

*National Black Theatre Festival*  
*July 29 - August 3, 2019*  
<http://www.nbt.org/>

## 2019 NBTF International Colloquium

Theme:

### *The Future of Black Creative/Performing Arts as Liberatory Practice*

Winston-Salem, NC, U.S.A.

July 30-August 2, 2019

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The **International Colloquium** of the biennial **National Black Theatre Festival** (NBTF-IC) has, since its inception in 1993, served as a key educational component of the NBTF. With effect from 2009, three institutions with vested interest, **North Carolina Black Repertory Company** (NC Black Rep), **Winston-Salem State University** (WSSU) and the **Black Theatre Network** (BTN) assumed collaborative responsibility for planning the International Colloquium.

The 2019 NBTF-IC will focus on the theme:

The Task Force planning the 2019 NBTF-IC invites individual presentations or clearly articulated panel proposals, which address the theme: *The Future of Black Creative/Performing Arts as Liberatory Practice*. We expect each presentation or panel proposal to offer a persuasive potential to engender the kind of lively discourse that will energize the audience and also send them away to performances and other events during the week of the NBTF, with heightened consciousness, engaged in their own cause.

#### Some Relevant Thoughts

Through word and deed, the ability to transmit ideas—such as, but not limited to, justice, peace, equality—are at the center of Africana human expression.

The various influences of and conditions within which these expressions are produced are subject to the principles of understanding the *holy trinity* of the past, present, and future. This idea, captured in the cultural production of Africana people, is always seeking to be birthed. It is indeed a birthright. To make what is abstract become material/real; to see a *better* world beyond, to evolve collectively. As active agents and/or as a response, cultural production is, as Amílcar Cabral suggests the fruit of the history of a people. In 1974, Cabral writes that while culture is a fruit of the history of a people, it “*at the same time determines history through the positive or negative influence it exerts on the evolution of the interaction between man [woman] and his [her] surroundings, and between man [woman] or groups of men [women] within a society, as well as between different societies.*”

Africana peoples—through cultural production and (re)production, through literature, art, music, storytelling, through the keepers of memory—have sought various means and methods to assert and document its humanity. It is with this knowledge that we invite individual and panel proposals for the 2019 NBTF International Colloquium.

Under the theme *The Future of Black Creative/Performing Arts as Liberatory Practice*, we seek papers/panels that explore the ideas of freedom fought and sought, visions beyond struggle through the [arts]. All submissions should be international in focus,

and multidimensional, in dimension, so that the NBTF-IC serves as backcloth for participants' experience of the Festival, and, hopefully, beyond.

#### 2019 NBTF-IC Schedule:

The following schedule will prepare participants to go and experience performances of their choice and return to the IC the following day with enhanced perspectives.

##### Tuesday, July 30: Opening Session

1. Keynote Address
2. Recognition of the Youth and up and coming generations of Black Theater professionals.
3. Discussants

Wednesday, July 31: Session II

Thursday, August 1: Session III

Friday, August 2: Session IV

#### Session Rubric

1. **Duration:** 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.
2. A minimum of one hour of audience engagement is built into each session.
3. Session facilitators will monitor and manage time for optimal audience participation.

#### Guidelines for Proposals

##### Author:

1. Full Name (First, Middle initial, Last)
2. Title
3. Institution and Department (if applicable)
4. Address, including city, state, zip code, country
5. Daytime telephone
6. Evening telephone
7. E-Mail Address
8. Résumé/CV: **NOT** to exceed 200 words

##### Proposal and Abstract

1. Title: Brief, unambiguous and thematically transparent.
2. Abstract: Not more than 250 words.
3. If proposing a panel, then participants must indicate specializations pertinent to the 2019 NBTF-IC theme and contact information.

##### Submission Guidelines:

1. Document Format: 12 point, Times New Roman; lines double spaced; top and bottom margins, 1 inch; left and right margins, 1.25 inches.
2. Electronic submission as **an e-mail attachment** only; must be in the format for **Microsoft Word Document**. We encourage you to also submit one hard or PDF copy to Dr. Pope.
3. Please, **do not** submit proposals or completed papers by fax or as e-mail message.

*Failure to adhere to these guidelines may be prejudicial to the acceptance of your proposal.*

**Dates and Deadlines:**

1. **Friday, February 15, 2019:** Proposal Abstracts must be received by 5:00 p.m.
2. **Friday, March 29, 2019:** Acceptances announced, and Invitation sent to presenters and panel leaders. These will be accompanied with terms of participation and hospitality.
3. **Friday, April 26, 2019:** Acceptance of Invitation to present must reach the Task Force at the addressed provided.
4. **Friday, June 14, 2019:** Submission of Draft Presentations **should** reach the Coordinators, Dr. Pope and/or Dr. Oyèláràn, ready to go to Facilitators and Discussants. It is critical that discussants receive your presentation no later than **July 01**. That will enable them to prepare creative leads for productive audience participation.

*NB: Please, be on the lookout for updates to this “Call for Papers.” Updates will be posted on the NBTF official web site [www.nbtf.org](http://www.nbtf.org). You may also contact us.*

**Send your proposal to each of the following:**

**Dr. James Pope**

Coordinator of NBTF-IC  
Winston Salem State University  
Interim Director of Office of  
International Programs  
Hill Hall Room 227  
Winston Salem, NC 27110  
popejr@wssu.edu

**Please, copy your submission to:**

**Dr. Tanya E. Walker-Bethea** ([walkerte@wssu.edu](mailto:walkerte@wssu.edu));  
**Dr. Sandra G. Shannon** ([sshannon@howard.edu](mailto:sshannon@howard.edu));  
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**Mr. Jackie Alexander** ([jackie@ncblackrep.org](mailto:jackie@ncblackrep.org))

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