

 UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

DRAMA

November 9 – 11 @ 8pm

November 17 & 18 @ 8pm

November 12 & 19 @ 2pm

Director: Theresa M. Davis

Ruth Caplin Theatre

Seven Guitars

by August Wilson.



DEPARTMENT OF
DRAMA
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

August Wilson's
SEVEN GUITARS

Directed by **Theresa M. Davis**
Scenic Design by **Carey Alcott & Tom Bloom**
Costume Design by **Dorothy Smith**
Lighting Design by **Justin Poruban**
Sound Design by **Siyang Wang**
Music Direction by **Marcus A. Lee**
Projections Design by **Mona Kasra**
Dramaturgy by **Mia Haruko Logan & Shayaan Rasul**
Voice and Dialect Coaching by **David Becker**
Movement Coaching by **Kim Brooks Mata**
Technical Direction by **JD Stallings**
Production Stage Management by **Kim Pawlick**

Originally Produced on Broadway by SAGeworks:
Benjamin Mordecai, Executive Director
Centre Theatre Group/Ahmanson Theatre, Gordon Davidson, Artistic Director
Herb Alpert/Margot Lion
Scott Rudin/Paramount Pictures
and Jujamcyn Theatres in association with
Goodman Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company,
American Conservatory Theatre and Manhattan Theatre Club
Originally presented at National Playwright's Conference
of the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center.

Seven Guitars is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Presented with support from Dr. John Fitzgerald Gates, Associate Dean for Diversity and Engagement and the UVA Office of Excellence Through Diversity Distinguished Learning Series.

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Seven Guitars will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

CAST (in order of appearance)

Louise Leslie M. Scott-Jones
Red Carter Brandon Lee
Canewell Jordan Maia
Vera Chiquita Melvin
Hedley Richard Cooper
Floyd Barton Kevin Minor
Ruby Branika Scott
Understudies Tiff Ames, Natalie Pendie, Madison Tatum, Aisha R. Thomas

Place

Pittsburgh, the Hill District

Time

Spring 1948

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

In Sister Mary Eldephonse's seventh grade class, history was at the top of my list of favorite subjects. I was intrigued merely by the record of events that had happened prior to 1957, as it would be years later before I would come to understand that the events had meanings that were connected and played out on a larger playing field of politics and culture.

In my reading of history, seldom if ever was the black experience in America given any historical weight, any meaning or purpose beyond that provided by a culture and politic that had enslaved and still in 1957 refused to accept the equality of its black citizens. As a black American artist, I have sought in all my work to restore the experience to a primary role, to create in essence a world in which the black American is the spiritual center, thus giving the events of history a different perspective. It is one thing to be the owner of a plantation, and another to be a slave. Both have equally valid perspectives. Both share the same physical space, and in the irreversible sweep of history, the same intertwining of national will and purpose, yet there can be no doubt that they lived very different lives. Despite my interest in history, I have always been more concerned with culture, and while my plays have an overall historical feel, their settings are fictions, and they are peopled with invented characters whose personal histories fit within the historical context in which they live.

I have tried to extract some measure of truth from their lives as they struggle to remain whole in the face of so many things that threaten to pull them asunder. I am not a historian. I happen to think that the content of my mother's life—her myths, her superstitions, her prayers, the contents of her pantry, the smell of her kitchen, the song that escaped from her sometimes parched lips, her thoughtful repose and pregnant laughter—are all worthy of art.

Hence, *Seven Guitars*.

— August Wilson, 1995, Goodman Theatre

Who's Who in *SEVEN GUITARS*

Carey Alcott (Scenic Designer; M.Arch.): *The Lookout* (UVA Drama).

Tiff Ames (Understudy; Oberlin College): *Dessa Rose*, *Wedding Band* (Oberlin College); *Jitney* (Charlottesville Players Guild).

David Becker (Dialect Coach; Theatre Director, Technical Theatre Director, and Teacher, Charlottesville High School): Previous dialect and vocal coaching credits include dialect coaching of *Arcadia*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Our Country's Good*, and *Boeing Boeing* (James Madison University).

Tom Bloom (Scenic Designer; Associate Professor, Scene Design): *The Triumph of Love*, *Our Town* (UVA Drama); *Almost, Maine*, *LUV*, *Next to Normal*, *The Light in the Piazza* (Heritage Theatre Festival).

Richard Cooper (Guest Actor): *The Boys Next Door*, *Every Tongue Confess* (UVA Drama); *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *You Can't Take It With You* (HTF); *Death of a Salesman*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Seven Guitars* (LiveArts).

Theresa M. Davis (Director; Associate Professor, Cross Cultural Performance): "Confront the dark parts of yourself, and work to banish them with illumination and forgiveness. Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing." - August Wilson.

Mona Kasra (Projections Designer; Assistant Professor of Digital Media Design): *The Arctic Circle (and a recipe for Swedish pancakes)* (UVA Drama); *Holy Bone*, *Flesh World*, *(w)hole*, *T.N.B.*, and *blabblab* (DWZ Collective)..

Brandon C. Lee (Guest Actor; Prof. Development Coordinator) *Every Tongue Confess* (UVA Drama); *Jitney* (Jefferson School African American Heritage Center); *When Freedom Came* (Colonial Williamsburg, PBS).

Jordan Maia (Actor; 4th Year Drama & Pre-Medicine): *Blood Wedding*, New Works Festival 2017 *Wake Up Music* (UVA Drama); *Black Monologues* (UVA Drama in association with Paul Robeson Players); *24 Hour Play Project* (Paul Robeson Players); *The Obsessor* (Lab Shorts); *Soyuz* (VCU Film).

Kim Brooks Mata (Movement Coach; Head and Artistic Director of Dance, Certified Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analyst): *Fall Dance Concert* (UVA Drama 2011-17); *Spring Dance Concert* (UVA Drama 2012-2017).

Chiquita Melvin (Actor; 2nd Year M.F.A. Acting): *Blood Wedding* (UVA Drama); *Middletown* (HTF); *Fragments: Impressions of Grief* (Kaiser Educational Theatre); *A Piece of My Heart* (Act3 Playhouse); *I Didn't Know I Was Pregnant* (T.L.C.); *America's Court with Judge Ross* (Byron Allen Productions); *He Heard My Cry* (Hollywood Black Film Festival).

Kevin Minor (Actor; 2nd Year M.F.A. Acting): *Blood Wedding* (UVA Drama); *Fences* (Bradley University Theatre); *Welcome to Fear City* (CATF); *Hamlet* (St. Louis Shakespeare).

Marcus A. Lee: (Music Director; Pastor, New Fork Baptist Church) Pastor Lee studied music with a concentration in piano at Virginia State University. Prior to coming to New Fork, he served as the Music & Arts Director at Mt. Olive Baptist Church where he oversaw the music, dance, and drama departments. He is often called upon to lend his musical prowess in both the church and the community.

Mia Haruko Logan (Dramaturg; UVA 2012 English, Drama Minor): *Fear City*, *Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers* (CATF); *The Philadelphia Story* (Live Arts).

Kim Pawlick (Stage Manager; B.F.A. Stage Management VCU): *Company*, *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, *Souvenir* (HTF); *The Addams Family*, *Urinetown* (Theatre VCU); *Equus*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *Next to Normal* (Cadence Theatre Company); *Goodnight Moon* (Virginia Repertory Theatre).

Natalie Pendie: (Understudy; 3rd Year).

Justin Poruban (Lighting Designer; 1st Year M.F.A. Lighting Design).

Shayaan Rasul (Dramaturg; 4th Year Drama & French).

Branika Scott (Actor; 4th Year Drama): *The Black Monologues* (UVA Drama in association with Paul Robeson Players); *for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf* (Paul Robeson Players),

Leslie M. Scott-Jones (Guest Actor; Producing Artistic Director Charlottesville Players Guild) is an African-American southern woman from Virginia, encompassing all that entails. She studied theater education at VCU. She has been writing, acting and directing since her teens. She is a proud mother of two amazing children. The world premiere of her first play *Desire Moments* was part of the 2014 Capital Fringe Festival. She has written several plays, novellas, and short stories. *Book Ends*, her first full length novel, hit the shelves Valentine's Day Weekend 2016. She currently co-hosts *Home Grown* a radio show about local art, on 94.7 WPVC in Charlottesville, VA. Leslie has been active in community theater for over ten years. She most recently directed *Jitney* by August Wilson at the Jefferson School African-American Heritage Center which the Guild calls home.

Dorothy Smith (Costume Designer, M.F.A. '96): *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Annie Get Your Gun, 1776*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Sound of Music*, *Oliver!* (HTF), *Tell About the South* (scenes from Ross Spears' documentary about southern literature).

JD Stallings (Technical Director; 2nd Year M.F.A. Scenic Design & Technical Direction): *The Comedy of Errors*, *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (UVA Drama).

Madison Tatum (Understudy; 4th Year Psychology): *Black Monologues* 2015 & 2017 (UVA Drama in Association with Paul Robeson Players), *for colored girls who considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* (Paul Robeson Players).

Aisha R. Thomas (Understudy): *Every Tongue Confess* (UVA Drama); Adaptation of *A Raisin in the Sun* (Mt. Zion First African Baptist Drama Ministry); *I Shall Not Be Moved* (Phoenix Theater); *Court Marshall at Fort Devens* (Phoenix Theater); *It Takes A Village* (UVA 2010 Donning of the Kente); *A Call to Action* (UVA 2015 Young African Leadership Institute) "*Black Revolutionary Thought from Gabriel to Black Lives Matter*" (William and Mary Lemon Project 2017).

Siyang Wang: (Sound Designer; 3rd Year Computer Science): *Hey Lunatics* (LinXI Chinese Drama Club).

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Management and Rehearsal Staff

Associate Director Tiff Ames
Assistant Director Ahenfua Aboagye-Nyame
Assistant Stage Managers Richard Frisbie, Kayla Hess
Run Crew Andy Carluccio, Victoria Myer, Wes Orton
Production Coordinator & Stage Management Faculty Advisor Caitlin McLeod
Harmonica Coach John Ashley Murphy
Guitar Coach Michael Rasbury

Scenic

Assistant Technical Director Tim Nielsen
Scene Shop Foreman Christopher Rybitski
Master Carpenter Casey Horton
Technical Direction Faculty Advisor Steven Warner
Scene Shop Assistants Brittany Bolick, Casey Horton, Joe Karaki, Danton Wein
Scene Shop Crew Students of DRAM 2210

Paint

Scenic Charge Matthew B. Kornegay
Scenic Artists/Painters Alyssa Ashe, Batul Rizvi, Students of DRAM 2232

Properties

Prop Master Sam Flippo
Assistant Prop Master Reilly Walker
Prop Shop Assistants Katherine Martin, Roberto Thomas, David Willis

Costumes

Assistant Costume Designer Jessica Utz
Hair and Wig Designer Willie Thomas
Costume Design Faculty Advisor Gweneth West
Costume Technology Faculty Advisor Marcy Linton
Costume Shop Manager Dorothy Smith
Shop Assistants Elena Anderson, Katie Rogers, Katherine Steff,
Katie Stomps, Cee-Cee Swalling
Stitchers Students of DRAM 2310
Wardrobe Supervisor Cee-Cee Swalling
Wardrobe Crew Mariana Gonzalez-Leal, Katie Rogers, Rutya Shah, Caroline West

Lighting

Master Electrician Lauren Duffie
Assistant Master Electrician Steven Johnson
Electricians Julie Briski, Olivia Comm, Maya Falicov,
Patricia Gallegos, Brian Morris, Students of DRAM 2110
Lighting Design Faculty Advisor R. Lee Kennedy
Light Board Operator Victoria Meyer

Sound

Sound Design Consultant Jason Ducat
Sound Design Faculty Advisor Michael Rasbury
Sound and Projection Engineer Wren Curtis
Sound Board Operator Shayaan Rasul

Administration

Drama Department Chair Colleen Kelly
Dept. Technical Director/Op's. Manager Steven Warner
Business Manager James Scales

Assistant Business Manager Judy McPeak
Drama Administrative Staff..... Barbara Koonin, Theresa Lamb
Co-Publicity Managers..... Lydia Flock, Natalie Pernick

Box Office

UVA Arts Box Office Manager..... Andrew Burnett
Arts Box Office Staff.....Renat Abazov, Gabrielle Boissoneau,
Christen Bolton,Michaela Campbell, Luc Cianfarani, Claire Corkish,
Krystal Ejiesieme, Megan Gallagher, Isabelle Gonzalez Roy, Shayaan Rasul

Front of House

House Mangers..... Victoria Giron, Brian Murray, Zoe Rosenbaum
Concessions Managers..... Brian Murray, Caitland Winsett, Mattie Wiseman

Special thanks to Ron Dortch, Andrea Douglas, Mrs. Lucy Hunter, Pamela Lindsay,
Aspen Miller, Darrell Rose, Katelyn Wood, The Cherry Avenue Barbershop,
The Front Porch, The Jefferson School African-American Heritage Center.

Special thanks to Scott Aebersold and Aramark.

Special thanks to The Spectacle Shop.

Upcoming Productions!

Fall Dance Concert

Directed by Kim Brooks Mata • Culbreth Theatre
December 1 & 2 at 8:00pm and December 2 at 2:00pm

Love's a Bitch

By Dave Dalton (freely adapted from *Don Gil de las Calzas Verdes*
by Tirso de Molina)

Directed by Dave Dalton • Ruth Caplin Theatre
February 22 – 24, 27 & 28 and March 1 at 8:00pm
and February 24 at 2:00pm

Urinetown

Music by Mark Hollmann, Lyrics by Mark Hollmann & Greg Kotis,
Book by Greg Kotis

Directed by Robert Chapel • Culbreth Theatre
March 29 & 30, April 2 – 6 at 8:00pm & April 7 at 2:00pm

Spring Dance Concert

Ruth Caplin Theatre • April 12 – 14 at 8:00pm

New Works Festival

Directed by Doug Grissom • Helms Theatre
April 26-28 at 8:00pm and April 28 at 2:00pm



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THE KENNEDY CENTER

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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.