INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

JUL 27 — WINSTON-SALEM, NC — AUG 1

2026

THE GREAT LOVER

The Robey Theatre Company, in association with Los Angeles Theatre Center

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

Winston-Salem Theatre Alliance

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.

THE GREAT LOVER

THE ROBEY THEATRE COMPANY

Written by Alexandre Dumas

Founded in 1994 by acclaimed actors Ben Guillory and Danny Glover, The Robey Theatre Company is one of Los Angeles' leading Black theatre institutions. Named in honor of the legendary artist, activist, and humanitarian Paul Robeson, Robey is dedicated to developing and producing works that illuminate the global Black experience. For more than three decades, the company has championed bold storytelling, nurtured emerging and established artists, and created a home where Black voices, histories, and perspectives take center stage. Through award-winning productions, playwright development, actor training, youth programs, and community engagement, Robey continues to inspire dialogue, preserve culture, and celebrate the transformative power of theatre.

Learn more at www.therobeytheatrecompany.org.

SCENES

SCENE 1 - The apartment of the Marquise de Prie.

SCENE 2 - The same. Five minutes later.

SCENE 3 - The same. Afternoon of the same day.

SCENE 4 - The same. Nine o'clock the same night.

SCENE 5 - Same as the first four scenes. Early next morning.

SCENE 6 - A gaming room adjoining the ballroom of the chateau.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Tiffany Coty-Goines ..... Marquiese De Prie
Jenny Cadena..... Mariette her maid
Dan Gbrayes..... A servant
Julio Hanson..... Duke de Richelieu
CJ Obilom..... Gabrielle De Belle-Isle
Kermit C. Burns .....Count D'Aumont
Josh Bruce..... Chevalier Chamblay
Jason Mimms .....Lieutenant Sevran
Talmadge Talib.....Chamillac

TECH AND CREATIVES

Ben Guillory..... Producing Artistic Director/ Director
Danny Glover..... Producer
Jenny Cadena..... Associate Producer/ Additional Designs
David Bollar..... Production Stage Manager
Crystal Nix ..... Assistant Stage Manager/ Music Supervisor
Joel Daavid ..... Set Designer/ Builder
Marine Walton..... Charge Scenic Artist
Naila Aladdin Sanders..... Costume Designer
Danyele E. Ragland ..... 1st Costume Designer's Assistant
Natalie Shahinyan.....2nd Costume Designer's Assistant
Jason Mimms ..... Graphic Designer
Melissa Kaye Bontempt ..... Prop Master/ Wig Designer
Maya Scarborough..... Prop Master Assistant
Cydney Wayne Davis ..... Music Director/ Composer
Stuart Pearlman .....Music Editor
Philip Sokoloff.....Publicist
Camille Roberts.....Lighting Designer
Dane Gbrayes.....Dialect Coach

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WHO'S WHO

Alexandre Dumas (Playwright) was one of the most celebrated and prolific writers of the 19th century, whose works continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

Alexandre Dumas, born on July 24, 1802, in Villers-Cotterêts, France, Dumas was the son of Thomas-Alexandre Dumas.

His father was a distinguished general in Revolutionary France and the first man of AFRICAN descent to achieve such rank in the French army. His heritage and upbringing instilled in him both a love of adventure and a sensitivity to questions of justice and honor that would echo throughout his writings.

Although Dumas is best known today as the novelist behind The Three Musketeers, The Count of Monte Cristo, and The Man in the Iron Mask, he first achieved fame as a playwright. In the 1820s and 1830s, he wrote a series of highly successful plays that brought him acclaim in the vibrant world of Parisian theatre. His dramatic works, known for their fast pace, memorable characters, and mix of romance and political intrigue, made him one of the most popular dramatists of his era.

Dumas was a pioneer of French Romanticism, alongside contemporaries such as Victor Hugo. His plays combined wit, spectacle, and an unerring sense of human drama. He was celebrated as the "uncrowned king of Parisian theatre." The Great Lover, one of his early successes, demonstrates his talent for weaving together themes of passion, mischief, and social satire with a flair that delighted audiences for generations.

Over the course of his career, Dumas produced more than 100 plays and novels, and countless short stories. His works have been translated into more than 100 languages, making him one of the

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most widely read French authors in history. He passed away on December 5, 1870, leaving behind a literary legacy of swashbuckling adventure, romance, and timeless characters.

Today, Alexandre Dumas stands as a towering figure in world literature, remembered for his ability to transport audiences into worlds of daring, intrigue, and unforgettable drama.

Tiffany Coty-Goines (Marquiese De Prie) is originally from Chicago, Illinois, and is a graduate of the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor. She is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and a longtime member of The Robey Theatre Company. Her past productions with Robey include The Magnificent Dunbar Hotel, Birdland Blue, A Heated Discussion, and The Talented Tenth, as well as Robey Festivals in 2014, 2017, and 2019. Tiffany has also performed with other companies, including Theatricum Botanicum and A Noise Within.

Currently, Tiffany can be seen in her recurring role as "Alexandra Lucas" on the hit television series *BMF* (Black Mafia Family) and guest starring on the television show *Johnson*. She will also be appearing in the upcoming season of Tyler Perry's hit series *Sistas*. Tiffany is excited to be performing at the International Black Theatre Festival as the Marquise de Prie in ***The Great Lover***!

Jenny Cadena (Mariette–the Maid) is a SAG-AFTRA member and a Supporting Actress nominee for the 31st Annual NAACP Theatre Awards (2026) whose work spans stage, film, television, and arts leadership. Known for her emotional depth, comedic timing, and magnetic presence, she brings fearless authenticity and truth to every role.

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Her theatre credits include The Great Lover, *99 ½ Just Won't Do*, *Narcolepsy Inc.*, *Sabado Mornings*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Malinche*, and the Paul Robeson Theatre Festivals of 2014, 2017, and 2019. On screen, she recently starred in the television pilot *Tesoro* at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), and has appeared in several independent film and television projects.

Beyond performance, Jenny is passionate about creating and supporting socially conscious storytelling. A graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, she serves as an Associate Producer with The Robey Theatre Company and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival. A dedicated arts advocate and mentor, she supports emerging artists through programs serving high school students, college students, and justice-impacted individuals pursuing careers in the arts.

Represented by Baron Entertainment, Jenny believes in theatre's power to challenge injustice, inspire empathy, and transform lives. Through her work onstage, onscreen, behind the scenes, and in service to the community, she continues to captivate audiences with passion, honesty, and grace.

Jenny is honored to be part of the 2026 International Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem.

Dane Gbrayes (Servant) is excited to reprise his role of the Servant in Alexander Dumas The Great Lover. Dane is proud to be both the son of Ethiopian immigrants and a long-time resident of Los Angeles's neighborhood of Koreatown. He has a B.A. in performing Arts from CSULA (California State University Los Angeles) and has been pursuing acting since middle school. Dane began working with and getting to know the Robey Theater Company through the Advanced Scene Study Workshop. Dane Gbrayes also provided the french pronunciations for this performance

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International Black Theater Festival

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A NC Black Rep Experience

2026 Forsyth County Commissioners

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WHO'S WHO

Julio Hanson (Duke de Richelieu) is an Afro-Panamanian actor, singer, playwright, and teaching artist, and a company and board member of the Robey Theatre Company. His stage credits include *The Great Lover* by Alexandre Dumas, *The Talented Tenth*, *The Last Night at Mikell's*, *A Heated Discussion*, *Shades*, and a reading of *The Last Play* by Rickérby Hinds with the Latino Theater Company. He received a 2026 NAACP Theatre Award nomination for Lead Actor for his portrayal of the Duke de Richelieu in *The Great Lover* and was nominated by BroadwayWorld for his portrayal of James Baldwin. Julio is the creator of *Negra*, a new musical inspired by Afro-Panamanian history, culture, and identity. He serves on the Advisory Council of Young Shakespeareans and is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA.

CJ Obilom (Gabrielle De Belle-Isle) With her magnetic presence & fierce dedication to honing her craft, CJ Obilom's star is rapidly rising. As a talented 1st-generation Nigerian-American actor whose journey began at the tender age of 11, Obilom has been capturing audiences worldwide. She is a formally trained artist who holds a B.A. in Theater and Dance from the University of Texas at Austin.
Obilom's recent portrayal of 'Gabrielle de Belle-Isle' in *The Great Lover* earned her a 2026 NAACP Theatre Award nomination for Best Lead Actress. Prior to that, she starred as 'Tanya' in the Robey Theatre production of *The Talented Tenth*.

As a member of SAG-AFTRA, her notable film and TV credits include NBC's *Grand Crew*, BET Plus' *The Black Hamptons*, & the feature film *Trafficked*, where she portrays a victim of human trafficking. She gives all the glory to God. For more: www.cjobilom.com

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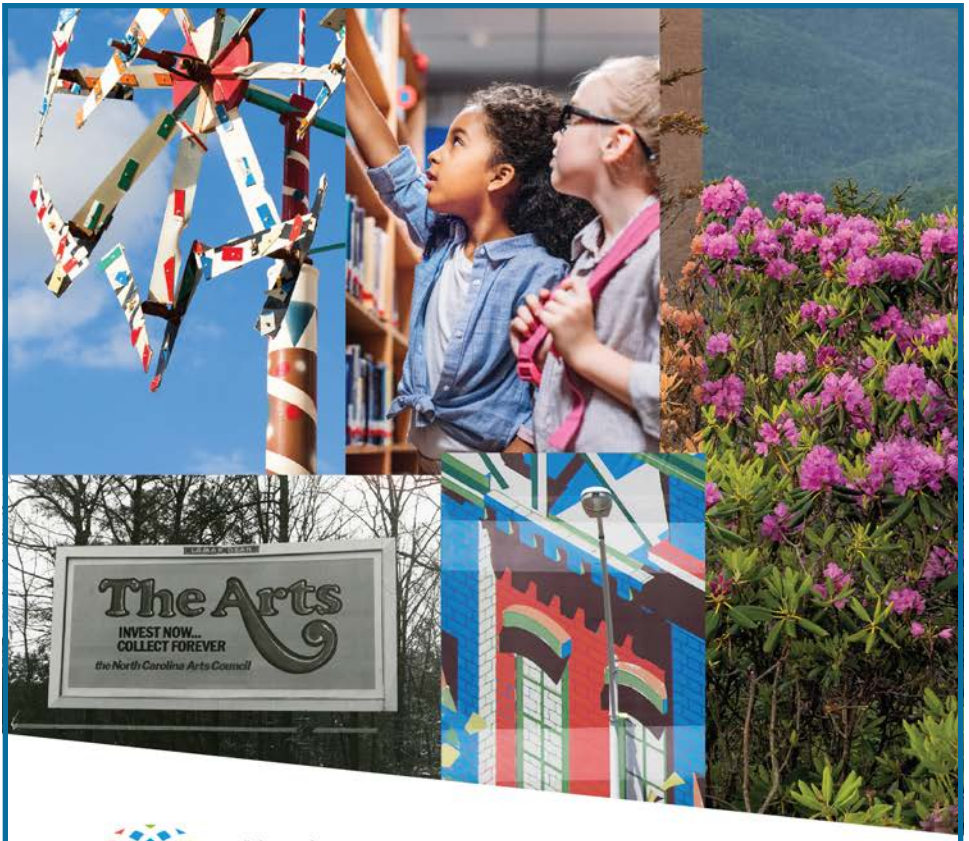
WHO'S WHO

Kermit C. Burns (Count D'Aumont) Is an actor and photographer originally from Bossier City, Louisiana, whose passion for storytelling began in community theatre. His stage credits include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Stick Fly*, and *A Soldier's Play*, where his powerful performance as Sergeant Vernon Waters earned him the award for Best Leading Actor at the Mahogany Drama Awards.

Driven by his love for performance, Kermit relocated to New Orleans to pursue a career in film and television, appearing in productions such as *Queen Sugar*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, and the Academy Award-winning film *Green Book*. His journey eventually led him to Los Angeles, where he continues building a career across stage and screen. Most recently, he appeared in the season finale of *The Pitt*.

Kermit is proud to be a returning member of The Robey Theatre Company family. He recently appeared in the company's acclaimed production of *Colored People's Time*. He is especially excited to reprise his role as Count D'Amount in *The Great Lover* as The Robey Theatre Company brings the production to the International Black Theatre Festival in North Carolina.

Joshua Bruce (Chevalier Chamblay) is a Los Angeles-based producer and actor, originally from St. Louis, Missouri. He is the Executive Producer of The Black Knights. After moving to Chicago in 2019, Josh performed in numerous short films and appeared on stage in Requiem for a Heavyweight. His passion for filmmaking expanded when he relocated to Los Angeles in 2022, where he executive-produced and starred in his first feature horror film, Caiman, where he co-founded 50 Miles East Productions. The film, currently represented by Indie Film rights, is now streaming on Amazon Prime.



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

WHO'S WHO

Jason Mimms (Lieutenant Sevran) was raised on the South Side of Chicago. Jason found his calling at 10 years old, he took the stage in *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Chicago Theatre Company. That moment wasn't just an introduction to acting—it was the start of a journey.

Understanding that talent alone isn't enough, he pursued formal training at Clark Atlanta University, earning his degree in Theatre Arts in 2008. His first break came with BET's *Hell Date* Season 2, Jason was never one to settle. He set his sights on Hollywood, studying at The Second City in both Chicago and Los Angeles, refining his skills alongside The Robey Theatre Company, and embracing the grind that separates the greats from the rest.

His persistence paid off. Roles followed—*Stuck With You* on AllBLK, *Laff Mobb's Laff Tracks* on TruTV, and standout performances in BET's *Boy Bye* and *Her Only Choice.* In 2019, he made his presence felt on the biggest stage, appearing in a Super Bowl LIII commercial. By 2020, he stepped into new territory, joining the cast of Ava DuVernay's *Cherish the Day* Season 2 on OWN.

Jason isn't just an actor—he's a creator. In 2019, he introduced *JU-jU,* a fresh, original comedy series about a screenwriter haunted by a childhood encounter with a Voodoo Priestess. His vision, his storytelling, his voice—all coming to life on screen.

Beyond his own career, Jason is committed to lifting others up. He partners with **Kids in the Spotlight**, an organization dedicated to empowering foster youth through filmmaking. As the **acting mentor for their Next Level Script to Screen Program**, he helps young storytellers develop their craft, guiding them from the page to the performance. His influence isn't just seen on screen—it's felt in the lives he impacts.

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Through every chapter, he carries his foundation with him. A proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Gamma Kappa chapter, and a product of Clark Atlanta University, he embodies their motto: *Find A Way or Make One*.

From the streets of Chicago to the soundstages of Hollywood, Jason Mimms isn't just playing a role—he's defining and paving the way for the next generation.

Talmadge Talib (Chamillac) is a spiritual activist, entrepreneur, actor, and student of law, government, and public policy. A graduate of Studio IV Acting Conservatory in San Diego and an alumnus of The Robey Theatre Company, he has trained and performed in radio, stage, television, and film, earning an Aubrey Award nomination for his work in San Diego. After a successful career in automotive sales, finance, and management, Talib transitioned to the performing arts with a commitment to challenging negative stereotypes and creating more authentic representations of his community. Now based in Los Angeles, he remains actively engaged in both the arts and community service.

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ENT 211 AD

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We at Robey feel very fortunate to once again be invited to the International Black Theatre Festival 2026. This extraordinary event, celebrating Black theatre artistry, introduces The Robey Theatre Company to a wonderfully wider international audience, permitting us to once again share our work on a global stage.

The Robey mission is to develop and produce works about the global Black experience and to reinterpret Black classics. To that end, Alexandre Dumas' classic *The Great Lover* is an appropriate production choice. It, along with numerous historical accounts, once again verifies the view that those of us who are people of color, despite those who wish to deny us, have been a part of history in every way and have influenced civilization and culture throughout the world.

Alexandre Dumas' important, prolific, and popular contributions to literature are well known, but many are unaware of his ancestry as a man of color. Dumas' talent as a Parisian playwright preceded his reputation as the richly imaginative and supremely creative author of adventure novels such as *The Three Musketeers*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*, and many others.

The music of Chevalier de Saint-Georges is again an appropriate choice to accompany this production—not simply because of this remarkable Black man's musical prowess, but because he could well have been the inspiration for any one of Dumas' heroic characters, given his accomplishments as a swordsman, athlete, composer, consummate musician, and colonel who became the leader of the first all-Black unit to serve in a European army.

These two enormously talented men stand as testaments to a world of limitless possibility. Welcome to The Robey Theatre Company.

Enjoy!
Ben Guillory

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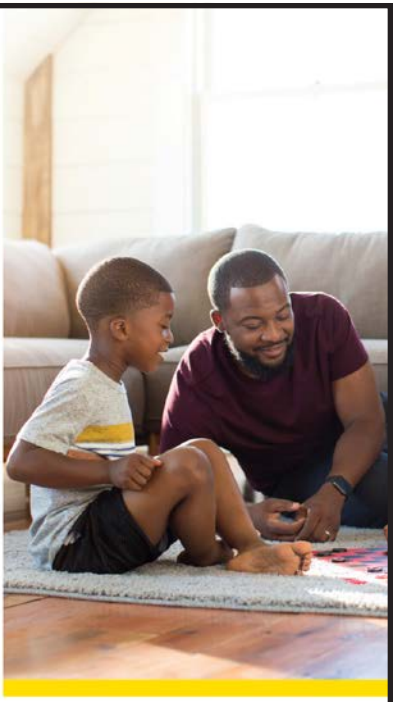

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MON - SAT JULY 27-31 & AUG 1

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

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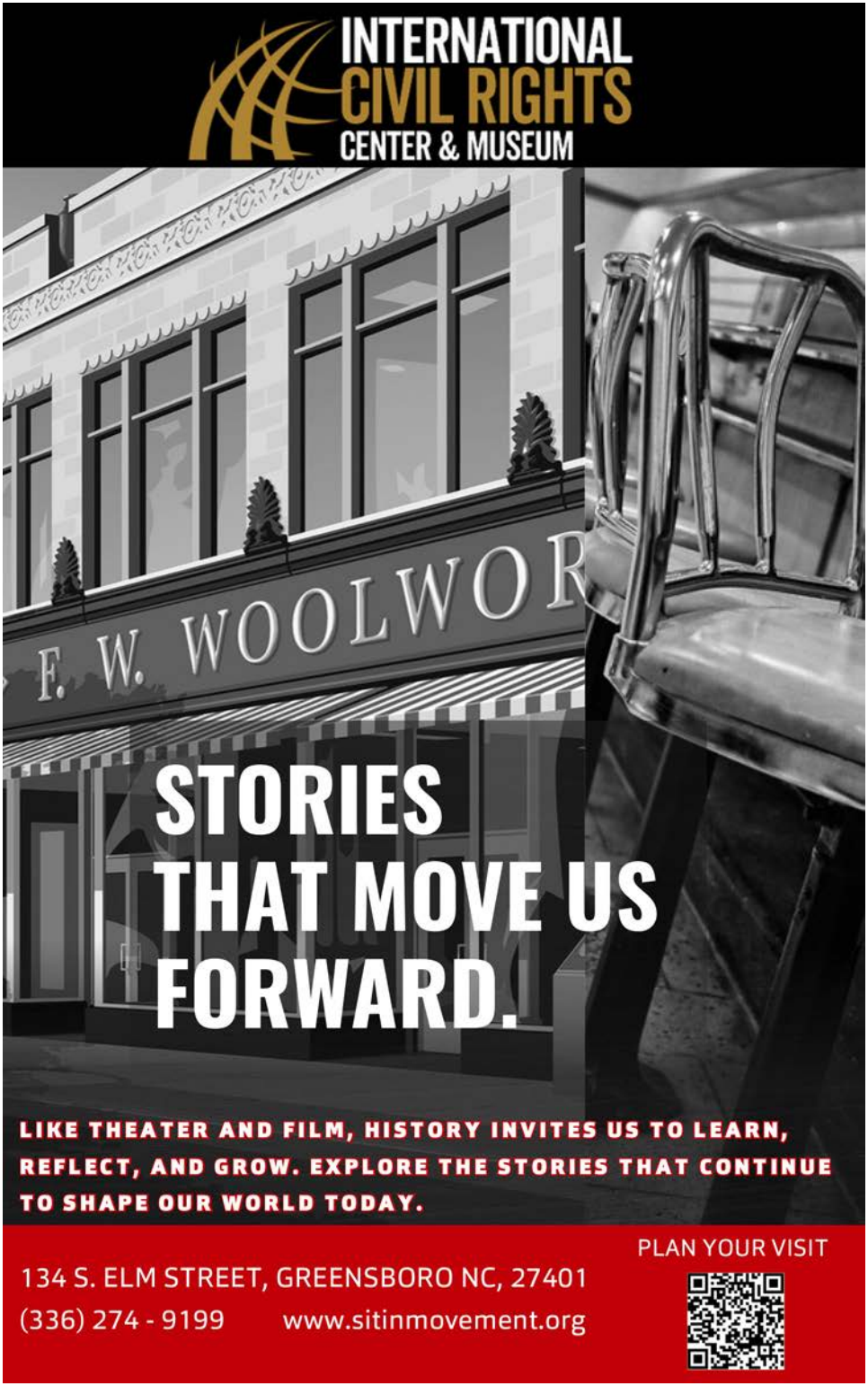
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Nico Amortegui, *Be a Wildflower*, 2025. © 2025 Nico Amortegui. Courtesy of the artist.

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

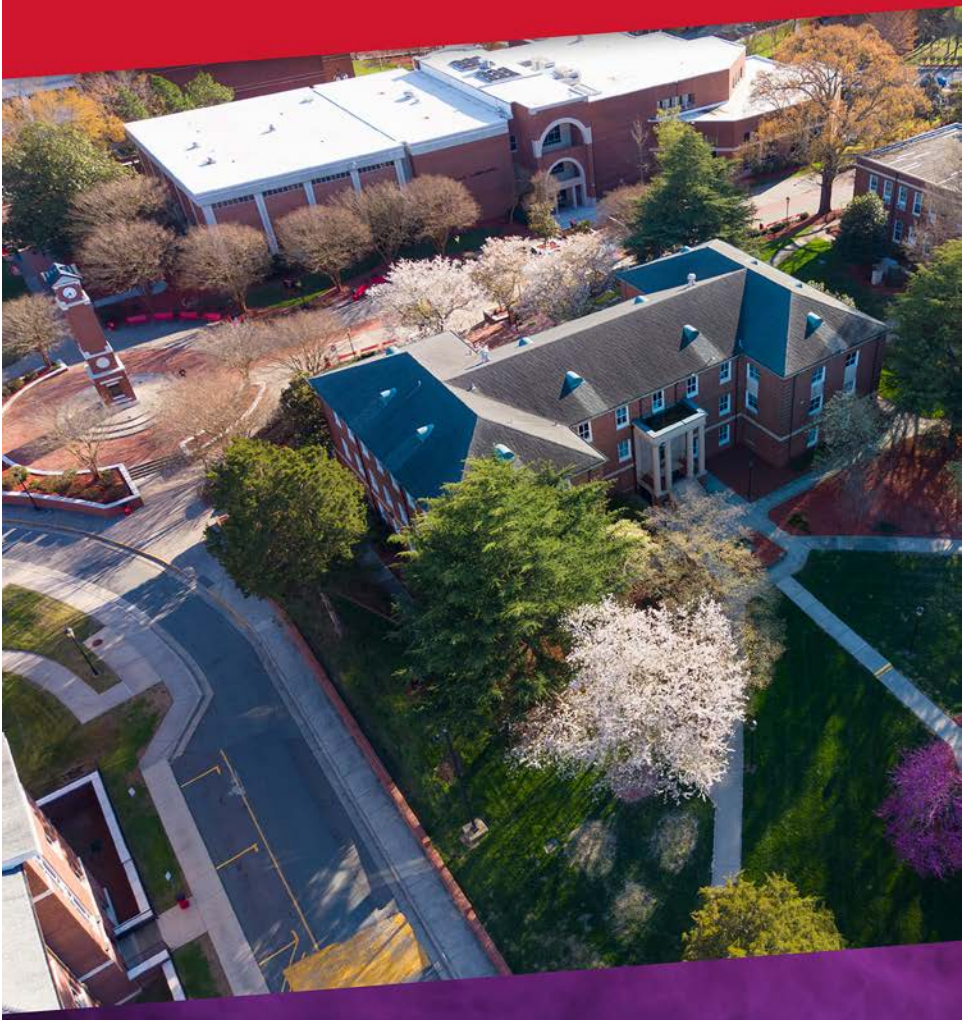
NCMA Winston-Salem Downtown is centrally located at
400 W Fourth St, Suite #130

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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