
NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL 2007

SCHEDULE

The National Black Theatre Festival will run July 30 through Aug. 4 at various venues in Winston-Salem.

The festival includes professional theater, free workshops, a film festival, readers' theater, the International Colloquium, the Youth/Celebrity Project and after-theater celebrity receptions. The International Vendors' Market sells cultural garments and artwork at Benton Convention Center.

Ticket prices vary. Tickets, \$10-\$42, are available online at www.nbtf.org; by phone at 723-7907; at the box office at 610 Coliseum Drive from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day; at the Benton Convention Center; or at the theaters before each performance.

Here is a schedule:

Monday, July 30

Opening Night Gala: 5:30 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. The Opening Night Gala package includes the celebrity procession, the awards banquet, the opening night celebrity performance of *Movin' Man* and the celebrity reception. Tickets are \$250 a person, \$2,500 for a table seating 10.

Celebrity Procession: 6:30 p.m. With NBTF Co-Chairs Hal Williams and Vanessa Bell Calloway.

Awards Presentation: 6:45 p.m. The following awards will be presented: Sidney Poitier Lifelong Achievement Award: Micki Grant, Professor Wole Soyinka; Larry Leon Hamlin Producer's Award: Voza Rivers; August Wilson's Playwright Award: Leslie Lee; Lloyd Richards' Director's Award: Lou Bellamy; Living Legends Award: Billie Allen, Ray Aranha, Phillip Hayes Dean, Arthur French, Lou Myers; Harold Wheeler Outstanding Achievement In Film: Warrington Hudlin; Outstanding Achievement In Costume Design: Myrna Colley-Lee; Theatre Longevity Award: Negro Ensemble Company; Theatre Arts & Humanitarian Award: The late Benjamin Ruffin.

Celebrity Performance: *Movin' Man*: 9 p.m., Stevens Center. Presented by the Crossroads Theatre Company (New Brunswick, N.J.). Starring Broadway Veteran Glynn Turman, an original cast member of the Broadway show *A Raisin in the Sun*. He also played Col. Taylor in TV's *A Different World*. *Movin' Man* is a one-man autobiographical show that focuses on Turman's life and work.

Celebrity Reception: 10:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel, 425 N. Cherry St. Special guests will include Ted Lange, Erica Hubbard, Dick Anthony Williams, T'Keyah Crystal Keymah, plus more than 50 other celebrities. Admission is included with a ticket stub from *Movin' Man*.

Tuesday, July 31

By a Black Hand: 1 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. Presented by the N.C. Black Repertory Company in association with Chicago State University. An angry teenager discovers the value of her heritage through the contributions of African-American inventors and innovators. Written by Arthur Reese and Darryl Goodman. Tickets \$17.

Kingfish, Amos 'n' Andy: 3 and 8 p.m., Williams Auditorium, Winston-Salem State University. Presented by Black Spectrum Theatre Company (Queens, N.Y.). The nation's first all-black TV show comes to life on stage. Set in Harlem, it pays tribute to the pioneers of black television comedy. Written by Carl Clay. Tickets \$37.

Emergence-SEE: 3 and 8 p.m., Sawtooth Building, 226 N. Marshall St. Presented by Daniel Beaty Productions (New York). A slave ship rises up from the Hudson River in 2007 in front of the Statue of Liberty, sending New York into a frenzy. Written and performed by Daniel Beaty. Tickets \$37.

Remnants From Senegal: 3 and 8 p.m., Embassy Suites Ballroom. Presented by Western Michigan University. Cloth pieces from past generations threaten to unravel one family's reunion. Written by Von H. Washington. Tickets \$27.

Movin' Man: 8 p.m., Stevens Center. See Monday, July 30. Tickets \$42.

South House: 8 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. Presented by Arena Players (Baltimore, Md.). During the long hot summer of 1950, one woman's dark secret is revealed, a pastor's fears are pricked and a reclusive boy emerges from his shell. Written by Charlene Harris. Tickets \$37.

The Spirit of Marcus Garvey: 8 p.m., Thrust Theater, Performance Place, N.C. School of the Arts. Presented by the Black Academy of Arts & Letters (Dallas). A biographical sketch of the man determined to reunite American blacks to their African homeland. Written by Ron Bobb-Semple. A double-bill with **A Rose**

Among Thorns, presented by Ms. Thing Productions in association with The Black Academy of Arts & Letters (Dallas). Explores the “famous incident” through Rosa Parks — the real person. A woman with quiet dignity and quiet fire. Created and performed by Ella Joyce. Celebrity performance. Tickets \$42.

Sammy & Me: 8 p.m., Catawba Theatre, Performance Place, NCSA. Presented by Gettysburg International Arts Festival (York, Pa.) & The Karl E. Held Organization (New York). A biographical look at the personal compromises and allowances Sammy Davis Jr. made to achieve stardom. Written by Wendy Dann and Eric Jordan Young and performed by Eric Jordan. Tickets \$37.

What Would Jesus Do? 8 p.m., Thrust Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. Presented by Twinbiznyc (New York). An inter-faith, inter-generational piece. A God-fearing wife/mother is exposed to HIV by her “down-low” husband. Written by Yvette Heyliger. Celebrity performance. Tickets \$42.

Nobody Walks Like My Daddy: 8 p.m., Ring Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. Presented by Conscious Comedy Concepts (Los Angeles). Through the eyes of a father and son, two men uncover the conflicting, humorous and painful evolution into fatherhood over three generations. Written by E.L. James. A double-bill with **Black Man Rising**, presented by StageFace Productions. Celebrating the strength, wisdom and fortitude of black manhood, this choreoplay deals with rising above expectations, establishing a sense of self, and honoring the ancestors. Written by J. Chapmyn. Tickets \$37.

Gem of the Ocean: 8 p.m., Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive. Presented by St. Louis Black Repertory Company In the Pittsburgh Hill District after the Civil War, a troubled man seeks out 287-year-old Aunt Esther to cleanse his soul. Written by August Wilson. Tickets \$37.

Voices of the Spirits in My Soul: 8 p.m., Reynolda House Museum of American Art, 2250 Reynolda Road. Presented by RACCA Seaport Salon (New York). Women great and small, foreign and family come to life. Witness history touch, heal and change hearts. Written and performed by Nora Cole. A double-bill with **Miracle in Rwanda**, presented by Broadview Phoenix (New York). The true story of how a young Hutu woman survived the Rwandan massacres by hiding for three months in a tiny bathroom with seven other women. Written and performed by Leslie Lewis Sword. Tickets \$37.

Sometimes I Cry: 8 p.m., Marriott Ballroom. Presented by Island Girl Productions (West Hollywood, Calif.). The lives, loves and losses of women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Written and performed by Sheryl Lee Ralph. Celebrity performance. Tickets \$42.

South of Where We Live: 8 p.m., Pavilion, Embassy Suites. Presented by Kenneth B. Davis Presents (Rialto, Calif.). Sparks fly between seven black professionals during an interpersonal awareness marathon. Written by Kenneth B. Davis. Celebrity performance. Tickets \$42.

Potpourri Noir: 8 p.m., Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 750 Marguerite Drive. Presented by Cultural Odyssey, San Francisco. A menagerie of excerpts from six productions that will be performed in their entirety during the week. This performance arts series is coordinated by Idris Ackamoor. Tickets \$37.

Celebrity Reception: 10:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel.

Wednesday, Aug. 1

By a Black Hand: 11 a.m., Benton Convention Center. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$17.

Emergence-SEE: 3 p.m., Sawtooth Building. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

Kingfish, Amos 'n' Andy: 3 and 8 p.m., Williams Auditorium, WSSU. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

South House: 3 and 8 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

The Spirit of Marcus Garvey and **A Rose Among Thorns**: 3 and 8 p.m., Thrust Theatre, Performance Place, NCSA. Tickets \$42.

Sammy & Me: 3 and 8 p.m., Catawba Theatre, Performance Place, NCSA. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

What Would Jesus Do? 3 and 8 p.m., Proscenium Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. Celebrity performance. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$42.

Nobody Walks Like My Daddy & Black Man Rising: 3 and 8 p.m., Ring Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

Voices of the Spirits in My Soul & Miracle in Rwanda: 3 and 8 p.m., Reynolda House Museum of American Art. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

Sometimes I Cry: 3 and 8 p.m., Marriott Ballroom. Celebrity performance. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$42.

South of Where We Live: 3 and 8 p.m., Pavilion, Embassy Suites. Celebrity performance. See Tuesday, July

31. Tickets \$42.

Movin' Man: 8 p.m., Stevens Center. Celebrity performance. See Monday, July 30. Tickets \$42.

Gem of the Ocean: 8 p.m., Arts Council Theatre. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

Out of the Box: A 3 Woman, 1 Woman Show: 8 p.m., Embassy Suites Ballroom. Presented by KaShKe Productions (Los Angeles). Three black women fight the status quo, defy tradition and refuse to be defined by society as they challenge their audience to think "Out The Box." Written and performed by Kathryn J. Taylor, Shonelle Blake and Keena Ferguson. A double-bill with **Momma Was a Bad Mutha ... Shut Yo Mouth!**, presented by The Other Side Of Money Productions (Hollywood, Calif.). A young girl's untimely coming of age into womanhood amidst a jumpin', movin' and groovin' old-school house party. Written and performed by Fylicia Renee King. Tickets \$37.

In Search of My Clitoris: 8 p.m., SECCA. Presented by Cultural Odyssey (San Francisco). Humor is used to unveil the painful reality of female circumcision. Written and performed by comedienne Sia Amma. A double-bill with **Cabaret Unkempt**. In a culture where size matters, Jennylin Duany and Elizabeth Doud combine satire and multimedia exploring the personal experiences of an amply endowed Cuban American. Written by Jennylin Duany and Elizabeth Doud. Tickets \$37.

Celebrity Reception: 10:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel.

Thursday, Aug. 2

Children's Talent Showcase: 9:30 a.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. The next generation of successful black entertainers. Tickets \$10.

Storytelling Festival: 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. Storytellers from across North Carolina weave tales of cultural history, fiction, humor and life lessons through this age-old tradition. Tickets \$10.

Sammy & Me: 3 and 8 p.m., Catawba Theatre, Performance Place, NCSA. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

What Would Jesus Do? 3 and 8 p.m., Proscenium Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. Celebrity performance. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$42.

Nobody Walks Like My Daddy & Black Man Rising: 3 and 8 p.m., Ring Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

Lipstick, Chill, Grits & Grace: 3 and 8 p.m., Reynolda House. Presented by PowerPlay Productions (Beverly Hills, Calif.). A ride through the secret world of people who collide across time, age and ethnic barriers. Written and performed by Gus Edwards, Lorey Hayes and others. Tickets \$37.

From the Mississippi Delta: 3 and 8 p.m., Marriott Ballroom. Presented by Urban Theatre Initiative at Lehman College (Bronx, N.Y.). An intimate look at what it really takes for a Southern girl to overcome the odds and succeed. Written by Endesha Ida Mae Holland. Tickets \$27.

Out of the Box: A 3 Woman, 1 Woman Show & Momma Was a Bad Mutha ... Shut Yo Mouth! 3 and 8 p.m., Embassy Suites Ballroom. See Wednesday, Aug. 1. Tickets \$37.

Mahalia, Queen Of Gospel: 8 p.m., Stevens Center. Presented by the N.C. Black Repertory Company (Winston-Salem). A high-energy musical tracing the life of gospel-great Mahalia Jackson and the fierce demons she battled from within. Written by Mabel Robinson. Tickets \$40.

Don't Make Me Over: 8 p.m., Williams Auditorium, WSSU. Presented by the Black Ensemble Theatre (Chicago). Discover the real woman behind the fabulous voice of Dionne Warwick. Written by Jackie Taylor. Tickets \$40.

The Spirit Of Marcus Garvey & A Rose Among Thorns: 8 p.m., Thrust Theatre, NCSA. Celebrity performance. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$42.

George Washington's Boy: 8 p.m., Sawtooth Building. Presented by Lange Productions (Torrance, Calif.). It's 1776 and Gen. George Washington prepares to fight the British Empire for Colonial freedom. But under his nose another freedom fight is brewing, led by his closest confidant, a slave. Written by Ted Lange. Tickets \$37.

Gem of the Ocean: 8 p.m., Arts Council Theatre. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$37.

South of Where We Live: 8 p.m., Pavilion, Embassy Suites. Celebrity performance. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$42.

In Search Of My Clitoris & Cabaret Unkempt: 8 p.m., SECCA. See Wednesday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$37.

Moist: Too Sexy To Be Forgotten: 10:30 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. Presented by AI & Mo Production (Pasadena, Calif.). For mature audiences. A celebration of the sexual vibrancy of the "seasoned"

woman. Written and performed by Mariann Aalda and Iona Morris. Tickets \$37.

Celebrity Reception: 10:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel.

Friday, Aug. 3

Children's Talent Showcase: 9:30 a.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$10.

By a Black Hand: 11 a.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$17.

Don't Make Me Over: 3 and 8 p.m., Williams Auditorium, WSSU. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$40.

Webeime: 3 and 8 p.m., Pavilion, Embassy Suites. Presented by the Black Gents of Hollywood (Los Angeles). On the day of his execution, a young man looks back at his life choices leading up to his demise. Written by Layon Gray. Celebrity performance. Tickets \$42.

The Bow Wow Club: 3 and 8 p.m., Thrust Theatre, Performance Place, NCSA. Presented by Mastering The Audition (Los Angeles). Five of the baddest young players from Harlem reunite 20 years later only to find that they've become middle-aged men ... with issues. Written by Levy Lee Simon. Tickets \$37.

It Hasn't Always Been This Way: 3 and 8 p.m., Catawba Theatre, Performance Place, NCSA. Presented by New Federal Theatre (New York). An evocative choreopoem exploring the pre-urban renewal when Duke Ellington and W.E.B. Dubois walked among us; when the African-American community was so resilient. Written by Ntozake Shange. A double-bill with **The Taking of Miss Janie**, presented by New Federal Theatre. Set in 1960, the intense passion of an interracial couple threatens America's segregationist security blanket. Written by Ed Bullins. Tickets \$37.

Love and Marriage and New York City: 3 and 8 p.m., Proscenium Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. Presented by The Billie Holiday Theatre (Brooklyn, N.Y.). Two Jamaicans couples living in New York marry strictly to get green cards but discover marriage is never purely about business. Written by David Heron. Tickets \$37.

Waiting to be Invited: 3 and 8 p.m., Arts Council Theatre. Presented by the Ensemble Theatre (Houston). During the summer of 1964 in Atlanta, four black church women invite themselves to a "white-only" cafe to test their newly acquired civil rights. Written by S.M. Shephard-Massat. Tickets \$37.

Lipstick, Chili, Grits & Grace: 3 and 8 p.m., Reynolda House. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$37.

Revenge of a King: 3 and 8 p.m., Marriott Ballroom. Presented by Pennsylvania State University/Pennsylvania Centre Stage (University Park, Pa.). A hip-hop musical based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Written by Herb Newsome. Tickets \$27.

Out of the Box: A 3 Woman 1 Woman Show & Momma Was a Bad Mutha ... Shut Yo Mouth! 3 and 8 p.m., Embassy Suites Ballroom. See Wednesday, Aug. 1. Tickets \$37.

Respect: 3 and 8 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. Presented by Faison Firehouse Theatre (New York). Nine New York youth share intense, life-changing experiences. Written by youth performers. Tickets \$17.

Mahalia, Queen Of Gospel: 8 p.m., Stevens Center. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$40.

What Are You... Deaf? 8 p.m., Ring Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. Presented by Sign World TV (Calabasas, Calif.). The son of a Golden Gloves deaf champion knocks out absurd misperceptions of the hearing and of the deaf in his quest to be a Hollywood star. Written and performed by CJ Jones. Tickets \$37.

George Washington's Boy: 8 p.m., Sawtooth Building. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$37.

Color Struck: 8 p.m., SECCA. Presented by Cultural Odyssey (San Francisco). An African-American comedian attacks racism with stand-up comedy, spoken word and the voice of a radio disc jockey. Written and performed by Donald Lacy. A double-bill with **Who's Crazy?**, presented by Cultural Odyssey. A black corporate professional snaps and spirals on a mind-boggling journey. Written and performed by Ise Lyfe. Tickets \$37.

Moist: Too Sexy To Be Forgotten: 10:30 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. For mature audiences. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$37.

Celebrity Reception: 10:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel.

Saturday, Aug. 4

By a Black Hand: 11 a.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. See Tuesday, July 31. Tickets \$17.

Mahalia, Queen of Gospel: 3 and 8 p.m., Stevens Center. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$40.

Don't Make Me Over: 3 and 8 p.m., Williams Auditorium, WSSU. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$40.

Webeime: 3 and 8 p.m., Pavilion, Embassy Suites. Celebrity performance. See Friday, Aug. 3. Tickets \$42.

The Bow Wow Club: 3 and 8 p.m., Thrust Theatre, Performance Place, NCSA. See Friday, Aug. 3. Tickets \$37.

It Hasn't Always Been This Way & The Taking of Miss Janie: 3 and 8 p.m., Catawba Theatre, Performance Place, NCSA. See Friday, Aug. 3. Tickets \$37.

Love and Marriage and New York City: 3 and 8 p.m., Proscenium Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. See Friday, Aug. 3. Tickets \$37.

What Are You ... Deaf? 3 and 8 p.m., Ring Theatre, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. See Friday, Aug. 3. Tickets \$37.

George Washington's Boy: 3 and 8 p.m., Sawtooth Building. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$37.

Waiting to Be Invited: 3 and 8 p.m., Arts Council Theatre. See Friday, Aug. 3. Tickets \$37.

Respect: 3 and 8 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. See Friday, Aug. 3. Tickets \$17.

Love Project: 8 p.m., SECCA. Presented by Cultural Odyssey (San Francisco). A multidisciplinary piece answering the question, "Where is the love in a world at war?" Written by Pearl Cleage and Zaron Burnett Jr., with Rhodessa Jones and Idris Ackamoor. A triple-bill with excerpts of **Color Struck** and **Who's Crazy** (see Friday, Aug. 3) and **Pearl Cleage "Live."** Cleage will share pieces of her latest works. She wrote a poem titled "We Speak Your Names" for Oprah Winfrey's 2006 Legends Weekend and is the author of *Flying West* and *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. Tickets \$37.

Moist: Too Sexy to be Forgotten: 10:30 p.m., North Hall, Benton Convention Center. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Tickets \$37.

Celebrity Reception: 10:30 p.m.: Marriott Hotel.

Miles Long Experience: Midnight, North Hall, Benton Convention Center. Featuring Malcolm-Jamal Warner, an actor, a prolific spoken-word artist and a bass player. Local musicians will join in for a performance of jazz, funk and spoken word. Tickets \$15.

Also playing ...

The following events are not on the official schedule of the National Black Theatre Festival but may be of interest to festival-goers.

Chester Gregory II: Midnight on **Wednesday** and **Saturday**, Speakeasy Jazz & Tapas, 410 W. Fourth St. Broadway performer and star of *The Jackie Wilson Story*, a favorite from the 2003 and 2005 festivals. Tickets \$10. Call 336-722-6555 or visit www.speakeasyjazz.net.

Book Signings with *Jewels* authors: 4 and 6 p.m. on **Wednesday**, Delta Arts Center, 2611 New Walkertown Road. Michael Cunningham and Connie Briscoe, the authors of *Jewels: 50 Phenomenal Black Women Over 50*, will be signing copies of their books. Tickets free. Call 336.722-2625 or visit www.deltafinearts.org.

Late Night Jazz Suppers for Theatre Goers: 10:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., **Thursday** and **Friday**, Delta Arts Center, 2611 New Walkertown Road, Tickets \$25. 336.722-2625 or visit www.deltafinearts.org.

Mr. Marvtastic – The Man behind the Movement: previews at 12:30 p.m. **Tuesday** and **Friday**, Marriott Hotel, 425 N. Cherry St.; full screening 1 p.m. **Thursday**, Central Library, 660 W. Fifth St. A documentary film-in-progress by Sharon and LeShea Agnew (SALA Productions). Tickets free. Call 336-971-9312.