

MULTICULTURAL ARTS VENUE *Shines in the Bright Light*

In 1990, the Crispus Attucks Cultural Center (CACC) was incorporated to help preserve the theatre, and through their efforts, the beautifully restored theatre reopened on October 16, 2004. The CACC, a nonprofit organization, presents year round educational and multicultural activities at the Attucks, including dance, film exhibition, music, and theatre, as well as literary and visual art forms.

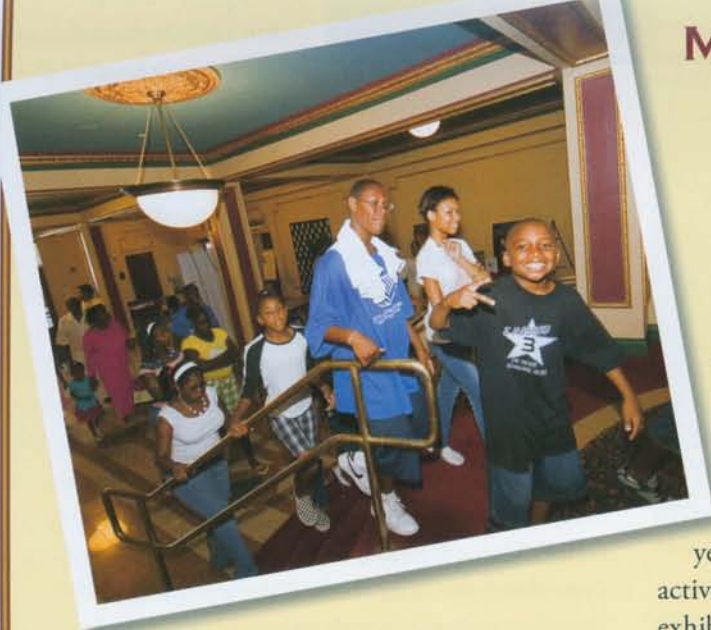
In July, the Attucks Theatre hosted the inaugural Mid Atlantic Black Film Festival Kidz Series. With sponsorship by the CACC and TowneBank, 200 children from Norfolk

were able to attend. Young film enthusiasts experienced *The Legend of the Sky Kingdom*, an animated film made in Zimbabwe that features Junkmation, a unique stop-motion animation technique. Much to the children's delight, all of the characters and sets were made exclusively from junk.

After the movie, the festival's executive producer, Gail Easley, talked with the children about animated filmmaking and the importance of recycling. "The film showcased the director's creative vision and innovative technical artistry," Gail said. "The Kidz Film Series taps into the kid in all

of us. All festival screenings should be this much fun!" The series was presented in conjunction with the Attucks Theatre Summer Arts Program and was a big success.

For more information about all the exciting programs at the Attucks Theatre, be sure to visit www.attuckstheatre.org. And mark your calendars for the next Mid Atlantic Black Film Festival, scheduled for August 21–23, 2008. ♦



In the early 1900s, a group of African American businessmen in Norfolk and Portsmouth had a vision—to create a cultural center in the minority community that would provide the best entertainment at the lowest possible price.

In 1919, their vision became reality when the Attucks Theatre opened in downtown Norfolk. Each week two shows were offered with an admission price of 25 cents. Some of the famous entertainers included Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, Mamie Smith, and Cab Calloway.

The theatre was named in honor of Crispus Attucks, an African American who was the first American patriot killed in the Boston Massacre in 1770. A three-story high stage curtain at the theatre displays a painting of this historic event.

Over the years, the Attucks Theatre not only provided quality entertainment and movies, but also became a community focal point for graduations, recitals, church services, and educational programs. By the 1950s, however, attendance and use dropped off and the theatre closed its doors. A dedicated group of citizens continued to champion the historical building, and in the 1970s, it was designated a national and state historic landmark.



The Legend of the Sky Kingdom, an animated film from Zimbabwe, was the debut film for the Attucks Theatre Kidz Series. Attucks manager, Gail Easley, and TowneBank Norfolk president, Bill Foster, welcomed the enthusiastic guests.