

THE NEGRO ENSEMBLE CO., INC

presents

UNENTITLED



by **CHARLES WHITE**

directed by **FLORANTE GALVEZ**

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THEATER B

JULY 21 – AUGUST 6

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UNENTITLED

by **CHARLES WHITE**

directed by **FLORANTE GALVEZ**

- CAST -

ALICE SAUNDERS	LEAH FINNIE
DEANNA SAUNDERS	KENYA WILSON
AARON HUGHES	ADRAIN WASHINGTON
FRANK SAUNDERS	TOMIKE OGUGUA
BEN WALTERS	GIL TUCKER
UNDERSTUDY	LESLIE DOCKERY

- CREATIVE TEAM -

PLAYWRIGHT	CHARLES WHITE
DIRECTOR	FLORANTE GALVEZ
DRAMATURG	AJ MUHAMMAD
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER	MARCHA TRACEY
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	BERYL CROSDALE
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	FULTON HODGES
LIGHTING DESIGN/OPERATOR	MELODY BEAL
SOUND DESIGN	TWAN HOWARD
SOUND OPERATOR	LIAM RIORDAN
SET DESIGN	KRISTEN CHANG
SET CONSTRUCTION/PROPERTY MASTER/GRAPHICS	MARLON CAMPBELL
COSTUME DESIGN	OMAR SAM A'EY
COSTUME CONSULTANT	KATHERINE ROBERSON
FIGHT CAPTAIN	LESLIE DOCKERY
MARKETING SUPPORT	JONATHAN SLAFF

- PRODUCTION TEAM -

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	KAREN BROWN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	DOUGLAS WADE
PRODUCER	TRACY MACK
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	RALPH McCAIN

run time:

2 HOURS, INCLUDING AN INTERMISSION

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Council on the Arts
NYC Cultural Affairs
COALITION OF THEATRES OF COLOR
MADE IN NY

LEAH FINNIE

(Alice)



Leah Finnie (aka LADY LEAH) is an actress, jazz vocalist, and voiceover artist. An Ohio native. She grew up in a home filled with music and performance. As a teenager, she sang with her siblings behind their father, who was the minister of music for their church. They were known as The PEARSON FAMILY, traveling and singing around the midwest. Her 30-year acting career began in New York City, as a national on & off camera commercial principal, making her a very familiar face. She can be seen and heard in national TV & radio ads for Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, Colonial Penn Life Insurance, Bank of America, Johnson & Johnson, Glaxo Wellcome, Nestle, AT&T, and many more. Currently, she is represented by KMR Agency, Los Angeles/New York City. This performance marks her debut with The Negro Ensemble Company.

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KENYA WILSON

(Deanna)



Kenya Wilson is honored to portray Deanna in Charles White's ***Unentitled***. Past credits include: ***Reunion In Bartersville*** by Celeste Walker for Black Spectrum Theatre (2019 AUDELCO Best Revival winner), ***When Knights Fall*** by Klehotas Tshyre, Ishmaeil Reed's ***The Slave Who Loved Caviar*** at Theatre for the New City, ***Wait Until Dark*** written by Frederick Knott/produced by Theatre of the Living Word, OYA by David Wright (AUDELCO nominated in 2022 for Best Revival), and Jeannette Hill's ***Picking Up The Pieces***. Kenya will next be performing in ***Mecca is Burning***, produced by NEC followed by Ishmael Reed's The Conductor.

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GIL TUCKER

(Ben)



Gil Tucker (also known as Gil T) is an accomplished actor who has been recognized with an AUDELCO Award for his outstanding performances. He honed his skills at Performing Arts High School in New York City, famously known as FAME. During his senior year, Gil was among an elite group of three students who received a prestigious Certificate of Merit for their exceptional acting abilities. In addition to his success on the stage, Gil has made a name for himself as a talented comedian. His comedic prowess has taken him to renowned venues such as Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Madison Square Garden, and The Apollo. Gil's comedic talent has also been showcased on popular platforms like Def-Jam, Showtime, and BET. As an actor, Gil has been involved in several noteworthy productions that have garnered recognition. He has been part of AUDELCO award-nominated plays and has even won the coveted Best Revival AUDELCO Awards. Notable among these productions is ***Reunion in Bartersville***, produced by The Black Spectrum Theatre and showcased at the NBTF in 2019. Additionally, Gil was involved in ***A Soldier's Play***, produced by The Negro Ensemble Company, where he portrayed Sgt. Waters and received the esteemed Best Featured Actor AUDELCO Award in 2018. Continuing to excel in his craft, Gil appeared in the 2022 production of ***Greenwood*** with the Obsidian Media Group at the NBTF. Beyond his stage work, Gil has also made a mark in the world of film, accumulating an impressive list of film credits. Overall, Gil Tucker's multifaceted career as an award-winning actor, comedian, and performer in various mediums has solidified his position as a highly respected and talented artist.

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ADRAIN WASHINGTON

(Aaron)



Adrain Washington is a talented actor who garnered acclaim for his performance in *Pride Fighter*, a film that received a nomination for Best in its class at Cannes. In 2017, he co-starred as Peterson in ***A Soldier's Play***, earning an AUDELCO award for the production. In 2019, Adrain Washington showcased his skills in Ntozake Shange's critically acclaimed ***A Photograph: Lovers In Motion***. Currently, audiences can enjoy his presence on Hulu in the series *Your Attention Please* (2022) alongside Craig Robinson, and on Revolt TV in the multi-award-winning film *The Blue Cave* (2021), where he received a nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Adrain is currently engaged in several exciting upcoming projects, displaying his ongoing dedication to his craft.

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TOMIKE OGUGUA

(Frank Saunders)



Tomike Ogugua makes his return to Negro Ensemble Company after making his debut with the company in 2009's Savannah ***Black & Blue*** as Dad. Known to *Power* fans where he spent three seasons as US Marshal Macedon, Ogugua holds a BFA in Acting from NC A&T State University. He earned a KC/ACTF Irene Ryan Scholarship Nomination as an undergrad and was named a "Torch Bearer" by The Friends of Vivian Robinson. Other film/TV credits include: *Blue Bloods, Samaria* (w/ Tatyana Ali), *Payback* (w/ Kevin Mambo), *The Tested* (w/ Aunjanue Ellis), and *See You Next Tuesday* to name just a few. Tomike currently stars in *Shadows* (w/ Saigon) and *East River Story* — airing on Manhattan Neighborhood Network as Henry (Best Supporting Actor; Hang Onto Your Shorts FF). Off Broadway, Regional, and NY theater credits include: Royal Shakespeare Company's history making ***Julius Caesar*** at BAM, Donmar's ***Henry IV*** at St. Ann's Warehouse, ***Romeo & Juliet*** (CT Free Shakes), ***Seven Guitars*** (Congo Square), ***Oshun*** (National Black Theatre), ***Othello*** (Bay Street Theater), and ***T'was The Night Before Kwanzaa*** (Black Spectrum), just to name several. Mr. Ogugua would like to thank Karen Brown, Douglas Wade, Rhonda Lucas, Director Flo Galvez, his castmates, the crew, and everyone involved in making this a dope production. He dedicates this appearance to his Mother, Cecilia, and to his Daughter, Suleka AKA "Cookie". "Mama, I love you. Daddy loves you, Cooks!" In remembrance of Dr. Samuel Hay and Jeff Richardson. Enjoy the show.

@officialtomikeog

CHARLES WHITE

(Playwright)

Charles White is a founding member of Harlem Playwrights 21, a not-for-profit playwriting workshop which has been operating since 2011. His most recent play, ***Gong Lum's Legacy***, was produced Off Broadway in March 2022 by New Federal Theatre in conjunction with The Peccadillo Theater Company. Another play, ***Succession***, premiered at the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, NC in August 2022. Charles has developed his work in New Federal Theatre's Playwriting Workshop under the tutelage of playwrights Michael D. Dinwiddie, Kermit Frazier, the late P.J. Gibson, Laurence Holder, Cassandra Medley, and Richard Wesley. He is a graduate of Princeton University, where he participated in the creative writing program under the late author Wilfrid Sheed, and NYU Law School.

FLORANTE GALVEZ

(Director)

Florante Galvez is a theater artist raised in Jamaica, Queens, and in Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY. He directed the Off Broadway plays ***And Baby Makes Two***, ***Major Decision***, and ***Choices*** for NEC, including the workshop of ***Unentitled*** for the company's Emerging Playwrights Festival Competition in 2022. He directed the Off Broadway play ***Driving On The Left Side*** for Tempest Theatricals, and he wrote and directed ***One Love: A Reggae Cabaret*** at Stuart Street Playhouse in Boston. His musical ***Ride The Rhythm*** originated at NYU and was workshopped at the NYC Hip-Hop Theater Festival. The music of ***Ride The Rhythm*** was featured at the Joe's Pub Festival of New Songwriters. His writing is featured in "Black Comedy – 9 Plays: A Critical Anthology" by Pamela Faith Jackson and Karimah. He was the featured panelist in The Barrow Group's Trouble In Mind: Black Playwrights In America symposium. Florante is the former radio DJ and host of "Bagga's World of Reggae Show," spinning classics, producing concerts, and interviewing luminaries of the genre from UB40 through Third World, Maxi Priest, Pato Banton, The English Beat, and more. Florante has a BA in Drama from Morehouse College and MFA degrees in Drama and Musical Theater Writing from The University Of Georgia and NYU respectively. Florante taught theater in prominent public and private institutions, creating original works and producing classic plays from college to kindergarten and beyond in New York, Boston, & California. He seeks to foster passion and appreciation of the performing arts for tomorrow's generation of theater performers and theatergoers.

AJ MUHAMMAD

(Dramaturg)

AJ Muhammad is excited to collaborate with Charles L. White and NEC Inc. again. A.J. was the dramaturg for ***Gong Lum's Legacy*** (New Federal Theatre), ***Lambs to Slaughter*** (NEC Inc.), assistant dramaturg on ***Black History Museum…According to the United States of America*** (HERE Arts Center), ***Comida de Puta…*** (MultiStages Theater), and others. He is on the producing teams of The Fire This Time and CLASSIX, and is also a librarian in the Jean Blackwell Huston Research & Reference Division at the Schomburg Center For Research in Black Culture.

MARCHA TRACEY

(Stage Manager)

Marcha Tracey possesses a profound love for the theater. Throughout her career Marcha has taken on various roles, including stage manager, actor, costume designer, costume mistress, assistant set designer/builder, and lights and sound operator. Her extensive experience includes serving as a stage manager for renowned theatrical productions featuring esteemed artists such as Dick Gregory, The Moments, Paul Mooney, Phyllis Stickney, and Ella Joyce, among others. Marcha's dedication and talent have been recognized with accolades, including the AUDELCO award for Best Revival for ***The Piano Lesson*** at Black Spectrum and an AUDELCO nomination for ***Healing Zone***. In 2018, Marcha's debut stage play, ***Paradise Plum***, was warmly received by an enthusiastic audience at Black Spectrum Theater. Her artistic repertoire is diverse, spanning dramatic interpretations, fables, folktales, legends, historical narratives, as well as contemporary and personal stories. Marcha sees herself as a guardian of the oral tradition, committed to preserving cultural values and heritage. Her reflections revolve around themes of truth, love, harmony, health, and gratitude.

BERYL CROSDALE

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Beryl Crosdale is currently pursuing a degree in business management at Baruch College. Beryl's passion for the theater has been a lifelong journey, beginning at a young age. One notable highlight in Beryl's theatrical experience was being involved in the captivating play ***Healing Zone*** at Black Spectrum Theatre, which received an AUDELCO nomination for ensemble. The world of theater continually enthralls and motivates Beryl, especially the enchanting process of witnessing characters come to life on the stage.

FULTON C. HODGES

(Technical Director)

Actor, director, playwright, stage & house manager, and teaching artist. Recently directed ***Picking up the Pieces*** at the Black Spectrum Theatre and is currently on tour, playing the role of Attorney Crump in the Chad Lawson Cooper play ***Justice on Trial***. Upcoming events: directing ***Scrambled Eggs*** by Reginald Wilson (October 2023) and ***The Last Block Association*** by Carl Clay (opening October 27th, 2023).

MARLON CAMPBELL

(Set Construction/Prop Master/Graphics)

Marlon Campbell is a prolific performer, production designer, and technical director, working primarily in New York City. He has designed and coordinated performances at Madison Square Garden, Union Square Theatre, Washington's Warner Theater, Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, Louisville, Kentucky's Whitney Center, and Der Weiner Konzerthaus in Vienna, Austria, as well as tours of Germany, Switzerland, and Japan. His work has appeared in AUDELCO Award-winning productions by the Negro Ensemble Company, New Federal Theatre, and Black Spectrum Theatre Company. In addition, he formulated the curricula and served as instructor for workshops in Theatrical Production, taught at Bermuda's Cedarbridge Academy, the South Orange Middle School in New Jersey, and at Long Island City's LaGuardia Community College, for the City College Research Foundation. Mr. Campbell recently ended his productive term as chairman of the Board of Directors for the Caribbean American Repertory Theatre with a safe, orderly transition. A popular event host and master-of-ceremonies, he also proudly serves as executive director of Theatre of the Living Word. For these efforts and others, he was honored with a New York City Council Citation, a Certificate of Recognition issued by Nassau County Legislature, and a Certificate of Appreciation issued by New York State Senator Leroy G. Comrie. In 2020, Success in the Arts (SITA) recognized him as Executive Theatre Director of the Year.

KRISTEN CHANG

(Set Designer)

Kristen Chang is a scenic designer, draftsperson, and art department PA. She dabbles in both theater and film & television. She finished her undergrad at SUNY Purchase in 2021 with a BFA in Scenic Design. Working with the NEC crew on ***Unentitled*** has been rewarding and an amazing collaborative experience. Her last production was working in the art dept. of *New Amsterdam* season 5. When she's not working, she loves to take dance choreography classes, train at the gym, and visit art museums with friends.

MELODY A. BEAL

(Light Designer/Operator)

Melody A. Beal is a native New Yorker, obtained a Bachelor's degree in theater from Lehman College, and pursued further studies at the Forum of Lighting Design. As a skilled light designer and operator, she has been recognized for her talent with two AUDELCO awards for lighting design. Melody has contributed her expertise to various productions, including ***Daughters of the Mock***, ***Photographs***, and ***A Soldier's Play*** at Theatre 80. Additionally, she worked on ***What If*** and ***I Don't Do That*** at Perry Street Theatre, and ***Mecca Is Burning*** at Penn Arts.

TWAN HOWARD

(Sound Designer)

Twan Howard is a multi-talented artist involved in various aspects of music production and sound design. As a vocalist, songwriter, and music producer, he has honed his skills over many years, starting from his early days in primary school. Twan's dedication to learning and implementing new techniques has made him a seasoned professional. Throughout his career, Twan has contributed significantly to numerous projects, including award-winning indie and short films such as Room by Aisha Densmore-Bey, where he served as a sound recordist, and Mr B. and OMG by James Carter, where he worked as a sound recordist, post-editor, and sound mixer. Twan's expertise also extends to theater and concert performances. Twan has played key roles in productions like ***Unentitled*** by Charles White/Florante Galvez, where he handled sound design, board operation, and A1 duties, as well as ***The Dream Chest*** by Scarlett Finney/Gabrielle Archer, where he was involved in sound design, board operation, and A1 responsibilities. Twan's love for the arts is evident, and he brings a unique versatility and originality to every project he undertakes. His commitment to delivering the highest quality and maintaining a professional approach is unwavering.

www.howardhousmusicandsound.com

LIAM RIORDAN

(Sound Board Operator)

Liam Riordan is a long-time builder of theater in NYC, both on and offstage. Most recently he has been on the tech team for Negro Ensemble Company's ***Mecca Is Burning*** and New Federal Theatre's ***Gong Lum's Legacy*** (AUDELCO award winner, Best Play). He has also worked with the DreamUp Festival at Theater For The New City, Castillo Theatre, Mystical Feet Company, and Astoria Performing Arts Center. Liam has performed at BAM, Lincoln Center and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

KATHY ROBERSON

(Costume Designer)

Kathy Roberson has an impressive portfolio of designing for renowned theater companies such as the New Federal Theater, Public Theater, Morningside Players, HADLEY Players, Black Spectrum Theater, NYC Shakespeare Festival Theater, and AGM Theater Company. In addition, she has collaborated with numerous independent producers. Kathy's notable costume design credits encompass a diverse range of productions, including ***Prodigal Sister***,***The Taking of Miss Janie***, ***What the Wine Sellers Buy***, ***Mondongo***, ***The Candidate***, ***Adam***, ***For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf***, ***Two Trains Running***, ***An Evening with Langston Hughes***,***Great Men of Gospel***, and ***Josh Gibson***. With a lifelong passion for the theater flowing through her veins, Kathy Roberson continues to illuminate her path on this artistic journey.

OMAR SAMA'EY

(Costume Designer)

Omar Sama'ey has been designing clothes for over four decades. The Harlem native began costume designing in 1987 for the period play, ***Gods at War***, produced by the noted company The American Negro Ensemble. He has been scaffolding his work ever since. He is a graduate of New York City's Fashion Institute of Technology and is steadily making his rounds in the fashion industry in various facets. He designs for boutique clothing stores, theater, and dance companies. He is astute at creating exotic wear that moves well on bodies. Out the Box Theatre Company produced his most recent production, ***Fallen Angels***.

LESLIE DOCKERY

(Fight Captain)

A two-time AUDELCO Award winner as Best Choreographer for ***Ugly is A Hard Pil*** and ***A Photograph: Lovers in Motion***, Ms. Dockery made her Off Broadway directorial debut with ***Rollin' on the T.O.B.A.*** and has shared her talents directing choreographing several other Off Broadway plays. Ms. Dockery is one of the trusted guest choreographers for NEC and is thrilled to return as fight choreographer for the stage play ***Unentitled***.

JONATHAN SLAFF

(Publicist)

Jonathan Slaff specializes in media relations and audience development services for the performing arts, advocating for new works of theater, dance and performance art. Theatrical clients have included Theater for the New City, La MaMa, Shakespeare in the Parking Lot, New Federal Theatre, The Negro Ensemble Company, Inc., Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre, The Drilling Company Theatre, Workshop Theatre Company, The Glines, Kings County Shakespeare Company, The American Place Theatre and Ubu Repertory Theater. Musical clients have included violinist Mari Kimura, Western Wind Vocal Sextet, The Klezmer Conservatory Band, and The Klezmer Mountain Boys. Artists represented have received 17 Obies, three Bessies, Lucille Lortel, Theater World, and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Success stories include the launch (while in-house press agent of La MaMa) of one of New York's most successful and cutting-edge theatrical attractions, ***Blue Man Group***.

CURATOR'S NOTE

We are beyond excited to be hosting the Negro Ensemble Company for the first time. In the late '60's, when other doors in New York were closed, the NEC gave Black theater artists a home to develop and perform their work. This vital company continues to seek out challenging new work from emerging writers around the world. We hope this is the start of a long working relationship with the NEC!



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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JORDAN ELMAN Box Office Supervisor/Bartender
DANIELLE COVINGTON Box Office Supervisor
MARGOT GAGE Box Office Supervisor
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LUCY KELLY Box Office Associate
ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO Box Office Associate/Usher
MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate/Usher
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
ANT PRIOLA Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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