

The Players.

Revenge Of The King

Shakespeare for the Hip Hop generation.
That's how "Revenge of a King" has been described. Based on "Hamlet," one of the most prominent works by the famous bard, the production is a multicultural, hip-hop musical featuring original music, freestyle rhymes, an MC battle, graffiti, dance and a live DJ.

exposing

Phoenix, Ariz., area

to black culture since

it was founded in 1970. "Revenge of a

The Black Theatre Troupe is bringing the production to the 2009 National Black Aug. 4 at 8 p.m. Aug. 5 at 3 & 8 p.m. Theatre Festival. The at UNCSA's The Thrust Troupe has been the

Ticket Price: 137

King" was also staged at the 2007 NBTF, but that production was by Penn State University, so theatre-goers can expect a different Newsome kind of staging this year. The play is written by Herb Newsome, who acted in the Penn State

production. In fact, Newsome has been an actor since he was a boy, appearing in films like "The Brother From Another Planet" and "The Pick Up Artist."

Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is set in Denmark, while Newsome's "King" is set on Denmark Avenue in Urban America, where Hamilton L. King, an aspiring hip-hop artist, struggles to overcome his father's mysterious death while simultaneously learning to accept his mother's untimely marriage. Like the work on which it is based, "King" has the themes of revenge, death and loss.

The musical is directed and choreographed by Steve Broadnax, a professor at Penn State. Broadnax is also an actor and playwright. His full-length play "American Taboo" is based on the controversial book by "On the Down Low" author J.L. King. Jason Yee provides musical direction for the production.

- The Chronicle

