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**STATE OF THE NATION IV COMES TO JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art and Performance Festival October 4, 5, & 6**

Jackson, MS (September 24, 2007) - For the fourth time in as many years artists from Mississippi and Louisiana are collaborating to present a three-day regional arts festival on the campus of Jackson State University in Jackson, MS. Artists from Jackson, New Orleans, Miami, Louisville and beyond will converge on the campus of Jackson State University October 4 thru 6, 2007 for the fourth annual *State of the Nation Art and Performance Festival*. This three-day event will take place at the **F.D. Hall Music Center** at Jackson State University and will feature performance art, visual art exhibitions, and workshops by local, national and international artists. The festival fosters the intersection of arts and activism by involving organizers, educators, activists and students as well as artists of multiple disciplines in a working examination of "Connections."

The festival includes performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, October 4, 5, & 6. Performances start at 7:00pm nightly in the F.D. Hall Music Center. During the day on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday participating artists will offer workshops in music, dance, theatre, poetry, social justice organizing and arts administration that are open to the public.

The festival will feature performers from New Orleans that were affected by Hurricane Katrina. These performers include companies ArtSpot Productions, Junebug Productions, Mondo Bizarro; and individual performers Millicent Johnnie, Sunni Patterson, Saddi Khali, Valentine Pierce, and MOOSE. The festival will also feature Puerto Rican born performer Teo Castellanos of Miami, FL performing his award winning one man show, *NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave*. This work was awarded the Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and was awarded Best Solo Performance by Miami new Time and Best Original Play by Miami Beach Sun. This will be his first visit to the magnolia state.

Other participating artists include Looking for Lilith Theatre (Louisville, KY), Carolyn Renee and Rising Appalachia (Atlanta), as well as Mississippi artists Skipp Coon, C. Leigh McInnis, LaTongya Garner, Blac Dadi Strahberies, Jerrod Avant and Sam Roberts.

This festival will also include a community forum that will explore the social, political, racial, economic, class, and cultural issues that still exist in the Gulf South. The intent of this event is to keep the Gulf Coast in the national spotlight by inviting artists from across the United States to see what we are still experiencing in terms of the slow rebuilding process, with the hopes that the images they see and experience will be shared with diverse communities throughout the country.

The Festival involves youth, local artists, organizers and culture bearers in the planning and implementation of an event that gives voice to their diverse approaches to creating/producing art that inspires social change, creating a space where laughter, joy and imagination become our shared humanity.

Costs: \$15 General Admission, \$10 Students and Seniors. \$25 Festival Pass.

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