# INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

JUL 27 — WINSTON-SALEM, NC — AUG 1

2026

## A Fiddler's Tale

Gateways Chamber Players, Rochester, NY

**WEDNESDAY**
**JULY 29**
**8:00 PM**

**Salem Academy & College**
**Hanes Auditorium**

PHENOMENAL WOMAN, MAYA ANGELOU: A FIRESIDE CHAT • THE BIRTHRIGHT SESSION-LATE NIGHT WITH MATELYN ALICIA • HOLY GROUND • JITNEY • TOPDOG/UNDERDOG • BLOOMING IN DRY SEASON RUNNING FOR MY LIFE • IN THE BLACK • BERTA, BERTA • ART OF WISE SEARCHING FOR WILLIE LYNCH • PURLIE VICTORIOUS • FENCES • BEING BLACK ON BROADWAY • THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL MICHAEL COLYAR'S LATE NIGHT COMEDY • THE TRIAL OF ONE SHORT-SIGHTED BLACK WOMAN VS. MAMMY LOUISE AND SAFREETA MAE • A FIDDLER'S TALE • TERRY STEELE SINGS LUTHER VANDROSS • STORIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NATIONAL YOUTH TALENT SHOWCASE • MIDNIGHT POETRY JAM MARVIN: THE MARVIN GAYE REVUE • CROSS THAT RIVER • EVERYBODY JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE • SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD • THE GREAT LOVER • THE BLUEST EYE • THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD ANATOMY OF AN OPERA: NIA IMANI FRANKLIN • STEAL AWAY HOME OUR STORIES...WE ARE, BECAUSE WE WERE • REIMAGINED VOLUME III: YOUNG THANG • PHENOMENAL WOMAN, MAYA ANGELOU: A FIRESIDE CHAT • THE BIRTHRIGHT SESSION-LATE NIGHT WITH MATELYN ALICIA HOLY GROUND • JITNEY • TOPDOG/UNDERDOG • BLOOMING IN DRY SEASON • RUNNING FOR MY LIFE • IN THE BLACK • BERTA, BERTA • ART OF WISE • SEARCHING FOR WILLIE LYNCH • PURLIE VICTORIOUS • FENCES • BEING BLACK ON BROADWAY • THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL • MICHAEL COLYAR'S LATE NIGHT COMEDY • THE TRIAL OF ONE SHORT-SIGHTED BLACK WOMAN VS. MAMMY LOUISE AND SAFREETA MAE • A FIDDLER'S TALE • TERRY STEELE SINGS LUTHER VANDROSS • STORIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE • NATIONAL YOUTH TALENT SHOWCASE • MIDNIGHT POETRY JAM • MARVIN: THE MARVIN GAYE REVUE • CROSS THAT RIVER • EVERYBODY • JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE • SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD • THE GREAT LOVER • THE BLUEST EYE • THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD • ANATOMY OF AN OPERA: NIA IMANI FRANKLIN • STEAL AWAY HOME • OUR STORIES...WE ARE, BECAUSE WE WERE • REIMAGINED VOLUME III: YOUNG THANG PHENOMENAL WOMAN, MAYA ANGELOU: A FIRESIDE CHAT • THE BIRTHRIGHT SESSION-LATE NIGHT WITH MATELYN ALICIA • HOLY GROUND • JITNEY • TOPDOG/UNDERDOG • BLOOMING IN DRY SEASON RUNNING FOR MY LIFE • IN THE BLACK • BERTA, BERTA • ART OF WISE SEARCHING FOR WILLIE LYNCH • PURLIE VICTORIOUS • FENCES • BEING BLACK ON BROADWAY • THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL MICHAEL COLYAR'S LATE NIGHT COMEDY • THE TRIAL OF ONE SHORT-SIGHTED BLACK WOMAN VS. MAMMY LOUISE AND SAFREETA MAE • A FIDDLER'S TALE • TERRY STEELE SINGS LUTHER VANDROSS • STORIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NATIONAL YOUTH TALENT SHOWCASE • MIDNIGHT POETRY JAM MARVIN: THE MARVIN GAYE REVUE • CROSS THAT RIVER • EVERYBODY JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE • SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD • THE GREAT LOVER • THE BLUEST EYE • THEIR EYES

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A NC Black Rep Experience

Winston-Salem | The City of Winston-Salem salutes the 2026 International Black Theatre Festival.

**Wynton Marsalis'**

# 'A Fiddler's Tale'

With **Gateways Chamber Players**

Featuring **Phylicia Rashad**

Composed by **Igor Stravinsky, Wynton Marsalis**

## Gateways Chamber Players

**Gateways Music Festival celebrates Black artistry in classical music and inspires communities through the power of performance.**

For more than thirty years, Gateways has created opportunities for Black classical artists to gather, connect, and perform at the highest artistic level—creating programming for all backgrounds uniquely infused with occasion and excellence. Through festivals, residencies, ensembles, broadcasts, and education initiatives, Gateways uplifts and sustains the living tradition of Black classical artistry, and affirms the essential contributions of Black artists across the classical music landscape.

## A Fiddler's Tale

A Fiddler's Tale is Wynton Marsalis's response to Igor Stravinsky's The Soldier's Tale (L'Histoire du soldat), reimagining the work through the musical language of the late twentieth century. Expanding on Stravinsky's early incorporation of jazz influences, Marsalis blends classical and jazz idioms while introducing a new narrative told through spoken narration. Presented alongside Stravinsky's The Soldier's Tale Suite, the work highlights the dialogue between two composers separated by nearly a century, with Marsalis building upon the original's themes, instrumentation, and storytelling from a contemporary perspective.

## ENSEMBLE

Damien Sneed ..... Conductor

Phylicia Rashad ..... Narrator

Tai Murray ..... Violin

Shaquille Southwell ..... Clarinet

Monica Ellis .....Bassoon

Herbert Smith.....Cornet

Kenneth Thompkins .....Trombone

Patricia Weitzel ..... Double Bass

Wesley Sumpter..... Percussion

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# WHO'S WHO

**DAMIEN SNEED, conductor,** is a pianist, vocalist, organist, composer, conductor, arranger, producer, and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. He has worked with jazz, classical, pop, and R&B legends, including the late Aretha Franklin and Jessye Norman, Wynton Marsalis, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Ashford & Simpson, Lawrence Brownlee, The Clark Sisters and many others. Sneed is a recipient of the 2014 Sphinx Medal of Excellence and the 2020 Dove Award. He has served on several faculties including the Manhattan School of Music, Berklee College of Music, and New York University.

In 2018, Sneed was commissioned by Houston Grand Opera to compose MARIAN'S SONG, an opera about the life of Marian Anderson. In 2020, Alvin Ailey Dance Theater commissioned Sneed to create an original score for Testament. In 2021, he was commissioned by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis to compose the opera, THE TONGUE & THE LASH. OTSL recently commissioned Sneed to compose a reimagined adaptation of Scott Joplin's opera, TREEMONISHA, which premiered in May 2023. During the 2022 – 2023 season, he conducted Nathaniel Dett's Ordering of Moses at Riverside Cathedral with orchestra and his own, Chorale Le Chateau, for the Harlem Renaissance Centennial; Sneed had his LA Philharmonic debut as vocal soloist in Marsalis' ALL RISE Symphony for Hollywood Bowl's Centennial; he conducted the Flint Symphony Orchestra for Patti Austin's final performance; and Sneed presented his 'Our Song Our Story Tour', featuring Justin Austin, Raehann Bryce-Davis, Janinah Burnett, Jacqueline Echols and Raven McMillon with the Griot String Quartet and Sneed at the piano.

Sneed was recently signed to Apple Music's Platoon Records (London) with a single released exclusively on Apple Music's digital platforms of his original classical composition, Sequestered Thoughts, commissioned by the Library of Congress with Sneed on solo piano.

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# WHO'S WHO

**PHYLICIA RASHAD, narrator**, is a legendary actor and acclaimed stage director, celebrated for her excellence in television, film, and Broadway. She is best known for her iconic role as Claire Huxtable on *The Cosby Show* and has earned multiple Emmy nominations for her performance as Carol Clarke in NBC's *This Is Us*. Her film credits include *The Beekeeper*, *Creed* (I, II, and III), *Just Wright,* and Tyler Perry's *For Colored Girls*, *Good Deeds, A Fall From Grace*, and *Ruth and Boas*.

On Broadway, Rashad's portrayal of Lena Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun* garnered her a Tony and Drama Desk Award for Best Actress. She also performed in *Skeleton Crew* ( Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Best Supporting Actress), *August: Osage County*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and received a Tony nomination for her role as Aunt Ester in August Wilson's *Gem of The Ocean*. In 2016, she was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame and received the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Leading Actress for her performance in Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Head of Passes*.

Ms. Rashad's directing credits include Branden Jacobs Jenkins' Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning *Purpose*, *Immediate Family*, *Blues for An Alabama Sky*, and six plays from August Wilson's Century Cycle,

Academically esteemed, Rashad graduated Magna Cum Laude from Howard University. She has served as the Inaugural Dean of the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at Howard and has been the Brand Ambassador for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund since 2017. In 2023, she became Howard University's inaugural holder of the Toni Morrison Endowed Chair in Arts and Humanities. As a performing arts educator, Rashad has conducted Master Classes at prestigious universities and is the first recipient of the Denzel Washington Chair in Theatre at Fordham University.

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# WHO'S WHO

**TAI MURRAY, violin,** has been described by The Philadelphia Inquirer as "a violinist with more than technique on her mind" and a musician of "exceptional assurance and style."

A winner of the 2004 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Murray has appeared in recital and with major ensembles around the world including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. She has been named a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist and has been a member of Chamber Music Society II at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In addition to touring with Musicians from Marlboro, Murray has performed at the BBC Proms, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, IMS Prussia Cove, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, and West Cork Chamber Music Festival.

A 2012 recipient of the Sphinx Organization's Sphinx Medal of Excellence, Murray is dedicated to championing music by living composers. "Celebrating the music of today is hugely important, and making heard contemporary composers of every visual colour and every invisible one, on every concert programme, I consider a responsibility towards the future." she wrote in The Strad.

Murray's recordings include an album of Ysaÿe sonatas (Harmonia Mundi, 2014), 20th Century: The American Scene (eaSonus, 2014), and a recording of Bernstein's Serenade (after Plato's Symposium), which was released in 2014 on the Mirare label.

Murray is an Assistant Professor, Adjunct, of Violin at the Yale School of Music, where she teaches applied violin and coaches chamber music. She earned artist diplomas from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and The Juilliard School.

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# International Black Theater Festival

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A NC Black Rep Experience

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Denise Price, Deputy County Manager
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# WHO'S WHO

**SHAQUILLE SOUTHWELL, clarinetist**, joins the Gateway Chamber Players coming from Atlanta, GA. He began playing clarinet at the age of fourteen after some foundational music education on the saxophone in middle school. While in high school, he was a student of Alcides Rodriguez through the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Talent Development Program.

Shaquille graduated from The Juilliard School with a Bachelor of Music degree, as a student of Anthony McGill. Additional studies were with Marci Gurnow, Jon Manasse, and Katherine White. He spent two summers in Sapporo, Japan as a member of the Pacific Music Festival Academy and has performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet, and the Atlanta Opera.

**MONICA ELLIS, bassoon**, is a founding member of the wind quintet, Imani Winds who, for over a quarter century, has dazzled audiences around the world with dynamic playing, adventurous programming and commitment to new works and collaborations. In 2022, Imani Winds was nominated for a second GRAMMY award for its 9th studio recording entitled BRUITS.

As the daughter of a jazz saxophonist father and fashionista mother, Monica was raised in a house full of go-getters. A natural organizer, Monica is the co-artistic and executive director for Imani Winds and their annual Chamber Music Festival and treasurer for their non-profit Foundation.

Influential teachers include Mark Pancerev of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, where she was raised, George Sakakeeny at Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Bachelor of Music), and Frank Morelli at The Juilliard School (Master of Music) and Manhattan School of Music (Professional Studies).

She has performed and recorded with dozens of world-renowned

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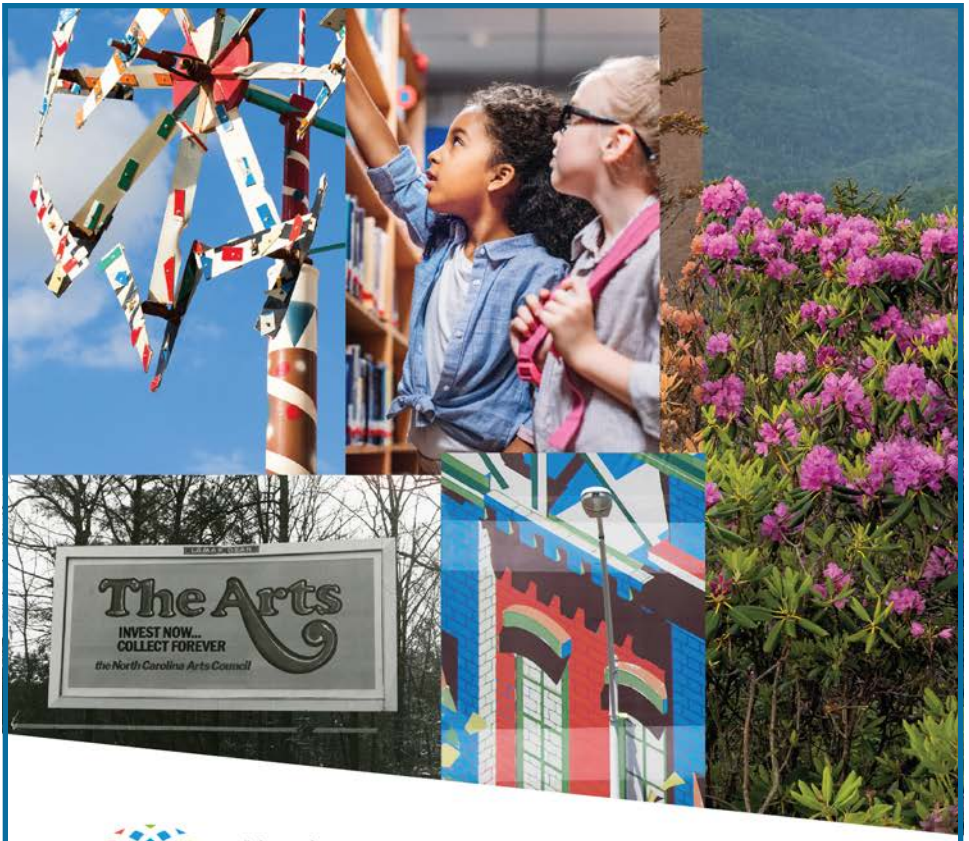
artists and organizations spanning genres and styles from the likes of Wayne Shorter to the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. A celebrated educator, Monica has given masterclasses and solo performances across the country and is on the faculty at Manhattan School of Music and Curtis Institute of Music.

Monica is a sought-after commentator on important discussions regarding race, gender and entrepreneurship in classical music. She is on the Orchestra of St. Luke's Educational Advisory Committee and is a board member for Concert Artists Guild and the International Double Reed Society (IDRS).

Monica religiously watches Jeopardy!, loves home decorating and resides in the historic village of Harlem in New York City with the greatest joy of her life, her 9-year-old son, Oden.

**HERBERT SMITH, trumpet**, teaches musicians and non-musicians of all ages. He began his Artist and Residence work with the now-disbanded Rochester Chapter of the Aesthetic Education Institute, and is frequently involved in residencies with the Rochester City School District and many school districts in the surrounding areas. Herb also does masterclasses and lectures on trumpet technique, endurance and sound production; works with high school bands and Orchestras as teacher and soloist; and teaches private lessons out of his home.

As a Composer he has been commissioned to write pieces for Brass Ensembles, High School Choirs, Jazz Ensembles and trumpet Ensembles, all the while composing for his jazz trio. Herb's composition "The twelve tones of Christmas" for trumpet, piano and voice, was premiered in Carnegie hall in 2008. Recently Herb was commissioned to write a ballet for the Garth Fagen Children's Ensemble. It was a 6-part work ranging in many styles including Reggae, classical, Jazz and Funk totaling over 40 minutes in

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length, a piece for High School Choir SATB that was premiered in 2014 at The Finney School and a fanfare for the dedication of the new Auditorium at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women.

Herb's latest venture encompasses conducting. Herb had his orchestra conducting debut with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in January 2019, leading a show aimed at tearing down the musical hierarchy of classical music and bringing it to the youth. He is a faculty member at the Rochester Institute of Technology where he directs two Jazz bands and is frequently requested to conduct all county big bands in the surrounding counties of upstate NY.

**KENNETH THOMPKINS, trombone**, was appointed Principal Trombone of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra by Neeme Järvi in 1997. Prior to this appointment, he held positions in the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Florida Orchestra and performed with the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. A former participant in the Detroit Symphony's African American Fellowship Program, he has been a mentor to several Orchestra Fellows over the years.

Kenneth has been invited to perform and conduct master classes at many music schools, including the Curtis Institute of Music, Mannes College, the University of Michigan, and Interlochen Arts Academy. An active chamber musician, Kenneth performs frequently in recital and is a member of Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings. He has performed concertos with both the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and New World Symphony.

Kenneth has toured Europe with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and has also performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He can be heard on recordings by Detroit

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Chamber Winds, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Recently, he contributed a chapter to The Brass Player's Cookbook: Creative Recipes for a Successful Performance.

Kenneth received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, where he studied with the late Frank Crisafulli of the Chicago Symphony, and a Master of Music degree from Temple University, where he studied with Eric Carlson of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

**PATRICIA WEITZEL, double bass**, has appeared as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral performer, teacher and clinician in several countries including Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, England, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, the Netherlands and the United States.

Prior to her appointment as Assistant Teaching Professor of Double Bass at Penn State University, Weitzel served as the Lecturer of Double Bass at Columbus State University. She has held faculty positions at Augustana College, Central College, Grinnell College, St. Ambrose University, and Drake University. She is a former member of the Columbus, Des Moines and Quad City Symphonies.

Weitzel has collaborated and worked with renowned artists such as the Daedalus Quartet, pianist Soyeon Kate Lee, bassist Volkan Orhon, and pop singer Lizzo. She spends her Summers performing worldwide, teaching at the Sphinx Performance Academy at The Juilliard School and the University of Colorado, and participating in the Wintergreen Music Festival.

In addition to being a performing artist and educator, Dr. Weitzel continually receives recognition for her leadership and advocacy of diversity, excellence, and inclusion in the arts. As a member of

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the 2019 Global Leaders Program Cohort and one of the recipients of a Sphinx Organization's Mpower Artist Grant, she was involved in the development of initiatives that offer opportunities of music education to underserved youth.

Weitzel is the former membership chair and current marketing chair of the International Society of Bassists, an organization with approximately 3000 members in over 40 countries whose mission is to encourage excellence in bass performance, pedagogy, research, composition, and lutherie.

**WESLEY SUMPTER, percussion**, is a musician, producer and educator based in Los Angeles, California. As percussionist and timpanist, Wesley has performed with some of the world's leading orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, and the BBC Philharmonic (UK).

As a Resident Fellow (2018–2022) with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, he played in concert halls and music festivals in Japan, South Korea, London, Scotland, Mexico City, New York and Boston. As a recording musician, he can be heard on a number of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's recently released recordings including their 2021 Grammy-Award winning Charles Ives symphony cycle, the BBC Phil's upcoming recordings of the music of Pierre Sancan, the original motion picture soundtracks for West Side Story (2021) and Transformers: Rise of the Beasts.

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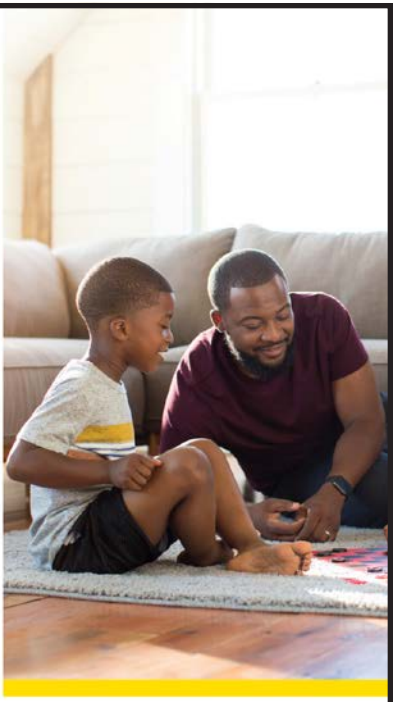

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**MON - SAT JULY 27-31 & AUG 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| BRUNCH/LUNCH | 11A-3P |
| DINNER | 3-9P |
| LATE NIGHT | 9P-12A |
| BAR/LOUNGE | 12P-1A |

DOWNTOWN
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Dr. Eric J. Sadler  Dr. Aubry Payne

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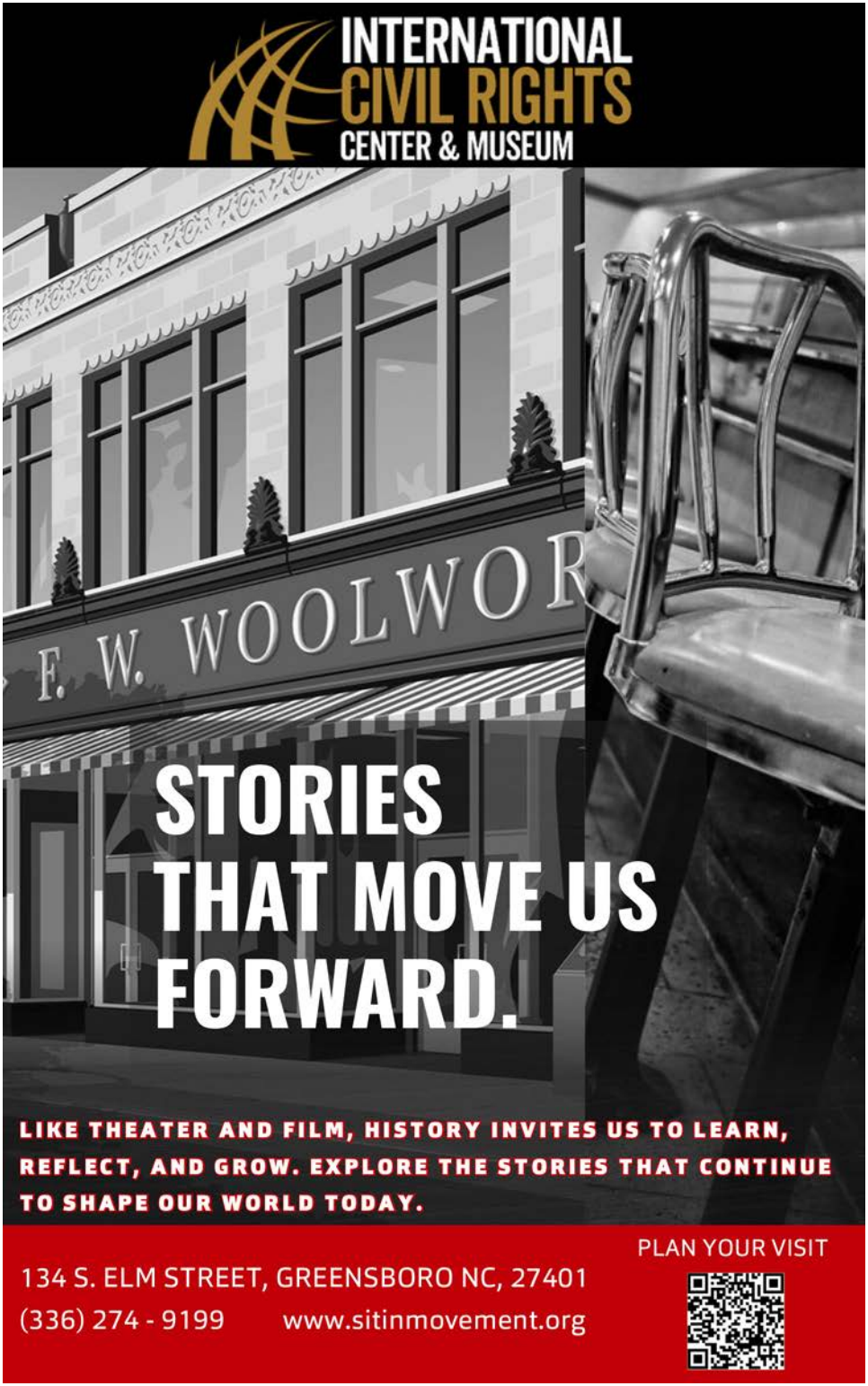
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Nico Amortegui, *Be a Wildflower*, 2025. © 2025 Nico Amortegui. Courtesy of the artist.

# NOW OPEN DOWNTOWN

DISCOVER THE ART OF NOW IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Museum of Art, Winston-Salem (formerly SECCA) is pleased to announce a new exhibition and program space, now open in the heart of downtown Winston-Salem.

Open Wednesday through Sunday, the space invites visitors to interact with art and artists, generate ideas and connections, and support our state's creative ecosystem.

GALLERY HOURS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WEDNESDAY | 1PM | → | 5PM |
| THURSDAY | 1PM | → | 7PM |
| FRIDAY | 1PM | → | 5PM |
| SATURDAY | 11AM | → | 5PM |
| SUNDAY | 1PM | → | 5PM |

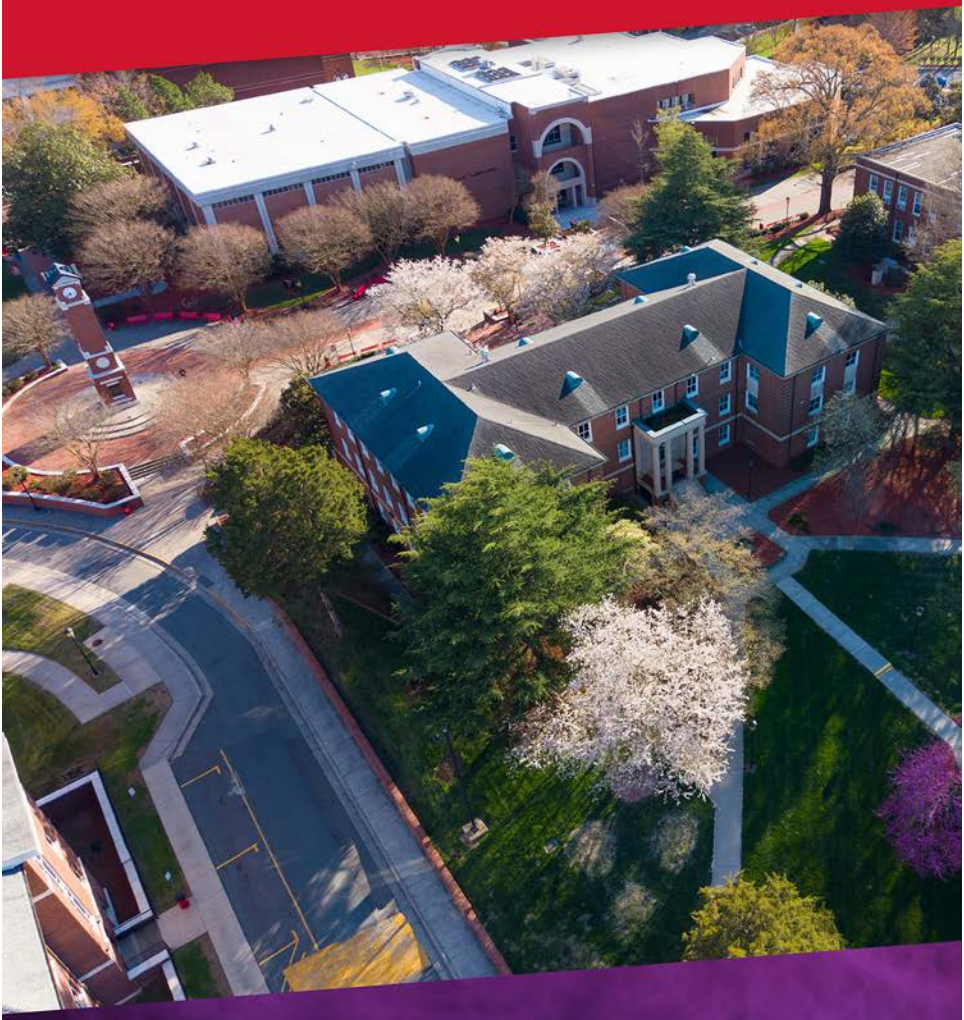
NCMA Winston-Salem Downtown is centrally located at
400 W Fourth St, Suite #130

Admission is free and open to the public. Learn more at
www.ncmawinstonsalem.gov

# WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

*welcomes*

## the INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL



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