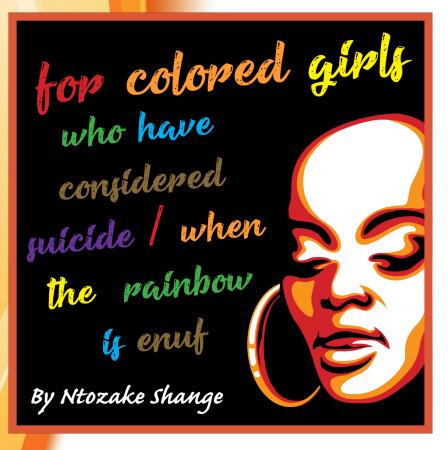
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March 15 - 24, 2024

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Currently seeking to fill the positions of President, Technical Director and Community Liaison.



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

By Ntozake Shange

This groundbreaking "choreopoem" is a spellbinding collection of vivid prose and free verse narratives capturing the brutal, tender and dramatic lives of Black women.

"for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

If you know anyone suffering from depression or having suicidal thoughts, a mental health professional can help.

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From anywhere in the USA, text a live trained Crisis Counselor
who is trained in active listening and collaborative problem solving.
Get help with gun violence, anxiety, eating disorders,
depression, suicide, self-harm and more.

Director's Note

"I write for young girls of color, for girls who don't even exist yet, so that there is something there for them when they arrive."

Ntozake Shange (1948-2018)

(Quote published in a 1995 interview in Mother Jones magazine)

This quote is Shange's response to a question about why she writes. And write she did: 15 plays, 19 poetry collections, 7 novels, 5 children's books, 3 essay collections - plus! A perpetual scholar, avid reader and bilingual arts advocate - especially of music and dance - she was also a performer, a director, a university professor (Brown, Rice, Villanova, DePaul - plus), lecturer (Yale, Howard, NYU - plus), but as a rebellious, outspoken advocate of empowering women of color, she was more than the sum of her myriad interests, talents and activities. Wherever she lived, including in St. Louis as a young girl, she read, reflected and wrote. A natural, vivid wordsmyth, she began writing poetry in her undergraduate years at Barnard. As a means of surviving the depression and oppression that almost engulfed her as a young, gifted Black woman in the 1970s, she collected her early poems into a piece she called a choreopoem, first performing it solo and then with a few other talented "colored" girls in California bars, popular there in the midst of the women's movement. Then she courageously packed the choreopoem and drove it to NYC, where the odyssey of this play evolved. It became the second play written by an African-American woman to reach Broadway (the first being Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun, which I proudly directed for Hawthorne in 2018). At age 27 Shange appeared in the play's Broadway debut that ran for 742 performances as the lady in orange! Today its authenticity continues to resonate on stages and in classrooms worldwide because it encourages new generations of women, especially women of color, inspiring them to love themselves "fiercely" and "to sing the song of . . . possibilities" while supporting each other through difficult times, empowering each woman to move "to the ends of their own/rainbows." That is our intent today. I thank everyone who has empowered this production to "be born / and handled warmly."

- Nancy Crouse



In consideration of our actors and those seated around you, please silence your electronic devices, unwrap hard candies/cough drops and refrain from texting.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author(s)'s rights and actionable under United States copyright law.

For more information, please visit: https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists

a choreopoem

BY NTOZAKE SHANGE

dark phrasesCOMPANY
graduation niteLADY IN PURPLE
now i love somebody more thanLADY IN GREEN
no assistance
i'm a poet whoLADY IN BROWN & COMPANY
latent rapists'COMPANY
abortion cycle # 1LADY IN BROWN
sechitaLADY IN RED & LADY IN GREEN
toussaintLADY IN ORANGE WITH RAINBOW
one
i usedta live in the world LADY IN PURPLE & COMPANY
pyramidLADY IN ORANGE & COMPANY
no more love poems # 1LADY IN YELLOW
no more love poems # 2LADY IN PURPLE
no more love poems # 3LADY IN GREEN
no more love poems # 4LADY IN BLUE
somebody almost walked off wid alla my stuffLADY IN GREEN
sorryLADY IN PURPLE
positiveLADY IN YELLOW WITH IN LADY GREEN & RAINBOW
a nite with beau willie brownLADY IN RED WITH LADY IN BLUE
a layin on of handsCOMPANY
egoCOMPANY

for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf will be performed without an intermission

Special Thanks

Brian Paladin and the Florissant Performing Arts Center staff, North Hills United Methodist Church (Pastor Mary Ann Cieslak), Steve Kinnison and the City of Florissant Media Department, and Travis Cummings

Production Team

Director	NANCY CROUSE
Assistant Director /Stage Manager	
Assistant Director	
Production Assistant	
Choreographer	
Costume Designer	
Set Designer	
Light Designer	
Light Board Operator	
Sound Designer	
Sound Board Operator	
Props Coordinator	
Projection Designer & Technical Consu	ultantPIPPIN McGowan
Set Construction	
F	riends & Family, Theatre Staff
Mental Health Consultant / Q&A Leade	erAyele Kumari
Lobby Display	JEAN HECKMANN
House Management	
Publicity/Photos	
Program Design & Layout	Ken Clark





Theatre Etiquette

The show is not over until the actors have taken their curtain call. For your safety, please remain at your seat until they have made their final exit and the auditorium lights have been turned on.

Cast

lady in brown	LILODENISE BAKER
lady in red	Amarachi Kalu
lady in orange	
lady in yellow	Areanna Shears
lady in green	Anneliese Marie
lady in blue	Corrinna Redford
lady in purple	Jasmine Pugh
lady in rainbow / percussionist	Tanya Jones (TJ)



LiloDenise Baker



Amarachi Kalu



Chanel Sharpe



Areanna Shears



Anneliese Marie



Corrinna Redford



Jasmine Pugh



Tanya Jones (TJ)

Cast and Crew Bios

LiloDenise Baker (lady in brown) is elated to be a part of such a powerful production. Lilo's acting journey commenced at the age of 6, with commercials for Shoe Carnival, Carol House, and Toys for Tots. She is a proud member of Thespian Troupe 1220 since 2009, and is a Cappie Award winner. In 2017, she started her journey as a writer with Where Queens Meet: The Series. Lilo has collaborated on film projects with LoveTheLou and FruitBearing Studios. Her versatility has been showcased onstage as a member of Psalm 150 Theatrics. Lilo has a Bachelor's degree in Theatre and Dance from the University of Missouri - St Louis, and is pursuing a Master's in Cinema and Media Arts at Lindenwood University. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support.

Nancy Crouse (Director) is a former Hoosier school teacher (English/Theatre) for 33 years. After retiring from teaching, she became the Managing Artistic Director of her local community theatre and president of the Indiana Theatre Association. Hawthorne Players' An Inspector Calls in 2001 was her first theatre experience after moving here. Since then, she has directed, designed and performed for a number of area theatres, but Hawthorne is the first and most repeated association (now over 20 productions), plus all Voices of Valhala and Voices at Bellefontaine. Hawthorne has recognized her with many awards, including Best Director and Best Production for The Color Purple (2023) and A Raisin in the Sun, and Best Actress for Driving Miss Daisy. In 2021 Nancy directed Act Two's Blithe Spirit, which won Theatre Mask Awards for Best Ensemble and Best Production. She has won TMAs for Outstanding Direction & Set Design for Clayton Community Theatre's Macbeth and Outstanding Lead Actress in the Theatre Guild of Webster Groves' Trip to Bountiful. Just before the pandemic, she played Mary Tyrone in Slaying Dragon's Long Day's Journey



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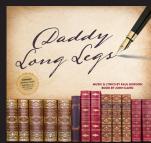
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Best LARGE Musical Production

Nancy Crouse Direction

Jermaine Manor Musical Direction

Natalie Piacentini Set Design

Eric Wennlund Lighting Design

Jean Heckmann Costume Design

Saraiya Kalu Lead Actress

Travis Cummings Featured Actor Adrian L. Rice Featured Actor

Sharee Jones Featured Actress

Victoria E. Pines Featured Actress

Corrinna Redford Featured Actress

Bola Adeniran Supporting Actress

John W. Leggette Cameo Actor

Cynthia Aldridge Carmen R. Guynn Kim Khavé Areanna Shears Duo/Group

Best SMALL Musical Production

Ken Clark Direction

Sean Bippen Musical Direction

> Ken Clark Set Design

Eric Wennlund Lighting Design

Tracey Newcomb Costume Design

Stefanie Kluba Lead Actress

Cole Gutmann Lead Actor

THE COLOR PURPLE and DADDY LONG LEGS are nominated for Arts for Life Best Performance Awards. Winners will be announced June 30, 2024.

artsforlife.org

into Night and Violet in KTG's August, Osage County. She thanks you for being a part of this audience seeing this iconic work of Ntozake Shange.

Doris Goodlow (Properties) returns to Hawthorne Players to work with Director Nancy Crouse. Most recently she worked as Props Mistress for *The Color Purple*. She first worked with Hawthorne on their production of *Fences* in 2012. Doris has worked in several areas backstage including props, wardrobe, and hair and makeup. She has also appeared onstage in a number of productions including *The Wiz, Nunsense*, and A *Christmas Carol*.

Shug Goodlow (Assistant Director) has worked on several productions with Hawthorne Players. Most recently she worked as Dramaturg for *The Color Purple*. She first worked with Director Nancy Crouse and Assistant Director Renee Fenner in 2012 on the Hawthorne Players' production of *Fences*. She has worked as assistant director, dramaturg, stage manager, assistant stage manager and several other positions backstage. She has also appeared onstage in several productions over the years having begun her involvement with community theatre in New York. Shug is an avid theatre and movie buff. By day she is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Missouri. She thanks her wife Doris, who is also working on this production, for her unwavering love and support.

Jean Heckmann (Costume Designer) has costumed many shows for Hawthorne Players and has always enjoyed working with the actors, actresses and tech crew involved in Hawthorne productions. Jean has been nominated for numerous TMA awards for costuming, five Best Performance Award nominations, including a recent nomination for 2023's *The Color Purple*. She won the BPA best Costume Design award for Hawthorne Players' *The Secret Garden* in 2013, and a Theatre Mask Award in 2019 for Act Two Theater's *Plaza Suite*. She enjoys working on shows that offer a fun experience in creative costuming.

Jamell Jacobs (Choreographer) is a teacher, choreographer, and owner of Dance Plus dance studio located in Florissant, MO. She has instructed dance and choreographed for over twenty years, for youth and adults. Jamell has won many regional and national awards for her choreography, and her work has been presented in events such as The Muny Pre-Show, St. Louis Dance Festival, Dancing in the Streets, 60X60 and Spring into Dance. In community theater, she has been the choreographer for the Hawthorne Players' productions of The Wiz and The Color Purple.

Tanya Jones "TJ" (lady in rainbow/Percussionist), a mother of four and grand-mother of four, is making her debut with Hawthorne Players. She is a surgical nurse, an international and national spoken word artist and an amateur percussionist. She loves the arts. TJ is also an international and national old school roller skater.

Amarachi Kalu (lady in red) is a first generation Nigerian American and has been involved in the arts throughout her childhood. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a minor concentration in Musical Theater and was active in the theater ensemble, concert choir, wind ensemble, and a principal dancer in PULSE Dance Company. She obtained her Master of Science in Computer Science and in Applied Math but continues to pursue her love for theater in her free time with various theater companies throughout the St. Louis



Like us on Facebook to unlock our latest news, audition notices, upcoming show announcements, and discount ticket offers! area, having most recently starred as Celie in the Hawthorne Players' *The Color Purple* and appeared in Looking Glass Playhouse's *Heathers*. Amarachi is currently working as a data scientist. She is grateful to be working with both Nancy and Hawthorne. You can follow Amarachi on instagram @ kaamarachi.

Anneliese Marie (lady in green) is making her debut with Hawthorne Players. She has worked with several local theatre companies, dance troupes, and film productions. Traditionally trained, she has studied West African dance from the Midwest to the Accra region of southwestern Ghana.

Rennell Parker, Sr. (Asst. Director/Stage Manager) feels his purpose is to protect, provide for, and push his family and others to dream out loud, achieving all that they desire. His family means the world to him. He is a veteran of the United States Navy and is currently operating as a Servant Leader & Consultant. As a Certified Positive Psychology Coach, InsideOut Coach, Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt, and a Sports Mentalist he assists others in dreaming out loud. Rennell's background in spoken word poetry and storytelling has enabled him to tell many stories as an actor and now for the first time as Assistant Director/Stage Manager, roles he enjoys. One of his favorite roles recently was as John Berry Meachum in Voices at Bellefontaine last fall.

Natalie Piacentini (Sound Design) is a local artist and professional theatre technician, who puts her talent and creativity into projects on and off the stage. She has a degree in technical theatre and has worked multiple positions in theatre and events for the past 18 years. Her areas of expertise range from hands on carpentry and electrical skills to design work and stage management. Natalie has a passion for people and bringing art to the community. She is grateful for the opportunity to be part of a team that is bringing these important and emotional stories to life.

Jasmine Pugh (lady in purple) is a momprenuer who loves all things art. She's returning to the stage after a 12-year hiatus. This is her first time performing at the Florissant Performing Arts Center theatre and with Hawthorne Players, and it will be her third time performing the choreopoem, for colored girls..., which is very dear to her heart. Her other passions are her makeup and eyelash businesses, JYM COLLECTION and Embellished Eyes. She is grateful for her imaginative daughter, Nuri, who inspires her creativity daily. She's very thankful for her family and friends who have supported her during this journey, and she hopes you enjoy the show.

Corrinna Redford (lady in blue) is ecstatic to return to the stage with Hawthorne Players, appearing in *The Color Purple* (Squeak) last summer! Since relocating from Georgia, she is grateful to the St. Louis theatre community and how warmly they have accepted her into its fold! You may have seen her this past December across the bridge in *Little Women* (Hag/Amy u/s). Corrinna received her BA in Theatre from Brenau University: Women's College with an emphasis in acting. She enjoys reading, lifting weights, and dancing in her spare time. She thanks her parents for always supporting her 'wild' ideas and personality. *For colored girls...* holds a special place in her heart, and she is so grateful to Nancy for entrusting her with this challenge. She hopes you enjoy this beautiful and thought-provoking production. "Let her be born & handled warmly."

Chanel Sharpe (lady in orange) makes her first ever stage debut in a show that beautifully features women she admires - because being pushed to their limits only ignites and empowers them to find a way to move forward. She thanks her friends and family who planted the seed that she belongs on the stage by repeatedly encouraging her to pursue acting because of her own naturally passionate and animated nature. Being on stage has indeed become her new happy place. When not on stage, Chanel is a third-grade teacher. She thanks her family and friends who have supported her in this new venture.

Areanna Shears (lady in yellow) is a unique talent you may recognize as a "Church Lady" in last season's production of *The Color Purple*. She brings her comedic relatability and professional stage presence to any performance. She is one-fourth of the St. Louis-based a capella group, Poetic Sounds, who annually perform at Busch Stadium, Missouri History Museum, Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, and Washington University. When not onstage, she works as a Regional Community Manager, traveling across five states to train and support multi-family apartment communities with Timberland Partners. She is also an ordained Elder of Agape Time Ministries International and believes that art is a form of ministry that can lead people to the love of God and His Word. To hear her spontaneous musicality and fresh takes on life and faith, check out "The Rendezvous Podcast," on all streaming platforms.

Cindi Switzer Bedell (Set Designer/Painter) was stage manager for last summer's acclaimed *The Color Purple*. She has also done specialty scenic painting for Act Two Theatre productions. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Eastern Illinois University, where she concentrated in Acting and Scenic Design. Favorite roles are Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Hester Solomon in *Equus*, Snoopy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and Grace in *Bus Stop*. She won a Normy award for costuming *La Cage Aux Folles* for Peoria Players. Cindi is a retired Special Ed, Speech and Drama teacher and "Mimi" of three amazing, smart, and talented grandkids. She is grateful for the privilege to work with Nancy and this talented group.

Eric Wennlund (*Lighting Designer*) is a multiple Arts for Life Award nominee and winner, having, having most recently won for Hawthorne Players' *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. This year Eric is a triple Arts for Life nominee for his designs for Hawthorne's *The Color Purple* and *Daddy Long Legs*, and for O'Fallon Theatre Works' production of *Radium Girls*.



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Hawthorne Players Duckie DeMere Scholarship

Since 1992 Hawthorne Players has presented over \$68,000 in scholarships to high school seniors active in the performing arts (music, theatre or dance).

The Scholarships are named in memory of veteran Hawthorne actress and director, Duckie DeMere. The purpose of these scholarships is to further community arts in general, encourage high school students to become involved in community theatre and increase youth involvement in Hawthorne Players.

2024 Application Deadline: April 1, 2024

Applicants should have demonstrated talent, interest and effort in the performing arts, especially in the community. Participation in Hawthorne Players and other community theatre and music productions will be considered.

The minimum individual scholarship amount awarded will be \$250. Depending on the number and quality of applicants, multiple scholarships may be awarded.

2023 SCHOLORSHIP RECIPIENTS



Left to Right:

Ulises Hernandez, Ritenour;

Cordie Matulewic, Pattonville;

Angie Houghton, Ritenour;

Acacia Helton, Ritenour;

Not Pictured:

Sarah Nelson, Pattonville

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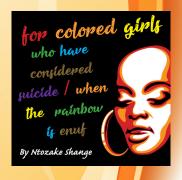
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March 15 - 24, 2024

"for colored girls..." offers a transformative, riveting evening of provocative dance, music and poetry by seven women, only identified by the color they are assigned. This groundbreaking "choreopoem" is a spellbinding collection of vivid prose and free verse narratives capturing the brutal, tender and dramatic lives of contemporary Black women.

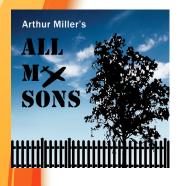
Directed by Nancy Crouse



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Directed by Lori Renna Music Direction by Sean Bippen



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Directed by Danny Brown





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