INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

JUL 27 — WINSTON-SALEM, NC — AUG 1

2026

MARVIN: THE MARVIN GAYE REVUE

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe

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

UNCSA
Gerald Freedman Theatre

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.

Marvin: A Marvin Gaye Revue

Created and adapted by Nate Jacobs

Director.....Nate Jacobs

Music Director..... Etienne “EJ” Porter

Choreographer ..... Donald Frison

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

The Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe of Sarasota, Fla., is making its 7th appearance at the International Black Theatre Festival. Founded by Nate Jacobs as a not-for-profit organization, WBTT’s mission is to produce professional theatre that promotes and celebrates African American history and experience, engages a broad base of patrons, supports the development of a dynamic group of aspiring artists and builds self-esteem in youth of color.

Programs include a full mainstage season, October to May each year, Stage of Discovery, a free summer musical theatre intensive program for students ages 10-18; Jazzlinks, which brings black history lessons to high schools; WBTT Voices community forums; Young Artist Program, showcasing aspiring performers and the New Playwrights Program.

For more information visit westcoastblacktheatre.org

WHO'S WHO

Cast

Jada Carson ..... Ensemble
Jazzmin Carson ..... Ensemble
Michael Mejia-Mendez ..... Ensemble
Raleigh Mosely II ..... Ensemble
Leon Pitts II ..... Ensemble
Sheldon Rhoden ..... Lead
Jai Shanae ..... Ensemble
Riki Stevens ..... Ensemble
Henry Washington ..... Ensemble
James Randolph ..... Ensemble

Musicians

Étienne "EJ" Porter ..... Music Director/ Drums
Jamar Camp ..... Aux Keys
Matthew McKinnon ..... Bass
Julian Roberts ..... Guitar
Alan "Duke" Robinson ..... Piano

Production

Stage Manager/Lighting Designer ..... Michael Pasquini
Sound Designer ..... Patrick Russini
Sound Engineer ..... Alex Judd
Scenic Designer/Technical Director ..... Roland Black
Wig Designer ..... Sieglinda Fox
Costumes Designer ..... Nate Jacobs
Costumer ..... Andrea "LadyBugg" Coleman
Projection Designer ..... Austin Jacobs
Music Consultant ..... Anthony Moon
Back Stage Team ..... Marlon Black, Andrea "LadyBugg" Coleman, Arnette German & Jennifer Woodford

Administration

Founder/Artistic Director ..... Nate Jacobs
Executive Director ..... Julie Leach
Marketing Associate ..... Derkia "Ki" Thomas
Production & Casting Associate ..... Adrienne Pitts

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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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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Marvin Theme Song (N. Jacobs) ..... Ensemble

Stubborn Kind Of Fellow (M. Gaye-M. Stevenson-G. Gordy) ..... Sheldon

Too Busy Thinking Bout My Baby
(M. Whitfield-J. Bradford-B. Strong) ..... Sheldon

Marvin & Kim Weston Medley ..... Sheldon, Jazzmin

It Takes Two (M. Stevenson-S. Moy)

It's Me (M. Stevenson)

Supremes Medley ..... Riki, Jai, Jada

Keep Me Hanging On (B. Holland-L. Dozier-E. Holland)

Baby Love (B. Holland-L. Dozier-E. Holland)

Stop In The Name Of Love (B. Holland-L. Dozier-E. Holland)

Four Tops Medley ..... Henry, Michael, Raleigh, Leon

Baby I Need Your Loving (B. Holland-L. Dozier-E. Holland)

Same Old Song (B. Holland-L. Dozier-E. Holland)

Reach Out (B. Holland-L. Dozier-E. Holland)

Dancing In The Streets (M. Gaye-W. Stevenson-I.J. Hunter) Jazzmin, Jada, Riki

Temptations Medley ..... Henry, Raleigh, Michael

My Girl (S. Robinson-R. White)

Just My Imagination (M. Whitfield-B. Strong)

I Can't Get Next To You (M. Whitfield-B. Strong)

Papa Was A Rolling Stone (M. Whitfield-B. Strong)

You're All I Need To Get By (N. Ashford-V. Simpson) ..... Sheldon, Jai

Your Precious Love (N. Ashford-V. Simpson) ..... Sheldon, Jai

Ain't No Mountain High Enough (N. Ashford-V. Simpson) ..... Sheldon, Jai

Yesterday (J. Lennon-P. McCartney) ..... Sheldon

Marvin Theme Song Reprise (N. Jacobs) ..... Ensemble

Pride And Joy/ How Sweet It Is (M. Gaye-W. Stevenson-N. Whitfield)/
(B. Holland-L. Dozier-E. Holland Jr.) ..... Sheldon

Ain't That Peculiar/Can I Get A Witness (S. Robinson-R. White-P. Moore M.
Tarplin)/(B. Holland- L. Dozier- E. Holland) ..... Sheldon

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT TWO

Don't Knock My Love (B. Shapiro-W. Pickett) ..... Sheldon, Riki

Whatever Happened to Motown (N. Jacobs-J. Dodge) ..... Ensemble

I'm Going To Make You Love Me (K. Gamble-J. Ross-L. Huff) ..... Sheldon, Riki

I Heard It Through The Grapevine (M. Whitfield-B. Strong) ....Sheldon

What's Going On/Inner City Blues (A. Cleveland-R. Benson-M. Gaye)/
(M. Gaye-J. Nyx) ..... Sheldon

Star-Spangled Banner (F.S. Key-J.S. Smith) .....Sheldon

Shining Star – (M. White-L. Dunn-P. Bailey) ..... Ensemble

I Want You/After The Dance (A. Ross-L. Ware)/
(M. Gaye-L. Ware-A. Ross).....Sheldon

Let's Get It On (M. Gaye-E. Townsend).....Sheldon

Come Get To This (M. Gaye).....Sheldon

Distant Lover (G. Gordy Fuqua-M. Gaye-S. Greene) .....Sheldon

Sexual Healing (D. Ritz-O. Brown-M. Gaye) .....Sheldon

Got To Give It Up (M. Gaye) .....Sheldon

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WHO'S WHO

Nate Jacobs (WBTT Founder/Artistic Director, Creator/Adapter/Director) Actor, singer, comedian, playwright, composer and director Nate Jacobs is a driving force in Florida's theater scene. For over 30 years, this graduate of Florida A&M University has worked extensively in the community, training and mentoring youth in the performing arts. He founded Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (WBTT) in 1999, serving as founder and artistic director.

Jacobs has created and directed original and adapted works, such as Ruby, Syncopated Avenue, Love Sung in the Key of Aretha, A Motown Christmas, The Sam Cooke Story, and How I Got Over: A Gospel Revue, to name a few. His shows have won acclaim from critics and the public, resulting in sold-out performances and generous community support.

Nurturing the next generation of artists has always been at the heart of Jacobs' plans for WBTT and a variety of programs are offered to youth of all ages including a Young Artist Program – giving students the opportunity to shine!

WBTT's growth and success have resulted in national acclaim, as Jacobs and WBTT were featured in an article in The New York Times in 2021. Recently, Nate was honored to be part of the 2026 IMPACT 50: Southwest Florida's Most Influential Nonprofit Leaders. The Troupe also garnered positive show reviews in the Wall Street Journal and was featured in an award-winning documentary, "This Light of Mine: The Making of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe," produced by WEDU Public Media.

As a result of Jacobs' outstanding contributions to young people, the community, and Black theatre, he has been the recipient of many honors from organizations such as the Sarasota County Branch NAACP Youth Council, the Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, Goodwill Manasota, and more.

Forsyth.cc

International Black Theater Festival

Join Forsyth County in rolling out the purple carpet for the 2026 International Black Theater Festival.

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INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®
A NC Black Rep Experience

2026 Forsyth County Commissioners

Denise Price, Deputy County Manager
Shontell Robinson, County Manager
Kyle Haney, Deputy County Manager

Jacobs was honored with the prestigious Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award during the 2015 International Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., "due to his contributions to Black theatre specifically and American theatre in general."

Donald Frison (Choreographer) – An accomplished choreographer, dancer and singer for over 30 years, Donald has enjoyed great success. He was a dancer for the NBA Memphis Grizzlies Dance Team and a five-time champion on the syndicated talent competition television show Star Search with Ed McMahon. His theatre credits as a performer include *Joyful!, Joyful!, Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul, Soul Crooners: Solid Gold Edition, Dreamgirls, Ain't Misbehavin', Five Guys Named Moe, Cats, It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* and *The Music Man*. For WBTT he choreographed Your Arms Too Short to Box with God in 2020, among many other shows throughout several seasons. "As WBTT's Resident Choreographer I strive to keep the vision growing," Donald says. "I've been fortunate to have had my work showcased at the National Black Theatre Festival with two shows, *How I Got Over* and *Soul Man*. I am so proud and honored to be part of such an amazing company with a wonderful vision. Thank you, Nate, cast and creative and Julie, for trusting me and my gift. Thank you to the staff and trustees for all your love and support. I thank God for blessing me with a gift to give to the world. May God bless all of you!"

Étienne "Ej" Porter (Music Director) – EJs' personal journey is reflected by his lifelong love of music. At two, EJ astonished his parents with his ability to sing, direct the choir, hold drumsticks and keep a steady beat. His love for playing drums made the percussive instrument his musical choice. By the time EJ turned ten, he had perfected his craft and was playing drums for his father's church and for musical groups in the community.

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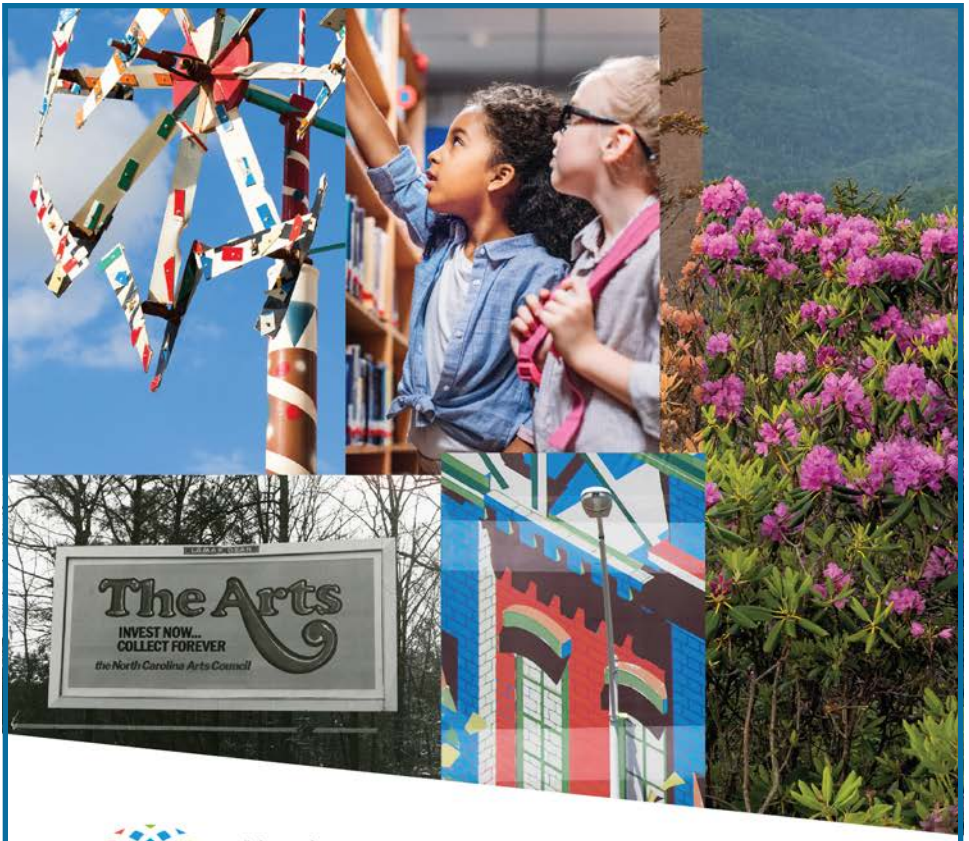
At thirteen, EJ traveled throughout the United States, Kenya, Nigeria, London, Germany, Paris, Rome and Ghana with his father as a professional percussionist. He has appeared on both television and radio. While in High School he began learning about midi operations, how to sequence music, music theory and music publishing from his music teacher and music business mentor, Dr. Mariea Watkins. While attending Florida International University, EJ had the pleasure of working with artists including Mary J. Blige, Juvenile, Dru Hill, George Clinton, Lil' Wayne, 50 cent, Fat Joe, Dr. Bobby Jones, Dorothy Norwood, and others. The influences of Rodney Jerkins, Marvin Gaye, Teddy Riley, Michael Jackson, Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis, The Police, Stevie Wonder, and Quincy Jones greatly inspired EJs' talent.

EJ is a professional Music Producer, Musician and the Owner of Drummerboy Entertainment – a full-service music production and entertainment company. With over 30 albums under his belt, EJ has produced Billboard charting songs, as well as worked with Grammy Award winning Artists Marc Anthony and Joe Perry of Aerosmith.

EJ works to continue perfecting his skills. In an industry where commercial trends often dictate what music is produced, EJ has been blessed with the gift of knowing what drives a musical piece. Recently he started a music program in the rural community of Machangulo, Mozambique. With the help of friends and donors EJ was able to outfit a school with full musical instruments and recording equipment for students to learn music.

Jada Carson (Ensemble) is a recent graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design, where she earned a BFA in Performing Arts. She made her WBTT debut in Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul and was most recently seen in How I Got Over. During her time at SCAD, Jada performed in BAM! Celebrating Black Artists in Music for two years, Antony and Cleopatra: The Experiment, and SCAD's mainstage production of School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play. In addition to her



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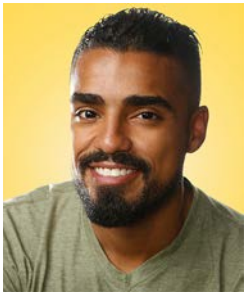
The North Carolina Arts Council is a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

stage work, she participated in various film projects and appeared as Doris in The Color Purple in Meridian, MS.

Jada has been involved in the arts for most of her life, beginning at the age of seven in her church choir. She later participated in show choir for three years and was accepted into the Alabama All-State Honor Choir. While living in Gonzales, LA, her stage credits included Disney's The Little Mermaid (Flounder), Disney's The Lion King (Rafiki), and Shrek the Musical (Dragon). Jada is excited to grace the WBTT stage once again alongside her fellow artists and to be a part of this amazing production.

Jazzmin Carson (Ensemble) Since making her Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe debut in *Dreamgirls*, Jazzmin Carson has quickly become one of the company's standout talents. Her ability to captivate audiences with her radiant energy, soulful vocals, and magnetic storytelling is a gift. She has delivered unforgettable performances in roles such as Erzulie in *Once on This Island*, Kim Weston in *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*, and, in the original run of *Big Sexy: The Fats Waller Revue*, brought the house down with her show-stopping "Stormy Weather." Recently, she co-starred in the sold-out concert *The Titan & The Muse: Love Deluxe*. This performance further cemented her place as a rising star. Jazzmin Carson steps back into the magic with gratitude for the WBTT family and the audiences who have embraced her every step of the way.



Michael Mejia-Mendez (Ensemble) is in his 16th season with WBTT. He recently starred in the limited engagement sold out show Harry Belafonte as a tribute to the singer and activist. A talented actor and singer, Michael received stellar reviews and a Handy Award (Jay Handelman, Herald-Tribune) for his performance as Usnavi in WBTT's

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2017 production of *In the Heights*. He earned rave reviews for his impressive work in *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul, Soul Man* and *Soul Crooners*. He starred as Harry Belafonte in the Troupe's 2014 hit, *Harry and Lena*, was Seymour in the 2015 blockbuster Little Shop of Horrors and played the title role in 2016's *The Wiz*. In 2019 he appeared in WBTT's production of *Soul Man* at the National Black Theatre Festival. He has a featured role in *Playing Through*, a movie about groundbreaking Black golf champion Ann Gregory. In 2014, Michael was awarded a prestigious John Ringling Towers Fund grant in the performing arts category by the Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County. In January 2019 he was honored with an Impact Award from Visible Men Academy in the Arts category. The awards "shine a light on visible men...who mentor, educate and inspire underserved boys in our community."

Raleigh Mosely II (Ensemble) is a powerhouse vocalist, actor, and creative artist whose soulful sound and magnetic stage presence have made him a standout member of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. A Miami native and proud WBTT ensemble artist, Raleigh has appeared in eight seasons of productions with the company, captivating audiences in shows such as *Purlie, Dreamgirls, Soul Crooners: Solid Gold, A Motown Christmas, Broadway in Black*, and numerous original concerts and special events. Whether performing classic soul, musical theatre, or contemporary R&B, Raleigh brings a distinctive warmth, expressive precision, and emotional clarity to every performance. Across every stage he graces, Raleigh remains committed to crafting work that is richly felt, thematically resonant, and deeply connected to the audiences he serves.

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WHO'S WHO

Leon Pitts II (Ensemble) is a longtime Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe artist whose work as an actor, singer and dancer has been featured in numerous WBTT productions. Most recently, Leon appeared in WBTT's productions of *Paradise Blue and Lies, Spells and Old Wives' Tales*.

His extensive stage credits include *Fences, A Soldier's Play, Once on This Island, Big Sexy: The Fats Waller Revue, Guys and Dolls, Joyful! Joyful!, Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul, Soul Man, The Wiz (Tin Man), Hot Mikado* and *Five Guys Named Moe (No Moe).* In the summers of 2022 and 2024 he appeared at the International Black Theatre Festival in *Soul Crooners*. In addition to his theatre works, Leon has danced in and choreographed various local shows and concerts. Beyond the stage, Leon is an R&B recording artist, singer and songwriter who performs his own original music, which can be found on Apple Music and Spotify. Leon's multifaceted career reflects a longstanding commitment to storytelling and creative expression. Follow his journey on Instagram @_sir_leo._

James Randolph (Ensemble) James Randolph is a singer-songwriter from Chicago, Illinois. He is deeply thrilled and honored to be working with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe at the International Black Theatre Festival. Some of his favorite previous productions have been *Ordinary Days, I and You, Red Riding Hood, Frosty,* and *Jazzlinks*. You can find his music on all platforms under James Xavier and Jah-Mezz. He also loves to do improv comedy where he's performed on stages such as Second City Improv, IO theatre, and Florida Studio Theatre. He gives a major thanks to his loving parents, sister, and extended family for everything!

A remarkable scene to behold

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WHO'S WHO

Sheldon Rhoden (Lead Vocals) is a native of Sarasota. He is celebrating 18 years with WBTT since he first took the stage in 2008. WBTT Founder/Artistic Director Nate Jacobs cast him in 2011, in the title role of *Marvin Gaye: The Man and His Music* and again in 2014 in *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*. Sheldon performed in these shows for sold-out audiences, going on to win Herald-Tribune Curtain Call awards in 2011 and 2014. He was thrilled to reprise the role of Marvin Gaye in the 2019 and 2024 productions, making Marvin Gaye one of WBTT's most successful shows. Sheldon has appeared in many other shows with WBTT, including *Soul Man, Motown '60s Revue, Dynamic Duets of the '70s, Magnificent Mills Brothers* and all versions of the popular *Soul Crooners*. In April 2014 he premiered his self-directed show, titled *Sheldon Sings* and his EP "From Boy to MAN" was released the same year. The biggest highlight of Sheldon's life has been the birth of his first child, Jaydon Roden, born October 31st, 2014. Sheldon is Founder/CEO of S.D. Roden Enterprises, parent company of DMV Rebuilt Inspections of FL, Shield Protective Services, and Rodehog Trucking.

Jai Shanae (Ensemble) is a multi-talented artist whose work spans theatre, film, and commercial media. Jai's most recent works include: *Passing Strange, Cadillac Crew (The Studio@620), Fat Ham, Hair,* and *Ragtime* (American Stage). Other regional credits include *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul* (Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe), *Jelly's Last Jam* (International Black Theatre Festival), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Broadway Rose Theatre). Grounded in community and people-first storytelling, Jai is drawn to stories with resilience and just enough fire to challenge, inspire, and heal—creating work that centers women, celebrates humanity, and leaves audiences feeling seen.

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BLACK THEATRE HOLY GROUND

WHO'S WHO

Riki Stevens (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her return to Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe and stepping into a new chapter of her career as an actor. Regional credits include Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* (Regional Theatre of the Palouse). A singer-songwriter, Riki Stevens, recently released her debut EP *Stardust*, featuring all original music. She has shared the stage with artists including Dionne Warwick, Anika Noni Rose, and Paula Cole, and performed at the Healing Arts Symposium at the Metropolitan Opera House, where opera legend Renée Fleming was in attendance. Riki trained at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in NYC and is passionate about mentorship and community outreach, teaching music and dance through a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu youth program in Queens, NY. It's never too late to pursue your dreams. Your story is still being written.

Henry Washington (Ensemble) known as "Nugget" was drawn to the entertainment world the moment he witnessed an electrifying performance by the late Michael Jackson. At that instant he knew what he wanted to be when got older, a "Superstar." Musically inclined at the age of 3, he performed his own concerts in the family room with only Ninja Turtle action figures as his audience beating on his mother's pots and pans with kitchen utensils, until she was forced to buy him his first drum set. Though Washington is only 5'3, his gigantic stage presence makes up for his stature. He debuted in Nate Jacobs *50s Jukebox Revue*, followed by a handful of exciting shows such as *Best of Stevie Wonder, Purlie, Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul,* and *Soul Crooners/ Light Up The Night*, to name a few. Washington has enjoyed every second of being part of the WBTT family and wishes to continue to share his gifts, talents, and warming smile on stage.

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When we come together to build stronger communities, we give our time, energy, and ideas to help influence positive change. And as we watch progress take root, we grow as well.

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

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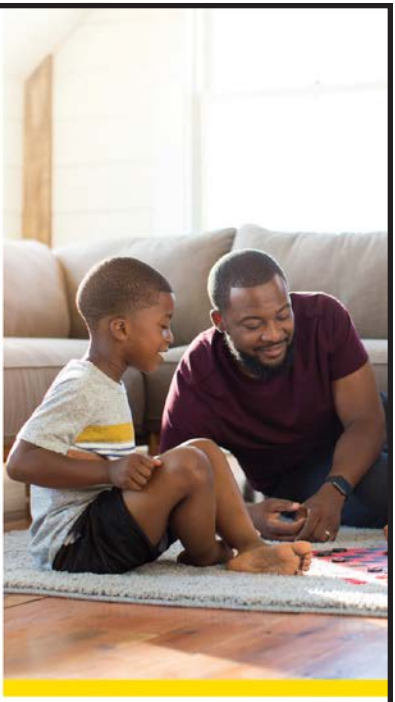

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The most popular original show we've ever staged at WBTT is *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*. This concert, *Marvin: A Marvin Gaye Revue*, is a reimagining of that show. It focuses directly on the music of this incomparable singer, songwriter, musician, and record producer. Talented and popular performer Sheldon Rhoden will once again be leading a phenomenal cast of everyone's favorite WBTT artists. With the Gaye family's permission, we've produced a few iterations of shows featuring Marvin. This new revue feels like a natural progression to follow those shows.

I'm excited to bring *Marvin: A Marvin Gaye Revue* to the International Black Theatre Festival stage. This will be WBTT's seventh appearance at the festival and each time we visit is more thrilling than the last. We premiered this show with our hometown Sarasota friends and patrons to rave reviews before bringing it to the festival. I know you will love it as much as they did.

I can truly say it has been an immensely rewarding experience to work with the remarkable Sheldon Rhoden (Marvin) and this incredible cast and bring the music of one of the world's most iconic singers and songwriters to life.

Everyone lucky enough to see this show will be in awe of Sheldon's performance – and most of the women will adore him! As Shanti Kennedy of BroadwayWorld.com said – "Sheldon sounds as close to Marvin Gaye's voice as Marvin Gaye does - it is uncanny!"

I hope this show delights you and that it reminds you of the greatness of Marvin and the legacy he left behind.

Nate Jacobs

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

WELCOME BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL

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POETIC R&B PRESENT LUTHER VANDROSS TRIBUTE 930 - ROAR

FRI JULY 31

LIVE MUSIC W/ MOXIE 930 - ROAR

MOTOWN DANCE PARTY 930 - MILLER'S

LOVE IN THE CLUB PARTY 930 - ROAR

SAT AUG 1

DAYTIME DISCO 3PM - ROAR

SAHARA REGGAE BAND 930 - MILLER'S

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As we partake in the 2026 International Black Theatre Festival, let us embrace the stories, the performances, and the profound messages that will unfold over the coming days. Welcome to "Black Theatre Holy Ground".

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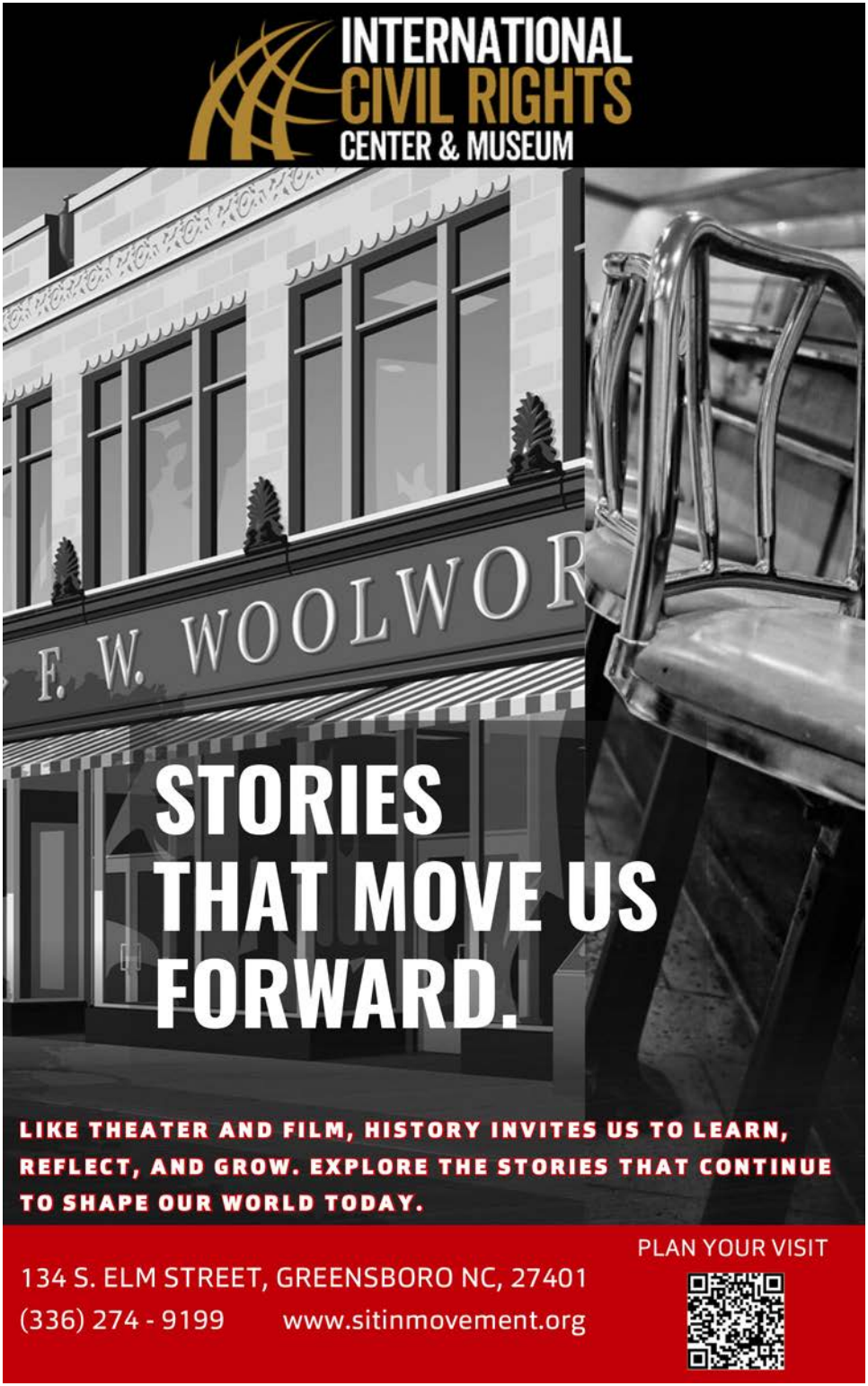
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Nico Amortegui, *Be a Wildflower*, 2025. © 2025 Nico Amortegui. Courtesy of the artist.

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SATURDAY	11AM	→	5PM
SUNDAY	1PM	→	5PM

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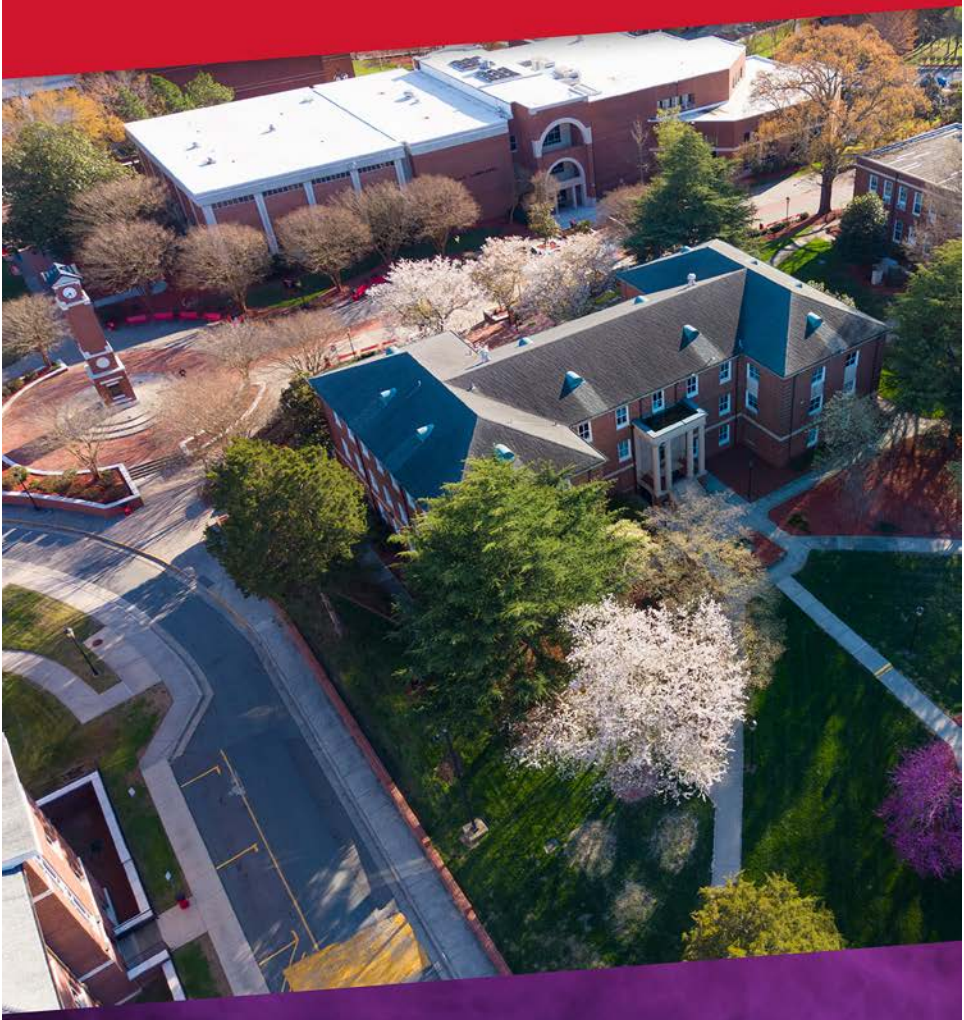

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