



Baltimore Native Dana Bowles, Actor

# making progress

**T**he groundbreaking ensemble, Progress Theatre, returned to the Baltimore Theatre Project this spring. Progress Theatre explores the social concerns and insights of today's young adult generation. Hailed by NY Show Business Weekly as "astonishingly vivid," and inspired in part by Nina Simone's classic song, "Four Women," PEACHES spans time, unflinchingly tackling stereotypes of African American female identity from slavery times to the present, considering both academic and popular discourse on the topic of "Blackness" in America. Written by emerging playwright Cristal Channele Truscott and featuring unforgettable original music by Maiesha McQueen, PEACHES fuses soulful music and poetic essay, traditional and non-traditional theatre into a piece presenting a rich, complicated portrait of Black female experiences in contemporary America.

Ensemble members include: Cristal Channele Truscott (Playwright, Director, Actor) PhD candidate in Performance Studies at New York University; Maiesha McQueen (Music Composer, Actor) Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Theatre from Tisch School of the Arts with a minor in Applied Theatre and Masters candidate in Education

at Fordham University, NYC; Dana Bowles (Actor) Baltimore native, graduate of The Baltimore School for the Arts, New York University, and Masters candidate in Education with a theatre specialization at University of Maryland Baltimore County; Aaron Goodson (Actor) Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama with a double major in Africana Studies at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, the Atlantic Theatre School, London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts; and Rashida Bumbray, (Curator, Dancer, and Performance Artist) BA in African American Studies with a minor in Theater and Dance at Oberlin College and Masters candidate in Africana Studies at New York University.

Progress Theatre's commitment to using art to inspire social consciousness, cross-community dialogue and cultural awareness has also garnered grants and attention from the likes of the Ford Foundation and National Performance Network. The Ensemble also currently tours their second piece MEMBUH and will be premiering a new piece THE RAIN in 2007. For more information about this dynamic group of young artists, visit [www.progresstheatre.com](http://www.progresstheatre.com).



(left to right): Cristal Truscott, Maiesha McQueen, Aaron Goodson, and Rashida Bumbray