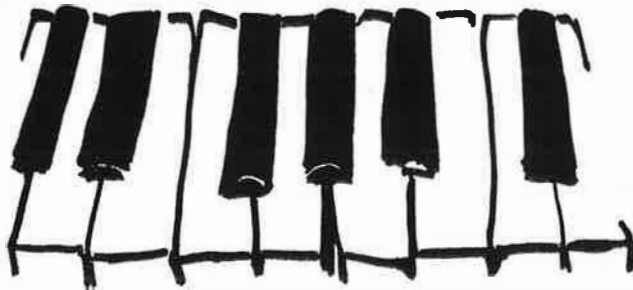


THEATRE THREE PRESENTS

THE PIANO LESSON

BY
August Wilson



Directed by LAURENCE O'DWYER

Lighting Design by
LINDA BLASE

Costume Design by
DEIDRE MOSER

Technical Direction and Sound Design by
VERN MCKINNEY

Piano Designed by
HARLAND WRIGHT

Set Designed by
JAC ALDER

Props and Set Dressing by
PEGGY KRUGER

Special Music by
JOE ROGERS

THE PIANO LESSON by August Wilson is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., New York, New York.

First preview: 17 October 1992

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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

BOY WILLIE -- Richard Ridley*
DOAKER -- Willy Minor*
LYMON -- Fred Burns*
BERNIECE -- Vicki Washington*
MARETHA -- Lenika Hardman**
AVERY -- Lloyd Barnes*
WINING BOY -- Jim Ponds*
GRACE -- Ruthie Austin**

* denotes member of Actor's Equity Association
** A.E.A. membership candidate

THEATRE THREE operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. *Member, AEA. **Membership Candidate, AEA.

THEATRE THREE is supported, in part, by The Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Dallas; The Texas Commission on the Arts; The National Endowment for the Arts; The 500, Inc; TACA; The Meadows Foundation; The Dallas Morning News; WFAA; KDFW; Ford Motor Company; ARCO; EXXON; plus many other corporations, foundations, and individuals. We regret that space limitations do not allow us to print all the names of our many supporters. THEATRE THREE salutes those whose support makes our work possible, including our Subscribers, BRAVO, FRIENDS OF THEATRE THREE, ENCORE, THREE AND ME, and THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Contributors. In addition, a special salute to the scores of Volunteers who give of their time to contribute invaluable services to THEATRE THREE.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene 1 - 5:00 am, Pittsburg, 1936.

Scene 2 - Three days later.

ACT TWO

Scene 1 - The following morning.

Scene 2 - Late evening of the same day.

Scene 3 - Several hours later.

Scene 4 - The next morning.

Scene 5 - That evening.

staff & board

Theatre Three Staff

Jac Alder, Executive Producer-Director
Norma Young, Founding Artistic Director
Thurman Moss, Chief of Operations
Terry Dobson, Assistant to the Producer
Mark Hadley, Comptroller
Pat Perna, Bookkeeper
Rosie Hughes, Public Relations Director
Katie Schmidt, Administrative Assistant

Peter Douglas, House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator
Suellen Hanson, Box Office Manager
Iris Figg, Box Office Reception
Allan Proffit, Box Office Volunteer
Donna Gay, Box Office Volunteer

Vern McKinney, Technical Director
Deldre Moser, Costumer
Jason Watkins, Booth Operations
Bryan Miller, Master Electrician
Robert Bessolo, Carpenter

Theatre Three Board of Directors

Jac Alder and Norma Young
Gregg and Lisa Ballew
Sally Branch
Lexon Cole
Leonard and Pauline Gralvier
Kenneth and Virginia Haigler
Casey and Debra Hozer
Ed and Rosie Hughes
Lloyd Kitchens
Dave and Marguerite Lambert
David Lopez
Eric McHenry
Jim and Janet Morris
Bill and Elya Naxon
Elizabeth Rivera
May Tweed
Don Wilder
Phyllis Walker (Cultural Affairs Liaison)
Libby York (500, Inc. Liaison)

about the author

AUGUST WILSON (Author)

TIME magazine called author Wilson the surest American voice in American theatre since Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller. His remarkable series of plays (each set in a different decade of the American experience) are celebrated for the rich poetry of language, the daring complexity of his characters, the startling plots and bold issues he explores as part of the African American experience. His first play MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM had its Broadway debut in 1984. Since that presentation he has won every major award in the field of drama including the Pulitzer Prize, (for both FENCES and THE PIANO LESSON) the Tony, the Drama Critics' Circle award. He makes his home in Minnesota.

A NEW COMEDY BY PATRICIA GRIFFITH



Using deft humor and her love of Texans' eccentricity, Ms. Griffith, author of SAFETY and OUTSIDE WACO, has fashioned an endearing and sharply argued new work set in Austin and centering on an unlikely romance.

NEXT
NOV 28th thru Dec 27th

bios

LAURENCE O'DWYER (Director)

A veteran member of Theatre Three's company, Mr. O'Dwyer was last seen on stage as Sam Byck in ASSASSINS. Other recent appearances include WAITING FOR GODOT, JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE and LONDON ASSURANCE. Mr. O'Dwyer directed this season's first Premium Attraction, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, and many past audience and critic favorites, including MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, ANIMAL FARM and LIGHT UP THE SKY. As author and director, he has helmed most of the theatre's children's productions, including the annual DISD offering, TEXAS TUMBLEWEEDS. Mr. O'Dwyer is a graduate of Goodman Theatre in Chicago. He chaired the Drama Department at Bennington College and recently performed for the prestigious South Coast Repertory Theatre in California.

RUTHIE AUSTIN (Grace)

A native of Memphis, Tennessee (where she was active in television commercial work and modelling) Ms. Austin moved to Dallas and expanded her on-camera work to series television playing for two seasons in DALLAS. She was also seen in the made-for-television film, FIRE AND RAIN as well as GUILTY OF INNOCENCE, THE LENEL GETER STORY. On stage she has been seen in MAHALIA SPEAKS REMEMBERING MARTIN for The Dallas Drama Company and for the Afro American Alliance in a production of ONE MONKEY DON'T STOP NO SHOW. This assignment marks her Theatre Three debut.

LLOYD "BLUE" BARNES (Avery)

Mr. Barnes' first Dallas appearance was three years ago in another August Wilson Pulitzer-Prize winner, FENCES playing the role of Gabriel. That production, at Dallas Repertory Theatre, was followed by DRT assignments in a score of productions for young audiences. At Circle Theatre in Fort Worth he played T-Bone in the play T-BONE AND WEASEL and back in Dallas he has performed for Teatro Dallas. Prior to his move to Dallas, Mr. Barnes played leads in such plays as ZOOMAN AND THE SIGN, I'M NOT RAPPAPORT, CEREMONIES IN DARK OLD MEN, A RAISIN IN THE SUN, A SOLDIER'S PLAY, THE ODD COUPLE and AMEN CORNER. This assignment marks his Theatre Three debut.

FREDRICK BURNS (Lymon)

A native Texan born in Mexia and raised in Fort Worth, Mr. Burns earned his BS degree from The University of North Texas and moved to Dallas to begin his career. Stage credits for The Dallas Children's Theatre include ANASE THE SPIDER and THE RELUCTANT DRAGON. He performed in REVEAL (by local playwright/ actor/director Akin Babatunde) and also for Mr. Babatunde's Vivid Theatre company played in the classic TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD. National television credits include the dramatic series DANGEROUS CURVES as well as commercials. He performed the murderous Carl Gulick in the video play TONE CLUSTERS. This assignment marks his Theatre Three debut.

LENIKKA HARDMAN (Maretha)

A student at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in the theatre cluster, Ms. Hardman was last seen at Theatre Three in JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE receiving excellent reviews and a nomination for the Patron Favorite in the best-supporting actress category. Other on stage assignments for Ms. Hardman include PAPA WAS A PREACHER, THE 1930s RADIO SHOW, BABES FROM OUTER SPACE and THE AMERICAN WAY. She wishes to dedicate her performance to her mother for her own "piano lessons".

WILLIE MINOR (Doaker)

A native Texan from Arp, Mr. Minor has graced all the major stages of Dallas. He appeared at Theatre Three in MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM, the first August Wilson play staged in Texas. Other memorable performances include Willie in MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS and the Elesin in DEATH AND THE KING'S HORSEMAN. A favorite of film director Oliver Stone, he appeared in both JFK and BORN ON THE 4th OF JULY. Television series work includes DANGEROUS CURVES and AMERICA'S MOST WANTED. Married and the father of two, Mr. Minor is a founder of the Dallas-based Citizen's Committee to Save Our Children. He is represented by Elite Talent and Modeling Agency.

JIM PONDS (Wining Boy)

In over twenty five years of work as an actor, Mr. Ponds has done stage plays, movies, television and commercial voice work. His most recent stage assignment was in the production of MISS EVERS' BOYS, the joint production of The Alley Theatre in Houston and the Dallas Theater Center. He played in FENCES for The Dallas Repertory Theatre; in I'M NOT RAPPAPORT for Stage West and for Theatre Three two seasons ago in JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE. Mr. Ponds has seven made-for-television movies and two feature films to his credit including THE GEORGE MCKENNA STORY, FIRE AND RAIN and GUILTY OF INNOCENCE, THE LANEL GETER STORY. Mr. Ponds is represented by The Kim Dawson Agency.

RICHARD RIDLEY (Boy Willy)

A graduate of Oklahoma University in drama, Mr. Ridley recently directed an original play ONE TWO MANY for the West Irving Black Arts Council. He has performed for several Oklahoma theatres including Jewel Box, B.L.A.C. and Stage Center in Oklahoma City and Theatre North in Tulsa. In Texas he has appeared for Jubilee Theatre in Fort Worth, Pegasus Theatre in Dallas, Irving Theatre and Stage 90. Important roles in his resume include Val Johnson in SPLIT SECOND, Bobby Foster in POISON TREE, C. J. Memphis in A SOLDIER'S PLAY and Dr. Winston Crew in MEDEA AND THE DOLL. He has done regional commercial, voice overs and industrial shows and is represented by Clipse Model and Talent Management. This assignment marks his Theatre Three debut.

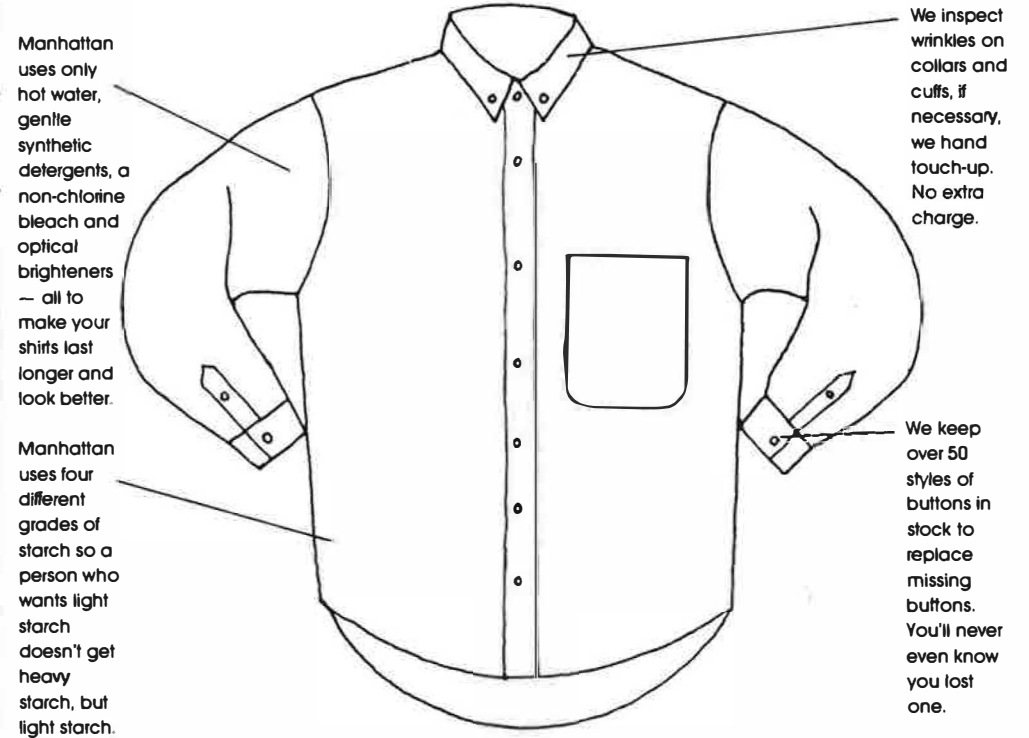
VICKIE WASHINGTON (Bernice)

"Vickie Washington stands proudly on the shoulders of theatrical ancestors the likes of Paul Robeson and Rose McClendon. Her Grandmas Lucy Johnson, Willie Donaldson and Ethartie Washington have helped her through the years and her mother and sister have encouraged her mightily. This circle of mothers, sisters and friends will never be broken. Her performance is dedicated to her husband and children. To God be the Glory!" Ms. Washington's prior Theatre Three performances include FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF, HOUSE OF FLOWERS and most recently JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE.

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