shawn William and Alyesha Wise

The Program Also Includes the Work of Muralists Donald Black Jr, Andre "Natty Rebel" Jones, Brandan "BMike" Odums, Sachi Rome and Keli Walker

> Not a Moment, But a Movement "Black Nourishment" is Free to the Public April 15 – 30 in Honor of National Poetry Month

> > A Related Panel Discussion "Sustaining the Movement: Elevating Black Artists" Set for April 15 at 4 pm

Center Theatre Group, The Fire This Time Festival and Watts Village Theater Company announces the second episode of **Not a Moment**, **But a Movement**, a series of events that amplify and center Black artists. Directed by **Tyrone Davis** and **Bruce A. Lemon Jr** and introduced by **Ron Cephas Jones**, the second episode, titled **"Black Nourishment"** features a local musician and the work of spoken word artists and muralists from throughout the United States in a program that premieres on demand beginning April 15 at 5 pm Pacific, and available through June 15, 2021. The video will be free to Center Theatre Group subscribers and supporters and \$10 for all others – except April 15 through April 30, 2021, when the event will be offered free to the public in in honor of National Poetry Month. Not a Moment, But a Movement "Black Nourishment" will be available at <u>www.CTGLA.org/NotAMoment</u>.

Presented in conjunction with Watts Village Theater Company and The Fire This Time Festival, Not a Moment, But a Movement events feature the work of multiple artists from varied disciplines. Each of the artists offers their own distinct voice which blends with, builds upon and sometimes clashes up against the other voices to create a unique piece that centers conversations that have long been held to the periphery. Each event is paired with a panel discussion to create a uniquely comprehensive cultural experience. The panel for this second episode of Not a Moment, But a Movement titled "Sustaining the Movement: Elevating Black Artists," will be held on April 15 at 4 pm and available at <u>www.YouTube.com/CTGLA</u>. Panelists include Zhailon Levingston (Broadway Advocacy Coalition), Jamila Webb (First Fifteen), and Courtney Peck (Cast Black Talent) and moderator Bruce A. Lemon, Jr (Watts Village Theater).

"Drawing on spoken word artists from Atlanta, Cleveland, Oakland and Los Angeles, this second episode of Not a Moment, But a Movement titled, Black Nourishment explores what it means to be nourished as a Black person in America," said Center Theatre Group Associate Artistic Director Tyrone Davis. "

"There are so many stories to tell and even more ways to tell them," said Watts Village Theater Company Co-Artistic Director Bruce A. Lemon Jr. "together with the previous episode, this continues the conversation we are having as a community and connects the many ways we can do it in theatre."

Three Los Angeles-based spoken word artists, **Tru Sound**, **Yazmin Monet Watkins** and **Alyesha Wise**, perform on the stage of the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Other spoken word artists include Atlanta's **Royce Hall** and **Jali Ajani Nafula**; Cleveland's **Siaara Freeman** and **Chris Webb**; and Oakland's **Prentice Powell** and **Shawn William** – each performing in front of a mural from their own hometown including works by **Donald Black Jr**, **Andre "Natty Rebel" Jones, Brandan "BMike" Odums, Sachi Rome** and **Keli Walker**. The second episode of Not a Moment, But a Movement also features the jazz-tinged hip-hop music of LA-based **Sugi Dakks** performing with **Jarren Heidelberg** (drums), **Josh Howard** (bass), **Aaron Mastin** (keys) and **Terall Whitehead** (guitar).

Center Theatre Group's Digital Stage is presented by American Express. As presenting sponsor of The Digital Stage, American Express Card Members enjoy special opportunities on the Digital Stage, including: presales and early access for limited-release premium events, invitations to private pre- or post-show meet and greets and access to exclusive content curated especially for Card Members.

Bank of America is Center Theatre Group's Season Sponsor, including Digital Stage programming. For more than 20 years, Bank of America has partnered with Center Theatre Group to provide innovative Education and Community Partnerships programs as well as present world-class productions at the Ahmanson Theatre and Mark Taper Forum. Their generous support now extends online to the Digital Stage.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation's preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles' leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Michael Ritchie, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1600 to 2100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation's leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.

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April 9, 2021