LONE TREE ARTS CENTER CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH
WITH A TRIBUTE TO JESSE OWENS

Destination Freedom: Black Radio Days will be Live from LTAC Feb 25

LONE TREE, CO – The World’s Fastest Human will be remembered on February 25 at 7:00pm at the Lone Tree Arts Center (LTAC). Jesse Owens, the son of a sharecropper and grandson of a slave, earned four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, a feat no single athlete had before accomplished. Destination Freedom: Black Radio Days will pay tribute to this incredible, boundary-breaking athlete in the live radio broadcast at LTAC. The broadcast will air on KGNU Boulder/ Denver 88.5 FM and 1390 AM as well as www.kgnu.org.

Black Radio Days is the first African American Radio Drama to air nationwide. Originally aired on WMAQ in Chicago from 1948 to 1950, the radio program features live dramas that highlight the men and women who helped shape African American history in this nation. Rekindled by No Credits Productions and producer donnie l. betts, the show lives on with new scripts, but the same spirit to educate and entertain. This is the fifteenth year of existence for Destination Freedom: Black Radio Days.

An exciting theatrical event in itself, the broadcast features actors performing a short play complete with live musical accompaniment and sound effects created onstage by a Foley artist. After the radio play, the musicians perform more musical numbers, and actors and special guests participate in an audience question and answer period.
betts hosts the broadcast, which will feature **Theo Wilson** in the role of Jesse Owens. Known to some by his stage name, Lucifury, Wilson has taken the slam poetry world by storm both as an individual poet and as a part of the group Slam Nuba. Wilson was recently a featured speaker at TED Denver.

**betts** is an Emmy Award winning filmmaker, four-time CABJ award winning radio journalist and a Broadway performer. He is a founding member of two theatre companies in Denver, City Stage Ensemble and Denver Black Arts Company. He attended the Yale School of Drama. betts is also an artist-in-residence for the State of Colorado.

Also featured in this broadcast are **Kurt Soderstrom**, featured in all of Destination Freedom Shows; **Kim Dawson**, member of the a cappella group Urban Method, members of **Highlands Ranch HS Choir**. Musical effects are offered by **Carlton Bacon** and piano accompaniment will be provided by **Brenda Steel**.

A key figure not only as an Olympic athlete, but as a symbol of African American advancement, Jesse Owens is a fascinating subject for this broadcast. The first black athlete to receive a sponsorship, Owens broke barriers both on the track and off. In his time at Ohio State University, Owens was known as the “Buckeye Bullet” after winning a record eight individual NCAA championships. While he was a star on the track, because of his race, Owens was forced to live off campus and when he traveled with the team, he had to eat and stay at different places than the white athletes. Having no scholarship, Owens worked part-time to pay for school.

Jesse Owens died from complications due to lung cancer on March 31, 1980 in Tucson, Arizona. Although words of sorrow, sympathy and admiration poured in from all over the world, President Carter summed up the thoughts of the nation when he stated, "Perhaps no athlete better symbolized the human struggle against tyranny, poverty and racial bigotry."

Tickets are $15 and can be purchased through the LTAC box office in person or over the phone at 720-509-1000 Monday-Friday, 10:00am-4:00pm. Tickets are also available online at [www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org](http://www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org).
The Lone Tree Arts Center is a professional, innovative and environmentally friendly, LEED Certified venue. LTAC operates a dynamic model for the performing arts by collaborating with some of the premier Colorado performing arts companies to present their productions in Lone Tree as well as presenting national and regional tours. LTAC has quickly discovered its place as a new provider of arts education programs for children and an important meeting and event rental site for corporate, civic, private, and community arts groups.

# # #