

The Dillard University theatre program will open its 76th season this month with a six-performance run of "Mahalia," a celebration of the life and work of gospel warrior Mahalia Jackson on the centennial of her birth. The show opens on Friday, Oct. 28 and runs through Sunday, Nov. 6 in Cook Theatre on the Dillard campus.

Jackson (1911-1972) rose from humble roots in New Orleans' Black Pearl neighborhood to become the preeminent gospel singer of her day, captivating the nation and audiences worldwide with her distinctive voice and effervescent delivery. She is known for recordings such as "Elijah Rock," "Precious Lord" and "We Shall Overcome."

She was also a close friend of Martin Luther King Jr. and an important figure in the civil rights movement. She famously performed at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy as well as at King's funeral. "A voice like hers comes along once in a millennium," King once said of the beloved singer.

"We are thrilled to open our 76th anniversary season with such a moving show that provides a unique historical look at the life of Mahalia Jackson," said Cortheal Clark, director of Dillard's theatre program. "She was the world's greatest gospel singer and the spiritual voice of the civil rights movement."

The Dillard University production of "Mahalia" is directed by Troy R. Poplous from a book by Tom Stolz. Tickets are \$15, and \$10 for seniors and students. The Saturday, Nov. 5 performance is a special fundraiser for Friends of the Dillard University Theatre. This show will be preceded by a full dinner in the Professional Schools Building. Tickets to the dinner and show are \$50. For more ticket information, please contact the Dillard University box office at (504) 816-4857.



DILLARD
UNIVERSITY

Dillard University Theatre Presents
2011-2012

MAHALIA

A CENTENNIAL GOSPEL MUSICAL CELEBRATION



*October 28th-29th
&
November 4th
8 pm Performances*

*October 30th
&
November 6th
3 pm Performances*

*November 5th
Dinner Theatre
5:30 Dinner & 7:30 Performance*

A Gospel Musical Tribute to the late, great gospel warrior who captivated the nation and audiences around the world with her distinctive soulful voice and effervescent delivery. Born and raised in New Orleans' humble "Black Pearl" neighborhood, Jackson rose to become the preeminent gospel singer of

Directed By:

DU Theatre to Open 76th Season with "Mahalia," a Gospel Musical
Theatre Department's production of "Mahalia" will be performed in the Professional School Building at Duquesne University Theatre.