

# PRESS RELEASE

**Next Step: New York City! HOPE – the Obama musical show plans to open in autumn 2010 in New York City**



Frankfurt/ Bad Soden/ New York City, USA, July 2010. Preparations are in full swing. After the enormously successful world premiere of "HOPE" in Germany, which took place in Frankfurt am Main, this January, its organizers look forward to its next performance in New York City. Roberto Emmanuele, the producer and Randall Hutchins, the composer, have just announced that the New York civil-rights activists and communication experts George Richardson and Ingrid Frank, will handle the show's USA marketing concept. They are co-founders of Periscope Associates, a communications group which specializes in campaigns promoting human rights and world peace. In 1971 Periscope Associates produced campaigns like "Coming Home To America's Roots", celebrating America's forgotten black cowboys and in 2005, "Vive La Harlem", which celebrated the long friendship between France and Harlem, at a time when President Bush was vilifying France for refusing to join in his war against Iraq.

"George and I were electrified when we saw German TV broadcasts about HOPE. We saw it as Kismet that this Obama musical, and its message, came out of Germany", says Ingrid Frank, who was born in Nuremberg, Germany but has lived in New York since she was twelve. She says "I see HOPE as a real gift from my birth country to my home country". Roberto

**Categories and Keywords**

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Hope, the musical

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Emmanuele is also convinced that Periscope and HOPE are a dream team: "HOPE with its black soul music and its story of hope has been waiting for the commitment of civil rights activists like George and Ingrid" he says. Written and composed by Randall Hutchins, the musical describes the rocket-like ascendancy of Barack Obama to the presidency of the USA. Through the music, the audience actually experiences the emotions of Barack and Michelle. The audience sees social and political events through the eyes of a small, multi-cultural group of people who share an apartment in Chicago. Obama's opponents, including John McCain, Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin are also given voice. Hutchins says that for him this musical is the realization of his dream "to inspire a large cross-section of people and to restore their faith in the future." The performance, brought to radiant life by its fresh motown-sound, won long and enthusiastic, standing ovations from its premiere audiences in Frankfurt.

Periscope expects that HOPE's top ranking musicians, most of whom come from the USA, will create real excitement. Especially its lead actors, Della Miles and Jimmie Wilson, starring as Michelle and Barack Obama. Both artists were personally cast by Michael Jackson for his musical "Sisterella". George and Ingrid see them as a perfect fit. "They are Barack and Michelle. HOPE revives the emotions of an inspiring American era and it will help to move the country on towards the next steps" they say.

Periscope sees three HOPE songs: "Chaos", "Help Somebody" and "Yes, We Can!" as perfect expressions of the emotions that captured America's soul. "They express the feeling of hope and change we all felt during Obama's election campaign" says George. "Now, HOPE, playing in the USA, can rebuild that



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hope and change the narrative about the Obama administration from negativities to an understanding of the tremendous progress his administration has already made, including health care reform, Wall Street and banking reform, a treaty with Russia reducing nuclear weapons, stimulating the economy to stave off a depression and reforming the student loan program. The buzz around the HOPE performances will create a better understanding of Obama's victories for the people. "He has already achieved so much, but this is only being understood very slowly in the USA." George explains. "HOPE can help".

Ingrid is now finishing "From Holocaust to Hip Hop", the story of her life from being sent out of Germany on a Kindertransport, in 1938, to becoming a civil rights activist in the USA and going to jail for the movement, to working with the hip hop community to inspire more positive messages in the music. Its last chapter will outline her reconciliation with her German past and the role of HOPE as a gift from Germany to the USA.

The first American performances of HOPE are planned for New York City. It is hoped that even the President and the first lady will be among the VIP guests at the first show.

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## HOPE – the Obama Musical Show

Moving Soul and pop compositions with "fresh motown sound", a fascinating story and the Cast are trademarks of the musical. 22 singers and dancers, including first-class talents such as Della Miles & Jimmie Wilson in the lead roles, which already stood together in the main roles of Michael Jackson's musical "Sisterella", Dynelle Rhodes - the original lead vocal of the "Weather Girls", Lerato Sebele - formerly lead vocal of "Lion King", Tracy Plester - formerly Lead vocal of "Cabaret" and "Evita," and Timothy Riley, Love Newkirk, Boysie White, David Hanselmann, Dunja Koppenhöfer, Herriet Lewis... The audience gave standing ovations and HOPE reached, as such, with a musical premiere, the status of the "currently most cited musicals in the world".

HYPERLINK: <http://www.hope-musical.com>



## The Producer of MOVE GmbH

Roberto Emmanuele is founder, Creative Director and Executive Director of the 1992 founded MOVE Showproductions, based in Bad Soden/Ts., Germany. In his productions he has always dealt with multi-cultural influences, which form the essential character of the MOVE shows. He is looking forward to the cooperation with Periscope and states: "The matter of international understanding is the strongest link of our connection. As an Italian, born in Frankfurt/Germany, and working in an artistic environment, I have always experienced the multi-cultural way-of-life, which is a positive and fulfilling aspect of my private and professional life. This production is the proof that multi-culture does work and that goal should be achieved on a global base. This vision is the reason for our connection with the thoughts of George Richardson and Ingrid Frank from Periscope, as well as for the connection to HOPE and Obama. It is an honor to pursue this thought in such a way together with George and Ingrid and to work with them in general."

HYPERLINK: <http://www.move-gmbh.eu>

## Periscope

Periscope Associated specializes in developing and promoting public affairs campaigns, parades, TV specials, press conferences and a wide variety of special events all designed to promote racial healing, human rights and world peace.

Periscope was founded by George Richardson and Ingrid Frank in 1968. Both were life-long human rights activists when they met on the picket lines of the civil rights movement in 1965.

Periscope's project "Vive La Harlem" celebrates the historic friendship between Harlem and France. It grew out of an event Periscope developed, after the US launched the Iraq war over France's strenuous objections. At this event, the French Deputy Consul brought greeting to the people of Harlem, and Congressman Charles Rangel spoke powerfully about "Silence is not an Option" when France is being vilified for "sharing the same opinion as 90% of the people of Harlem." The 3-pronged "Vive la Harlem" celebration took place in May 2005 and is filmed for a TV documentary.

HYPERLINK: [www.periscopeassociates.com](http://www.periscopeassociates.com)

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