INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

JUL 27 — WINSTON-SALEM, NC — AUG 1

2026

CHESTER GREGORY: BEING BLACK ON BROADWAY

Lucid Life, Inc.

Tuesday, July 28, 8:00pm
Thursday, July 30, 8:00pm
Friday, July 31, 2:00pm & 8:00pm
Saturday, August 1, 2:00pm

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

INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

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

BLACK ON BROADWAY
STARRING CHESTER GREGORY

A Lucid Life Inc Production

Curated by **Chester Gregory**

Lucid Life is a creative production and personal development company founded by Chester Gregory. Through workshops, master classes, and transformative experiences, Lucid Life empowers high school students, college students, artists, and emerging professionals with the tools to grow both personally and professionally. Rooted in the belief that personal growth fuels creative excellence, the company blends storytelling, performance, and practical life skills to inspire confidence, purpose, and authentic leadership. As an award winning performer, singer, director, and coach, Gregory has partnered with acclaimed artists and industry leaders, bringing decades of professional experience into every program and creating meaningful experiences that educate, motivate, and empower.

CHESTER GREGORY

Award winning Broadway actor Chester Gregory is thrilled to return to the International Black Theatre Festival with *Being Black on Broadway*, an intimate musical journey that weaves together his personal experiences on the Great White Way with the triumphs, challenges, and rich legacy of Black artists who helped shape Broadway.

Gregory earned national acclaim for portraying music legend Jackie Wilson in both *The Jackie Wilson Story* and *The Eve of Jackie*, two productions that became audience favorites at the International Black Theatre Festival. His celebrated performances culminated in a critically acclaimed engagement at the historic Apollo Theater and a memorable standing ovation from Michael Jackson.

Hailed by *The New York Times* as "jaw dropping... overflowingly charismatic," Gregory has built an extraordinary career as an actor, singer, producer, and creative storyteller. His Broadway credits include *Motown The Musical* (Berry Gordy), *Sister Act* (Eddie Souther), *Cry Baby*, Disney's *Tarzan*, and *Hairspray*. He is the recipient of the NAACP Theatre Award, Joseph Jefferson Award, Black Theater Alliance Award, and Audelco Award, and has received an Honorary Doctorate from Columbia College Chicago, along with Keys to the Cities of Gary and East Chicago, Indiana.

Beyond the stage, Gregory continues to connect with audiences through music, speaking, and digital storytelling that inspires personal growth, resilience, and purpose. Whether performing for thousands in a theater or creating content for millions online, his mission remains the same: to remind people of the power of their own story.

Be sure to stay connected with Chester on social media, where he actively engages with his community through music, storytelling, wellness, and everyday inspiration. We'd love to hear from you!

Instagram | Facebook | TikTok | Threads
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The North Carolina Black Repertory Company is supported by the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

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THE COMPANY

Featured Vocalists

Tyra Scott

Asia B. Cash

Mike Whitaker II

The Band

Music Director & Piano: Andre Chez Lewis

Bass Guitar: Phillip “Dr. Phil Good” Lynch

Lead Guitar: Emmanuel Alston

Drums: Donovan “VIDO” Gray

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What does it cost to be Black on Broadway?

When people think of Broadway, they often picture bright lights, standing ovations, and dreams coming true. Those moments are real. But behind every curtain call is another story, one that isn't always seen.

Being Black on Broadway was born from a desire to share that story.

This is an invitation behind the curtain to experience what it truly means to be **Black on the Great White Way**. It's about the joy of living your dream while navigating the realities that often accompany it: tropes, stereotypes, microaggressions, racism, and the quiet choices between opportunity and integrity, acceptance and authenticity, ambition and personal conviction.

This show is about resilience. It's about celebrating those who came before us, honoring those who continue to break barriers today, and inspiring the generations that will follow. Above all, it's a reminder that every one of us has a story worth telling and that our greatest strength often comes from having the courage to live that story with honesty, integrity, and heart.

Through unforgettable music and deeply personal storytelling, you'll step behind the curtain to experience the triumphs, the challenges, and the humanity that exist beyond the spotlight. My hope is that you leave not only inspired, but with a deeper appreciation for the stories that often go untold and the courage it takes to tell them.

Welcome to *Being Black on Broadway*.

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International Black Theater Festival

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A NC Black Rep Experience

2026 Forsyth County Commissioners

Denise Price, Deputy County Manager
Shontell Robinson, County Manager
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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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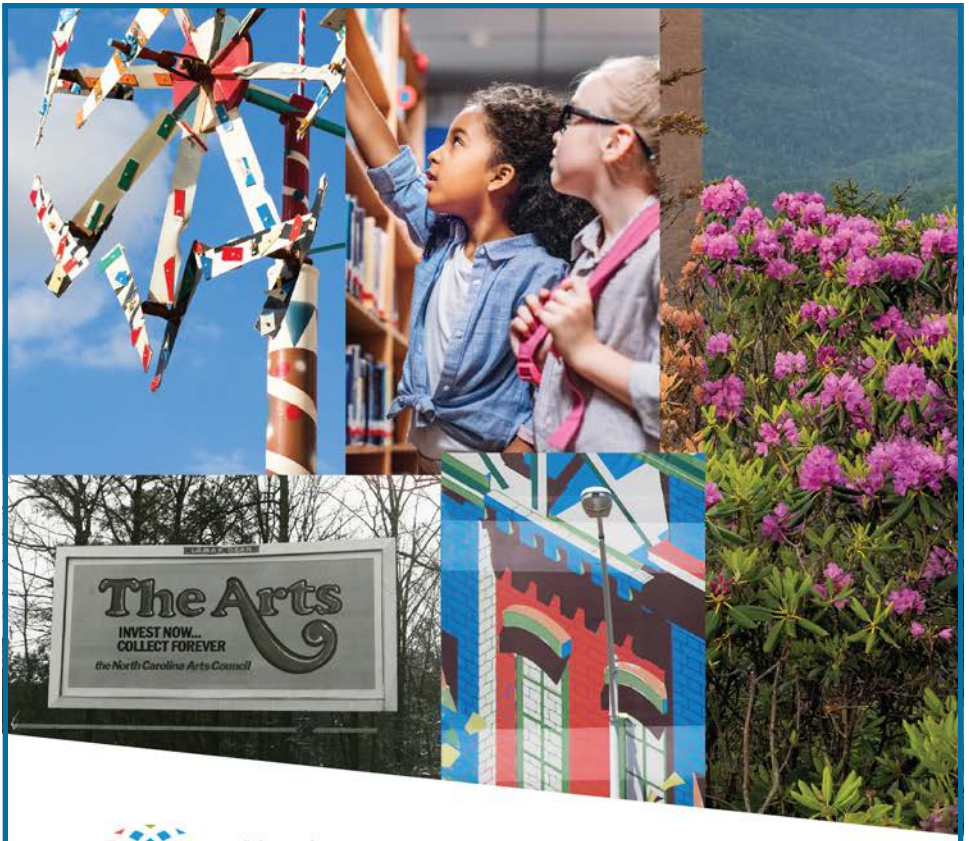

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Greg Cox
President, Bank of America Triad
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ENT 211 AD

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NovantHealth.org

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Your support keeps Black stories thriving and center stage at the International Black Theatre Festival

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North Carolina Black Repertory Company, it's an honor to recognize your commitment and service to the community.

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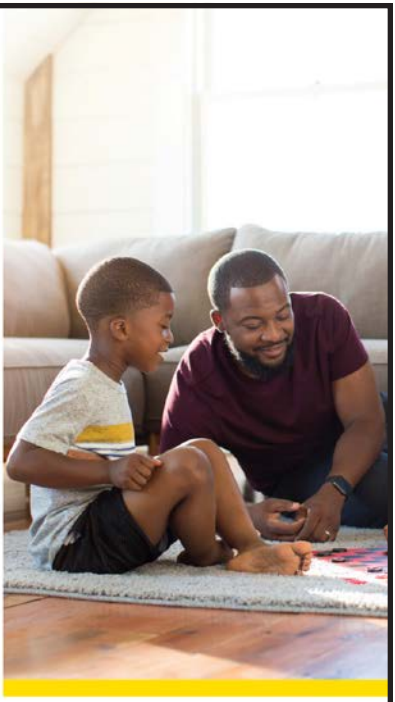

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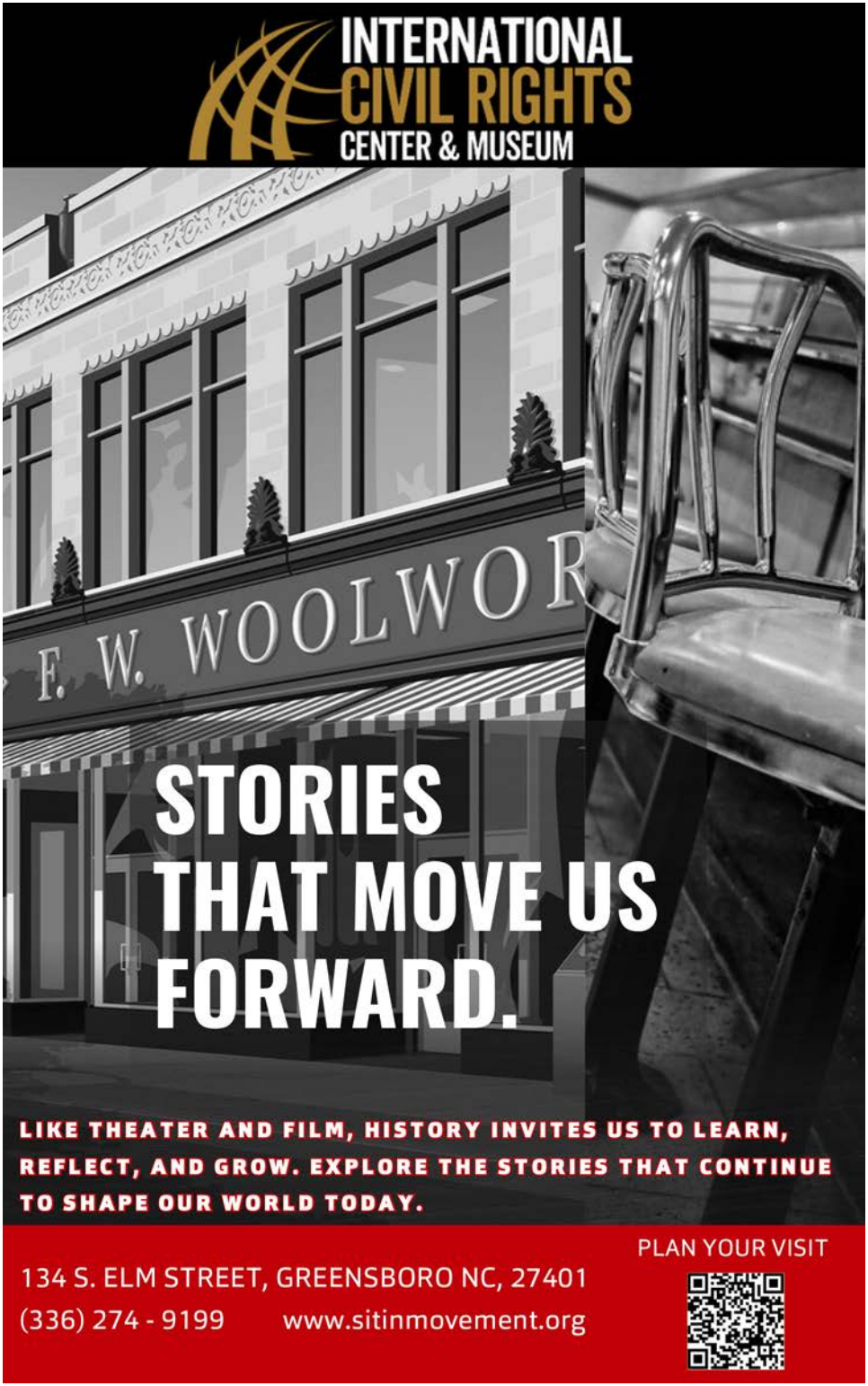
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Nico Amortegui, *Be a Wildflower*, 2025. © 2025 Nico Amortegui. Courtesy of the artist.

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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.

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www.ncmawinstonsalem.gov

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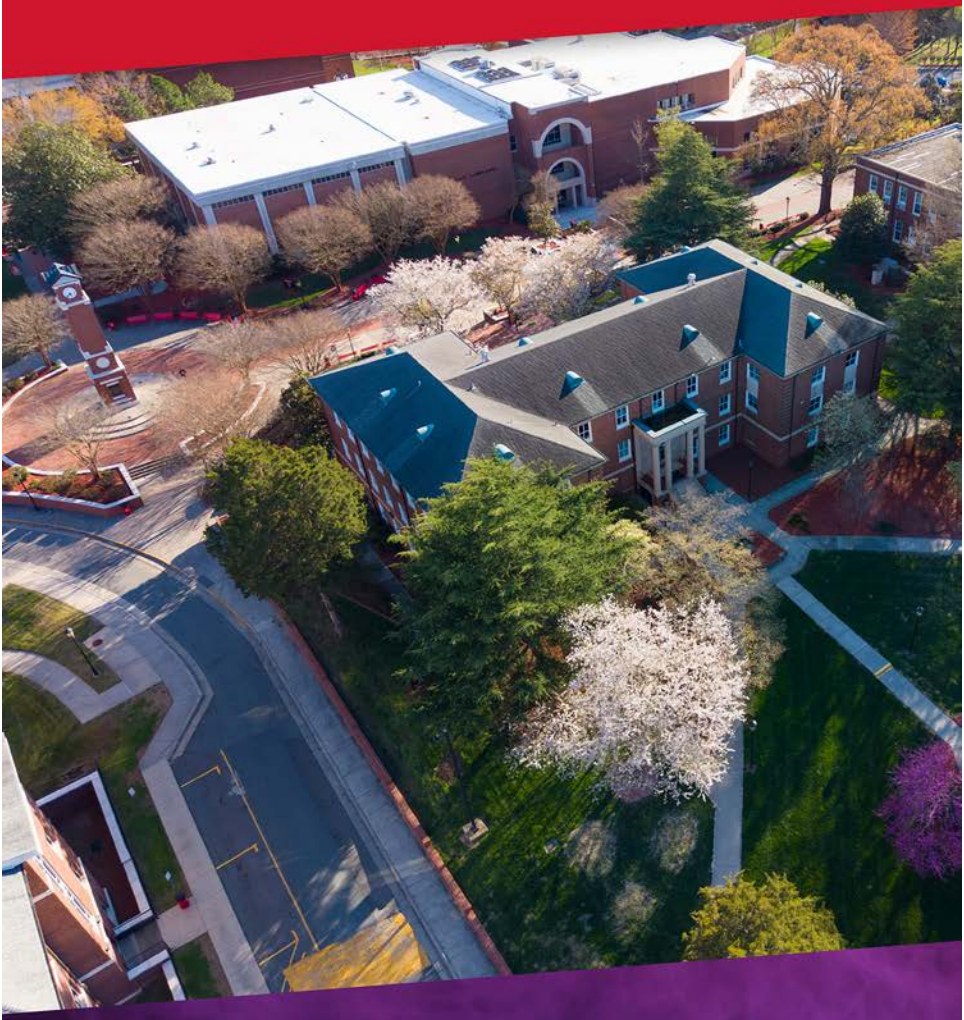

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