Administrative Office: (404) 522-0911 Box Office: (404) 523-7647



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CURRENT THROUGH JULY 24 CONTACT FAYE ALLEN 522-0911 ************************

BANANALAND OPENS JULY 7--NATION'S FIRST CENTRAL AMERICA THEME PARK!

BANANALAND, THE NATION'S FIRST THEME PARK DEALING WITH THE HISTORY OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA, WILL OPEN THURSDAY, JULY 7TH, AT SEVEN STAGES THEATER, 1105 EUCLID AVENUE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WITH PERFORMANCES NIGHTLY THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 24.

SCHEDULED TO COINCIDE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN ATLANTA JULY 18-21, BANANALAND'S PURPOSE IS TO CALL ATTENTION TO A CRITICAL ISSUE IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION -- UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

BANANALAND'S CREATORS, GEORGE KING AND RUBY LERNER, HAVE ENGAGED IN OVER TWO YEARS OF RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT. MS. LERNER STATES, "WE WANTED TO FIND A WAY TO TREAT A COMPLEX AND SERIOUS SUBJECT WITH SOME HUMOR--AND TO CREATE AN EXPERIENCE THAT WILL STIMULATE AND INFORM. THROUGH EXAMINING THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF OUR CURRENT POLICIES AND THE ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING THOSE POLICIES, WE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO CRITICALLY REASSESS "AMERICA'S RELATIONSHIP TO DEVELOPING NATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN CENTRAL AMERICA."

CO-CREATOR GEORGE KING ADDS, "THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED FRUIT COMPANY AND THE ROLE OF THE BANANA IN THE REGION'S ECONOMY ARE USED AS DETAILED EXAMPLES OF A PROCESS THAT TYPIFIES COLONIAL RELATIONSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE THIRD WORLD."

BANANALAND TRACES THE CHRONOLOGY OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA FROM ITS BEGINNINGS WITH THE MONROE DOCTRINE, THROUGH THE GUNG-HO DAYS OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, TO THE SUBTLER MACHINATIONS OF TODAY'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGNS, IMF LOANS, AND MERCENARY ARMIES.

"ALTHOUGH THE RHETORIC OF POLICY CHANGES WITH EACH ADMINISTRATION---THE CONSEQUENCES ARE THE SAME. CENTRAL AMERICAN NATIONS REMAIN ECONOMICALL IMPOVERISHED, WHILE THEIR INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND POLITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ARE BEING SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYED."

BANANALAND RECOUNTS STORIES THAT WILL MAKE YOUR HAIR STAND ON END THROUGH A DAZZLING COLLAGE OF ARCHIVAL MOVIES, LIVE PERFORMANCES, PUPPET SHOWS, PAINTINGS, EXHIBITS AND DIORAMAS--ALL SUFFUSED WITH A HEAVY DOSE OF SATIRE.

YOU CAN ENJOY A BANANA SMOOTHIE AT THE BANANA BAR, CATCH A CABARET SHOW OR HOP A TRAIN RIDE THROUGH A BANANA PLANTATION. YOU CAN BUY OVERPRICED BANANA MEMORABILIA AT BANANALAND'S OWN GIFT SHOP! AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE PARK'S GUIDED TOURS: TO A BANANA MUSEUM; ON A PLANE TRIP BACK IN TIME--TO GUATEMALA IN 1954; AND TO A 1956 AWARDS BANQUET AT THE CHICAGO HILTON HONORING PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL EDWARD BERNAYS--ALL WITHOUT LEAVING THE THEATER!

TO ASSIST THEM IN BRINGING THE THEME PARK TO LIFE, KING AND LERNER ARE WORKING WITH MORE THAN TWENTY VISUAL, MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTISTS. "BANANALAND PROVIDES AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO COLLABORATE WITH SOME OF THE REGION'S MOST TALENTED ARTISTS TO CREATIVELY INTERPRET THE WEALTH OF IMAGES, STATISTICS, ANECDOTES AND INFORMATION THAT WE'VE UNCOVERED THROUGH OUR RESEARCH."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT BANANALAND, CONTACT FAYE ALLEN, AT (404)522-0911. PERFORMANCES ARE TH. 8 FRI, SAT 8 AND 10, SUN 5PM

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION ABOUT GROUP RATES, CONTACT THE SEVEN STAGES BOX OFFICE AT (404) 523-7647. SEVEN STAGES IS LOCATED AT 1105 EUCLID AVE., IN LITTLE 5 POINTS.



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BANANALAND AT SEVEN STAGES

THE WORLD'S FIRST CENTRAL AMERICA THEME PARK!

VIDEO • MUSIC • FILM • PERFORMANCE • EXHIBITS • PUPPETRY

UTILIZING SOME OF ATLANTA'S FINEST VISUAL, PERFORMING AND MEDIA ARTISTS,

BANANALAND IS AN HILARIOUS AND ENLIGHTENING TRIP THROUGH 100 YEARS OF

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

TAKE A RIDE THROUGH A BANANA PLANTATION. VISIT OUR BANANA MUSEUM. FLY TO GUATEMALA IN 1954. SIP A BANANA SMOOTHIE. BUY OVERPRICED MEMORABILIA IN BANANALAND'S OWN GIFT SHOP...

PERFORMANCES ARE: JULY 7 - 24, 1988

THURSDAY AT 8:00 PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 8 & 10 PM SUNDAYS AT 5:00 PM

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL SEVEN STAGES BOX OFFICE 523-7647

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IT'S BIG, IT'S BAD, IT'S BANANALAND!!!

30 Second P.S.A.

BANANALAND, THE WORLD'S FIRST CENTRAL AMERICA THEME PARK; BUT NOT JUST <u>ANY</u> THEME PARK---AN ADVENTURE!!! AT SEVEN STAGES JULY 7-24. UTILIZING DOZENS OF ATLANTA'S FINEST VISUAL, PERFORMING AND MEDIA ARTISTS, <u>BANANALAND</u> TRACES 100 YEARS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

WHILE VISITING <u>BANANALAND</u>, STOP BY OUR GIFT SHOP PLAN TO SIP ON EXOTIC BANANA DRINKS, AND TAKE A TRAIN RIDE THROUGH AN AUTHENTIC BANANA PLANTATION.

PERFORMANCES ARE THURSDAY AT 8 PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8 PM AND 10 PM SUNDAY AT 5 PM .

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL THE BOX OFFICE 523-7647.

PRESS RELEASE CURRENT THROUGH JULY 24 CONTACT: FAYE ALLEN 522-0911