Notes from the Playwright

Play is conceived for performance by a Negro cast, a reverse minstrel show done in White-face. Logically, it might also be performed by whites—at their own risk. If any producer is faced with choosing between opposite hues, author strongly suggests: "Go 'long wit' the blacks-besides all else, they need the work more."

If acted by the latter, race members are urged to go for broke, yet cautioned not to ham it up too broadly. In fact-it just might be more effective if they aspire for serious tragedy. Only qualification needed for Caucasian casting is that the company fit a uniform pattern-insipid white; also play in white face.

Before any horrifying discrimination doubt arise, I hasten to add that a bonfide white actor should be cast as the Announcer in all productions, like wise a Negro thespian in pure native black as Rastus. This will truly subvert any charge that the production is unintergrated.

—Douglas Turner Ward, Playwright and Co-Founder of the Negro Ensemble Company, excerpt from *Day of Absence*, "Notes on Production"

Special Thanks

Dr. Deborah McDowell and the Carter G. Woodson Institute, Todd S. McFadden, Drama 307, Office of African-American Affairs, Brittani Wade

Who's Who In Day of Absence

Alisa "Ali" Adkins (4th Year Drama/Music): This is Ali's UVA Drama debut.

Nana Amoah (2nd Year Drama): Thoroughly Modern Millie (FYP); Beast of No Nation, Jitney (National Forensic League); Lil Abner, The Pajama Game, Pippin (Edison Drama).

Kate Burke is on the U.Va. Drama faculty and has coached and acted at regional theatres across the county. A Past President of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association, Inc., she also serves on the advisory committee of the U.Va. St. Anselm Institute for Catholic Thought.

Alex Campbell (4th Year Drama): Hedda Gabler, Iphigenia and Other Daughters (U.Va. Drama); The Homicide Blog, The Chairs (U.Va. Lab Series); Fall of the House of Usher (U.Va Drama Independent Production); A Midsummer Night's Dream, Titus Andronicus, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (SotL).

Amy Desjadon: ASM: So Careless (U.Va. Drama); City of Angels, The Light in the Piazza (Heritage).

Evva Gandy (4th Year Drama): ASM: *The Voysey Inheritance* (U.Va. Drama). PSM: *City of Angels, The Light in the Piazza* (Heritage). Stage Management Apprentice Albert Herring (Lorin Maazel's Chateauville Foundation).

Brooke Howard (3rd Year Drama, American Politics): *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* (Paul Robeson Players); *The Vagina Monologues* (Spectrum Theatre); *Inside the Box* (U.Va. Drama).

Mylrick Lapointe (4th Year Drama): This is Mylrick's U.Va. Drama debut.

Lance Lemon (2nd Year Drama, Philosophy): *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (FYP); *Whoopin' Mama and Dookie Braids* (Paul Robeson Players); *A Collage of Wright: Words As Weapons*, (AAT); *Tonight, Loveseat* (FMS).

J. Lytel: This is J. Lytel's U.Va. Drama debut.

Jeff Luppino-Esposito (2nd Year English): *Damn Yankees, Thoroughly Modern Millie* (FYP).

Libby Majette (4th Year Drama, Math): *A...My Name Will Always Be Alice* (U.Va. Drama).

Dale Marshall (1st Year M.F.A.Lighting Design): Virgo/Hebrew Rising, Vivien, Resting Place, Magdalene (Sacramento Theatre Company); I Love You... Now Change, Joseph... Dreamcoat, The Full Monty, Leading Ladies (Arundel Barn Playhouse); Albert's Bridge, The Brides, Farther West, Le Bergoius Avant-Garde (Illinois Wesleyan University).

Keiana Mayfield (2nd Year Drama/Biology): *Thoroughly Modern Millie, Damn Yankees* (FYP).

Yadel T. Mulugeta (Cognitive Science/Foreign Affairs): This is Yadel's U.Va. Drama debut.

Jimmy Norton (3rd Year Drama): So Careless (U.Va. Drama); Fall of the House of Usher, Ghost Machine (U.Va. Drama Independent Productions).

Telma Sheppard (4th Year Drama): *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* (Paul Robeson Players).

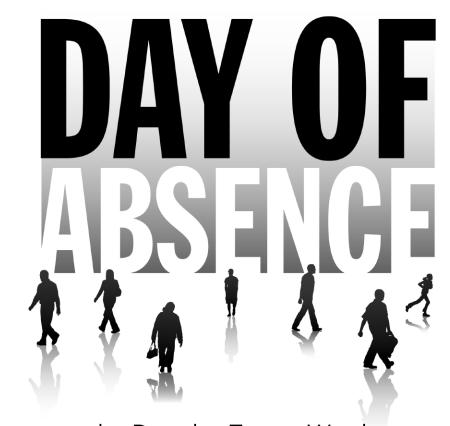
Brittany Terrell (2nd Year Drama): Whoopin' Mama and Dookie Braids (Paul Robeson Players); Vagina Monologues 2008 (Spectrum Theater); Tonight, The Write Note (FMS).

Aithne Thomas (4th year Sociology): This is Aithne's costuming debut.

Steven L. Warner (Lecturer, Tech. Director): Cirque du Soleil *O, KA*, '02 Academy Awards performance (Asst. Tech. Director/ Depart. Manager/Project Manager); Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus (Operations Manager); Utah Shakespeare Festival (Asst. Tech. Director).

Mark Washington (3rd Year): Guys and Dolls (Play On); In The Blood, The Pillowman (Live Arts).

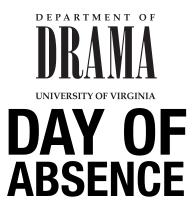
Folami Williams (4rd Year Drama): For Colored Girls..., HAIR (U.Va. Drama); Vagina Monologues (Spectrum Theatre); Ain't Misbehavin' (Live Arts).



by Douglas Turner Ward Directed by Theresa M. Davis

> HELMS THEATRE 8 p.m. October 23-25, 28-31 & November 1, 2008





A Satirical Fantasy

By Douglas Turner Ward

and

Consider the Negro

By Doug Grissom

Directed by Theresa M. Davis
Scenic Design by Libby Majette
Costume Design by Aithne Thomas
Lighting Design by Dale Marshall
Sound Design by Jimmy Norton
Technical Direction by Steven Warner
Voice and Dialect Coaching by Kate Burke
Production Stage Management by
Amy Desjadon, Evva Gandy

Day of Absence was first presented by Robert Hooks, Inc. at the St. Marks Playhouse, in New York City, on November 15, 1965 under the direction of Philip Meister.

Produced by special arrangement with, Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

Consider the Negro

Performed by Alex Campbell

DAY OF ABSENCE

The Ensemble

(in order of appearance)

(in oraer of appearance)
Lance Lemon Clem, First Citizen, Businessman
Nana Amoah Luke, Second Citizen, Mop Man
Mark Washington John, Brush Man
Folami Williams
Brooke Howard First Operator, Assistant to Aide and Mayor
Brittany Terrell Second Operator, Aide Assistant
Keiana Mayfield Third Operator, Mrs. Pious
Alisa "Ali" Adkins
J. Lytel
leff Luppino-EspositoMayor, Clan
Mylrick Lapointe Third Citizen, Industrialist, Rev. Pious, Rastus
Juliana BartonClubwoman
Yadel T. Mulugeta Courier
Alex Campbell
Telma SheppardDoll Woman
"The time is now. Play opens in unnamed Southern town of medium population on a somnolent cracker morning—meaning no matter the early temperature, it's gonna get hot. The hamlet is just beginning to rouse itself from the sleepy lassitude of night."

This production is presented in cooperation with Paul Robeson Players.

—Douglas Turner Ward

Production Staff

Oramaturg	Randall C. Wilkerson
	Nana Amoah
Associate Director	Lauren Jenkins
Assistant Stage Managers	Allison DeBlois, Bjorn Falk
	Alan Perez
Departmental Technical Director	Steven Warner
	Jessica Cloutier, Justin Smith
	Bjorn Falk, James Villarrubia,
•	Rachel Lau, Michelle Miller
Scenic Supervisor	Tom Bloom
	David P. Hale
	Libby Majette
•	Erica Atzl, Olga Zeveleva
-	Jeremy Weing
	Olga Zeveleva, Sandra Tzvetkova
-	. Laura L. Muschelli, Blaine Eichner
	Gweneth West
	Joshua Bond
2 0	Ruth Isenstadt
Orapers	Lee Kelly, Construction 231
	R. Lee Kennedy
Master Electrician	Justin Freshwater
Light Board Operator	Mary Beth Johnson
Sound Advisor	Michael Rasbury
Sound Engineer	Mike Benonis
Sound Board Operator	Robert Winston
Business Manager	James Scales
Asst. Business Manager/Publicity	Jenny Mays
Box Office Manager	Julia Debo
Box Office Staff	Suzanne Casey, Sarah Edwards,
Harrison Gib	bons, Russ Hicks, Becca Thompson,
Colleen Tren	tham, Will Rucker, Yasminca Wilson
House Manager	Portia Henry
	Ashley Boney, Tanzima Chowdhury,
Vasl	hti Harrison, Claire Hart, Zoe Ortiz,
	Leatrice Woods, Chong Zhang
	Mylrick H. Lapointe
Production Manager	Caitlin McLeod
Production Manager	Caitlin McLeo