

Press Release ... For Immediate Release ... Langhart Communications

Contact Information:

Leris Bernard
LGB Productions
202.234.0312
leris@lgbprod.com

Anne & Emmett Headed to Martha's Vineyard

Janet Langhart Cohen's play takes first step on national tour

Monday, August 31, 2009



Janet Langhart Cohen's groundbreaking new play *Anne & Emmett* is headed to the Vineyard. *Anne and Emmett* features an imaginary conversation between the world's most recognized Holocaust victim, fifteen year old Anne Frank, and a young black boy named Emmett Till whose murder at age fourteen (for whistling at a white woman) sparked the civil rights movement. Directed by Janet Langhart Cohen, this play represents the first exploration of the commonalities and parallels between their lives. *Anne and Emmett* will be presented as a staged reading at **The Vineyard Playhouse in Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 31, 2009.**

Langhart Cohen's play, which features a recorded, prologue narration by Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman and an original score by sixteen year old musical prodigy Joshua Coyne, premiered to a sold-out audience at George Washington University's Jack Morton Auditorium in Washington, D.C. on June 12, 2009. News of the play was covered nationally and internationally.

With requests for performances of *Anne & Emmett* coming in from around the world, Langhart Cohen is excited about the invite from The Vineyard Playhouse, known for its support and appreciation of new plays and respected by many famous actors including Mia Farrow, James Lapine, Amy Brenneman, and Patricia Neal, all of whom have shared associations with the beloved Martha's Vineyard theatre. She states, "I am so happy about bringing my play *Anne & Emmett* to Martha's Vineyard, a vacation haven for me during my years in Boston...it's a great honor to perform in the Vineyard Playhouse where so many great artists have worked." The performance date of August 31, 2009 was chosen for this show to mark the anniversary of Emmett Till's death on August 28, 1955.

Janet Langhart Cohen is an Emmy nominated journalist, author, playwright and activist who dedicates her life to issues of race and reconciliation. She is the author of *From Rage to Reason: My Life in Two Americas*. With her husband, former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, she co-authored *Love in Black and White* (due for release in September, 2009) and *Race & Reconciliation in America*, a

transcription of their acclaimed 2008 Race & Reconciliation in America (RARIA) conference. The conference was a forum for people of goodwill dedicated to the achievement of a more fair and just society embodied in the American Dream. Langhart Cohen (along with Attorney General Eric Holder) was recently invited to speak before the Senate Judiciary Committee on pending Hate Crimes Legislation.

It is the heartfelt desire of Janet Langhart Cohen that *Anne & Emmett* will give all who view it an inside look at why it is so vital that the world learn more about genocide and how we can act to prevent it before it is too late.

"If nothing else we must learn what happens when we allow racism, discrimination and hatred to go unchallenged."

For Interviews, Speaker Requests, Play Bookings, and Inquiries, please contact Leris Bernard, LGB Productions, (202) 234-0312, leris@lgbprod.com.