

Johns Hopkins Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

in association with

Benediction Productions, Inc.

presents

**for colored girls who
have considered suicide
when**



the rainbow is enuf

a choreopoem by

NTOZAKE SHANGE

directed by

BENEDICT A. DORSEY

for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf

by
NTOZAKE SHANGE

The Merrick Barn

Johns Hopkins University

December 8-10, 1994

poems by titles

dark phrases..lady in brown
graduation night.....lady in yellow
now i love somebody more than....lady in blue
no assistancelady in red
i'm a poet wholady in orange
*latent rapist ...lady in blue, purple** and red*
abortion cyclelady in blue
*sechita..lady in purple***
dancer: trenessa coffey
*toussaint.....lady in brown**
*one.....lady in red**
*i used to live in the world....lady in blue**
*pyramid.....lady in purple****
no more love poems #1.....lady in orange
*no more love poems #2.....lady in purple****
no more love poems #3.....lady in blue
no more love poems#4.....lady in yellow
somebody almost walked off wid alla my stuff..lady in green
sorry.....lady in blue
a nite with beau willie brown.....lady in red
a laying on of hands.....the cast

*DIRECTED BY MARCEL BRAITHWAITE

PLAYED BY P. HARDTMAN *PLAYED BY C. CHUNG

THE CAST

in order of speaking

lady in brown...Trenessa Coffey

lady in yellow.....Kelly Greaves

lady in green.....Jamilla Butler

lady in red.....Susan Howard

lady in purple.....Pandora Hardtman

lady in blue.....Letha Francis

lady in orange.....Kimberly Jackson

lady in purple.....Camille Chung

the dancer of sechita.....Trenessa Coffey

THE MUSIC

Tribute to Obabi.....The Last Poets

Dancing in the Streets..Martha and the Vandells

Stay.....The Dells

Oye La Noticia.....Ray Barretto

Blue and Green.....Miles Davis

Then the Gods Made Love.....Jimi Hendricks

MEET THE "COLORED GIRLS"

lady in green...JAMILLA BUTLER...lady in green

Is a freshman at JHU. She returns to the stage from a long hiatus as the Lady in Green. She has had a love for acting since childhood. Her acting career officially began in the 6th grade, when she won the role of the Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland. She continued acting throughout the rest of middle school. During her high school, she devoted her time to other endeavors. She did, however, appeared in some fashion shows, which to her was the next best thing to acting. Jamilla is a native of the Philadelphia, PA area and is planning a career in medicine.

lady in purple...CAMILLE CHUNG...lady in purple...

Is a sophomore at The Johns Hopkins University. This native Jamaican now resides in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey and is a Biology- Pre-med major. Her past artistic endeavors included playing the oboe and the violin throughout high school. For Colored Girls... is Camille's theatrical debut.

lady in brown...TRENESA COFFEY...lady in brown

Prior to being a freshman at Hopkins, Trenessa has been involved in several plays and public speaking engagements. Her participation in the arts includes her portrayal of Frau Schmidt in The Sound of Music and a townspeople and dancer in Me and My Girl. She has won first place four years consecutively in the Baltimore 's Best Showcase of Talent Competition for her piano and oratorical performances. Trenessa has been playing the piano for eleven years and orating for thirteen.

Recently, she won the title of Miss Maryland Talented Teen Competition held in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Trenessa competed against 43 girls from as far as Germany and El Salvador, and won as second runner up internationally. Last month, Trenessa won as the first runner up in Miss Howard County Pageant, which is a preliminary to the Miss America Pageant. Most

importantly, however, Trenessa hopes to fulfil her goal of becoming a cardiovascular surgeon.

Trenessa would like to thank Benny Dorsey and Marcel Braithwaite for their directing expertise and most of all her parents for all of their love and support.

lady in blue...LETHA FRANCIS...lady in blue

*Letha Francis was born in Washington, DC and raised in Hyattsville, MD, since the age of six, where she attended Northwestern High School. There she participated in the drama club at school and church. She acted in her school production of *The Three Witches of Macbeth* and her church's production of *The Champion*. Approaching her senior high school years, she moved to Bowie Md. She attended Bowie High School and was an actress in their production of the Broadway musical, *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Presently, she is a freshman at Johns Hopkins, majoring in Political Science and an aspiring attorney.*

lady in yellow...KELLY GREAVES...lady in yellow

I'm a first year student at Johns Hopkins University. Originally from Detroit, Michigan and now resides outside of the city. A Cum Laude graduate from Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School. I am a Natural Science major and planning on going to Medical School.

lady in purple...PANDORA HARDTMAN...lady in purple

Pandora is a native of Bermuda and pursuing her Baccalaureate in Nursing here at Johns Hopkins after receiving licensure and her associates degree this past summer. Her involvements with summer theaters and various drama productions from junior high onwards make her no stranger to the stage. Her greatest accomplishment, per Pandora, is being crowned Miss Teen Bermuda

1992. Other interest includes reading, playing the flute, steel drums, and African Dance. She firmly supports the notion that if you dream, I believe you can achieve.

lady in red...SUSAN HOWARD...lady in red

Susan Howard is a graduate student and teaching assistant in The Writing Seminars where she is writing a novel. She is reprising her role as the lady in Red, which is a part she portrayed while in high school and at Syracuse University where she graduated in 1983. Prior to becoming a student at Hopkins, Howard worked as a journalist for the Louisville Courier-Journal, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Newsday,. A highlight of her journalism career is when she interviewed Ntozake Shange for a profile on the poet, novelist, and playwright that appeared in Newsday two years ago. Howard insists she will ALWAYS be one of Shange's colored girls. And she's proud of it.

lady in orange...KIMBERLY JACKSON...lady in orange

Kimberly Anne Jackson is from Washington, DC. She is a freshman at Johns Hopkins matriculating in the field of Biology- Pre-med. An aspiring neurosurgeon. Kimberly made her acting debut at National Cathedral School in her junior year. She was the leading actress in the school's production of Blues for Mister Charlie by James Baldwin. She was highly praised for her portrayal of Sojourner Truth which she performed for National Cathedral. Additionally, she performed in two Christmas musicals as the lead dancer.

Kim enjoys drawing, painting, writing poetry, making jewelry, practicing calligraphy and playing the piano in her spare time. She would like to send special thanks to her parents for their support, Mr. Benny Dorsey for his wonderful expertise and humor, and last but not least, Marcel B. for his artistic talent.

meet the director...the director.....BENEDICT A. DORSEY

This is Mr. Dorsey's second direction of **For Colored Girls**. The first one was performed by Towson State University theatrical department to a standing room only audience. He has directed **"I'll Take You There"**, for Baltimore City Public schools; **The Wiz, A Raisin In The Sun, Raisin, A Salute to the Black Stage** for Loyola College; **Our Time Done Come**, for the US Army, toured the military bases in South Korea; **I Believe In God**, for University of Baltimore; **A House Divided**, for COGIC, Tennessee; **The Methuselah Principle, Somewhere,...Heaven!, One Lady Show: I Come Here To Do Some Singin', Y'all!, A Salute to the Gospel Stage**, at the Langsdale Auditorium and Arelleano Theatre; and **A Gospel Blast from the Past**, Publick Playhouse, Washington, DC.

He has acted in several plays. Parts ranging from the lead in **A Raisin in the Sun**, to a supporting cast member in **A Streetcar Named Desire**. You may remember Ben from his stellar performance as Gabriel in **Fences** last year at Hopkins. He studied theatre at Loyola College. Ben has been writing, acting in, and directing plays since the tender age of ten.

Benediction Productions, Inc. (BPI) is Benny's pride and joy. (He's the President and founder). A local non-profit theatrical company committed to raising fund for the homeless and the abused. Has been in operation for over five years. It's latest production is **A Revised Christmas**, currently in production for Inani Temple, Washington, DC.

Ben is an Associate Director at JHU and a licensed ordained minister. Currently, pastoring a local assembly.

He thanks everyone for their time and being a part of this special production.

THE COLORED GIRLS STAFF

the director...the director...the director...BENEDICT A. DORSEY

the assistant director...the assistant dir...MARCEL BRAITHWAITE

the lighting director...the lighting dire...JOHN MILL

the make-up artist...the make-up artist...KENYA LUCAS

thank you...thank you...THANK YOU...thank you...thank you...thanks

DEAN LARRY G. BENEDICT, "FOR STRIVING TO CREATE A COMMUNITY FOUNDED UPON MUTUAL CARING, RESPECT, AND RESPONSIBILITY, WHERE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES ARE VALUED AND CELEBRATED AND WHERE OPENESS, JUSTICE, HONESTY, AND SELF-DISCIPLINE ARE ESPOUSED AND PRACTICED." Without you this would not be possible. Thank you for caring about African- American theatre on Hopkins Campus.

ELLEN FRISHBERG, my boss, for allowing me the necessary time to produce a wonderful show. Oh, yeah, and for being understanding. Thank you!

ROSE VARNER GASKINS, who are you and where did you come from? Heaven must be missing an angel! You have been so supportive. You never question or second guess me...what more could a director want? Thank God for you...and the AE card. *smile*

GRAHAM YEARLY, thank you for opening the doors of Theatre Hopkins' home to us, and allowing us to act like we were at home. Thank you for allowing me to take advantage of you. Ah, what would lovers of the theatre do, if we don't share with one another. God bless you with a good holiday!

MR AND MRS CHARLES W. DORSEY, SR., mom and dad, i thank you for conceiving me and bringing me to term, what would we be doing tonight if you didn't? Your support towards my theatrical endeavors are unmatched. If every actor/director had parents like you...they could always count on two people being in the audience. Love you. As always, this is for Rick!

THE PARENTS OF THE COLORED GIRLS, LOVE YOU...LOVE YOU...LOVE YOU...OH, I CAN'T SAY IT ENUF...LOVE YOU...THANKS FOR SENDING THEM TO HOPKINS!

CHRISTINA MCDADE AND EDNA JONES, you thought i forgot you, no way, thank you for the quick hands in cutting, designing, and sewing my skirts with a twenty-four hour notice. Thank you..thank you for helping. You didn't have to do it, but you did.

THE LIST GOES ON, OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL STUDENT AFFAIRS, THE BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION, KENNY ANDERSON, LEVERING UNION, THEATRE HOPKINS, COPY CAT, HOMEWOOD PHOTOGRAPHY, TODD PEARTHREE, MIN. SAMUEL G. HAYNES, AND I THANK EVERYONE WHO THOUGHT HIS/HER NAME SHOULD HAVE BEEN LISTED. I'M SORRY, I FORGOT YOU, BUT JUST LIST IT IN THE SPACE PROVIDED _____.
I REALLY DO LOVE YOU AND PRAY FOR YOU, ALWAYS!.....BYE FOR NOW.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPENED FOR "THE PIANO LESSON" BY AUGUST WILSON, COMING IN FEBRUARY.