INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

JUL 27 — WINSTON-SALEM, NC — AUG 1

2026

PURLIE VICTORIOUS

North Carolina Black Repertory Company

Tuesday, July 28, 2:00pm
Wednesday, July 29, 8:00pm
Thursday, July 30, 2:00pm & 8:00pm
Friday, July 31, 2:00pm
Saturday, August 1, 2:00pm & 8:00pm

UNCSA — The Catawba Arena 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.

NORTH CAROLINA BLACK REPERTORY COMPANY

PURLIE VICTORIOUS

NC BLACK REP

Written by **Ossie Davis**

Founded in 1979 by Larry Leon Hamlin the North Carolina Black Repertory Company (NC Black Rep) was the first professional Black theatre company in the state. NC Black Rep has produced the biennial International Black Theatre Festival®, also founded by Hamlin, since 1989. NC Black Rep's mission is to Engage, Enrich, and Entertain audiences with transformative programming that champions Black Theatre internationally.

CAST

Vanecia J Boone..... Xulee

Philip Powell ..... The Sheriff

Beethovan Oden ..... Purlie Victorious Judson

Nonye Obichere ..... Lutiebelle Gussie Mae Jenkins

Tyler Madden ..... Gitlow Judson

Elliot Lerner..... Charlie Cotchipee

Carroll “Chip” Jonson.....Ol’ Cap’n Cotchipee

LaShon R. Hill.....Idella Landy

Isaac Hampton ..... Deputy

CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....Jackie Alexander

Remount Director .....Donna Bradby

Scenic Design ..... Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay

Lighting Design ..... Jennifer O’Kelly

Costume Design .....Frenchie La’ Vern

Sound Design .....Lee Martinez Cruz

Technical Director.....Arthur M. Reese

Production Stage Manager.....Kevin Ray Hampton

Props Master ..... John Virgo

Master Scenic Artists .....Tab May & David Rawlins

Master Carpenter..... Adam Crawford

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsors*

Winston-Salem

Gold Sponsors*

FLOW
Easy. Transparent. Fun.

Winston Salem MILLENNIUMFUND

FORSYTH COUNTY

VISIT Winston +Salem
Twice as nice ...come on in

THE SHUBERT FOUNDATION INC.

This project is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Resources.

arts council
winston-salem & forsyth county

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

Silver Sponsors*

BANK OF AMERICA

NOVANT HEALTH

WF
WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

WELLS FARGO

Partner Sponsors*

FOOD LION

3m35 Inc

Thomas S. KENAN Institute for the ARTS

THRIVE!
UPLIFTING THEATRES OF COLOR

NC Black Rep is a recipient of the THRIVE! Uplifting Theatres of Color program, funded by the Theatre League of Kansas City and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for theatre leading for a just and thriving theatre ecology.

Chris Paul FAMILY FOUNDATION

GILDAN

MEMBERS TRUST COMPANY

Z. Smith Reynolds FOUNDATION

THE WINSTON-SALEM FOUNDATION

In-Kind Sponsors*

The BENTON CONVENTION CENTER

MARRIOTT WINSTON-SALEM

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MUSEUM

WSSU

EVERY MILESTONE RENTALS

pop media

YES! WEEKLY

Fader REAL ESTATE

CAMINO BAKERY

RAFFALDINI VINEYARDS

LITTLE THEATRE WINSTON-SALEM

* As of 7/20/26

For a full list of our sponsors, visit **NCBlackRep.org/sponsors**

SETTING

Place: The cotton plantation country of the Old South.

Time: The recent past.

ACT I

Scene 1 – Missy and Gitlow's House

Scene 2 – Business office of the Cotchipee Commissary (the same day)

Scene 3 – Same business office (a bit later in the day)

ACT II

Scene 1 – Outside Missy and Gitlow's House (two days later)

Scene 2 – Inside Missy and Gitlow's House

Scene 3 – At Big Bethel (Ol' Cap'n's Funeral)

FLOW

Easy. Transparent. Fun.

EARN REWARDS.

Manage everything in one place with FlowGarage!

FlowGarage makes ownership easy.

FLOW GARAGE

- *Easy online scheduling*
- *View maintenance history*
- *Receive recall alerts*
- *Pay invoices in mobile app*
- *Access documents anytime*

Earn FlowRewards while you drive.

- *Earn points on qualifying service visits*
- *Earn points when you purchase a vehicle*
- *Redeem points toward future service savings*
- *View your balance right inside FlowGarage*

GET APP

Download the FlowGarage app today!

Track your rewards. Manage your vehicles. Save on service.

WHO'S WHO

Vanecia J Boone (Xulee) is an actress & director from Greensboro, NC, she received her MFA from UNLV with the Nevada Conservatory Theatre. Vanecia is a fulltime professor of theatre at NC A&T SU where she teaches voice and classical acting styles. Vanecia has been behind the scenes as a director for the past year directing *Fat Ham with Common Thread Theatre Collective*, *Miss Evers Boys* with NC A&T and Much Ado About Nothing at UNCG. She was last seen as Charlane in *Ain't Misbehavin'* in 2023. Vanecia is so excited to return to the Stage in *Purlie Victorious!*

Isaac Hampton (Deputy) is thrilled to be making his professional debut! Isaac has been working all around the triad on stage, back stage and in the booth for 7 years. He wants to thank his wife, family, and friends who have helped make him the person he is today! Enjoy the show!

LaShon R. Hill (Idella Landy) a native of High Point, NC, is an accomplished actress, singer, recording artist, and performer. LaShon studied Vocal Music at Winston Salem State University. Her performance career over the last 20 years, includes an array of performances in theater, film and an international tour with a professional singing group. A couple of her more notable accomplishments include a Carnegie Hall feature/debut and a TEDx Talk "Road to Empathy".

COMMUNITIES *thrive* THROUGH THE *arts*

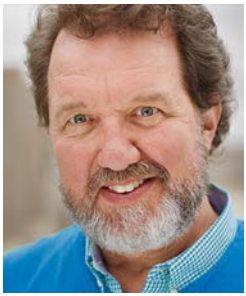
Winston Salem
MILLENNIUMFUND

Proudly supporting the
International Black Theatre Festival,
North Carolina Black Repertory Company,
and local arts organizations since 2003.

Now a part of W S GREATER WINSTON SALEM INC

WINSTONSALEM.COM

A few of her stage credits include: *The WIZ* (Aunt Em/Evillene), *The Color Purple* (Sofia), *A Raisin in The Sun* (Mrs. Johnson), *The Colored Museum* (LaLa LaMazing), *Dinah Was*! (Dinah Washington), *Mahalia* (Mahalia Jackson), *The Crucible* (Tituba), *Hairspray!* (Motor Mouth Maybelle), DreamGirls (Edna), CROWNS (Velma) NBTF, *Glory of Gospel* (Elder) NBTF, *Jelly's Last Jam* (Gran Mimi) NBTF, *Nunsense* (Mary Hubert) and Leap of Faith (Ida Mae). Film/TV Credits (IMDb): *What Fairytale?* (Therapist), *A Matter of Heart* (Mama Tamera), *Mama's Girls* (Gertrude) LaShon is elated to be a part of this amazingly talented cast of "*Purlie Victorious*" and working with NC Black Repertory Theatre Company once again. She dedicates this performance to the memory of her mother who was her biggest supporter.



Carroll "Chip" Jonson (Ol' Cap'n Cotchipee) A veteran of many Triad Stage productions, local audiences may remember him in *A Lesson Before Dying, North Star, White Lightening, Two Wolves and a Lamb, Actions and Objectives, Common Enemy, Tennessee Playboy and Beautiful Star, An Appalachian Nativity*. "Chip" earned his MFA at UNCG, his BA at Rollins College, and is employed as an adjunct professor in the Performing Arts Department at Elon University.

Elliot Lerner (Charlie Cotchipee) is grateful to be a part of his first production with NC Black Rep. He wants to thank Jackie, Darleny, Kevin, the cast and crew, his friends and parents, and you for supporting live theatre.

Forsyth.cc

International Black Theater Festival

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

Forsyth County Government we care

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

WHO'S WHO

Tyler Madden (Gitlow) is a local actor, director, and professor whose work bridges artistry and education. He holds a BFA in Professional Theatre from North Carolina A&T State University and an MFA in Theatre Arts from the University of Louisville.

Tyler's recent acting credits include *Master Harold…and the Boys* by Athol Fugard at Idaho Repertory Theatre (2024), Lynn Nottage's *Clyde's* at Common Thread Collective (2023), and Jeff Stetson's *The Meeting* at B Street Theatre in Sacramento, CA (2023). In 2017, he performed in Kirsten Greenidge's *Baltimore* at the International Black Theatre Festival—then known as the National Black Theatre Festival—bringing powerful narratives to a global stage.

He is thrilled to return home to the Triad and make his debut with the North Carolina Black Repertory Company in Purlie Victorious. Performing with this historic institution marks a meaningful homecoming and a celebration of Black theatre in North Carolina.

Nonye Obichere (Lutiebelle Gussie Mae Jenkins) is thrilled to be her first production at NC Black Rep. Queen City Nerve "Best in the Nest" 2024 Critics' Pick for Best Actress. Favorite credits include: *Mary Jane* (Mary Jane) and *Confederates*) at Three Bone Theatre, Rent (Maureen Johnson) and *Ragtime* (Sarah) with Queen City Concerts, *Annie* (Grace Farrell) at Children's Theatre of Charlotte, *If Pretty Hurts…(Kaya), Hedwig And The Angry Inch* (Yitzhak), *A Midsummer Nights' Dream* (Titania/ Hippolyta), and *American Idiot* (Whatsername) at Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, and Vegas! The Show (Tina Turner) on Norwegian Cruise Lines. BFA Elon MT.

INSPIRED VOICES. WARM WELCOMES.
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.
Discover more at VisitWinstonSalem.com
VISIT Winston+Salem
Twice as nice...come on in

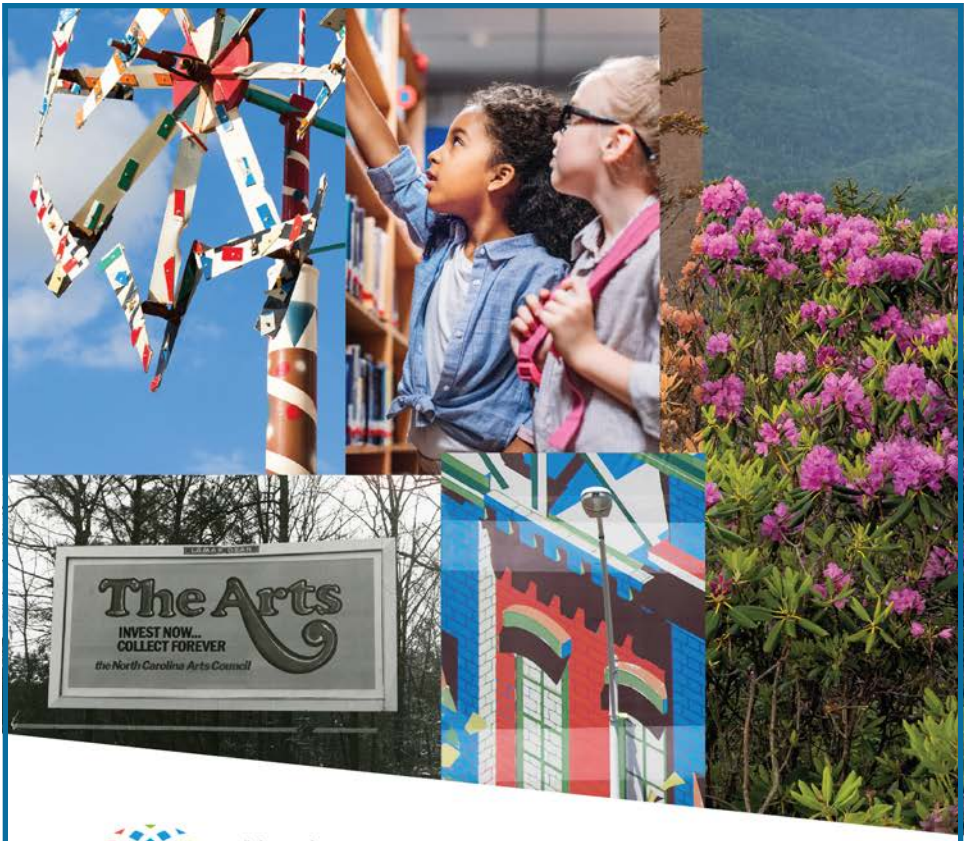
WHO'S WHO

Beethovan Oden (Purlie Victorious Judson) born into a musical family in Oakland, California, is a graduate of Cornish College of the Arts (BFA) and Southern Methodist University (MFA). He has also trained with The Acting Conservatory at Chautauqua, the School at Steppenwolf, Labyrinth Theater, and Upright Citizens Brigade.

His stage credits include *The Lehman Trilogy, The Bluest Eye, Intimate Apparel, The Mountaintop, Master Harold... and the Boys, and My Children! My Africa*!—for which he received the Ossie Davis Award for his portrayal of Thami. Regionally, Beethovan has performed with Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Florida Studio Theatre, Aurora Theatre, and more.

Off-Broadway credits include productions with Woody King Jr.'s New Federal Theatre, Luna Stage, and The Bushwick Starr. On screen, he has appeared in national campaigns and guest-starred in *Wu-Tang: An American Saga, FBI: Most Wanted, Power Book II: Ghost,* and the critically acclaimed *Terrifier 3*.

Philip Powell (The Sheriff) is a professional director, producer, and actor. Who can be seen regularly on stages throughout the state. He is creative director at Leading Edge Video, a video production company in Winston-Salem where he works as a commercial director for brands such as Amazon, Walmart, LG Electronics and the SyFy Channel. Powell is also a former Executive Director and Artistic Director of the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem. Powell made his NC Black Repertory debut during the run of *Coconut Cake in 2024 and is excited for his return.*



North Carolina Arts Council

ARTS FOR ALL

Helping to create vibrant communities across North Carolina

Learn more at NCArts.org

A DIVISION OF DNCR
North Carolina Department of Natural & Cultural Resources

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

CREATIVE TEAM

Ossie Davis (Playwright) was born on December 18, 1917 in Cogdell, Georgia to loving parents and a supportive extended family. Graduating in the top five percent of his class with an already-burgeoning interest in theater, Davis had to earn enough money before venturing on to college. A year after graduation, with his savings in tow, Davis hitchhiked from Georgia to Washington, D.C. to live with his aunts. There, he received the National Youth Administration scholarship and enrolled at Howard University in the fall of 1935.

At Howard, Davis would find a nurturing environment to cultivate both his ideas and his talents. Impatient to try his luck on the actual stage, Davis left Howard for New York City. It was in Harlem in 1939 that he became involved with the Rose McClendon Players.

Davis made his Broadway debut in 1946 in Jeb, where he met his wife and fellow actress, Ruby Dee. Davis went on to perform in many Broadway productions, including Anna Lucasta, The Wisteria Trees, Green Pastures, Jamaica, Ballad for Bimshire, A Raisin in the Sun, The Zulu and the Zayda, and the stage version of I'm Not Rappaport. In 1961, he wrote and starred in the critically acclaimed Purlie Victorious. Davis was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 1994.

Davis wrote and directed numerous films, including Cotton Comes to Harlem and Countdown at Kusini (co-produced with his wife), the first American feature film shot entirely in Africa by black professionals. He later appeared in the films Dr. Dolittle, Get on the Bus, and I'm Not Rappaport.

Davis was a leading activist in the civil rights era of the 1960s. He joined Martin Luther King, Jr., in the crusade for jobs and freedom and to help raise money for the Freedom Riders. He eulogized both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X at their funerals and remained an activist throughout his life.

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE COLTRANE 100 IN THE CITY WHERE HE GREW UP — HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA!

TWO UNFORGETTABLE DAYS OF WORLD CLASS LIVE MUSIC

The John Coltrane International Jazz and Blues Festival 15

COLTRANE JAZZFEST GOLF EXPERIENCE
GRANDOVER RESORT

SEPT. 4TH

INTERACTIVE MASTERCLASS WITH VICTOR WOOTEN & THE WOOTEN BROTHERS
HIGH POINT THEATRE

SEPT. 5-6TH

JOHN COLTRANE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL
OAK HOLLOW FESTIVAL PARK
1841 EASTCHESTER DRIVE

coltranejazzfest.com

Davis received innumerable honors and citations, including the Hall of Fame Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement in 1989; the U.S. National Medal for the Arts in 1995; the New York Urban League Frederick Douglas Award; NAACP Image Award; and the Screen Actor's Guild Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001. He enjoyed a long and luminous career in entertainment along with his wife and fellow performer, stage and screen collaborator, and political activist, Ruby Dee. They published a joint autobiography, With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together, in 1998.

Jackie Alexander (Director) is an award-winning actor, writer, producer, director, former Artistic Director of The Billie Holiday Theatre in New York, current Producing Artistic Director of The North Carolina Black Repertory Company, and Executive Producer of the International Black Theatre Festival. His debut novel *Our Daily Bread* was published by Turner Publishing. His debut feature film *Joy* was awarded *Best Feature Film* by the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and earned *Best Actor* and *Best Screenplay* honors for Jackie on the festival circuit. The author of six plays, Jackie's work has been produced Off-Broadway and regionally throughout the country. A short list of stage acting credits include: *The River Niger, Plenty of Time, Losing the Light, Imperfection Flawed*, *The Death of Bessie Smith, Tell Pharaoh,* and the originating role of "Prophet Solomon Jones" in the world premiere of *Raisin' Hell*, a musical by Motown Legend William "Smokey" Robinson. Stage directing credits include his play *Brothers from the Bottom (*AUDELCO award for Best Play*), Jelly's Last Jam* (New Orleans' Big Easy Award Winner for Best Musical), *Ragtime* at Piedmont Opera, and world premieres of *Phenomenal Woman: Maya Angelou*, *Freedom Summer*, and *Maid's Door* (Seven AUDELCO awards including Best Play). As a producer, Jackie has brought twenty world premieres to the stage. The OBIE and AUDELCO award-winning Billie Holiday Theatre in New York devoted its entire 2010-2011 season to Jackie's work, commissioning him to write three new plays and making him the only playwright in the storied history of the theatre to receive that honor. The Black

Support the arts community be becoming an Arts Council

1949 *Society Member*

10% Gallery Shop Discount **One Complimentary Popcorn Per Show** **Complimentary Parking in WS**

Benfits include a Venue Rental Discount, Program Discounts, and an E-newsletter Subscription.

Proud Sponsor of the International Black Theatre Festival and lead advocate for the arts.

75 years arts council winston-salem & forsyth county

Scan to learn about

membership

Elevating art's impact

Bank of America is proud to support North Carolina Black Repertory Company in our shared commitment to build connections and create opportunities, ensuring that more people can draw inspiration from the arts.

What would you like the power to do?®

Greg Cox
President, Bank of America Triad
bankofamerica.com/triad

BANK OF AMERICA

© 2025 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.
ENT 211 AD

CREATIVE TEAM

Theatre Network (BTN) honored Jackie with its 2018 Presidential Pathfinder Award, which is presented to an artist or an institution that illuminates a path to innovations and new concepts in Black Theatre, and Jackie was honored at the 49th Annual AUDELCO awards for Outstanding Achievement in Black Theatre. www.jackie-alexanderproductions.com

Donna Bradby (Remount Director) Donna was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Professional Theatre-Performance from North Carolina A&T State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Management from Virginia Tech. Donna is an Adjunct Professor and Director of Marketing and Publicity for the Theatre Arts Program at North Carolina A&T State University. She has also taught at Bennett College, Elon University and Virginia Tech., and is a director and professor at Western Connecticut State University.

She has directed *The America Play, Potus, Born Bad, Ernest and the Pale Moon, Fairview, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, The Crucible, Barbeque, Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow, From the Mississippi Delta, The Old Settler, The Color Purple, This One Girl's Story, Breath: Boom, A Raisin in the Sun, Dreamgirls, Once On This island, Mad at Miles: A Black Woman's Guide to Truth* and many more.

Donna is excited and humbled to have this opportunity to work with the International Black Theatre Festival and their production of *Purlie Victorius*.

Isabel & Moriah Curley-Clay (Scenic Designers) theatrical work can be seen on regional stages across the U.S. Recent credits include: Phenomenal Woman, Heritage, and Succession (North Carolina Black Rep) *Network, what the constitution means to me* (Florida Studio Theatre), Kim's Convenience (Aurora Theatre) *Hands Up* (Alliance Theatre); *Two Trains Running* (Triad Stage); Fannie (True colors, Actors Theatre of Louisville and Pittsburgh City theatre), *Repara-*

A remarkable scene to behold

Novant Health is a proud sponsor of the International Black Theatre Festival, produced by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company.

The strongest care comes from many disciplines, perspectives and voices — working as one. We're focused on creating a healthier future for all in our community. It's part of our commitment to partner with others to improve health and bring transformative experiences to those we serve.

Enjoy the festival!

NovantHealth.org

NOVANT HEALTH

© Novant Health, Inc. 2026

6/26 • TDR-4488403617

tions *2020 AUDELCO award best set design (Billie Holiday theatre, NYC) *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Ruby*(Alabama Shakespeare); Isabel and Moriah's designs were featured in *American Theatre Magazine's* Inaugural Roll Call, 7 Theatrical People T Watch, and are both members of USA 829. axisstudiosdesign.com

Jennifer O'Kelly (Light/Set Designer) is a Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, and Art Director; Texas native, and Winston-Salem devotee, Jennifer has spent her life pursuing performance-related design while constantly and compulsively producing intimate scale drawings and large paintings in the spaces of time between film assignments and theater productions.

Frenchie La' Vern (Costume Designer) is honored to be working with NC Black Rep for this production of *Purlie Victorious*. She was recently invited to UNCG as a visiting artist to design *School Girls or, The African Mean Girls Play*. She is a native of Winston-Salem, a graduate of Rutledge College with a diploma in Commercial Arts and a graduate of UNCSA with a degree in Design and Productions. She is currently working on her master's degree at University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Frenchie has worked in theatre and film for almost 25 years. She recently won the 2025 KCACTF National Award in Costume Design for *School Girls* at UNCG. She is the 2019 recipient of the National Black Theatre Festival award for "Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design and the winner of the Broadway World 2023 award for Best Costumes, for The Producers, competing against herself for *The Producers* and *Something Rotten* for design at Little Theatre. She is currently a collaborating artist at Authoring Action. Frenchie has designed for North Carolina Black Repertory since 1999, when she mounted *Smokey Joe's Café*. Her most recent shows include *Raisin in the Sun, Educating Rita, Trouble in Mind, Coconut Cake, Black Nativity, The Gospel According to Broadway, Crowns, Plenty of Time,* and *Jelly's Last Jam*. She has designed and draped for University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Duke University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina Shakespeare

POWER THE STAGE, FUND THE FUTURE

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

Scan to Give or Visit

NCBLACKREP.ORG/GIVE

INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

BECOME MARVTASTIC

Join the Marvtastic Society, the premier giving circle championing the International Black Theatre Festival. Memberships start at $500 and include special benefits as part of a lasting investment in Black theatre. Learn more at **NCBLACKREP.ORG/MARVTASTIC**

BLACK THEATRE HOLY GROUND

Festival, American Dance Festival, CTG, The Barn Dinner, Montage Showcase Ensemble, and the Assegai Film Group. Frenchie has provided costumes for film and theater since 1999 and is the owner of FLS Costumes Studio

Lee Martinez Cruz (Sound Design) is thrilled to be returning to the North Carolina Black Repertory Company. He is a student at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, majoring in sound design. In the past 4 years, he's trained extensively in live performances ranging from black box dramas to full musical ensembles. Lee is in his senior year and cumulated experience as both a sound engineer and sound designer. Recent credits include *Fairview* and *As You Like It*, *The musical*.

Arthur M. Reese (Technical Director) received his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Virginia. Reese was the first and to our knowledge, is still the only African American to earn this degree from UVA. He has been the tech director for the International Black Theater Festival for 35 years. He was the coordinator of the Communications, Media Arts and Theatre division at Chicago State University and is now a professor of Technical Theatre at North Carolina Central University. Reese has done technical work for Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Pattie Labelle, Debbie Allen, Oprah, Maya Angelou , Nancy Wilson, Queen Latifah, Malcolm Jamal Warner, Samuel L Jackson and Denzel Washington, to name a very few. Reese is a Rose Library Scholar at Emory University and chairman of the education committee for IATSE 635.

Kevin Hampton (Stage Manager) is so incredibly honored to have served as the Stage Manager for the World Premiere of *Blooming in Dry Season* with NC Black Rep. Previous credits include: *Coconut Cake* and *Nativity According to the Gospels* (NC Black Rep), *Something Rotten, Out of Order Young Frankenstein* and Producers (The Little Theatre of Winston Salem) and *A Few Good Men* (RhinoLeap Productions). He is grateful to Jackie and the whole NC Black Rep Team for the opportunity to be even a small part of bringing this

WELLS FARGO

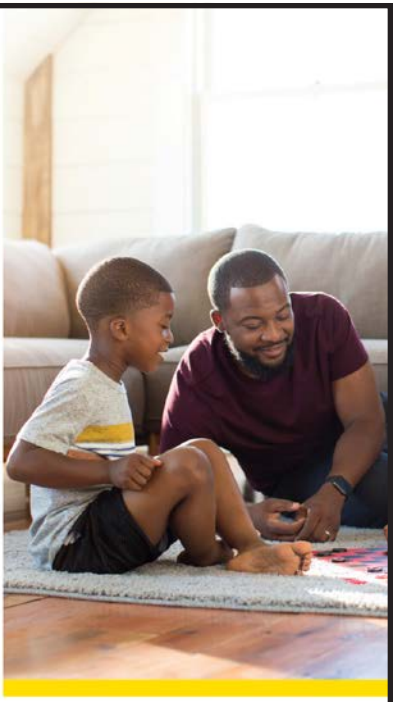
Creating vibrant communities

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.

wellsfargo.com/impact

© 2026 Wells Fargo Bank, N. A. IHA-8655029



Fader
REAL ESTATE

Love Where You Live.

Whether you're discovering Winston-Salem for the first time or have called it home for years, we're proud to support the events that make our city extraordinary.

Fader Real Estate
LOCAL EXPERTS | COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
faderrealestate.com
336.575.7262

PROUD SPONSOR
INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

beautiful piece to life, as well as to the cast and entire production team for their hard work, dedication and excitement.

John Virgo (Props Master) was born and raised in the film industry with a career ranging from feature films and television to commercials and documentaries, catching the creative bug was instantaneous. Over the years, making props and set decorating developed into a strong passion. Currently working as the video producer for an ad agency in Charlotte and creating props for the local theatre feeds the never ending drive to create.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

WELCOME BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL

THU JULY 30

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

LIVE MUSIC W/ ENVISION 930 - ROAR

TIX & INFO ONLINE AT ROARWS.COM | OPEN NOON - 2AM

ROAR

633 N LIBERTY STREET

SCAN ME

Miller's on trade

622 TRADE STREET NW

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

FACE TO FACE

SPEAKER FORUM

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER AMAZING SEASON

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

CYNTHIA ERIVO

Three-time Academy Award nominee and star of "Wicked," she captivates audiences while serving as a fearless voice for women and people of color and setting new standards for diversity across the arts.

LJVM Coliseum

OCT. 21, 2026
KEN BURNS

DEC. 3, 2026
SPECIAL ADD-ON EVENT
MICHAEL SCHUR

FEB. 25, 2027
JOSÉ ANDRÉS

APR. 20, 2027
JACK NICKLAUS

Single tickets on sale August 1.

Special presale for IBTF patrons starting July 27.
Scan QR code to access presale.

facetoface.wfu.edu

WF
WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

YES! WEEKLY
WELCOMES
THE INTERNATIONAL
BLACK THEATRE
FESTIVAL!

COVERING MUSIC, NEWS, ARTS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, FILM, AND MORE!

WE SUPPORT THE ARTS! | WWW.YESWEEKLY.COM

GET SOCIAL
/yesweekly
@yesweekly
@yesweekly336
336-316-1231

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".

The BENTON CONVENTION CENTER

MARRIOTT WINSTON-SALEM

Welcoming Spaces

Authentic, Walkable, Downtown Winston-Salem

The BENTON CONVENTION CENTER

319	6	40	160,000 sq ft	230	2,000
Guest Rooms	Ballrooms	Meeting Rooms	Of Meeting, Event And Exhibit Space	Exhibits	Largest Seated Capacity

Virtual Tour

Proud Partner
of the
International Black Theatre Festival

RFP

Celebrating 50 Years of Piedmont Opera

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

PIEDMONTOPERA

September 2026
Renée Fleming in Concert
Sponsored by Novant Health

November 2026
The North Carolina premiere of Another Sunrise and Before It All Goes Dark. Originally commissioned by Music of Remembrance, by Grammy Award–winning composer Jake Heggie and Pulitzer Prize–winning librettist Gene Scheer.

February 2027
A series of performances with the Camel City Jazz Orchestra, featuring The Great American Songbook

March 2027
Rossini's The Barber of Seville

PiedmontOperaAt50.org

North Carolina Arts Council

THERE IS NO LEGACY WITHOUT STORYTELLING.

pop media

Stories that *inspire*.
Communities that *thrive*

Women-Owned Creative Video Agency

Creative Strategy • Video Production • Marketing Campaigns

WHEN THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG

DRINK SPECIALS
LATE NIGHT THEATRE MENU
COMPLIMENTARY VALET PARKING FOR DINERS

EXTENDED HOURS:

MON - SAT JULY 27-31 & AUG 1

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

DOWNTOWN
MARRIOTT WINSTON-SALEM
LOBBY LEVEL
425 N CHERRY ST., W-S, NC

RESERVATIONS:
butcherandbull.com

BUTCHER
& BULL

Dr. Eric J. Sadler Dr. Aubry Payne

We Welcome New Patients

Our office provides the following dental services:

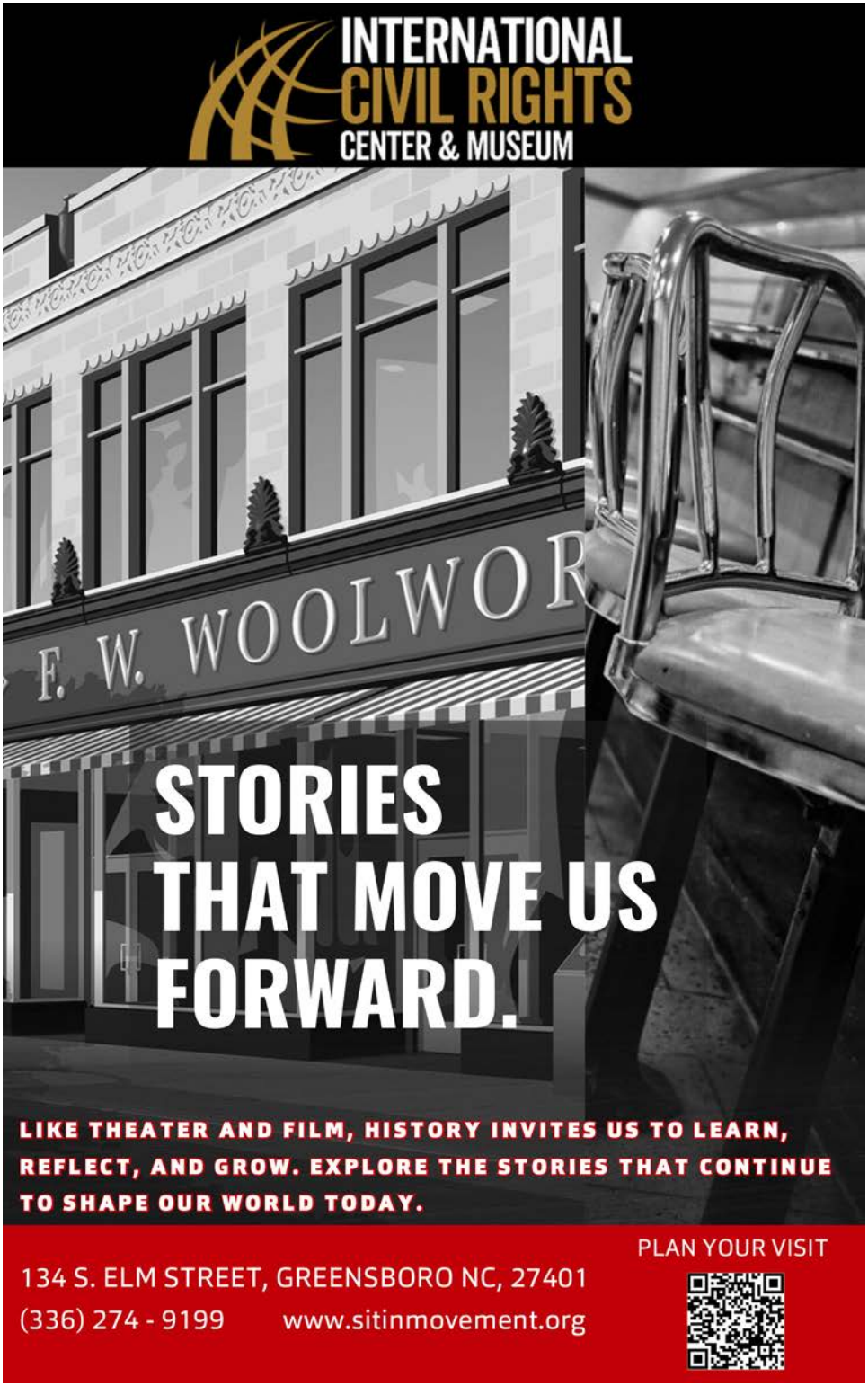
- Cleanings
- Crowns & Bridges
- Dental Implants
- Fillings
- Invisalign®
- Partial & Complete Dentures
- Root Canals
- Whitening

Emergency appointments available.
We accept most insurance.

Eric J. Sadler, DDS
And Associates

(336) 774-1300
WWW.SADLERSMILES.COM

3801 Indiana Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27105


INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL RIGHTS
CENTER & MUSEUM
F. W. WOOLWOR
STORIES
THAT MOVE US
FORWARD.
LIKE THEATER AND FILM, HISTORY INVITES US TO LEARN, REFLECT, AND GROW. EXPLORE THE STORIES THAT CONTINUE TO SHAPE OUR WORLD TODAY.
PLAN YOUR VISIT
134 S. ELM STREET, GREENSBORO NC, 27401
(336) 274 - 9199
www.sitinmovement.org

Creativeoneness Art

Original Paintings● Murals ● Custom Commissions

BRINGING STORIES, HISTORY, AND IMAGINATION TO LIFE |

THROUGH VIBRANT, ONE-OF-A-KIND ARTWORK BY |

| ARTIST LEO RUCKER.

Visit:
Creativeonenessart.com

336-422-2799

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

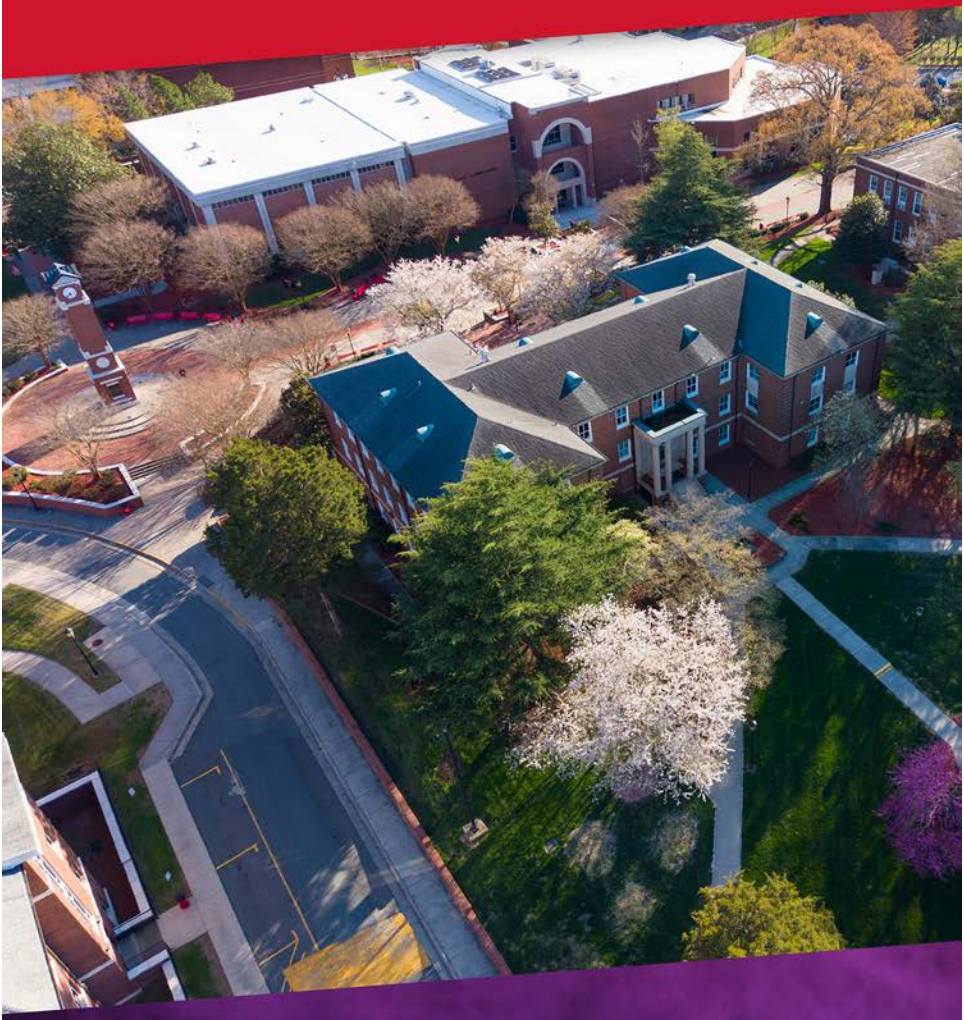
NCMA Winston-Salem Downtown is centrally located at
400 W Fourth St, Suite #130

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

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

welcomes

the INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL



INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

BTU
BLACK THEATRE UNITED
GALA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
141 W 54TH ST, NEW YORK, NY
ZIEGFELD BALLROOM
WORK
TO DO
Join us for Black Theatre United's Fourth Annual Gala.
TOWN HALL
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO OR CONTACT SHOLANTI@BLACKTHEATREUNITED.COM

YMCA REACH CENTER
at WINSTON LAKE
NOVANT HEALTH
The YMCA REACH Center at Winston Lake (formerly the Winston Lake Family YMCA) is proud to be the wellness partner for the North Carolina Black Repertory Company.
901 Waterworks Road, Winston-Salem, NC 2710
mywinstonlakeymca.org • 336 724 9205
the YMCA
Our Mission: "Helping all people reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind and body."