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FEATURING DEBRA EHRHARDT

"Winning! – LA Times

"Highly enjoyable!" - Chicago Tribune

"Fantastic performance!" - Time Out NY

++++ Friday 4th to Sunday 6th April 2014 ++++

A Presentation of



In support of our Youth Services activities



Director
Joel Zwick

Producer – USA
Suzanne Murphy

Producer – Cayman
Paul de Freitas

Lights
Steve Ali

Sound
Paul de Freitas

Box Office
Ushani Abeynayaki

Bar Management
Andrew and Beverly Edgington
Bar Volunteers
Juliet Garricks, Ashleigh Moore, Paul Njoka, Kelly Rooney, Neil Rooney, Gwynneth Hamilton

My deepest thanks and gratitude go to the Cayman Drama Society, Paul and Fay Anne de Freitas and all of you here today. Without you there would be no show, so thank you all so very much for coming.

Some writers are quick to notice and emphasize the differences between us, but I always wanted to write plays about what we all have in common as human beings—what unites us, not what separates us. I believe the Jamaican motto, “Out of many, one people,” can extend across greater realms. Certainly there is uniqueness that each person possesses, but the human condition is universal and we are all fundamentally the same. We are all here to support and love one another.

I hope that JAMAICA FAREWELL serves as a reminder that nothing can subdue perseverance and an unshakable human spirit.

At the tender age of seven, Kingston, Jamaica native, Debra Ehrhardt, knew her dream was to come to America. By 18, her dream was realized. She studied acting with Katherine Kerr from Playwrights Horizons and Suzanne Esper at the William Esper Studios in New York City. After honing her craft on the east coast she concluded that her tropical blood would never get used to the east coast winters. She threw away the ice scraper and moved west. Los Angeles has been her home base for the past fifteen years. Ehrhardt, with her strong Jamaican accent found that there were very few roles in theater, film or television that she could play. She was encouraged to change her accent but opted against it. Instead she began writing her own plays based on her life experiences in Jamaica and has been working ever since.

Previous productions include Mango, Mango which received two NAACP Awards and Invisible Chairs, which was produced by David Strasberg at the Marilyn Monroe Theatre in West Hollywood and later optioned as a situation comedy by Fox. She received a 2007 Proclamation from the City of New York for JAMAICA, FAREWELL for her "Outstanding Contribution to the Jamaican Community," and was also a 2007 NYC Fringe festival award-winner.

She is currently touring with her solo show, JAMAICA FAREWELL and was recently named one of Jamaica's top ten news makers for 2010. In the Spring of 2011, the prestigious Actor's Boy Awards in Kingston, Jamaica nominated Ehrhardt for Best Actress and JAMAICA FAREWELL was also nominated for Best Drama. Jamaica Farewell was the final production in the 2010-11 Subscription season at Garry Marshalls, Falcon theatre in Los Angeles where it was produced in association with Rita Wilson-Hanks who optioned the stage and screen rights, and Ehrhardt was directed by Joel Zwick, director of Big Fat Greek Wedding. A member of the Writer's Guild of America, Ms. Ehrhardt is currently adapting JAMAICA FAREWELL for the big screen.

We are happy to support the Cayman Drama Society and its efforts to bring theatre to the schools of our Cayman Islands

