

THE AFRICAN COMPANY PRESENTS RICHARD III

BY CARLYLE BROWN

DIRECTED BY RON HIMES



SEPT.



THE BLACK REP

EDISON THEATRE AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



07-25



By Carlyle Brown

Directed by Ron Himes**

Scenic Design

Jamie Bullins

Lighting Design

Jasmine Williams

Sound Design

Kareem Deanes

Props Designer

Taijha Silas

Costume Design

Andre Harrington

Dramaturg

Dr. John Ray Proctor

Stage Manager

Tracy D. Holliway-Wiggins*

Assistant-Stage Manager

Carmia Imani

**SEPTEMBER 7 - 25, 2022
EDISON THEATRE
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS**

** SDC, The Director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc. an independent national labor union *Members of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Hands of the United States.

Originally produced in 1987 by Penumbra Theatre Company

Lou Bellamy, Artistic Director.

Produced by Arena Stage, 1992,

Douglas C. Wager, Artistic Director;

Tazwell Thompson, Director.

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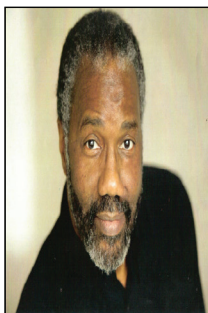
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DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Dear Friend of The Black Rep,

Sometimes the most powerful barriers are the ones unseen. How we encounter and respond to them is the inspiring undercurrent of this new and exciting Season 46.

Join us as we look at Arthur Miller's American classic through an African American lens, present new work by Loy Webb and Dominique Morisseau and celebrate the genius of Eubie Blake.

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR (1872-1906)

WE WEAR THE MASK

We wear the mask that grins and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—
This debt we pay to human guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,
And mouth with myriad subtleties.

Why should the world be over-wise,
In counting all our tears and sighs?
Nay, let them only see us, while
We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries
To thee from tortured souls arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;
But let the world dream otherwise,
We wear the mask!

(1895)

Tickets can be purchased, by phone at (314) 534-3810, online at www.theblackrep.org, or at our box office at 6662 Olive Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130. Remember, purchasing season tickets guarantees you the best seats at the best prices for all five shows.

See you at the theatre,

Ron Himes

Founder/Producing Director

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Carlyle Brown is a playwright/performer, curator and artistic director of Carlyle Brown & Company based in Minneapolis. His plays have been produced at theatres across the country and internationally. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists and a Life Time Core Writer at the Playwrights' Center. He has received numerous commissions, fellowships and awards including 2006 Black Theatre Network's Winona Lee Fletcher Award for outstanding achievement and artistic excellence, a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 2010 Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political Theatre, a 2010 United States Artist Fellowship a 2018 William Inge Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater and a 2019 Hellen Merrill Award recipient. A

scholar and historian, Brown has been an artist in residence or visiting professor at several colleges and universities, and has worked as a museum exhibit writer and story consultant. He curated the 2018 Cultural Diaspora Residency at the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France and The Afro-Atlantic Playwrights' Festival at The Playwrights' Center July 12-14, 2019. His solo shows include *The Fula from America: An African Journey, Therapy and Resistance, The History of Religion and Acting Black: Demystifying Racism*, created to inspire open and honest conversations about race and diversity. He serves on the board of directors of The Playwrights' Center and is a trustee of The Camargo Foundation. He is currently an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Playwright-in-Residence at Illusion Theater in Minneapolis.

About Carlyle Brown & Company

A master of his craft, Carlyle Brown's rigorous, extremely theatrical work occupies a wide range of aesthetic forms. Described by *The New York Times* as "one of America's more significant Playwrights," he has a long and rich history of reexamining historical figures and events and dramatizing them in a way that makes them accessible to present day audiences. Carlyle Brown & Company was formed in 2002 around a constellation of culturally and ethnically diverse artists to develop and perform his work in an atmosphere of collaborative co-creation. The Company's interests are in innovations in dramatic form, rich story-telling and shaping ideas into theatrical events. Carlyle Brown & Company also has collaborative and creative partnerships with artists, as well as arts organizations, including The Playwrights' Center and Illusion Theater in Minneapolis and The Camargo Foundation residency at Cassis in the South of France.



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CAST

Papa Shakepeare Wali Jamal Abdullah*

James Hewlett Cameron Jamarr Davis*

Sarah Alex Jay

Steven Price Eric Dean White*

William Henry Brown Olajuwon Davis

Ann Johnson Coda Boyce

The Constable-Man Dustin Petrillo

Sarah/Ann Understudy Carmia Imani

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Ron Himes**

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Lighting Design Jasmine Williams

Sound Designer Kareem Deanes

Dramaturg Dr. John Ray Proctor

Costume Designer Andre Harrington

Props Designer Taijha Silas

Production Manager (Edison Theatrer) Emily Kennebeck

Stage Manager Tracy D. Holliway-Wiggins*

Assistant Stage Manager Carmia Imani

Technical Director (Edison Theater) Tab Birt

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Covid Safety Manager Taijha Silas

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Sound Board Operator Lenny Banks

Production Assistants Gloria Bontrager-Thomas

Angeliq Hammie

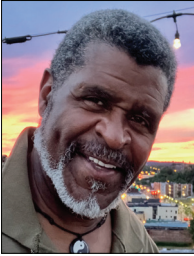
Jordon Thomas

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THE CAST



WALI JAMAL ABDULLAH (Papa Shakespeare) is ever so ecstatic about performing in his second production with The Black Rep. His first show was *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage as performed at the Inge Theater Festival in Independence, Kansas. A Pittsburgh based actor, Wali was named the 2018 Pittsburgh Post Gazette Performer of the Year for his performance of August Wilson's *How I Learned What I Learned*. Wali is the only actor in the world to have performed *How I Learned What I Learned* in addition to ALL TEN PLAYS in August Wilson's Pittsburgh Century Cycle.



CAMERON JAMARR DAVIS (James Hewett), is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and the Actors Equity Association, Cameron is a trained actor with a BFA in dramatic performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Regional experience includes St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, the Hangar Theater, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and the Los Angeles Celebration Theater, among others. Cameron is founder and executive director of Soul Siren Playhouse; a cultural enrichment and social outreach organization producing socially conscious stories for film and stage (www.playsiren.com)



ALEX JAY (Sarah), was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. She is an alumna of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. There, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Theater and Communications. She has acted in a host of plays and musicals throughout the region. Notably; *Jitney*, *Behind the Sheet* and *Nina Simone: Four Women* with The Black Rep, *Something Like Godspell* with TLT Productions, *Fleshtones* with First Run Theatre, and *The Ville: Avengance* with St. Louis Shakespeare Festival. She is elated at any opportunity to grow in her craft.



ERIC DEAN WHITE (Steven Price), is very excited to be making his debut at The Black Rep and getting to help tell this fascinating true story! He has worked at numerous theatres around St. Louis and regionally. Favorite Theatre Roles: *Salt, Root & Roe* (Gareth), *The Kiss/De Kus* (Man), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Satan), *Driving Miss Daisy* (Boolie), *The Fourth Reich* (Man), *Never the Sinner* (Robert Crowe), *The Normal Heart* (Felix), *The Pillowman* (Tupolski), *King Lear* (Kent), *Savage in Limbo* (Tony). TV: Chicago Fire, NBC. Training: The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York. Proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Thanks to the ENTIRE creative team & cast at The Black Rep for taking me on this creative journey! Love to Wendy, Payton & Cassidy for their

never-ending patience & support. Eric will next be appearing in *A Christmas Carol* at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis over the 2022 holiday season.
ericdeanwhite.com



OLAJUWON DAVIS (William Henry Brown), is honored and excited to be back home at The Black Rep where he began his acting career many years ago in the stage-production of *Sarafina!*, as Crocodile. He was last seen in *Dontrell Who Kissed The Sea as the Dad*. After humble beginnings he performed street theatre, and starred in his first on screen production, *Palacios*, where he won the Special Award for Outstanding Performance at St. Louis International Film Festival in 2017. He is grateful for the love and support of his friends and family. And sends a special thanks to Ron Himes for continuing to believe in his talent and gifts.



CODA BOYCE (Ann Johnson), is originally from Detroit, MI. Her recent credits include understudying roles at Theatre Squared including the world premiere of *Flex*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, and *The Mountaintop*. As well as *A Christmas Carol* at The Dallas Theater Center. She received her B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University. Coda is extremely excited to join The Black Rep for the first time this fall. She is blessed for this opportunity and would like to thank her family for always encouraging her talents.



DUSTIN PETRILLO (The Contable-Man), is an actor based out of St. Louis, MO. He graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2017 with a BFA in Musical Theatre. Some of his favorite Professional Theatre Credits include: Mr. Wormwood in *Matilda* (COCA [St. Louis, MO]), Mickey Finn in *Flanagan's Wake* (Westport Playhouse [St. Louis, MO]), Edmund in *King Lear* (Ozark Actors' Theatre [Rolla, MO], and Judas in *Godspell* (Snowy Range Summer Theatre [Laramie, WY]). Professional Film Credits include: William Byrd in *Bacon's Rebellion* (Jaderlund Casting [Washington D.C.]), and Brad in *The Boy* (Director; Ian Rowe [San Francisco, CA]). He hopes you enjoy this evening's performance and this extremely

talented company.

STAGE MANAGEMENT



TRACY D. HOLLIWAY-WIGGINS (Stage Manager), is a native of East St. Louis and a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. She has served in various roles with The Black Rep for thirty-three years. Some of her favorite stage management credits with the company include *Black Nativity*, *The Gospel at Colonus*, *Strands* and *Nina Simone: Four Women*. She has also stage managed for Dances of India, ATREK Dance Company and Washington University Dance Theatre. Tracy thanks God for the vision of Genesis Academy of Arts and Fine Arts Ministry, Genesis Arts Ministry of East St. Louis and Frontline

Freedom where she is the Deliverance Ministry. She believes Matthew 21:22



Carmia Imani (Assistant Stage Manager), (She/Her) is a Michigan native and a first year Professional Acting Fellow at The Black Rep. She is a recent graduate of Ball State University where she received her BFA in Acting with a minor in New Works for the Stage. Selected BSU acting credits include: *Everybody* (Somebody), *Borrowed Babies* (Shelly) and her self-written and produced one-person show, *in · di · visible*. She is so grateful for the opportunity to work behind the scenes on this production and would like to thank her mom and family for always supporting her. You can connect with Carmia on social media @carmiaimani.

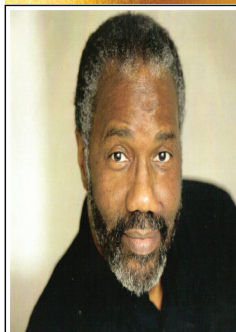


ACTION OF THE PLAY

SETTING
NEW YORK CITY

TIME
circa 1821

THE ARTISTIC TEAM



RON HIMES (Director), has produced and directed more than 200 plays at The Black Rep, including all ten plays written by August Wilson. His Black Rep directing credits include: *Jitney*, *Sweat*, *Spell #7*, *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*, *Nina Simone*; *Four Women*, *Canfield Drive*, *Dot*, *Lines In The Dust*, *Twisted Melodies*, *Sunset Baby*, *Purlie*, *Black Nativity: A Holiday Celebration*, the critically acclaimed productions of *Ruined* and *The Montford Point Marine*. Himes also created and directed the highly acclaimed, *Crossin' Over* and *Tell Me Somethin' Good*. He has directed a number of world premieres including *Torn Asunder*, *Smash/Hit!*, *Insidious*, *Home the Musical*, *Servant of the People*, *Riffs* and *Urban Transitions: Loose Blossoms*.

Directing credits from theatres across the country include *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Fences* (The Clarence Brown Theatre in Knoxville); *The Colored Museum* and *Blues for an Alabama*

Sky (Indiana Repertory Theatre); *Flyin' West* (Delaware Theatre Company); *For Colored Girls.....* (People's Light and Theatre Company in Philadelphia); *Riffs* (Seven Stages in Atlanta); *Spunk*, *Spell #7* and *Radio Golf* (Studio Theatre in Washington, DC); *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *I'm Not Rappaport* (Old Creamery Theatre in Garrison, IA); and *An Enemy of the People* (Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, AK). University and College credits include: *Crumbs From The Table Of Joy* and *Our Town*, (University of Southern Indiana in Evansville); *Intimate Apparel*, (University of Indiana in Bloomington); *You Can't Take It With You*, (University of Wisconsin in Madison); *The Championship Season* and *The Dance on Widow's Row*, (Dillard University in New Orleans); *Three Ways Home* (University of Illinois in Champaign); *The Darker Face of the Earth* (University of South Carolina in Columbia); *For Colored Girls.....*, *Blues for Mr. Charlie*, *Hairspray*, *Ragtime*, *The Lion* and *The Jewel and Trojan Women* (Washington University in St. Louis).



JAMIE BULLINS (Scenic Design), is a Midwest transplant and an Associate Professor in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Designing this and that for such a long time it seems, surprisingly enough, the passion for the work has not subsided. Thanks to the Black Rep for bringing him back after last season's *Jitney*, for which he designed the clothes. He still believes theatre can change lives. Fool.



JASMINE WILLIAMS (Lighting Design), is an Atlanta-based Artist and Lighting Designer for theater, music, dance, opera, and immersive experiences. After a significant time spent as a Stage Manager, Jasmine transitioned to Lighting and Costume Design. As a Designer and Technician, Jasmine has worked on *No Dream Deferred's* debut production of Tarell Alvin McCraney's, In *The Red and Brown Water*, and Tulane University's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has also worked with the Flint Repertory Theater, the Alliance Theater, the New Orleans Ballet Association, and the Summer Lyric Theater at Tulane. She received her Design MFA from Tulane University in 2020, and her BA from Albany State University in 2016. Jasmine continues to collaborate with theaters, companies, directors,

choreographers, and visual artists across New Orleans, and plans to build a new network in Atlanta. Jasmine appreciates her mentorship with John[®]Ray[™] Proctor and Kathy Perkins and would like to thank her family, mentors, and friends, for their love, patience, and support.



KAREEM DEANES (Sound Design), is thrilled to be working with The Black Rep this season. Kareem has been on stage most recently at Mustard Seed Theatre in Clayton, MO where he serves on the theatre's advisory board. Kareem's most recent sound designs include: *Canfield Drive*, *Crowns*, *Torn Asunder*, *Fences*, *DOT and Seven Guitars* (The Black Rep), *One Flea Spare* (Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble (SATE)) and *Playland and Tartuffe* (Mustard Seed Theatre). While not working in professional theatre, Kareem teaches theatre and media studies at Parkway West Middle School. He also spends his summers developing young performers at Sherwood Forest Camp. Kareem would like to thank his loved ones for their continued support.



ANDRE HARRINGTON (Costume Designer), currently is a Professor of Design at California State University, San Bernardino. Mr. Harrington holds a M.F.A. from the University of Iowa, in addition to earlier costume design training from the U of MD at College Park. Mr. Harrington hails from the east coast, and was a reelance designer in Philadelphia, PA. He has designed costumes for many professional theatre companies, including The Alliance Theatre, Theatre Works USA, The Court Theatre, Theatre Virginia, Freedom Theatre, St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre, and Crossroads Theatre. Mr. Harrington participated in the Career Development Program for Designers sponsored by Theatre Communications Group/ National Endowment for the Arts (TCG/NEA) in 1999-

2001. Andre serves on the 2020/2022 executive board of the Black Theatre Network as Immediate Past President. He also holds membership with United State Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT), Phi Beta Delta Honor Society and a part of CSUSB organizational membership of TCG. Mr. Harrington is a member of the United Scenic Artists Union 829.



DR. JOHN “RAY” PROCTOR (Dramaturg), is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Tulane University, where he teaches Acting I - Advanced Acting, African American Theatre History, Plays and Playwrights, and Theatre for Social Justice. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (English) from Webster University, a Master of Fine Arts (Acting) from West Virginia University, and a Ph. D. in Theatre Research from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In the summer of 2019, he played Colonel Brandon in the Reno Little Theatre’s production of *Sense and Sensibility*. He has also played Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* (Organic Theatre/Chicago), Alonzo in *The Tempest* (New Orleans Shakespeare Festival), Peter in Lorraine Hansberry’s *Les Blancs* (Madison), Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* (Arizona Repertory Theatre), the title role in *Othello* (The Greenbriar). In New Orleans he has appeared on the Southern Rep stage in *Airline Highway* and *Father Come Home from the Wars*. Dr. Proctor has also co-authored (with Ms. Olivia Dawson) the play - *Out Loud*, which opened at eta Creative Arts Foundation on Chicago’s south side. Their play received seven 2014 Black Theatre Alliance nominations for Best Play, Best New Script, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, and Best Ensemble. He is a also featured contributor in the forthcoming collection *Romeo and Juliet: Adaptation and the Arts*. He would also like to thank the George Lurcy Fund for Research and Creative Projects by Liberal Arts Faculty and the support of Tulane University’s School of Liberal Arts.



TAIJHA NECOLE SILAS (PROPS DESIGNER), is a native of Alexandria, Louisiana. She has a Bachelor of Science in Theatre with a concentration in Performance and Directing and Musical Theatre from Northwestern State University. Taijha is a Faithful Sister and Alum of Phi Mu Fraternity Kappa Iota Chapter where she served as a committee head every year of her collegiate career as well as the Vice President of Greek Life at NSULA. Taijha has been performing for over 10 years with training in music, dance, acting, directing, and tech. Taijha has performed in shows such as *Hairspray*, *Rock of Ages*, *Sister Act*, and *Behind The Sheet*. She has also directed selections from *Love/Sick*, *Sealed for Freshness*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and *The Outsiders*. In her career, she has performed professionally as a Dancer and Host for the Peanuts Block Party at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio! She is currently an Acting Fellow with The Black Rep where she

wears many hats by acting with the touring company in *Stamping*, *Shouting*, and *Singing Home* and *Turn-Up* and making graphics for the social media platform! Taijha’s technical credits include props design and stage management. Taijha has designed props on productions such as *Fireflies*, *Jitney*, *Matilda the Musical*, and *Bold, Brave, and Curious*. She is grateful for the opportunities presented to her and hopes to continue her career in theatre for a long time!



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The Black Rep Community and Education Programs

The Black Rep offers three 50-minute touring productions performed by members of the Professional Intern Program. These shows are designed to be presented in most open spaces such as multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums and theatre auditoriums. No special lighting or sound equipment is required. Touring productions are accompanied by educational study guides with pre and post-performance activities designed to enlighten educators and students.

Touring Productions

PLAN B3

by Pearl Cleage
Grades: K-5th

Before joining her friends for a #genius performance at their talent show, Janet must choose between the show or sitting in for climate change. Can she be the change she wants to see? Plan B3 is a relatable story about the importance of generational lessons and using them to stand up for what we believe is right. Written by Pearl Cleage and directed by Geovonday Jones.

TURN-UP

by Naima Carter Russell & Eugene H. Russell IV
Grades Pre K - 4

Coach Carver is determined to save a failing community garden but he just can't seem to keep people interested. He fears that this growing season may be the garden's last. A mail delivery mixup somehow leads to one of his turnips growing bigger than any he's ever seen! How will he even get it out of the ground? What will he do with it when he does? A lively bunch of characters "Turn Up" to help but will it be enough? Written by Atlanta husband and wife team Naima Carter Russell and Eugene H. Russell IV and set to music, Turn-Up is a fun, humorous story about perseverance and the power of community.

Workshops and Residences

Members of the Professional Touring Company conduct drama workshops in residence in schools and community centers throughout the year. Classes vary in length from 90-min. workshops to masterclasses taught for several weeks. Subject matter may be customized to fit curriculum or other requirements.

*\$225 per 90 Min.
(Minimum 90-min. sessions)

Teen Tech

The Teen Tech Program allows interested teens to gain experience understand what it takes to develop a production behind the scenes.

*Classes are held on Sat. from 10am-12pm for 8 weeks.

Prices: \$10 per class

Young Actors Ensemble

The Young Actors Ensemble is composed of young artists (ages 8-17). Classes from professional artists are held

every Saturday from 10-11:15am for 8 wks

Prices: \$10 per class

Summer Performing Arts

Each summer The Black Rep provides an 8-week arts intensive designed to provide students an exciting opportunity to artistically express themselves through Theatre, Acting, Visual Arts, Dance, Movement, Playwriting, and Music.

MAINSTAGE INTERGENERATIONAL MATINEES

The Black Rep is pleased to present intergenerational matinees for all mainstage productions. Intergenerational matinees were uniquely designed to allow schools and other local organizations to experience live theatre performances and participate in post-show discussions, at an affordable rate. For more information, to book a touring show or an Intergenerational Matinee contact the Education Dept. 314 -534-3807

*THE AFRICAN COMPANY
PRESENT RICHARD III
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SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

**For more information email:
education@theblackrep.org or call: 314-534-3807 ext.2**



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This year's production: ***Behind The Sheet***
by Charly Evon Simpson.

A distinguished writer best known for her plays *Jump* and *Behind the Sheet*, Simpson was named the 2019-20 recipient of the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award from the Vineyard Theatre, co-recipient of the Dramatists Guild's Lanford Wilson Award, was nominated for the Outer Critics Circle's John Gassner Award, and two of her plays were named on The 2019 Kilroys' List.

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In order to assure the enjoyment of the theatre experience for all patrons, we ask your cooperation with the following considerations of the theatre environment.

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- The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, A violation of the Author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law. For more information, please visit: <https://shop.samuel french.com/content/files/pdf/piracy-whitepaper.pdf>.
- Please silence all cell phones, beeping watches and devices upon entering the theatre and during intermission.
- Children over the age of five are welcome in the theatre, but, no babies in arms please.
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- In case of fire, please walk in an orderly manner to the nearest exit. Do not run.

Special Services – The theatres are fully accessible to the physically challenged and includes wheelchair seating. Please see the House Staff.

AUDIENCE SERVICES

Box Office – The Box Office at the theatres opens two hours prior to each performance. Advance tickets are available by calling The Black Rep Box Office at 314.534.3810 or online at theblackrep.org.

To reach us in person visit:

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