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MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE
PRESENTS



The Colored Museum

by George C. Wolfe

directed by
Sheri Gilbert-Wilson

at the
Back Door Theatre

February 16-18 & 21-25 at 7:00 PM
February 19 & 26 at 2:00 PM

Tickets \$5

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Straight from the Heart

The Colored Museum

by

George C. Wolfe

Directed by

Sheri Gilbert-Wilson

Costume Design Shelley Kuhlen

Lighting Design Alex Preston

Scenic Design Zach Broome

WARNING: STROBE LIGHT IN USE DURING THIS PRODUCTION

PLEASE NOTE: THIS PERFORMANCE HAS NO INTERMISSION



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"African American playwrights, in depicting a character on stage, brought with them the historical and racial baggage that an audience might bring, regardless of whether the audience is black or white or any other color... Therefore part of the challenge of the writer is somehow to reveal the *humanity, the truth, the energy, and the complexity* that emerges from a stereotype."

(Margaret Wilkerson, 1997)

One of the reasons I love *The Colored Museum* is because George C. Wolfe calls on us all to acknowledge our history – whatever it may be! Whoever we are! He urges us – through the play - not to allow the past to hold us back, keep us down, or dictate how we will live. We must be resolute enough to learn from our history, and then forge our own new paths toward a fulfilling life. There are no apologies, no excuses. Wolfe exposes the truth for what it is, and then lets the audience decide "what to do with it." He uses the very elements listed in Wilkerson's quote to color his characters:

HUMANITY: He educates the audience about the many stereotypes embedded within America's consciousness and sub-consciousness. He challenges us to learn from these stereotypes, and then to let them go.

TRUTH: He does not create an easy way out for his characters, but challenges them to confront their demons, face their reality and accept the truth for what it is

ENERGY: He charges them to plunge head first through their tribulations with conviction, and to tackle their problems with all the force and spirit they can muster.

COMPLEXITY: And, he also compels them (and us) - to be accountable for their actions, as well as their issues.

I hope you will enjoy this play for its honesty, and ultimately, appreciate what it teaches.

Sheri Gilbert-Wilson

CAST LIST

Omotola Ajibade	..... Junie (SOLDIER WITH A SECRET)
.....	..... Slave (GIT ON BOARD)
Briana Boatwright	..... Miss Pat (GIT ON BOARD)
.....	.....Waitress (GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MISS ROJ)
Vanessa Brown	.....Topsy (THE PARTY)
.....	.....Assistant #2 – (THE PHOTO SESSION)
Thomaesa Brundage	..... Lady In Plaid (LAST MAMA ON THE COUCH PLAY)
.....	.....Assistant #1 - (THE PHOTO SESSION)
Isaac Callahan	.....Flo'Rance (LA LA'S OPENING)
Katrina Croom	.....Normal Jean (PERMUTATIONS)
.....	.....Admonia (LALA'S OPENING)
Ernestine Dahn	.....Ethel (COOKIN WITH AUNT ETHEL)
.....	.....Lawanda-Straight Hair (THE HAIR PIECE)
Mike Dumas	.....Soldier #2 (SOLDIER WITH A SECRET)
.....	.....The Guy (PHOTO SESSION)
.....	.....Stage Manager (COOKIN WITH AUNT ETHEL)
.....	.....Bartender (GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MISS ROJ)
Alaisha Key	.....Woman (THE HAIR PIECE)
.....	.....Photographer (PHOTO SESSION)
Kevin Mobolade	.....The Man (SYMBIOSIS)
.....	.....Walter (LAST MAMA ON THE COUCH PLAY)
Marcella Murray	.....Girl (THE PHOTO SESSION)
.....	.....Madea (LAST MAMA ON THE COUCH PLAY)
Alyncia Robinson	.....Mama (LAST MAMA ON THE COUCH PLAY)
.....	.....Janine- AFRO (THE HAIR PIECE)
Daniel Robinson	.....The Kid (SYMBIOSIS)
.....	.....Slave (GIT ON BOARD)
.....	.....Narrator (LAST MAMA ON THE COUCH PLAY)

Vernon ScottMiss Roj (GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MISS ROJ)
.....Soldier #3 (SOLDIER WITH A SECRET)

Sheri Gilbert-WilsonLa La (LA LA'S OPENING)

THE TOUR

Exhibit 1

Git On Board

Miss Pat: Brianna Boatwright
Slave: Omotola Ajibade
Slave: Mike Dumas
Slave: Daniel Robinson

Exhibit 2

Cookin' With Aunt Ethel

Ethel: Ernestine Dahn
Stage Manager: Mike Dumas

Exhibit 3

Photo Session

Photographer: Alaisha Key
The Guy: Mike Dumas
The Girl: Marcella Murray
Asst #1: Thomaesa Brundage
Asst. #2: Vanesha Brown

Exhibit 4

Permutations

Normal Jean: Katrina Croom

Exhibit 5

Last Mama On The Couch

Mama: Alyncia Robinson
Lady In Plaid: Thomaesa Brundage
Madea: Marcella Murray
Son: Kevin Mobolade
Narrator: Daniel Robinson

Exhibit 6

Soldier With A Secret

Junie: Omotola Ajibade
Soldier #1: Vernon Scott
Soldier #2: Mike Dumas

Exhibit 7

The Hair Piece

The Woman: Alaisha Key
Lawanda: Ernestine Dahn
Janine: Alyncia Robinson

Exhibit 8

The Gospel According to Miss Roj

Miss Roj: Vernon Scott
Bar Tender: Mike Dumas
Waitress: Briana Boatwright

Exhibit 9

La La's Opening

La La: Sheri Gilbert-Wilson
Admonia: Katrina Croom
Flo'Rance: Isaac Callahan

Exhibit 10

Symbiosis

The Man: Kevin Mobolade
The Kid: Daniel Robinson

Exhibit 11

The Party

Topsy: Vanesha Brown

MERCER THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....Zach Broome
House Manager Suzanne Stroup
Stage ManagerLindsey Mouchet
Assistant Stage ManagerEmmi Frankum
Sound Technician.....Liam McDermott
Lighting Alex Preston
Music Sheri Gilbert-Wilson
Choreography.....Leah Parris
Makeup Jordan Westbrook
Costume CrewShelley Kuhen, Lauren Parris, Marian McHugh,
Katie Trotter, Sarah Stitt, Laurel Astin, Valerie Cavooris
Backstage Crew Isaac Callahan, Kyle Shook, Nancey Price, Leeanne Griffin
Props Zach Broome
Sound Effects Clarence Gilbert
Vocal CoachMonica Titus
Graphic Design Darlene Murphy

The Docents

Omotola Ajibade is a first year medical student here at Mercer. This is his first play at Mercer and he is excited to be part of a wonderful cast. Tola (as he's commonly called) is originally from Nigeria and has spent most of his life traveling between Nigeria and the USA. He would like to thank his friends and family for love and support.

Briana Boatwright is 22 years old and a recent graduate of Mercer University. She has been active in theatre since she was in middle school. Briana is originally from Augusta, GA and currently resides in Macon, GA. She is very happy to have been a part of this production and work with the wonderful cast and directors. Briana looks forward to participating in many more productions at Mercer and other venues.

Vanessa Brown is a Mercer sophomore and is considering a major in Political Science or Psychology. Mercer's production of *Alice in Wonderland* was her debut into the theatre world. She feels simply ecstatic to be working with such a talented cast and crew. She has enjoyed acting a fool as Topsy Washington and hopes that everyone enjoys the show as much as she has enjoyed taking part in the production.

Thomaesa Brundage is a fourth year undergraduate at Mercer University majoring in Psychology with a minor in African American Studies. It was her love of African American History that inspired her to be in *The Colored Museum*. This is her first production at Mercer, and she looks forward to having a new experience. She grew up in both Newnan and Eatonton, Georgia, where she, as a child, enjoyed playing make believe games with her cousins. She has always been said to be very dramatic, and this is another reason why she decided to be in this production. She would like to thank her loved ones and family members for all their support.

Isaac Callahan is really excited to be a part of this show. It is his twelfth show at Mercer and he is honored that Sheri trusted him enough to bring him on board in the eleventh hour. He thanks his family and friends for their love and support and hopes that you enjoy the show!

Katrina Croom is a junior in the CCPS majoring in Liberal Studies and minoring in Religion. She is a married mother of three, born in Chicago, Illinois but raised here in Macon, Georgia. This is her first play but she has always participated in the fine arts and so is no stranger to the stage. She is excited to return to performing and would like to thank her husband and children for their love and support.

Ernestine Dahn is a senior Biochemistry/Molecular Biology major with a minor in Psychology. This will be her first performance with the Mercer Players and she is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful production. Ernestine is from West Africa, Liberia, but has lived in Snellville, Georgia for the past 11 years. She is new to the stage and although a bit nervous, she has learned a lot and made good friends in the process. She would like to thank her friends for persuading her to audition, her family for their support and Sheri Wilson for giving her the opportunity

to display her hidden talents. Most of all, she would like to thank God for the strength to make it to rehearsals while taking 18 credit hours and preparing for graduation.

Mike Dumas is a Mercer sophomore majoring in Computer Engineering. This is his first production with the Mercer Players and he is excited about being in the show. Mike is originally from Port-Au-Prince, Haiti and has lived in New York, New Jersey, Texas, and finally made his way to Georgia. He took a theatre class in high school, so he has a little experience performing on the stage but he hopes to develop his acting skills to help him build a career in comedy. He'd like to thank God first and foremost because none of this would be possible without Him. He'd also like to thank his family for all the support and especially his mother for being the amazing woman that she is.

Emmi Frankum is a Mercer freshman majoring in Theatre. This stage management position was a new experience for her and she would like to thank Lindsey Mouchet for always being patient and helpful while walking her step by step...by step through the process. She would also like to thank Sheri Wilson for giving her not only a wonderful learning opportunity, but also for allowing her to work with such a talented, dedicated, and welcoming cast and crew on this phenomenal show. Congratulations to all involved!

Leeanne Griffin is a senior English Literature and Theatre double major here at Mercer. She was last seen onstage in the Mercer Theatre production of *Alice in Wonderland* as the White Queen. Leeanne also loves stagemanaging and was recently in charge of twenty-six youth actors in Theatre Macon's production of *Treasure Island*. She is thrilled to support her fellow student and mentor Sheri Wilson in this directing venture. "You are amazing Sheri Wilson, I love ya!"

Alaisha Key is a senior majoring in Journalism with minors in Theatre Arts and Photography. This is her first acting role with the Mercer Players, but she is already familiar with the Back Door Theatre. Last semester she was the lighting designer for the vignette *Just Shoot Me* in the student production of *Ye Gods*. Alaisha is from Moultrie, Georgia, where she previously participated in plays and musical productions

with the Colquitt County High School Theatre, choir, and the Colquitt County Arts Center. She is thrilled to be a part of this production, and she would like to thank her family and friends for the support and encouragement!

Shelley Kuhlen (Costume Designer) is in her sixteenth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have been seen in our productions of *Alice in Wonderland*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Zastrozzi*, *An Enemy of the People*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She is also Costume Designer for Mercer Opera where her creations were seen in their latest production of *Idomeneo*. She is also employed by Theatre Macon, and her work was last seen in *White Christmas*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *My Fair Lady*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Little Foxes* as well as this summer's production of *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Shelley thanks her wonderful family for their continued love and support. She also thanks her amazing costume crew for their countless hours of hard work and for their encouragement, love, and laughter.

Liam McDermott is a freshman Theatre major at Mercer University who has worked in many capacities on-stage and backstage in his career. His most recent appearances onstage include roles as The Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*, Jupiter in *Ye Gods*, Francesco Cenci in *The Cenci*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*. Additionally, he has also directed two shows in the past and relishes the opportunity to assist with this production.

Kevin Mobolade is a junior Business major at Mercer University. His passion for acting ties into his love of film and filmmaking. This is his fourth onstage performance and he would like to thank God, his family, the cast and crew, Sheri Wilson, and Lindsey Mouchet for giving him this opportunity.

Lindsey Mouchet is a graduate of Mercer University with a B.A. in Theatre. She was last seen in Mercer's production of *Alice in Wonderland* as the Duchess and also provided the makeup design for the cast. Some of Lindsey's favorite roles include the Prince in *Cinders* and Valdosta State University's production of *Doubt* as Sister Aloysius.

She has been seen twice in *Steel Magnolias*, once with the Main Street Players in Griffin as Annelle and again with the Alliance Theatre's Summer Players as Shelby. Lindsey has had the privilege of being cast as Ruth in Debra Fordham's debut play *Holler Me Home* and of presenting the new play at the Out of the Loop Festival at the Water Tower Theatre in Dallas, TX. Lindsey is thrilled to be working with such wonderful people on such an excellent play as *The Colored Museum*. Special thanks goes to Sheri Wilson for being such an extraordinary friend.

Marcella Murray is a senior Theatre major at Mercer. She was previously seen as the Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland*, Mother in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, and any of the crazy and/or wonderful ladies she played in both *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and Kyle Shook's recent production of *Ye Gods*. She is so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this production and would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support in her theatrical pursuits. She would also like to say that Jan Jones is great... just because she can. Finally, she hopes that everyone enjoys the show. It will certainly be a fun ride. Totes!

Leah Parris is a Mercer sophomore pursuing a double major in Music and Theatre. She has been involved with Mercer Theatre for the past two years, appearing in *Zastrozzi* (Julia), *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Cecily), and *Alice in Wonderland* (White Rabbit). A native of Macon, Georgia, Leah has been involved in local community theatre productions since she was very young, and has choreographed both *Nunsense The Musical* and *Honk! Jr* at Theatre Macon. Leah is also a substitute teacher and class assistant at the Madison Studios of Dance Education.

Alex Preston is a Mercer junior double majoring in Theatre Arts and Media Studies. Alex is excited to be able to design for the Mercer Players outside of a classroom setting. *The Colored Museum* is his second technical production design at Mercer. Alex hopes to graduate in the spring of 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts and study Dance in a graduate program at Florida State University. Alex wants to thank Mom, Paige, Morgan, Aunt Susan, Big Daddy, and Josh for all their support.

Nancey Price is a freshman pre-med student majoring in Psychology. This is her first production with the Mercer Players and she is elated to be part of such a groundbreaking show. Nancey is from small-town Girard, Georgia and is aspiring to travel the world as a medical missionary. Though theater is a deviation from her career path, she is thrilled to be given the opportunity to work in something outside her comfort zone. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love and support.

Alyncia Robinson is a senior majoring in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Art. This is her first performance in a play and she is very excited for the experience, though she is equally nervous. Alyncia is from Albany, Georgia, where she lives with her mother and brother. She would like to thank her family and sisters of Zeta Phi Beta for their support in everything her last year at Mercer University.

Daniel Robinson is a junior majoring in Environmental Engineering. This is his first show ever and he is therefore quite nervous. Despite this, he is still thrilled to be a part of this wonderful production. Daniel is from Stone Mountain, Georgia, where he grew up with his two sisters and loving parents. He would like to thank his family and girlfriend Nyomi for their loving support and his roommates Patrick and Justin for encouraging him to audition for the show.

Vernon Scott is a freshman majoring in Psychology and Creative Writing. If you know him personally, you will more than likely call him over-dramatic. His first stage performance was in the 7th grade, where he played Jacob Marley in *A Christmas Carol*.

Kyle Shook is a senior English/WGS double major and History minor. He is thrilled to be a part of the production and to work with such a talented group! When he is not on stage, he enjoys music, liberal politics, telling it like it is and scribbling in his sketchbooks. Special thanks to friends and family and enjoy the show!

Suzanne Stroup is thrilled to be venturing into the world of technical theatre for the first time in the Back Door Theater with this production! Her hobbies include eating fro yo, sticking it to the man, singing

showtunes loudly and drawing (thanks for the book Marcella!). She is the secretary of Mercer Players, Vice President of Mercer Alliance for Reproductive Freedom, and a founding member of Bears in Space. Break a leg, cast, it's been a blast working with such a wonderful production! Jan Jones be with you.

Lauren Tingler is a part of the class of 2015 at Mercer University. She plans to double major in Psychology and Social Entrepreneurship at Mercer. She is from St. Simons Island, GA. She was the Assistant Stage Manager for Mercer's production of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Monica Titus is senior Theatre and Voice double major, and has been involved with Mercer Theater as well as the university's opera program since her arrival as a freshman. She was recently seen in *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change*, and as the March Hare in *Alice in Wonderland*. She has been working with dialect since her appearance in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and is always happy to find opportunities to hone her skills. She would like to give the cast and crew her best wishes and ask that everyone break a leg!

Jordan Westbrook is a sophomore majoring in Nursing. This is her first time being involved with the Mercer Players. She has not been involved in theatre since high school and is excited to have been asked to join *The Colored Museum* tech crew. She'd like to thank Vanesha Brown for extending her the offer.

Sheri Wilson is a retired paralegal. She has always loved theatre, and finally decided to follow her dream and return to school to pursue a degree in Theatre Arts. Is she crazy? Maybe! She married her high school prom date (Anthony) and 27 happy years later, they still love being with each other! Sheri calls Anthony her "Creative Consultant" and thanks him for his incredible support and love. A "Shout out" to their two amazing children, Christopher, 20 and Jessi, 13. Sheri has performed in many community theatre productions over the years while traveling around the country with her Air Force Man. She was last seen here on the Back Door Theatre stage in 2010 as Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. For her senior project she chose to direct *The Colored Museum* because it is one of her favorite plays! Thank you to Professors Scot Mann and Marian Zielinski for your

encouragement and support. Shelley, your costumes are awesome! Zach, you work miracles - thank you for creating our Museum stage and the TON of props! To the Cast - what a dream come true you are! Your dedication, uncontainable excitement and hard work made this experience pure happiness! Alex, thank you for giving this show Light with "breezy" attitude! ☺A special thank you to Prof. Fontenot, Monica, and Leah. To My Stage Manager Lindsey, you are the BEST! - what a remarkable journey it was to take with you! Liam, Emmi, the backstage crew and *Everyone* who has helped bring this production to life - You guys ROCK!!! Sheri also wants to thank her parents and her brother for their love! And Most of all-THANK YOU GOD for all of the wonderful blessings given to her in this life.

For more information on the Mercer Players, visit them on Facebook, or go to the website at http://web.me.com/scotmann1/Mercer_Theatre/Welcome.html

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