



Anti-racism Statement

For many of us, the news surrounding the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many other Black Americans has brought on much heartbreak, anger and questions of what we can do as artists to make change.

What we do know is that the theatre is a place of healing and a catalyst for social change. There are many ways for us as artists to begin our work. Please see the attached list of resources and use them to commit actively in engaging your education about systemic and individual racism in the theatre community and the world at large. The first two video links are a starting place to listen to the voices of Black theatre artists. For those of you ready to learn more, we invite you to read, watch and listen to the stories of our nation's greatest storytellers. They will remind us that there are no Black stories without Black lives.

Goals:

Short Term Goals - We promise to accomplish these this year.

- We promise to read the works of black playwrights in theatre classes.
- We promise to be aware of harmful stereotypes that reinforce a negative ideology towards specific cultures.
- We promise to be conscious of race in our casting practices. Specifically promising not to cast white actors in roles written for BIPOC.

Long term- Our aspirations for the next three years:

- Performing shows written by black playwrights
- Having black creatives on the production team(s)

Our intentions with these goals are to amplify black voices, black playwrights, and young black performers. We recognize that some of these goals will take longer than others, but it is essential that we engage in this work now. We encourage other high school theatre departments to recognize the importance of combating racism and we invite you to engage in these promises as well.



Resources

Playwrights and plays to read:

- Tarell Alvin McCraney- *Choir Boy, The Brother Size, In the Red and Brown Water, Marcus or the Secret of Sweet, Ms. Blakk for President*
- Lorraine Hansberry - *Raisin in the Sun, Les Blancs, The Sign In Sidney Brustein's Window.*
- Suzan-Lori Parks - *Venus, The America Play, Devotees in the Garden of Love, The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World, Topdog/Underdog*
- Ntozake Shange - *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf, From Okra to Greens, Savannahland, Love's Fire, Spell No. 7*
- August Wilson- *Jitney, Fences, The Piano Lesson, Seven Guitars, Two Trains Running*
- Lynn Nottage- *Sweat, Ruined, Intimate Apparel, Crumbs from the Table of Joy, By the Way Meet Vera Stark*
- Charly Evon Simpson- *Behind the Sheet*
- Anna Deavere Smith- *Fires in the Mirror, Twilight: Los Angeles 1992, Notes from the Field, Let Me Down Easy*
- Darel Orlandersmith- *Yellowman*
- James Baldwin- *The Amen Corner, Blues for Mister Charlie*
- Loy A. Web- *The Light*
- Amiri Baraka- *Dutchman & The Slave, A Black Mass*
- Langston Hughes- *Black Nativity, Mulatto, Mule Bone, Tambourines to Glory, Jericho-Jim Crow*
- Jeremy O. Harris- *Slave Play*
- Alice Childress- *Mojo: A Black Love Story, When the Rattlesnake Sounds, Let's Hear It for the Queen, Sea Island Song later retitled Gullah, Moms: A Praise Play for a Black Comedienne*
- For more: [19 Queer Black Playwrights to Know and Support](#)



Resources

Performances, Interviews, and videos to watch:

- [The Broadway Q&A Series: Navigating Black Broadway](#)
- [Black Lives Matter: A Virtual Celebration of Black Theatre Artists](#)
- ["America" from the Broadway cast of Hamilton](#)
- [NationalBlackTheatre](#) (Check out the NBT @ Home series)
- [Films about the Black Experience, curated by the AAFCA](#)

Action to take / Other Resources:

- [We See You, White American Theater](#)
- [BLM Resources Archive](#)
- [Brave Space Alliance](#)
- [Activist Shorts: BLM Chicago](#)
- [NAACP | We Are Done Dying](#)
- [The BIPOC Project](#)
- [Byp100](#)
- [Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation](#)