

**“INGENIOUS NATIVITY PLAY AS REALITY TV”...“I DOUBT YOU’LL FIND ANYTHING  
MORE INVENTIVE”...“STRIKING INGENUITY”**

– The Philadelphia Inquirer

# **A CAPPELLA HUMANA**

**A Reality Show About Reality**

**Conceived and Co-Written by Kevin Ramsey**

**Co-Written by Pearl Ramsey**

**“GREAT!”...“A NATIVITY STORY LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN”**

– Chester City Journal

# A CAPPELLA HUMANA

A REALITY SHOW ABOUT REALITY

Everyone has a story and each story is just a line to the novel called - LIFE. "A CAPPELLA HUMANA" is a digital multi-media re-imagining of one such story – "The Nativity Story." This zany and poignant "Reality Show Musical" questions the power and boundaries of the human voice as Emmanuel returns to tell his story, but under the guise of a reality TV show host who takes a group of modern day participants, driven by their obsession with technology and fame, on a quest to re-discover their own "Nativity." A cast of powerful vocalists, a cellist, and an incredible human beat-boxer deliver classic renditions of Handel's Messiah, "Go Tell It On The Mountain", to electrifying original compositions like "You Raise Me Up", "Hell Or High Water," and "Bomb The World." A CAPPELLA HUMANA is a provocative and imaginative theatrical experience that celebrates our humanity.



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## History & Author's Notes of Show

A CAPPELLA HUMANA (ACH) was commissioned and a World Premiere produced by the Delaware Theater Company in December 2011. ACH was inspired as an abstract mirror of humanity's consciousness and the redundant behaviors that perpetuate war and stagnant our ability to negotiate peace. This is a show within a show, a story within a story, and each character is an actor/actress playing the role of an actor/actress for a "REALITY" show. There is an intentional objective to direct the actors to act and make it "REAL" for the television audience while appearing to be authentic; which plays into the way we often live our lives, and the roles we take on without ever knowing we've been cast. Each character by their own volition takes this journey through time from AD to BC to AD, and finds in the end that they were the story being told. Peace among mankind is Emmanuel's purpose, always for mankind to cease from civil war. In his life the message is to teach them that there is not one answer for peace. Peace is the decision we make to work toward living together in harmony. Peace begins the moment we decide that it is our goal.





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2011 World Premiere Delaware Theatre Company

## ABOUT THE CO-WRITER/DIRECTOR

### Kevin Ramsey

In a recent article, Blues music historian, Angela Mack remarked, *"I see Kevin as picking up the torch where August Wilson left off."* This quote resounds deeply for this New Orleans native who he is committed to the historical examination and retelling of the African-American musical experience, and its artistic contribution to American and world culture. Mr. Ramsey continues to explore subject matters of universal appeal, as demonstrated in CHASIN' DEM BLUES: Untold Story of Paramount Records, and other commissioned works, like SOULTIME: AT THE APOLLO, which explores the musical traditions of the legendary Apollo Theater, to his musical homage to hurricane Katrina survivors entitled, FIRE ON THE BAYOU, to his exploration of the life of a music icon in SAM COOKE: FOREVER MR. SOUL. His works continue to garner critical acclaim, enthusiastic audience response, and box office success at regional theaters across the country.

An honored recipient of the Astaire and Theater World Awards for 'Best Performance on Broadway,' the Zoni and Audelco Awards, with nominations from the Barrymore and Outer Critics Circle Awards, Kevin is a multi-faceted producing artist who continues to cross-over varied artistic mediums, ranging from serving as the Co-Producer/Director/Writer on the award-winning short film Tap Rap, starring Savion Glover, to starring on Broadway in the award-winning Cy Coleman musical The Life, as well as, "Five Guys Named Moe," "Oh, Kay," "Black and Blue," and "The Lion King (LA)." His directorial and choreographic work has been presented at some of the nation's most prominent regional theaters. Recent directorial and choreographic assignments were represented in the national television commercial spots for GM Pontiac's "It's in the Blood," and Prilosec's "The Purple Pill," as well as, a number of industrial corporate films, including MetLife. Mr. Ramsey has made numerous guest starring and recurring appearances on such prime-time shows as "Cold Case," "Saving Grace," "Judging Amy," "24," "The District," "The Hughley's," "State of Grace," and "Charmed," as well as, feature films "Night Falls On Manhattan," and "Trial By Jury." Presently, with a slate of Theater/Film/TV projects in development, he is serving as Creator/Executive Producer on the new TV pilot, "State Raised," and a new web-episode reality series.

He is a distinguished graduate of New York University's School of Arts, and presently on the faculty at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles, and is the Founder/Executive Director of iLEAP - Life Empowerment Arts Programs and CEO of Urban Musical Tours, LLC. Presently, Kevin is pursuing his Masters' degree in Media Management at The New School.

## **ABOUT THE CO-WRITER**

### **Pearl Ramsey**

Pearl Ramsey is best known for giving voice and integrity to complex characters and controversial emotional and psychological paradigms. Recently assisting as the dramaturge for the highly acclaimed stage production “CROWNS” by Regina Taylor currently running (April 2012) at the Delaware Theatre Company which also World Premiered the musical "A CAPPELLA HUMANA- A Reality Show within a Reality Show" for which she was co-writer and dramaturge. Her original show “Migration the Musical: Calling My Children Home” debuted at the DuSable Museum in collaboration with producers BIG and the University of Chicago, set to World Premier in Fall 2012 at the new University of Chicago’s Logan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts, as well as being co-creator with BIG for Green Festival Weekend at Navy Pier for the Radio Performance Show “How Chicago became a City of Villages”. Other original works include “Color Blind”, “Christmas Comes Home”, “From Darkness to Light,” “Arise -3 Dreams, 2 Paths, 1 Destiny”, “Becoming” (A One-Woman Show) and “Moan”.

Pearl served as Creative Director for the 2011 International African Arts Festival. She worked with national organization “Real Men Cook” as logistics and field organizer for the Festival’s “Urban Agricultural Pavilion” and Green Village Building. She received special recognition from the Governor of Kentucky for her work in bringing social change through the performing arts as well as recognition from former Governor Jennifer Granholm in the state of Michigan. Also, she has received invitations from schools, colleges and universities in the US and abroad to host performance art seminars and workshops as a voice in conscious art that fuses performance art as a healing initiative for Earth & humanity. She has worked with numerous professional theatre companies, community organizations, schools, non-profit organizations, religious institutions and government agencies around the country to develop a more comprehensive performing arts program that builds and addresses the whole person and their relationship to community with proven results. She has also written performance workshop pieces for the McDonald’s Business Owners Association, and Guilford County, St. Clair County and Chicago Public and Charter Schools.

Her strongest passion lies in musical theatre because of the synergy of words, music and theatrical performance and its unique ability to impact large numbers of people at one time. “Music and humor create an inner craving whereby truth becomes digestible and even desirable.” She consistently challenges herself to be art; it breathes life to her and resuscitates others. “Taking the road less traveled to the places where HOPE is most needed.”

## Contact Information



- Please feel free to contact us if you would like information with regard to licensing and production opportunities.

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