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**THEATRE ESPRESSO PREMIERES**  
***UPRISING ON KING STREET***  
**A NEW PLAY ABOUT THE BOSTON MASSACRE**

**Boston, Mass.** – What are the responsibilities of a military force sent to occupy a foreign land? Is violence ever necessary to keep the peace? What role does class play in the administration of justice? Theatre Espresso explores these questions in their newest play *Uprising on King Street: The Boston Massacre*. The play is a pilot project for *The Boston Youth Initiative for Theatre and Civic Dialogue*. Students from the [your school] \_\_\_\_\_ will be among the first to participate in this interactive performance – in role as jurors in 1770. They will decide on the fate of Captain Preston, the British officer in charge the night of the Massacre. *Uprising on King Street* is also being performed at the John Adams Courthouse through June 2008, in partnership with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the Supreme Judicial Court Historical Society. Over 3400 Boston Public School students will benefit from this exciting program, which includes a tour of the John Adams Courthouse, post-performance discussion with a judge, lawyer or legal scholar, and workshops for teachers and students. The play will also tour to other schools, museums and courthouses throughout New England. **For further information about *Uprising on King Street* contact Managing Director, Derek Nelson at (617) 899-1635 or [dstonenelson@aol.com](mailto:dstonenelson@aol.com).**

***About Uprising on King Street: The Boston Massacre***

In 1770, the people of Boston suffered under an increasingly harsh British occupation. Just ten days before the massacre, eleven-year-old Christopher Seider was shot by a British soldier during a protest. A week later soldiers clashed with ropewalk workers angry over the loss of jobs to the occupying force. Tensions between soldiers and citizens ran high and further violence seemed inevitable. On March 5, what started as a group of boys taunting the guard quickly escalated into a riot. British soldiers fired into the crowd, killing five of the protesters. The people of Boston demanded justice. John Adams defended both the British soldiers and their commanding officer Captain Preston at trial. Dubbed “the horrid massacre” by Sam Adams, the killings became a precipitating event of the Revolution. Theatre Espresso explores the circumstances that led to this tragedy and recreates the trial of Captain Preston. In role as jurors, students explore the events of the Boston Massacre through the eyes of ordinary men and women who were both shaped by and instrumental in shaping history.

*This Program is supported in part by the Edith Glick Shoolman Children’s Foundation and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities.*

**About Theatre Espresso**

Theatre Espresso creates, produces, and performs interactive dramas that bring history to life for students, in order to foster a generation of critical thinkers and true citizens.

Since 1992, Theatre Espresso has toured its educational dramas to schools, museums, libraries, and courthouses throughout New England. Inspired by the highly successful Theatre-in-Education teams of Great Britain and by the belief that drama is a potent teaching tool, Theatre Espresso's work challenges students to make critical judgments, explore social relationships, reflect on the role of law and human rights in our society, and question accepted truths about the history of America. These plays confront students with complex situations—based on actual historical events—that provoke a variety of opinions and solutions. By asking students to consider themselves *participants in the drama*—inhabitants of 1706 Salem Village, members of the post-Civil War U.S. Congress, or Supreme Court Justices—the company engages students in examining contradictory events and testimony in order to reach their decision. Visit Theatre Espresso on the web at [www.TheatreEspresso.org](http://www.TheatreEspresso.org).

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