



INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL®

A NC Black Rep Experience

North Carolina Black Repertory Company
1979-2024

45 *years* 35
1989-2024
International Black Theatre Festival

WINSTON-SALEM, NC • JULY 29–AUGUST 3, 2024



HERITAGE

North Carolina Black Repertory Company

Tuesday, July 30, 8:00pm
Wednesday, July 31, 2:00pm
Thursday, August 1, 8:00pm
Friday, August 2, 8:00pm
Saturday, August 3, 2:00pm
Saturday, August 3, 8:00pm

**Wake Forest
The Ring Theatre**



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ARTS COUNCIL IS THE CHIEF ADVOCATE OF ARTS AND CULTURE FOR WINSTON-SALEM AND FORSYTH COUNTY.

Our goal is to serve as a leader in lifting up, creating awareness and providing support to grow and sustain artistic, cultural and creative offerings throughout our region.





**NORTH CAROLINA
BLACK REPERTORY
COMPANY**

Heritage

Cast & Crew

Jasmine Hurt	Mahaila
Nikyla Boxley.....	Young Mahaila
Jai Shanae	Stacy
Bailey James.....	Young Stacy
Melanie Matthews	Roberta
Nic Brown	Bishop
Joe Johnson	Walter
Cliff Odle	Rev. L.T. Jackson
JuCoby Johnson.....	Playwright
H. Adam Harris.....	Director
Jackie Alexander.....	Producing Artistic Director
Brittany K. Giles-Jones.....	Stage Manager
Dea Armstrong	Assistant Stage Manager
Moriah and Isabel Curley-Clay	Set Designers
Karin Olson	Lighting Designer
Gregory Horton.....	Costume Designer
Jasmine Williams	Sound Designer
John Virgo	Props
Malachi Wood	Production Manager
Nathaniel Avery	Production Manager

About the Show

All scenes take place in and around The Heritage of Babylon Missionary Baptist Church.

About the Company

Founded in 1979 by Larry Leon Hamlin, the North Carolina Black Repertory Company (NC Black Rep) is the first professional Black theatre company in North Carolina. It is committed to exposing diverse audiences to Black theatre classics, the development and production of new works, and internationally sustaining Black theatre. The company also produces the International Black Theatre Festival (IBTF) every two years.

WHO'S WHO

JASMINE HURT (she/her) is excited to be playing the role of Mahalia in *Heritage* alongside with her fellow Pickles @the IBTF! She is a recent graduate from University North Carolina School Art with a BFA in Acting. To learn more, go to www.jasminehurt.com.

NIKYLA BOXLEY is excited to be back at the IBTF! She's an artist from Detroit, MI who's currently based in Los Angeles, CA. Recent Credits include Netflix's *Dahmer*, *Wrong River* (Flint Rep), *Freedom Summer* (NC Black Rep), and *The Niceties* (Heritage Theatre Festival).

BAILEY JAMES is making her IBTF debut! Recent theatre include Deena from her original play *Dee and Di's Beauty Shop* (Lincoln Center). She'll also be performing her one woman show at the Greenroom 42 in NYC, on August 24th, entitled *I Don't Make the Rules*. Thank you to my family, University North Carolina School Art and God for this opportunity!

MELANIE MATTHEWS (Handy) is a Greensboro native. She has a BFA in Acting from North Carolina A&T State University and worked as an artist in Philadelphia after obtaining her MFA. Currently, Matthews teaches at The Great James Benson Dudley High School in Greensboro.

JOE JOHNSON is a Charlotte, NC Native who graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theater, at North Carolina A&T State University. Johnson's love for the performing arts has carried him thru years of experience and various productions. He has portrayed Mister, in *The Color Purple the Musical*, Shango in *In the Red and Brown Water*, Shealy in August Wilson's *Jitney*, and held many more roles. Johnson was last seen in North Carolina Black Rep's award-winning production, *Phenomenal Woman: Maya Angelou* where he portrayed Martin Luther King and other various roles, earning him an ACE Award Nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Johnson is thrilled to grace the stage again on behalf of NC Black Rep in this amazing production of *Heritage*!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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



This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



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

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Event Sponsors



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.

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WHO'S WHO

CLIFF ODLE is an actor, a playwright and a director. He is an Assistant Professor at University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He has been involved with theater around the country including Boston, New York, and San Diego. This is his first show with North Carolina Black Repertory Company.

JUCOBY JOHNSON is a playwright, an actor and a screenwriter originally from Jacksonville, FL. He is a first-year playwright at the Juilliard School. 2022 McKnight Fellow in Playwriting, 2022 Sony Pictures Television Diverse Writers Program, 2024 Theater Raw Award for Playwriting. jucoby.johnson@gmail.com

H. ADAM HARRIS is a director focusing on heart-forward, textually rigorous, imaginative productions of classics and new work. This is his third world premiere collaboration with playwright JuCoby Johnson. Learn more at hadamharris.com

BRITTANY K. GILES-JONES, MPA, AEA, CEM is thrilled to be returning to Holy Ground! A current doctoral student at Clark Atlanta University focused on Disaster research, Giles-Jones actively seeks opportunities to combine her experience in the arts with her research and work in the Humanities and Emergency Management fields. Select Credits include Horizon Theatre Company: *The House That Will Not Stand*, North Carolina Black Repertory Company: *Phenomenal Woman*, *Succession (NBTF 2022)*, Billie Holiday Theatre: (ASM): *Brothers From The Bottom*, *Maids Door (NBTF 2015)*.

Giles-Jones is the former Chair of the Board of Directors and current Advisory Board Member for Brave New World Repertory Theatre, an alumnus of The Juilliard Professional Apprenticeship Program and the Horizon Theater Apprenticeship Program. Professional Memberships include the Actors Equity Association and the Stage Managers Association. IG: [@Britt_Kris7](https://www.instagram.com/Britt_Kris7)



I AM...A SHEPHERDESS

Written by Eljon Wardally



HERITAGE

Written by JuCoby Johnson

FINDING HOLY GROUND

The Wake Forest University School of Divinity and the Wake the Arts initiative are proud to be lead sponsors of this year's festival with the *Finding Holy Ground* project, created with generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation.



WHO'S WHO

DEA ARMSTRONG is a stage manager from San Bernardino, California. Recently, she graduated from CSU San Bernardino with her bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts. This is her International Black Theatre Festival debut. <https://smpportfoliodeaa.weblium.site/>

ISABEL & MORIAH CURLEY-CLAY are award winning scenic designers whose designs can be seen on regional theatre stages across the United States. Recent credits include *Clydes* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts) *Network*, *Lehman Brothers* (Florida Studio Theatre), *Kim's Convenience* (Aurora Theatre, Horizon Theatre) *Hands Up*, *7 testaments* (Alliance Theatre); *Natasha*, *Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (Horizon Theatre), *Phenomenal Woman* (North Carolina Black Rep, Ensemble Theatre- Houston), *Fannie* (Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville and Pittsburgh City Theatre), *Reparations* (Billie Holiday Theatre, NYC), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Ruby* (Alabama Shakespeare), *Prayers for The French Republic* (Actor's Express). This team's theatrical designs were featured in *American Theatre Magazine's* Inaugural Roll Call, 7 Theatrical People To Watch, and are both members of United Scenic Artists 829.

KARIN OLSON is a Minneapolis-based lighting designer with credits at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Alliance Theater, Cleveland Playhouse, Trinity Rep, Syracuse Stage, Minnesota Opera, Children's Theater, Guthrie, Ordway Music Theater, the Jungle, Theatre Latte Da, Mixed Blood, and many others. karinolsonlighting.com

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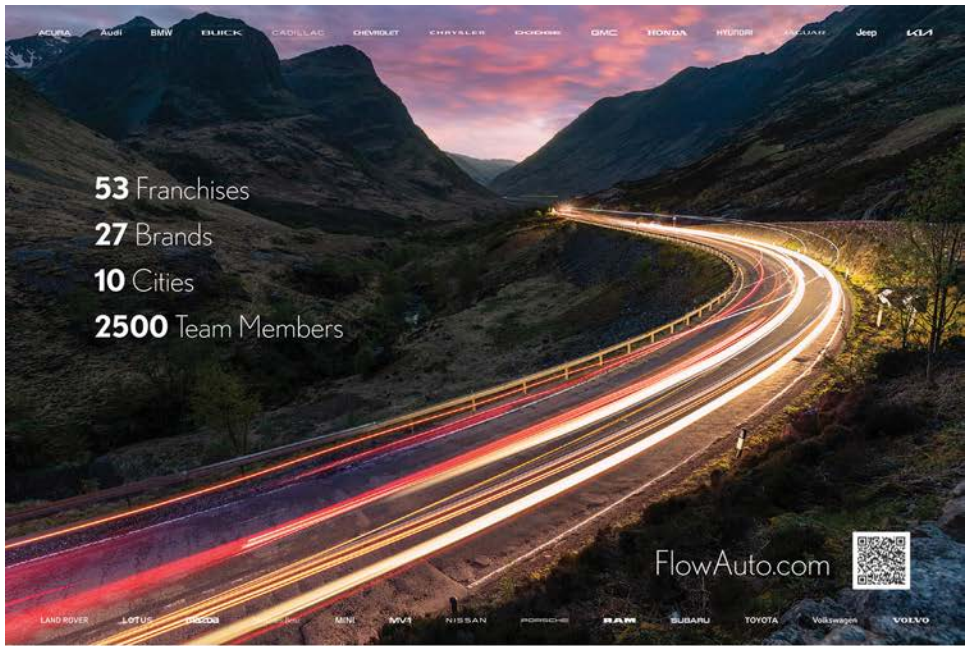
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WHO'S WHO

GREGORY J. HORTON is a Tenured Associate Professor and Director of Theatre concentrating in Costume Design and Directing at North Carolina A&T State University in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts/Theatre. His credits include *Mya, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, Simply Simone, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, Trav'lin, Gee's Bend, Sweet Charity, The Visit, A Woman from the Town, Something's Afoot, A Mid Summer Night's Dream, A Company of Wayward Saints, The Crucible, The Heiress, The Glass Menagerie, Dreamgirls, Foreigner, The Wiz, The Colored Museum, Crowns, Fences, Tartuffe', Waiting to be Invited and My Fair Lady, Seven Guitars, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Gem of the Ocean, Joe Turners Come and Gone. Mr. Horton has directed such plays as, Pretty Fire, Dreamgirls, A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum, Nunsense, Ain't Misbehaven, Tambourines To Glory, Jesus Christ Super Star, Black Nativity and Godspell.*

Horton has worked professionally around the country as Guest Director and Costume Designer in such theatres as, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Triad Stage, The North Carolina Black Repertory Company, The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Columbia Basin College/Pasco WA, Western Washington University/Bellingham, Hampton University, Hampton VA, The Ensemble, Houston TX, The Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Colorado, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Fayetteville NC, Penumbra Theatre, Min. Minnesota, Swine Palace, Louisiana, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Play House on the Square, Memphis Black Repertory, Memphis TN, Kuntu Repertory, Pittsburgh PA, and the St. Louis Black Repertory Company, St. Louis MO. He is a member and has held national offices in two national theatre organizations, Black Theatre Network (BTN) and United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT). In 2017, Horton received the Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design Award from the formally National Black Theatre Festival. Horton is pleased to be the Costume Designer for this inaugural production of Heritage.



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WHO'S WHO

JASMINE WILLIAMS is a 23-year-old young lady from Opelousas, LA. She is a graduate of Dillard University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Technology. Williams is a performing artist in acting, singing and pre-professional dance training. Her other sound designs can be heard in *Heritage* and *Coconut Cake* here at the festival!

JOHN VIRGO a television and film producer, with more than 15 years of production experience. Virgo was raised in the Art Department as set dresser and props master. Currently, Virgo works as the video producer for a Charlotte ad agency and creates props for local theatre's in Winston-Salem.

SPECIAL THANKS:

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W
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Visit Winston-Salem welcomes you to Black Theatre Holy Ground. We thank and congratulate NC Black Repertory Company for 35 years of awe-inspiring performances that have put Winston-Salem on the international stage. The festival has been a bright beacon for groundbreaking performances, and this year will be just as remarkable.

For a list of restaurants, events and things to do, go to www.VisitWinstonSalem.com.



Visit Winston-Salem Visitor Center
200 Brookstown Avenue
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Applauding passion in every performance

Theater is important in the community. It teaches us about diverse people, places, and ideas. Bravo to the directors, cast, and crew who show us the world in new ways.

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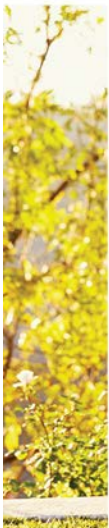
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THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE SUMMIT

GHANA
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THE CALL

CREATE. CONNECT. HEAL.
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We invite you to the 4th Biennial Convening of *The International Black Theatre Summit* in Ghana, April 27-May 2, 2025. Ghana welcomes you and IBTS to the continent with an agenda to CREATE, CONNECT, and HEAL. Seize this opportunity to replenish and revitalize our divine and creative selves and embrace this chance to strategize the future of Black storytelling across continents.



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“My book is an insight into what to expect and how to handle common-sense situations that arise once you book a show. It can also transcend into everyday workplace situations. It’s a book that I hope will be handed down by stage managers, teachers, performing arts schools, acting and dance classes.”

—Brenda Braxton

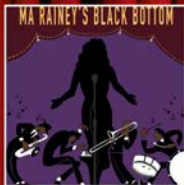
Brenda Braxton is a Tony Award Nominee and Grammy-winning actress, author and entrepreneur. Her Broadway credits include *Smokey Joe’s Cafe*, *Chicago*, *Cats*, *Jelly’s Last Jam*, *Legs Diamond*, *Guys and Dolls*, and the original Broadway production of *Dreamgirls*. She can also be seen on *SMASH*, *Nurse Jackie*, and *The Good Fight*, now streaming.

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