

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cayman National Cultural Foundation Hosts Private Preview of *Agnes of God* Featuring 2025 Director-in-Residence Dr. Henry Muttoo

Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands - The Cayman National Cultural Foundation (CNCF) welcomed guests, supporters, and members of the arts community to the private preview of its 2025 Fall Residency production, *Agnes of God*, directed by CNCF's 2025 Director-in-Residence, Dr. Henry Muttoo. The evening marked the highly anticipated return of Dr. Muttoo to the director's chair, his first production since retiring from CNCF in December 2021.

The Foundation extended its sincere appreciation to Aon, the evening's event sponsor, as well as its Board Members, representatives from the Ministry, and distinguished guests for their continued commitment to the cultural and artistic growth of the Cayman Islands. CNCF remains steadfast in its mission to promote, protect, preserve, and nurture the Cayman Islands' cultural and artistic heritage. Support from community partners and patrons enables the Foundation to maintain lower operational costs and invest more directly into local artists, productions, and the broader creative sector.

The evening began with a pre-show reception featuring live performances by Madam Niroso, a Caymanian singer and artist, whose music set the tone for an engaging and celebratory night.

Dr. Henry Muttoo, a pioneering figure in Caribbean theatre, brings more than four decades of directing, designing, and cultural preservation experience to the residency. Over his career, he has led or contributed to approximately 100 productions locally, regionally, and internationally. Dr. Muttoo holds specialist qualifications in directing, stage design, acting, and stage management, and is widely recognized for his significant contributions to cultural development. His accolades include Officer of the Order of the Cayman Islands, the CNCF Heritage Award, the Cayman Cultural Pioneer Award, a Doctorate of Arts (Honoris Causa) from the University College of the Cayman Islands, and membership in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

The production features Kayla Manderson in the title role of Agnes. Manderson, a Caymanian educator and longtime performer, brings her extensive community theatre experience to this challenging and complex role, marking her first CNCF project. Marcia Muttoo, a Lee Strasberg-trained actress with decades of stage and screen experience, returns to the CNCF stage with a deeply nuanced portrayal of Dr. Livingstone. Charley Burling, a British actor whose credits include *No Time to Die* and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, brings her international experience to her role as Mother Miriam.

Behind the scenes, the production is supported by Evana Martinez, a seasoned stage manager and lifelong performing artist; Chambria Dallhouse, overseeing lighting design; and John-Michael Kerford, Caymanian filmmaker and theatre artist, providing sound design and operation. Musical direction is led by Spark! School of Performing Arts, with vocal coaching from Sophie Nevin and Janelle Tibbetts, who bring extensive local and international performance and education expertise. Yainelys “Yanni” Ebanks coordinates props and costumes with her signature attention to detail, while Barry Campbell manages all technical aspects as CNCF’s Theatre & Events Technician. The production is produced by Ashley Crowe, actor and producer, under the support of Cassandra Shea, CNCF’s Head of Theatre and Festivals.

The preview evening offered audiences an early glimpse of John Pielmeier’s *Agnes of God*, a work known for its emotional depth and challenging themes, including institutional abuse and identity.

The playwright himself traveled to the Cayman Islands for the preview, underscoring the significance of this production within the region’s cultural landscape.

CNCF thanks all attendees, partners, and supporters for contributing to an unforgettable opening night and for their continued dedication to the arts in Cayman.

For further information, interviews, or media inquiries:

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