NORTH CAROLINA
BLACK REPERTORY COMPANY

Producer of the National Black Theatre Festival®

ENGAGE
ENRICH
ENTERTAIN

Exposing Diverse Audiences to Timeless Black Classics and Riveting New Works

Sustaining Black Theatre Internationally

2019 - 20
ncblackrep.org
MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

John Henrik Clarke once said, “Slavery ended and left its false images of black people intact.” The North Carolina Black Repertory Company (NC Black Rep) is dedicated to deconstructing these images through the power of theatre.

NC Black Rep’s 2019-2020 season will truly be groundbreaking for the company, highlighted by the thirtieth anniversary of our world-renowned National Black Theatre Festival, and featuring show-stopping musicals, socially poignant dramas, a history-making documentary, young artists’ training, and community outreach welcoming all into our family. The most anticipated production of our season will be the world premiere of Maya, a new play by Nambi Kelley, which was commissioned by NC Black Rep and inspired by the life of Dr. Maya Angelou. The company’s biggest endeavor in the upcoming season will be the production of its feature film documentary Holy Ground: The Legacy of The National Black Theatre Festival, which will serve as a worldwide marketing tool for both the company and the city of Winston-Salem. NC Black Rep seeks to use these high-profile projects to re-brand the company, increase audience attendance and diversity, and cement our reputation as a destination theatre for top artists.

During the National Black Theatre Festival, Winston-Salem is recognized internationally as “Black Theatre Holy Ground,” a concept that has always brought a smile to my face. As the founder and curator of this event, and a leader in the charge to keep Black Theatre alive, vital, and relevant, I believe The North Carolina Black Repertory Company should hold this coveted distinction on a daily basis. I hope you will assist in making this dream a reality through your financial support. But most importantly, I invite you to become a part of our family.

Remember, we are saving a seat at the theatre just for you.

In the Arts,
Jackie
Artistic Director

ABOUT THE NC BLACK REPERTORY COMPANY

Founded in 1979 by Larry Leon Hamlin, the North Carolina Black Repertory Company (NC Black Rep) is the first professional Black theatre company in North Carolina. Our mission is to entertain, enrich, and educate with innovative programming that resonates across the community and challenges social perceptions. NC Black Rep is universally recognized for its artistic excellence and its international outreach program, the National Black Theatre Festival®.

NC Black Rep is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a board of directors comprised of prominent community leaders. Our major funders include the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, Forsyth County, and the City of Winston-Salem.

For more information, please visit ncblackrep.org

ABOUT THE NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL

The National Black Theatre Festival® (NBTF) was established in 1989 by NC Black Rep founder, Larry Leon Hamlin. This biennial six-day event showcases the theatrical spirit and extraordinary talent of performers, designers, directors, producers, and technicians from across the country and abroad. The week attracts over 60,000 attendees and consists of electrifying performances and informative workshops. The Festival has attracted legendary greats including: Sidney Poitier, August Wilson, Harry Belafonte, Billy Dee Williams, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Louis Gossett, Jr., Maya Angelou, and many more. Hamlin coined the phrase “Marvtastic” which means “there is nothing greater or better than.” This phrase captures the essence of the NBTF.
JOIN US AT THE

2019 NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL

JULY 29 - AUGUST 3, 2019

An International Celebration & Reunion of Spirit

For more information and to buy tickets, visit:

www.nbtf.org
JELLY'S LAST JAM

Book by George C. Wolfe

Lyrics by Susan Birkenhead

Music by Jelly Roll Morton

Musical Adaptation and Additional Music Composed by Luther Henderson

The Tony award-winning musical that tells the true story of Ferdinand Joseph LaMothe, a.k.a. Jelly Roll Morton, the self-proclaimed “Inventor of Jazz.” Featuring explosive dance and an original score inspired by the best musical traditions of New Orleans, Jelly’s Last Jam explores the complexities of African-American life, while celebrating its creative genius.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S TWELFTH NIGHT

William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night, or What You Will with a twist. The Island of Illyria is now Jamaica, while Shakespearian songs are replaced with Bob Marley classics—we prefer to call this play, Twelfth Night, or What You Will Mon.
The Christmas Story told with an infusion of gospel music, dance and spoken word.

*N WORLD PREMIERE *

August 4, 1964. Nora starts a new life “passing” as a white woman while her sister, Carrie, travels to the Deep South to register Blacks to vote. The bodies of three civil rights workers have just been found in Mississippi, leading the sisters to question the price of civil rights, Black identity and what it means to be Free.
MAYA
By Nambi E. Kelley

It’s Maya’s 40th birthday and April 4, 1968. When hateful bullets assassinate her gifted friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., time stops, contracts, and expands spinning Maya through memory, song, and the poetry of her own life and legacy. A new play commissioned by NC Black Rep and inspired by the life of Dr. Maya Angelou.

MAYA
* WORLD PREMIERE *

NC BLACK REP 2019 - 2020 SEASON
APRIL 30 – MAY 17, 2020
Reynolds Place Theatre
209 N. Spruce Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

COMING FALL 2020

Holy Ground:
THE LEGACY OF THE NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL

A documentary film celebrating the legacy of the National Black Theatre Festival and its founder Larry Leon Hamlin, “Mr. Marvtastic.” Holy Ground features interviews with Black Theatre legends, groundbreaking performances, archival NBTF footage, and a behind-the-scenes look at the North Carolina Black Repertory Company. It promises to be one of the most entertaining and culturally significant films in the history of Black Theatre.
“My experience attending the NBTF for the very first time was beyond anything I could have anticipated and imagined. The networking, attendees, and the awesome number of quality plays and musicals was impressive and extraordinary. I cannot wait to return in 2019.”
~ Stephen Byrd, Olivier Award-Winning and Tony Award-Nominated Producer

“The National Black Theatre Festival is a thrilling event. Artists from different theaters and theater communities come together to present their best and the best of theater. The festival is well-coordinated and well-thought out. It celebrates established artists and introduces new artists. It was surprising to me the number of families that travel from all over the country to attend the event. The National Black Theatre Festival is an important cultural event.”
~ Phylicia Rashad, Tony Award Winner and Multiple Emmy Award Nominee

“The mission of the National Black Theatre Festival has for 27 years been the recognition of the indelible contribution to world culture by personalities and events whose common roots descend from the far-flung African Diaspora. This shared history, both ancient and modern, is commemorated at the biennial gathering of the National Black Theatre Festival as an international celebration and reunion of spirit on Black Theatre holy ground. From the particular individuals who have been martyred in the battle of resistance against the disease of hate, to the universal struggle for the ethical and equitable treatment of all humankind, there is no single institution that better illustrates the profound importance of Black Lives Matter than the National Black Theatre Festival.”
~ André De Shields, Emmy Winner and Multiple Tony Award Nominee
The Teen Theatre Ensemble (TTE) was created to provide professional training for young emerging artists, between the ages of 13 and 19, who are committed to developing their craft. TTE was established based on the joint vision of NC Black Rep’s founder, “Mr. Marvtastic,” the late Larry Leon Hamlin, and former NC Black Rep artistic director, Mabel Robinson.

Participants are selected through an audition process and are required to complete a 12-week intensive designed to not only improve, but stretch students in all artistic disciplines. TTE participants are also exposed to working behind the scenes of one of our main stage productions. Our goal is to create opportunities for teens to gain the marketable skills and abilities required to work in the entertainment industry, both on and off the stage.

In December of 1979, Larry Leon Hamlin created a new concept called “Living Room Theatre.” Monologues and scenes were performed from various plays in the living rooms of families in the community. This legacy, designed to increase the community’s exposure to theatre, continues with the Living Room Theatre Reading Series. Targeting underserved community members who otherwise may not have the means to enjoy live theatre, NC Black Rep will produce one staged reading per month from October 2019 through March 2020 by up-and-coming playwrights. The readings will be free to the public and target underserved community members who otherwise may not have the means to enjoy live theatre. Selected plays include:

- **Blooming in Dry Season** by Eljon Wardally
- **The Book of Leonidas** by Augusto Amador
- **Succession** by Charles L. White
- **The House of the Negro Insane** by Terrance Anthony
- **Welcome to Fear City** by Kara Corthron
- **Welcome to Matteson!** by Inda Craig-Galvan
The National Black Theatre Hall of Fame & Museum will be a dynamic, interactive space that puts the visitor in the middle of the excitement and energy of live theatre while bringing to life the giants of the genre. The Hall will be located in downtown Winston-Salem, the home and “holy ground” of NC Black Rep and the National Black Theatre Festival.
## Become Part of the Legacy.

### NC Black Rep Donation Levels

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<th>Youth (Under 18)</th>
<th>Friend</th>
<th>Contributor</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Patron</th>
<th>Marvtastic Society</th>
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<td><strong>Discount</strong></td>
<td>5% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*</td>
<td>10% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*</td>
<td>15% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*</td>
<td>20% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*</td>
<td>1 free ticket and 20% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*, 10% discount on NBTF events</td>
<td>2 free tickets and 20% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*, 15% discount on NBTF events</td>
<td>4 free tickets and 20% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*, 15% discount on NBTF events</td>
<td>8 free tickets and 20% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*, 15% discount on NBTF events</td>
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<td>Invitation to all Theatre Guild receptions and season opening event</td>
<td>Invitation to all Theatre Guild receptions and season opening event &amp; special receptions</td>
<td>Invitation to all Theatre Guild receptions and season opening event &amp; special receptions, cast parties</td>
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<td><strong>NBTF Opening Gala</strong></td>
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<td>10% off up to 10 Gala tickets</td>
<td>15% off up to 10 Gala tickets</td>
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<td>Group screen credit in NBTF documentary Holy Ground: The Legacy of The National Black Theatre Festival</td>
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<td>Single line screen credit in NBTF documentary Holy Ground: The Legacy of The National Black Theatre Festival</td>
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*Excludes co-productions and NBTF productions

## Join Us by Donating Today!

### Theatre Guild Donation Levels

- Website and program
- Invitation to all events
- 10% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*
- Invitation to all Theatre Guild receptions and season opening event
- 1 free ticket and 20% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*, 10% discount on NBTF events
- Invitation to all Theatre Guild receptions and season opening event & special receptions, cast parties
- 10% off up to 10 Gala tickets
- Group screen credit in NBTF documentary Holy Ground: The Legacy of The National Black Theatre Festival
- Early seating

### Marvtastic Society Donation Levels

- Website, program, and NBTF
- 2 free tickets and 20% discount on all NC Black Rep productions*, 15% discount on NBTF events
- Invitation to all Theatre Guild receptions, season opening event & special receptions, cast parties
- 15% off up to 10 Gala tickets
- Group screen credit in NBTF documentary Holy Ground: The Legacy of The National Black Theatre Festival
- Early seating

Donation must be paid in full to access benefits; benefits will be added as each tier is reached. To receive Holy Ground screen credit, full donation must be paid in full before January 1, 2020.
North Carolina Black Repertory Company
419 N. Spruce Street
Winston Salem, NC 27101

Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, Board President
Nigel Alston, Executive Director
Jackie Alexander, Artistic Director

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Gregory Brewer, April Broadway, Robert Brown,
Gwenn Clements, Dr. Chere Chase-Gregory,
LaShonda D. Fields-Hairston, Jennifer Filipowski,
Precious Quire-McCloud, Chris Leak, Ward Miller,
Dr. Eric Sadler, and Wanda Starke

visit us at: ncblackrep.org

Enjoy our 2019-20 Season
Join us at the 2019 NBTF
07.29.2019 - 08.03.2019