

Direct from a critically acclaimed Off Broadway run!

The Cultch presents

## BASIC TRAINING

Written and Performed by Kahlil Ashanti

**WHERE:** VANCITY CULTURE LAB AT THE CULTCH, 1895 Venables Street

**WHEN:** FEBRUARY 10 - 14, 2009 AT 8 PM

FEB 12: PWYC + Post-Show Artist Talkback



New York Times & TimeOut London Critics' Pick!

"Hilarious...Engaging...Ashanti delivers!" - New York Times

"A formidable tale about racism, relationships, and reconciliation." - TimeOut London

**Vancouver** — Direct from a critically acclaimed Off Broadway run, The Cultch is thrilled to present a new comedy created by and starring Kahlil Ashanti. *Basic Training* is a hilarious story based on one soldier's outrageous experience in the U.S. Air Force. Playing for one week only in The Cultch's Vancity Culture Lab, this production is sure to be a sold-out hit!

*Basic Training* chronicles Ashanti's amazing tour as a member of the elite entertainment troupe "Tops In Blue" in the U.S. Air Force. A life altering event forces his attention home to face the childhood he tried to forget. Ashanti plays twenty-three unforgettable characters that tell his funny and true story.

Winner of the 2004 Montreal and Vancouver Fringe Festivals and the 2005 Edinburgh Fringe Festival Spirit of the Fringe and Scotsman Fringe First Award, *Basic Training* had its premiere in October 2004 in Los Angeles.

**About Kahlil Ashanti:** Born in Germany, raised in Japan, and now living in Vancouver, with many other places in between, Kahlil Ashanti has plenty of material for his dramatic endeavors. In order to escape an abusive childhood, Kahlil enlisted in the Air Force in 1992, where he performed with Tops In Blue, an elite Air Force performance troupe that entertained troops in over 17 countries and 46 states each year. After leaving the Air Force, Kahlil landed his own dinner theatre show at Caesar's Palace Las Vegas. Although Kahlil points to stand-up comedy as his foundation, his drama training with actor Jeffrey Tambor is still a large factor in shaping his performance. After selling out the Edinburgh Fringe in 2005 and 2007 and winning the Scotsman Fringe First Award, "Basic Training" received its Off-Broadway run. In addition, "Basic Training" is in development as a feature film with Josephson/20th Century Fox, as well as a book and a television series.

Originally produced Off Broadway on the New York stage by Erich Jungwirth & Richard Jordan Productions Ltd and Barry Josephson/Josephson Entertainment. With production supervision by Hal Brooks, the lighting design is by Tyler Micoleau. [www.basictrainingnyc.com](http://www.basictrainingnyc.com)