

THEATRE THREE'S 34TH SEASON

Music, Murder & Birth

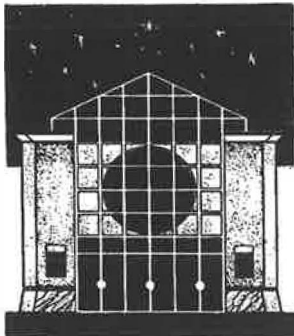
black nativity



SECOND BONUS PREMIUM ATTRACTION

December 20, 21, 22 & 23, 1994

Theatre Three's Playbill
is a Publication of



THEATRE THREE

In The Quadrangle
2800 Routh Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

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Founding Artistic Director

Jac Alder
Executive Producer-Director

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the Season also includes
two Premium Attractions,
two Bonus Attractions, and
a Holiday show, *The Fantasticks*.
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SECOND BONUS PREMIUM ATTRACTION
34th Season, No. 8
December, 1994

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Theatre Three and New Arts Six

present
a joint production of

black nativity

by **LANGSTON HUGHES**

Jac Alder, Executive Producer-Director

Featuring
New Arts Six: **Glenda Cole Clay** (*Lyric Coloratura-Soprano*), **Monya Davis Logan** (*Pianist*),
Cynthia Dorn Navarrete (*Actress/Dramatist*), **Dorothy Regina Powell** (*Dramatic Mezzo*
Soprano), **Linda Searight** (*Contralto*), **Gale Washington Tyler** (*Lyric Soprano*)
and
K. Danor Gerald, Frank Manuel, Jr., Jason Smith, Johnny DeWayne Wimbrey,
Robin Lynn Searight

SECOND BONUS PREMIUM ATTRACTION of 94/95 Season
Four Performances
December 20, 21, 22 & 23, 1994

Support comes from the proceeds of a grant
for the Season's Bonus Premium Attractions provided by
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The Dallas Morning News

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black nativity

By Langston Hughes
Musical Arrangements by New Arts Six

Act One

Joy To The World
Seeking For A City
Nobody Knows
I'm A Rolling
My Lord What A Morning
Baby Born In Bethlehem
What You Gonna Name Your Baby
Great Day
Joy To The World (reprise)
Glory Hallelujah
No-Good Shepherd Boy
Go Tell It On The Mountain
Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow
What Month Was Jesus Born In
Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Oh, Come all Ye Faithful
Amen

There will be one 15 minute intermission

Act Two

Meetin' Tonight
Witness
I Told Jesus
I Know the Lord
Leak In The Building
Doncha Let Nobody
Done, Done
Everytime I Feel The Spirit
Ain't Got Time To Die
Soon Ah Will Be Done
God Be With You

CAST PROFILES

GLENDIA COLE CLAY (*Lyric Coloratura-Soprano*), a founding member of New Arts Six and its predecessor, the Cameo Opera (Dallas), is also a solo recitalist, oratorio specialist and master music teacher. She has sung in places ranging from churches to concert halls and as a concert soloist and as a featured soloist, especially oratorios. Utilizing the musical experiences of Howlin' Wolf through Leontyne Price, Ms. Clay has taught children music theory, vocal and opera music, theatre etiquette and storytelling. Ms. Clay holds a Master of Education degree (Prairie View A&M University) and a Bachelor Science in Music (Bishop College, Dallas).

MONYA DAVIS LOGAN (*Pianist*) has performed with such celebrities as Peabo Bryson, Melba Moore and Jennifer Holiday. Active in her community, Ms. Logan serves her church as the coordinator of the St. Luke United Methodist Church Music Ministry and provides private piano lessons. As a teacher, Ms. Logan taught music theory and music appreciation at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She has studied at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts. At the age of 10, Ms. Logan began playing weekly in her church where she gained a wealth of performing experience and exposure.

CYNTHIA DORN NAVARRETE (*Actress/Dramatist*) This actresses' voice has been heard nationally in television programs and radio spots. Her roles range from supporting actress in made-for-television movies like *Woman of Independent Means*, *The Charmer*, *Tell Laura I Love Her*, *Island City*, *Love Hurts* and *Caged Fear*. Voice-over spots include McDonald's and Bank One as well as industrial training films made for corporations and government agencies. Theatrically, she has appeared in *House of Flowers*, *For Colored Girls*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, *Little Boxes*, *Fences* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. Ms. Navarrete holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Southwest Texas State University with a music minor.

DOROTHY REGINA POWELL (*Dramatic mezzo Soprano*), a musician of great versatility, has performed operatic roles in *Carmen*, *Samson & Delilah* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and oratorio solos from Handel's *Messiah* and Verdi's *Requiem*. As a student, she sang as a soloist with the Bethune Cookman College Choral (Florida) and earned first prize in the Florida Music Educators Competition. With the choral, Ms. Powell performed extensively across the country including Carnegie Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center as well as internationally in Israel, Greece, France, Germany and Austria. Ms. Powell holds a political science degree from the Bethune Cookman College.

LINDA SEARIGHT (*Contralto*) is a vocalist, composer, actress, author, teacher and organist. A private audition with Jennie Tourel (an opera star from 1931 to 1971) resulted in twenty solo concerts with the Dallas Symphony. As a veteran instructor, Ms. Searight has worked with children in music and drama covering diction, vocal technique and the exploration of the Spiritual. As a vocalist, she has performed on national television with Bobby Jones, *The Gospel Explosion* (BET). She is also the founder of a youth community chorus that appears on BET periodically. A graduate of Bishop College, Ms. Searight earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education.

GALE WASHINGTON TYLER (*Lyric Soprano*) As a soloist, Ms. Tyler has performed with the Winston-Salem Symphony Orchestra and the North Carolina Bicentennial Touring Module. She has held the operatic roles of Laurie in *The Tenderland* (Aaron Copeland), Susanna in *The Secret of Susanna* (Wolf-Ferrari) and Liu in *Turandot* (Giacomo Puccini). As a longtime member of New Arts Six, she has arranged many of its music and written productions. Ms. Tyler holds a Master of Music/Vocal Performance from SMU's Meadows School of the Arts and a Bachelor of Music/Vocal Performance from the North Carolina School of the Arts (Winston-Salem, NC).

K. DANOR GERALD, just seen in Theatre Three's production of *Manchild in the Promised Land*, is now a third semester student at KD Studios and has attended Ouachita Baptist University where he was a recipient of the Dennie Holt Drama Scholarship. He has appeared in *Rouge Et Noir* as Jason Samuels, an original play performed at Old Washington State park in Arkansas.

FRANK MANUEL, JR., portrayed Turk in the T3 production of *Claude Brown's Manchild in the Promised Land*. He attended SMU from 1992-1993 and was a member of the LaCumba Players. He is currently a fourth semester student at KD Studios. His favorite role thus far is Charles Aarons in the play *Up The Down Staircase*.

JASON SMITH appeared as Knoxville in *Manchild in the Promised Land*, presented by Theatre Three and Michael Skipper. Born in Pittsburgh, Mr. Smith has lived in Dallas since he was eight. He has numerous radio, television, theatre and feature film credentials, including the role of Melvin in Universal Studio's feature film, *Dazed and Confused*. Previous theatre performances include *A Soldier's Play*, *Mr. Flannery's Ocean* and *Daddy's Maybe* (Dallas Drama Company).

JOHNNY DEWAYNE WIMBREY recently appeared on Theatre Three's stage as Pimp in *Manchild in the Promised Land* which was adapted for the stage by Robert Earl Price from the autobiography of Claude Brown. Mr. WimbreY just graduated from Trimble Tech High School in Fort Worth and now attends the KD Studio, working on his associates degree in acting.

ROBIN LYNN SEARIGHT is a senior at Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet High School where she is currently studying theatre.

NEW ARTS SIX

NEW ARTS SIX was founded in 1981 by six Dallas-based African-American women who saw a need to revitalize the musical legacy of African-Americans. The identification of this need led them to their mission - to preserve, promote and perform the ethnic folk music of African-Americans - the Spiritual. The Spiritual, also known as *The Sorrow Song*, is both social and political. The Spiritual grew out of a rebellion against slave masters. It reflects, as African background, a life on Southern plantations and an unforgettable record of a people being dehumanized.

Theologically, the Spiritual allows one to understand how the divine spirit moves black people toward unity and determination, and how they created their own religion from the remnants of both African and Christian beliefs. Three central themes in the Spiritual are: a desire for freedom (freedom from bondage and freedom in bondage); a desire for justice; and, a desire to gain an everlasting future. The Black Spiritual is the essence of many forms of popular music: jazz, gospel and blues. The Spiritual is a pure American art form, a social and political statement, and an integral part of African-American historical and cultural development. The power of the music comes directly from the Black experience and tradition.

From the beginning, New Arts Six has produced original works utilizing Spirituals to musically record a page of history or folk tradition. These original works are commissioned by New Arts Six and produced by in-house writer/performer Gale Washington Tyler and prominent African-American playwrights like Rudy Eastman of Ft. Worth's Jubilee Theatre and Dr. Arthur L. Allen of Allen Children's Theater and Goober Productions. The ensemble is equally inspired by Dallas author/journalist/musician Rosalyn M. Story, whose book *And So I Sing* relates the stories of African-American women who achieved operatic careers despite artistic, social and racial barriers.

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Linda Searlight, *Contralto*; Gale Washington Tyler, *Lyric Soprano*

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Craig Cathey

David and Cherry Haymes
Gregg Ballew
Malcolm Mace
Judy Fong
Barbara Yount

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT THEATRE THREE

Even before the Civil Rights legislation of the early '60's, Theatre Three began championing the work of African-American actors, writers, directors and musicians. Theatre Three has introduced Dallas to eminent black playwrights like August Wilson (whose plays, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and *The Piano Lesson*, received Southwestern premieres here); Ntozake Shange (*For Colored Girls...*); and, Ossie Davis (*Purlie Victorious* and the book for the subsequent musical, *Purlie*). Theatre Three staged the world premiere of *Stringbean*, which starred Leslie Uggams, a play-with-music biography of the young Ethel Waters (written by Lanier Robertson, author of *Lady Day at the Emerson Bar and Grill*).

Because Dallas is the home of so many superbly talented black performers, those artists have been featured at Theatre Three in numerous "non-traditional" roles as well. In addition, Theatre Three has had previous joint ventures with Dallas Black Dance Theatre, with Houston's Ensemble Theatre, and with Vivid Theatre Ensemble for *Manchild In The Promised Land*, adapted for the stage by Robert Earl Price, based on Claude Brown's autobiography and co-produced with Michael Skipper. Theatre Three is proud to join again with New Arts Six for this latest joint venture.

THANKS

The Quadrangle; The Hampstead Group; Lee Data Mail; John Haynsworth Photography (Connie); Mr. Kenn Thorpe; J. S. Simmons Printing Services; The Gang at Kinko's/Oak Lawn

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