

DISCOVERING BLACKNESS



UNCG School of Theatre

presents

Discovering Blackness

by **Sunflower B Rose**

Directed by **Mya Brown**^****

Choreographer
Christian Lowray

Scene Designer
Patricia McCall

Lighting Designer
Aaron Parelli

Hair, Makeup, &
Costume Designer
Frenchie Slade

Projection &
Sound Designer
David Greenberg

Stage Manager
Nicole Wylie

The UNCG School of Theatre is an accredited member of
the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

A World Premiere Production!

**Any video and/or audio recording of this production is
strictly prohibited.**

CAST

Destiny.....	Alyssa Jones
Peter.....	Satiya Williamson
Isreal.....	Lincoln Crosby
James.....	Jaden Rogers
Claire.....	Jakyia Barnes
Slim.....	Seania Burnett
Harmony.....	Alexa Fields
Kerry.....	Symoné Spencer

 **The Kennedy Center**
American College
Theater Festival

**Member of Actors' Equity Association

^^Society of Directors and Choreographers

LEARN MORE

To view bios and headshots please visit:

[HEADSHOTS & BIOS LINK](#)

Headshots & Bios QR Code:



Run time:

Approximately 2 hrs. with a 15 min.
intermission

Age Rating: PG-13

Content Disclosure: The production contains racially charged and explicit language, acts of violence, costumes with strobe lighting, and it addresses topics related to race and power.

Invitation: The audience will be voting on the mascots during Act 1.

Setting: Prince Washington Institute

Time: 2032

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Dramaturgs.....	Rania Botts, Trinity Matthews, Elijah Pittman, Caslande Smith, Amari White
Assistant Director.....	Langston Hopper
Assistant Stage Managers.....	N'shama Pledger-Levine Grace Yocum
Technical Director.....	Tom McCoy
Assistant Technical Director.....	Jade Griffin
Carpenters.....	Bennie Point du Jour, Kat Jones, THR 140L
Prop Director.....	Tannis Boyajian
Paint & Prop Artisans.....	Zara Crump, Annabelle Richard, Jennie Carrera, Alyssa Wagoner, Kai Hamby, THR 140L Students
Production Electrician.....	Percy Sluder
Lighting Programmer/Electrician.....	Ari Craig
Electricians.....	Laney Wymer, THR 146L & THR 370 Students
Assistant Costume Designer.....	Ella Van Tubbergh
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Sophie Ellenberger
Costume Artisans.....	Sam Albertin, THR 492 Students
Hair & Makeup Artisan.....	Dez Morrow, THR 492 students
Stage Crew	THR 146 Students
Wardrobe Crew.....	THR 147 Students

FACULTY/STAFF PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Director of Production.....	Chip Haas~
Theatre Manager.....	Joshua S. Ritter
Dramaturgy Advisor.....	Anna Dulba-Barnett
Scene Design Mentor.....	Matthew Emerson
Technical Direction Supervisor.....	Tom McCoy
Scenery & Prop Studio Supervisor.....	Tannis Boyajian
Lighting Supervisor.....	Joyce Liao
Sound Supervisor.....	David Greenberg
Wig & Makeup Supervisor.....	Jehann Gilman~
Costume Design Supervisor.....	Clare Parker
Costume Technology Supervisor.....	Tara Webb
Costume Director.....	Amy Holroyd
Design Graduate Students.....	Aaron Parelli, Poppy Garner, Frenchie Slade
CVPA Box Office Manager.....	Abigail Harris
Graphic Design.....	Judith Briand

~International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

STUDENT THEATRE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Audience Services Managers.....	Esanga Eteni
Marketing & Public Relations Mgmt.....	Courtney Stevens
Community Engagement Mgmt.....	Lizzy Brannan
Community Engagement Associate.....	Seania Burnett
Social Media Manager.....	Rebbekkah Eller
Box Office Managers.....	Joey Urgino, Keagan Cook, Alexa Fields, Maya Diaz, Calla Boerger, Riley Sharp, Christian Bartney
Box Office Staff.....	Niyah Bennett, Jack Kanaris, Whit Jury
Theatre Management Practicum.....	THR 493 Students

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

“Confront the dark parts of yourself, and work to banish them with illumination and forgiveness. *Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing.*” — August Wilson

Discovering Blackness is more than a performance; it is an act of reclamation, restoration, and radical togetherness. My approach to this work begins with ensemble, not merely as a collection of artists, but as a chosen family. We build community through trust, care, and truth-telling. In that space of honesty, we give one another permission to show up fully, without code-switching, without filtering our voices, or dimming our brilliance for the comfort of the white gaze.

Creating affinity spaces for historically marginalized artists is not an act of separation; it is an act of liberation. Within these spaces, we are allowed to exhale, to be transparent, vulnerable, and still held to a standard of excellence rooted in authenticity, not assimilation. Here, our stories, rhythms, and complexities are celebrated as essential, not exceptional.

My deepest gratitude to the playwright for the courage and generosity it takes to share this work with us. Thank you for creating a space that calls us to remember who we are, and who we can be, when we are seen in our fullness.

As you witness *Discovering Blackness*, I invite you to carry its resonance beyond the curtain call. The “third act” belongs to you, in the conversations you have, the reflections you hold, and the ways you continue to discover your own truths in community. May what you experience tonight spark dialogue, healing, and the ongoing work of collective illumination. “You betta recognize!”

-Mya Brown

DRAMATURGY NOTE

Working on Dramaturgy for *Discovering Blackness* has helped us process the many ways we can represent our communities and fight for our voices to be heard and our Blackness to be appreciated and seen. Ideas about advocating for our rights come in many shapes, sizes, and creative formats, just as the universe does within itself. It all comes together through the pull of an individual, an event, and/or an entity.

-Dramaturgy Team :)

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Dean.....**bruce d. mcclung**

SCHOOL OF THEATRE FACULTY AND STAFF

Director of the School of Theatre.....**Jennifer Vellenga**

Janet Allard
Dominick Amendum
Robi Arce-Martínez
Rebecca Bailey
Caitlyn Baldwin
Natalie Blackman
Tannis Boyajian
Rachel Briley
Mya Brown
Ashlee Dance
Julie Devore
Anna Dulba-Barnett
Rob Eastman-Mullins
Andrew Eisenman
Christina Elkins
Matthew Emerson
Dana Fear
David Furr
Jehann Gilman
David Greenberg
Chip Haas

Brandon Hicks
April Hill
Jessica Holcombe
Amy Holroyd
Hugh Hysell
Joyce Liao
Bryan McAdams
Thomas McCoy
Patrick Osteen
Clare Parker
Joshua Purvis
Joshua Ritter
Meris Robinson
Amy Shope
Aaron Sparks
Michael Tourek
Abigail Van Patter
Tug Watson
Tara Webb
Jim Wren

Theatre Angels, Seat Campaign, & Scholarship Donors

Should you wish to become a Theatre Angel, please email
Theatre Manager, Josh Ritter, at jsritter@uncg.edu.

Ms. Nicole Lynn Aquilina, Ms. Caitlyn Marie Baldwin,
Dr. Kate R. Barrett, Mr. William S. Barrier,
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Patti Walker, Mr. Jonathan Arthur Wentz, Mrs.
Georgia Nicolas West, Ms. Heather M. Wingate, Ms.
Carol Wright, Mrs. Sharon Marshall Ying

General School of Theatre Policies

- NO RECORDING OF ANY KIND DURING THE PERFORMANCE. Recording distracts the performers and is strictly against industry practices for live performances. No photography, video, or audio recordings are permitted during the show. Anyone observed recording may have their access to the production revoked by house management.
- We accept cash, checks, Visa, and Mastercard as forms of payment.
- The College of Visual and Performing Arts does not allow ticket refunds.
- Late seating is at the discretion of House Management. Late patrons will be seated in the closest available seat for their safety.
- Patrons who arrive more than 20 min. late must wait until intermission to be seated. If the production does not have an intermission, they will not be admitted.
- Food and drink are not permitted in School of Theatre venues.
- Only service animals are permitted in School of Theatre venues. All other animals are not allowed to enter during performances.
- All guests must have a ticket for entry.
- Babies are only permitted at North Carolina Theatre for Young People productions.
- It is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian to research and judge if the content of a performance is appropriate for their child's age and level of maturity.
- Please take a moment to locate the nearest emergency exit to your seating area. In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain calm and follow the instructions from the ushers (dressed in white and black with a name tag) and the house manager (dressed in all black with a name tag).



The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS!

BFA First-Year Showcase

Dates: Dec. 5-6

Book of Days

By Lanford Wilson

Dates: Feb 6-8

***The Lincoln Sisters of
Deckawoo Drive***

Dates: Feb. 7-28

UNCG Theatre Box Office Info:

Phone: 336-334-4392

Hours: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

Online Tickets:

www.uncgtheatre.com

ANTI-RACIST/BIAS STATEMENT

The School of Theatre acknowledges the mistakes we have made dealing with systemic racism, bias, and prejudice, much like the rest of America. We wholeheartedly believe in the following words of Ibram X. Kendi: "The opposite of racist isn't 'not racist.' It is anti-racist." To the School of Theatre, this means that we will educate our faculty, staff, and students about anti-racist practices. This looks like creating systemic change through workshops, continuing education, and professional development centered around anti-racist practices, theatrical intimacy, and bettering ourselves in service of our diverse and intersectional student body. This feels like educating and empowering our students, faculty, and staff to recognize and speak out against racism and damaging, outdated theatre practices. We are committed to this daily practice of unlearning, growth, and change.