INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

JUL 27 — WINSTON-SALEM, NC — AUG 1

2026

BERTA, BERTA

The Echo Theater Company

Tuesday, July 28, 2:00pm
Tuesday, July 28, 8:00pm
Wednesday, July 29, 2:00pm
Wednesday, July 29, 8:00pm

Salem Academy & College
The Drama Workshop

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

INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

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

BERTA, BERTA

THE ECHO THEATER COMPANY

Written By
ANGELICA CHÉRI

The Echo Theater

Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work the Echo theater over is 27 years, has passed 101 Los Angeles premier productions, of these, 81 world premieres, and of those 52 commissions.

The Echo Theatre Company is on a fierce journey. They are choosing plays that are consistently challenging, and all have a deep conscience…

If you wanted to pick one small theater to add to your cultural roster—Echo is the consistent favorite.

ECHOTHEATRECOMPANY.COM

SETTING:
Berta's home in Meridian, Mississippi

TIME:
May 1st, 1923

CAST

Leroy ..... Dejuan Christopher

Berta ..... Kacie Rogers

CREW

Director.....Andi Chapman

Costume Design ..... Wendell Carmichael

Lighting Design ..... Andrew Schmedake

Scenic Design .....Amanda Knehans

Sound Design.....Jeff Gardner

Prop Design ..... Wendell Carmichael & Andi Chapman

Production Stage Manager..... Bianca Rickheim

Produced by..... Joy DeMichelle and Chris Fields

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WHO'S WHO

Dejuan Christopher (Leroy) Is excited to make his debut with the Echo. His portrayal of Roosevelt Hicks in August Wilson's *Radio Golf* earned one nominations for NAACP Theatre Award as Best Supporting Actor and the Stage and Screen LA award for outstanding featured performance in a drama. DeJuan starred in the acclaimed short film *Malleable* executively produced by Lena Waithe, which premiered a Tribeca Film Festival and can be seen on Hulu. The one can be seen and an upcoming AT&T commercial alongside Emmy and Golden Globe winner Sarah Paulson.

Kacie Rogers (Berta) is a two time NAACP award-winning writer, producer and actor. She co-founded Bottle Tree Theatre Company in 2024, producing acclaimed work in Los Angeles and at Edinburgh Fringe. Her award-winning short film SHOUT screened in over 10 cities across two countries she has two films in development, including X Marks the Spot, winner of the Big Indie Fellowship at the Austin film festival. Her playwriting credits include Oladele or the forgotten song.(IAMA New Works festival) and I Sell Windows (Outside In, Edinburgh Fringe), developed through The Shay Fellowship. A graduate of AMDA, Kacie has worked with leading companies, including the Ruby theater company, IAMA, the Getty Villa, the Echo, the Geffen and Center Theatre Group,x where her self – written short Ol Auntie Jemmie streamed to audiences. On screen, she has appeared in several television shows, including Curb Your enthusiasm and Grace & Frankie.

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WHO'S WHO

ANGELICA CHÉRI (Playwright) is a playwright, book writer & lyricist, screenwriter and poet. Her plays include *The Seeds of Abraham* (Billie Holiday theatre), *The Sting of White Roses,* (The National Black Theatre, Festival), and *Crowndation* (The National Black Theatre), *Berta, Berta,* (Contemporary American Theatre, Festival; Everyman Theatre and *The Wiring and the Switches* (Geffen Writers group). Angelica and collaborator Ross Baum receive the Richard Rogers award for their musical *Gun and Powder* at the (Signature Theatre). Angelica is co-writer of the *Highway to Heaven* series reboot on the lifetime network and story producer for season 2 of *Dear…* On Apple TV+ Angelica received her BA in Theatre from UCLA, MFA and Playwriting for Columbia University and MFA and Musical Theatre writing from NYU.

Andi Chapman (Director) is associate artistic Director of the Ebony Repertory Theatre in Los Angeles. Her directing credits include *Macbeth*, Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* at A Noise Within Theatre, *This Bright Wilderness a celebration of Black Theatre* at the Mark, Taper Forum, *SHE*, A World Premiere at the Anteaus Theatre; *BOTH,AND* a World Premiere at the Boston Court Theatre, and the Wallis Theatre. The critically acclaimed *Native Son,*at Anteaus and the Kirk Douglas Theatre, Garnering Best Director nominations (Stage Raw & Broadway world). Ebony Repertory Theatre's *The Gospel at Colonus* which garnered 14 ovation nominations, including Best Play and Best Play Direction and won the NAACP award of 2016 for Best Production. Miss Chapman is a graduate of the Yale School Of Drama, the AFI DWW, and is a participant in the Lincoln Center Director's Lab.

Bianca Rickheim (Production Stage Manager) is a graduate of LMU with an MA in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing and is pursuing her passion for theater. Bianca can be seen stage managing regularly at Pacific Resident Theatre, The Broadwater and the Echo Theatre Company most recent credits include *A Permanent Image, Nightingale, One Jewish Boy, and Fostered*. Thank you to this team for this opportunity, my friends and family for all their support.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Berta Berta is a love story, Berta Berta is a testament to what we missed, and what we inherit- a luminous refuge carved out of the hard country of this America. Against shadows of hardship and erasure, two souls, find one another once again, and in that meeting, honor the long line, of uncles, aunts, grandparents and great grandparents our ancestors, whose courage and tenderness made love possible. Hold fast to that fierce compass pursue whom your soul loves with everything you are, embrace that guiding light, and follow it into life, for love, like the heartbeat of our history, endures and ultimately prevails.

— Andi Chapman

Forsyth.cc

International Black Theater Festival

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INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®
A NC Black Rep Experience

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Winston-Salem proudly congratulates the International Black Theatre Festival on another successful year and welcomes visitors to a community shaped by artistry and expression. Our vibrant community of local artists, historic landmarks, and creative energy awaits your discovery. Welcome to the City of Arts and Innovation—we are honored to be your stage.
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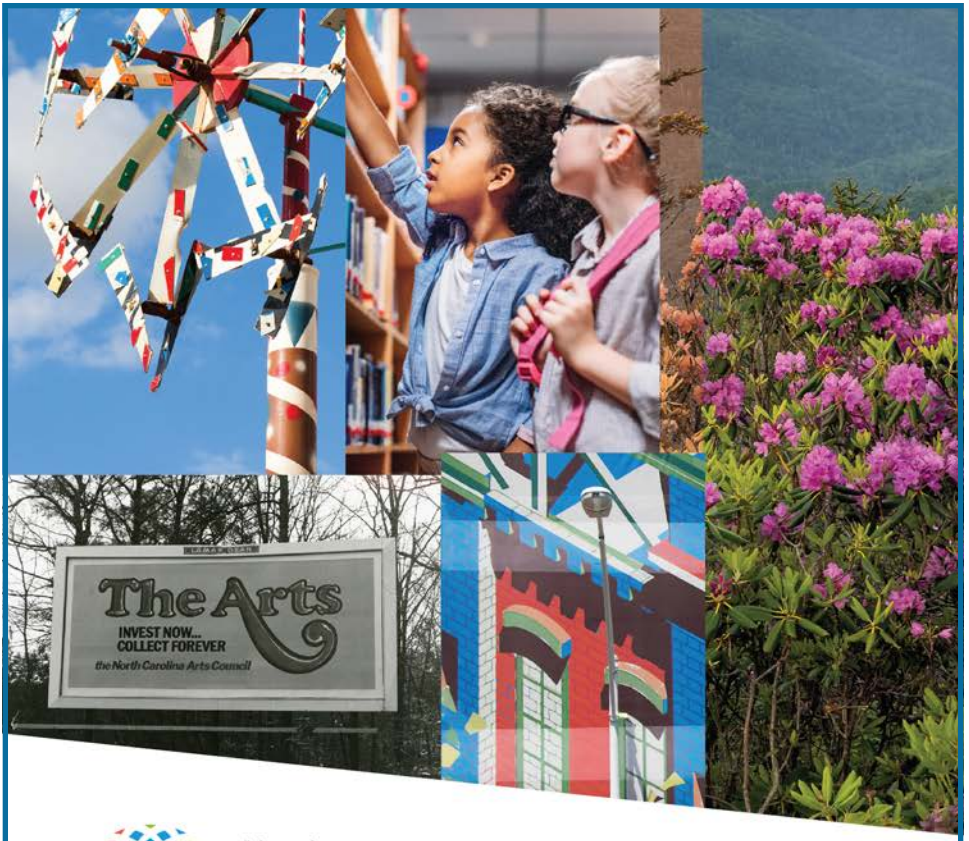

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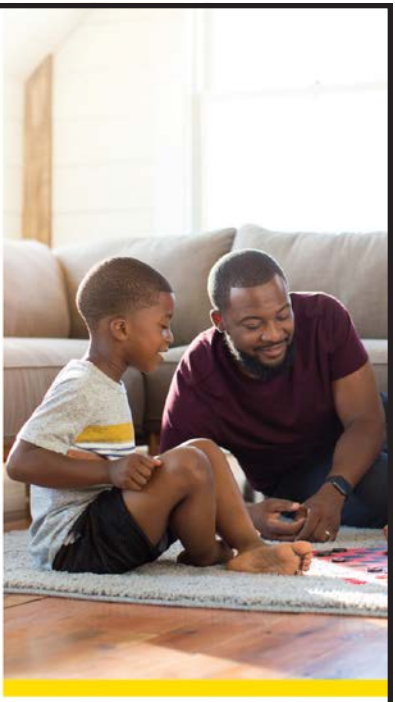

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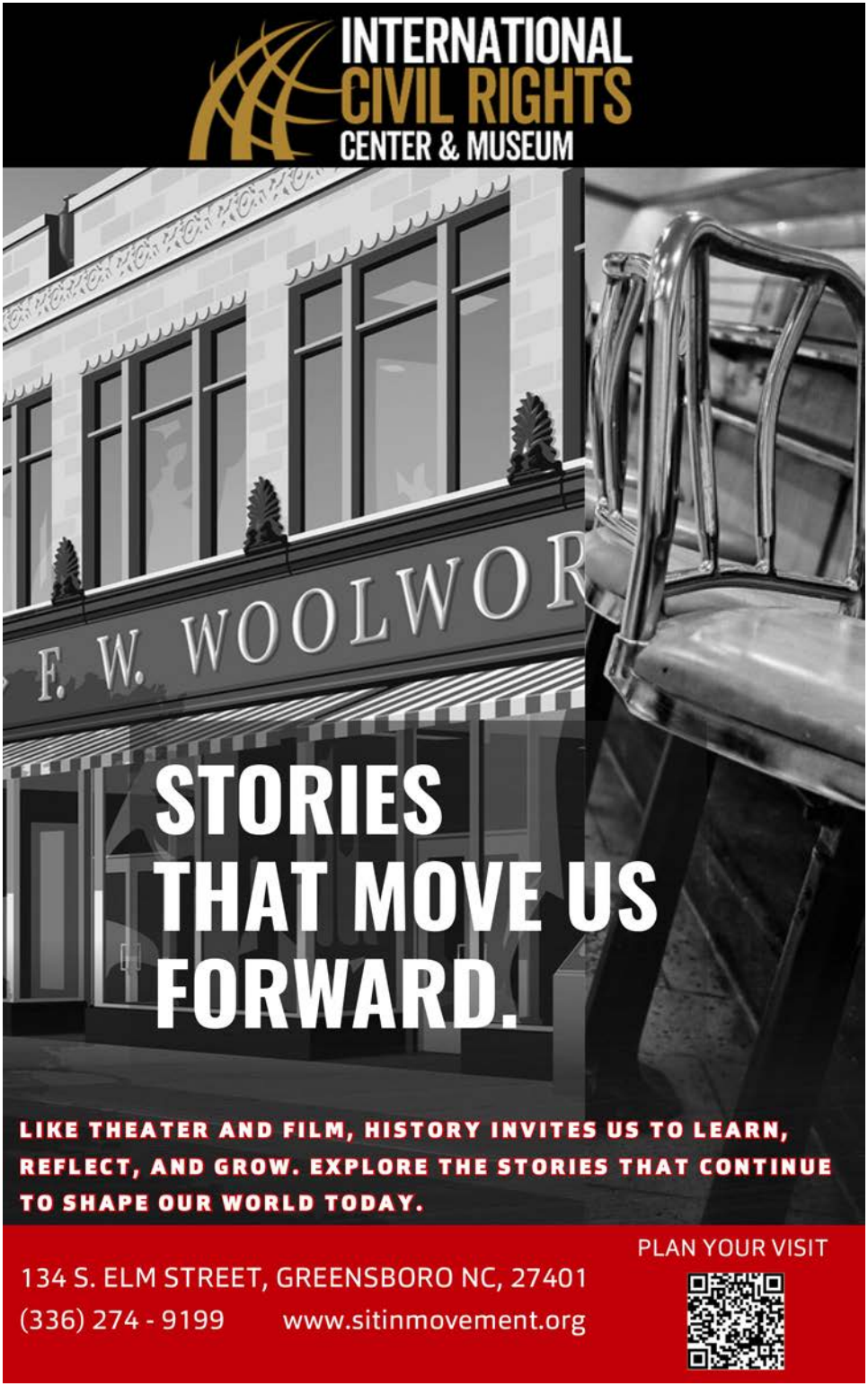
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Nico Amortegui, *Be a Wildflower*, 2025. © 2025 Nico Amortegui. Courtesy of the artist.

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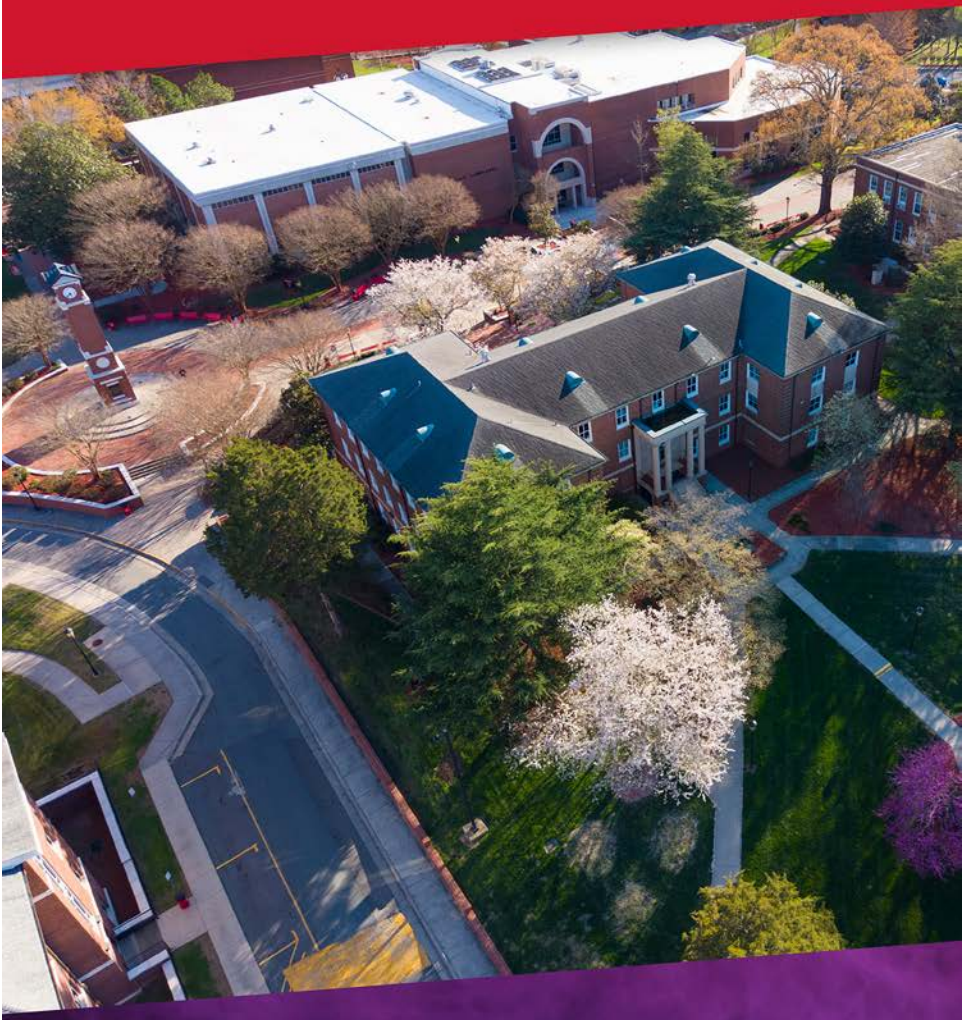

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