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The University Company

PLAYBILL

the university company
presents

for colored
girls who have
considered suicide/
rainbow when the
is enuf

by ntozake shange

"All of the arts, poetry, music, ritual, the visible arts, the theatre, must singly and together create the most comprehensive art of all, a humanized society, and its masterpiece, free man." —Bernard Berenson

Arts

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THE UNIVERSITY COMPANY

presents

**FOR COLORED GIRLS
WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE
WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF**

by Ntozake Shange
Original Music by Herbert Bushnell and Bruce Moyer

Directed by Thomas P. Cooke
Choreography by Donna Hardy
Setting by Bill Black
Costumes by Marilyn Palmer Jensen
Lights by Chris Kaseta
Sound by Greg Lawson

The Carousel Theatre
February 19—March 6, 1982
Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

THE CAST FOR COLORED GIRLS

LADY IN BROWN	Maxine Thompson
LADY IN RED	Tamara Weaver*
LADY IN BLUE	Linda Parris-Bailey
LADY IN GREEN	Linda Upton
LADY IN YELLOW	JoVon Ricks
LADY IN PURPLE	Donna Hardy
LADY IN ORANGE	Jacqueline Carroll

**Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.*

****Understudy:** Eva Dupree

****Understudies** never substitute for listed players unless a special announcement is made at the time of the appearance.

In addition to the music which was written for this production by Herbert Bushnell and Bruce Moyer, musical selections include: The Dells singing "Stay," "Dancing in the Streets" by Martha and the Vandellas, and "Senora" by Willie Colon. Music for "I Found God in Myself" is by Diane Wharton. Original music is played by Herbert Bushnell, Bruce Moyer, Will Byers, and Ken Jenkins.

THE UNIVERSITY COMPANY

The University Company is an activity of the University of Tennessee Theatres, a division of the Department of Speech and Theatre in the College of Liberal Arts, Robert G. Landen, Dean. The faculty of the Department: G. Allan Yeomans, Acting Head; Roy Ambrester, Acting Associate Head; Ralph G. Allen, Robert Ambler, Milly Barranger, John Buckley, Norma Cook, Thomas P. Cooke, Robert Cothran, Marianne Custer, L. J. DeCuir, Robert Field, Fred Fields (Emeritus), Robert Glenn, Russell Green, Marian Hampton, Albert J. Harris, Wandalie Henshaw, Faye D. Julian, Chris Kaseta, Lorayne Lester, Robert Mashburn, Paul Soper (Emeritus), Dorothy Sorensen.

The Steering Committee for the Opening Night Club: Frank C. Comunale (Chairman), Max Alvarez, Lee Beeman, James Dunlap, Emily Faust, LeRoy Graf, Natalie Haslam, Wandalie Henshaw, Cornelia Hodges, Paul Huray, Judy Martin, Alvin Nielsen, Donna Pack, George Palo, Mary Venable, Robert Webb, G. Allan Yeomans. Coleen Thomason (Coordinator).

Opening Night Club Reception Sponsors: Container Corporation of America's Knoxville Container Plant, The Orangery, Rohm and Haas Tennessee, Inc., Pilot Oil Corporation, and Mr. and Mrs. B. Ray Thompson.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK: The Departments of Television and Radio Services, Ray Shirley, Director, and Bill Wilson and David Williamson. Steve Oglesby, Bob Gray, and Dean Wasson of WATE-TV; Carl Williams, Walt Martin, and Dave Hopkins of WBIR-TV; Betsy Gray, Rob Scobey, and Don Rochat of WTVK-TV; the UT Public Relations Office, David Lauver, L. J. DeCuir and Keith Cornelius and John Clark; WRJZ, WHEL, WIMZ, WKGN, WNOX, WOKI, WOR1, and WIVK.

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WHO'S WHO

MAXINE THOMPSON (*Lady in Brown*), a native Knoxville is a conference coordinator in the Department of Conferences and a doctoral student in the Department of Education Administration and Supervision here at UT.

Although her profession and program of study are non-theatre related, she enjoys acting tremendously. Maxine has been a member of the Carpetbag Theatre, Inc. for about ten years. In her last role with Carpetbag she played Weedy in *The Sty of the Blind Pig*. Other performances include: *Wine in the Wilderness*, *God's Trombones*, *In White America*, *Patent Leather Sunday*, *Alex and the Mermaid*, and *Sister Sadie*.

TAMARA WEAVER (*Lady in Red*) is a native Memphian and an MFA graduate student in acting and directing.

She has worked extensively with the Paul Robeson Repertory Company since its creation in 1977 as the Black Cultural Center Repertory Company.

She has worked with Theatre Memphis and starred in its production of *Dark of the Moon*. She has also appeared in the UT productions of *Born Yesterday*, *The Oldest Living Graduate*, *The Male Animal*, *General Gorgeous*, and *Mr. Roosevelt's Train Never Got Here*. She will also appear in the MFA production of *Medea*.

LINDA PARRIS-BAILEY (*Lady in Blue*) is the Artistic Director of The Carpetbag Theatre, Inc. A *magna cum laude* graduate of Howard University, she holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in directing. Her directorial credits include: *Home, Sty of the Blind Pig*, and *Circus Maxim*. She is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Tennessee in Theatre. As

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The Paul Robeson Repertory Company

The Paul Robeson Repertory Company was formed as the Black Cultural Center Repertory Company in 1977 on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville by a group of Black students interested in perpetuating informative and creative productions in Black drama. The Paul Robeson Repertory Company is significant in that it is an organization that has established and continues to communicate to students, faculty, and others an understanding of theatre. In addition, it provides an opportunity, heretofore not available, for Black students and others to participate in all aspects of theatre productions.

Prior to 1976, there were various groups and individuals who expressed an interest in Black theatre. The most well-known group was the Image Makers under the direction of John Grace. David Fuller, a creative artist, gained attention with his productions of *Black-O* and *Wino*. However, no group or individual was able to sustain (student) interest once their particular production was over.

During the fall quarter of 1976, the Black Cultural Center held a drama workshop for persons interested in writing, producing and acting in a production which would be part of the celebration of the first anniversary of the Center. As a result of the workshop, a production entitled *Unity* was presented in the University Center Ballroom. *Unity*, a collection of writings based on the history of Black students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville from 1960 through 1976, was the very first Black Cultural Center production to be formally recognized by a theatre-going audience. *Up From Tom*, a look at the history of Black theatre, was produced during the winter quarter of 1977 in the Clarence Brown Theatre. This was the second original production by the Black Cultural Center. It was a success.

Because of the popular demand and increasing interest in Black theatre, the Black Cultural Center Repertory Company was born. The first production under the B.C.C.R.C. was entitled *El Hajj Malik* by H. R. Davison. Mr. Orzy Theus, director, presented this play on May 19-20, 1977 in celebration of Malcolm X. The B.C.C.R.C. adopted an emblem that resembled the ancient mask of comedy and tragedy with a man and woman situated directly between the two symbols. Following the spring production, *El Hajj Malik*, the task before the company was to form an official membership.

The Black Cultural Center Repertory Company sponsored its first theatre workshop during the fall of 1977. This workshop was under the direction of Ms. Florence Roach, executive director of the Mid-

American Performing Arts Workshop. Following this workshop, the company began working on a production for winter 1978. It was this production, *A Night with James Weldon Johnson's God's Trombones*, under the direction of Tamara Weaver and Victor Cranford that the B.C.C.R.C. came into its own. The production consisted of the largest Black cast on the campus and won the praise of students, faculty and other citizens in the city of Knoxville.

Members of the company and others who participated in *A Night with James Weldon Johnson's God's Trombones* played to a packed house for four consecutive nights in the Lab Theatre. Many were turned away. The success of this production necessitated an encore performance for the Black Arts Festival of the spring of 1978. Also, the cast was invited to perform at Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee and at LeMoyné Ownes College in Memphis, Tennessee as part of the Memphis State University's Black Awareness Week.

A second theatre workshop was held in the spring of 1978 under the direction of Ms. Ruby Dee, world-renowned actress. At this point the Black Cultural Center Repertory Company then adopted a new emblem. The colors of red, black, and yellow were adopted to represent the company.

To conclude the many activities of the B.C.C.R.C. for the spring of 1978, the first formal induction ceremony was held. "All the World's a Stage" was the theme for this important and creative ceremony. Twenty persons were officially inducted into the company. During this same quarter, the company hosted the Mid-American Performing Arts Workshop in their production of *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*.

Over the past four years, and under the new name, The Paul Robeson Repertory Company has produced several more plays including: *Happy Endings*, *Shoes*, *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*, *Black Men on Black Women*, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf*, *Purlie*, and *Pioneers in Protest*.

The purpose of the P.R.R.C. is not only to promote Black theatre on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, but to provide opportunities for those interested in becoming familiar with Black culture as well. Furthermore, it established a permanent venue for students and others to express their talents and skills in the world of theatre.

Membership is open to students with auditions being held every winter quarter. Auditions for the plays are open to the public.

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a performer Ms. Parris-Bailey made her debut at UT in *Chamber Music* directed by Al Harris. In addition to her work with the Carpetbag Theatre Ensemble Company, she has worked with The Play Group, the "Women in the Arts" programs, and in stock companies. Her roles have included Harriet Tubman in *Sketches in Black* and the Deaconess in God's Trombones.

LINDA UPTON (*Lady in Green*) is currently pursuing a BA at the University of Tennessee.

She is also a member of The Carpetbag Theatre, Inc. Ms. Upton has made theatrical appearances in such productions as *West Side Story*, for which she also assisted

with the choreography, *Mars: A Tribute to the Last Black Eunuch*, and *The Incarnations of Reverend Good Black Dress*. Her most recent appearance was in the Carpetbag Theatre's presentation of *Home*.

JO VON RICKS (*Lady in Yellow*) is a speech and theatre major who hopes to

pursue an acting and singing career after receiving her BA degree. She is general manager of the Paul Robeson Repertory Company which was originally the Black Cultural

Center Repertory Company. She has worked in Memphis with Circuit Playhouse Youth Theatre and appeared in *Hamilton*, a revised version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. She has also worked with *An Evening of Soul*, a professional traveling group which originated at Memphis State University.

DONNA HARDY (*Lady in Purple*) is a reading instructor at Bearden Middle

School and a modern dance instructor/poet for Phyllis Wheatley YWCA. Donna has choreographed, acted, or danced with the UT Repertory Dance Company, the Ebony Love Dancers, Carpetbag Theatre

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Children's Theatre's *Cric Crac* and *Monument to the Last Black Eunuch*, Paul Robeson Repertory Theatre, Mid-American Performing Arts' *Brain Chains*, and Clarence Brown Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Donna works with the Beck Cultural Center in promoting the arts.

JACQUELINE LAVON CARROLL (*Lady in Orange*) is a junior in

mechanical engineering. She is a native of Memphis, where she participated in various speech and drama tournaments at South Side High School. She is the youngest of seven, and enjoys singing,

acting, and dancing. She is a member of the Paul Robeson Repertory Company, the Love United Gospel Choir, and the Sigma Silhouettes.

THOMAS COOKE (*Director*) received his MFA degree from Yale School of Drama and his Ph.D. degree from Florida State University. Dr. Cooke is Chairman of the MFA program in the Department of Speech and Theatre. He is past president of the Tennessee Theatre Association and has received that organization's award for Outstanding Contributions to Theatre in the State of Tennessee. His directing credits for 1980-81 include: *Vanities* at the West Side Dinner Theatre; *Sleuth* at the Terrace Dinner Theatre; *The Oldest Living Graduate* at the University of Tennessee; a revival of The Play Group's production of *If I Live To See Next Fall*; and the UT production of *Mr. Roosevelt's Train Never Got Here* which was selected for the American College Theatre Festival in Blacksburg, Virginia. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Theatre Association, The Play Group, and The Tennessee Valley Players, and is an advisor for the Paul Robeson Repertory Theatre Company.

HERB BUSHNELL (*Composer*) started playing piano at the age of five under the instruction of Elaine Taylor and Arthur Rivituso. He completed his Bachelor's in English literature in 1974 at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Later he played piano for the United States Army Band. Mr. Bushnell has performed original works at La Salle University in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Dance Academy, Hunter Museum of Art in Chattanooga, and on radio in Philadelphia. He is currently studying composition here at the University and has been named Director of Music for the Lenoir City Diamond Jubilee Celebration this summer. Mr. Bushnell composes music for special occasions on commission.

BRUCE MOYER (*Composer*) is a chemist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. A saxophonist, Bruce has played in bands just about all of his life. He along with Judy Harbron composed the score for *The B.S. Edison*, an original musical comedy which premiered at the Oak Ridge Playhouse. Mr. Moyer is a member of Prime Time, a group that plays for parties and wedding receptions. He found composing for *For Colored Girls* challenging and exciting.

BILL BLACK (*Scene designer*) usually a costume designer, Mr. Black is an active participant in all facets of theatre life. After completing his MFA in Theatre at the University of Illinois, he came to UT where he has been the costume shop manager for five years. He has designed scenery for *Experiences*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *The Grass Harp* in Theatre II, *Pippin* in Carousel for the Edward Rader Company, and *A Gershwin Revue* for the Terrace Dinner Theatre. His UT costume design credits include *Dracula: A Musical Nightmare*, *Candide*, *Androcles and the Lion*, and *Mr. Roosevelt's Train Never Got Here*.

Mr. Black believes that a hard head and a good sense of humor are key elements to a successful career in theatre.

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MARILYN PALMER JENSEN (*Costume Designer*) is a first year MFA student. She is a native of Silver Springs, Maryland. Her background is in fashion merchandising. She attended F.I.T. in the "Big Apple" and received her BS in textiles and clothing from UTK.

CHRIS KASETA (*Lighting Designer*) comes to Knoxville from Boston, where she was staff designer, advisor, and instructor at Harvard University's Loeb Drama Center. Chris has also designed for the Hampton Playhouse in New Hampshire. She received her MFA at Brandeis University, where she studied under Howard Bay and Robert Moody. There she designed for the Spingold and Laurie Theatres. Last season at UT she designed the sets for *Candide* and *Dracula: A Musical Nightmare*. Her most recent design was for the set of *Ah, Wilderness!* presented last fall in the Carousel.

GREG LAWSON (*Sound Designer*) is a graduate lighting assistant in the MFA program. His credits include such work as sound designs for Anthony Quayle's *Macbeth* and *Mr. Roosevelt's Train Never Got Here*.

HAROLD HOUSTON (*Stage Manager*) is currently a sophomore in advertising. Hal made his UT acting debut earlier this quarter in the TSA production of *Only the Redbird Sings in a Summer Rain* in the Lab Theatre. He has stage managed "An Evening of One-Act Plays" and "All Night Theatre" in the Lab. He is currently assistant stage managing *The Tempest* which will be presented in the Clarence Brown Theatre in March. In addition to his theatre work, Hal is also trying to keep his GPA out of the sub-zero range.

SHIRLEY McGEE (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is a speech education major. She is from Memphis and a member of the Paul Robeson Repertory Company. She has appeared in *Purlie*, *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*, and the Carpetbag Theatre's production of *Home*. She enjoys water skiing and dancing. Her favorite role was Pattie Mae Wells in *Home*. She plans to do an actor's exchange this summer in Africa.

THE STAFF FOR FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF

Stage Manager	Harold Houston
Assistant Stage Manager	Shirley McGee
Master Carpenter	Jonathan Stephens
Assistant Carpenter	Craig Vincent
Set Construction	John Cherry, Tammy Fareed, Jay Fraley, Brian Margetts John Ore, Tamara Weaver
Master Electrician	Dave Mazzoli
Light Board Operators	K. J. Wagenblast Nancy Zimmerman
Sound Board Operator	Gail Busby
Project Designer	Chris Kaseta
Slide Projectionist	Tim Kinnane
Slide Painters	Ruth Shneck, Toni Slutzky
Electrics Crew	G. L. Cain, Laura Cole, Lausanne Davis, Cindy Eckman, Kauren Kahn Missy Mashburn, Jimmy Pitts, Sarah Politt, Jane Rutherford, Tobie Slutzky, Toni Slutzky, Petrey Starks, Susan Stevens Members of Theatre 2221 and 3321
Cutter	Rebecca Britton
Costume Construction	Mari DeCuir Margaret Reese Allison M. Cain
Dresser	Audrey Brown
Poster Design	Bill Black

THE STAFF FOR THE UNIVERSITY COMPANY

Directors	Thomas P. Cooke, Marian Hampton, Albert J. Harris, Wandalie Henshaw, Faye D. Julian, Robert Mashburn
Designers	Bill Black Robert Cothran, Marianne Custer, L. J. DeCuir, Chris Kaseta, Robert Mashburn
General Manager	Margaret Forrester
Technical Director	R. C. Field
Publicist	Robert Hutchens
Publicity Assistant	Linda Upton
Accountant	Karen Wallace
Scene Shop Staff	Jonathan Stephens (Manager), David Malvin, Jane Snow
House Electrician	Keith Cornelius
Costume Shop Staff	Bill Black (Manager), Mari DeCuir, Margaret Reese
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