

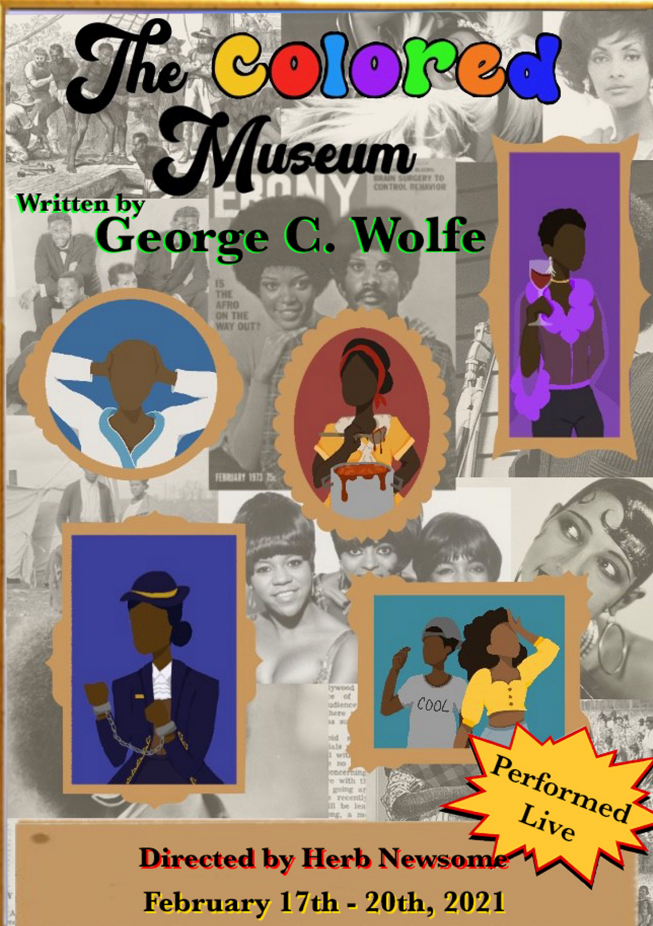
PLAYBILL®

Oakwood Theatre
Oakwood School
North Hollywood, CA

The Colored Museum

Written by

George C. Wolfe



Directed by Herb Newsome

February 17th - 20th, 2021

Oakwood School

PRESENTS

THE COLORED MUSEUM

by

George C. Wolfe

The Colored Museum is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

with

Lola '21	Caleb '22	
Amaya '22	Noah '21	Kennedy '22
	Ryan '21	Nadiya '21

Production Stage Manager
Coco '22

Student Technical Director
Leo '23

Directed by

Herb Newsome

Originally produced by Crossroads Theatre Company, New Brunswick, NJ (Lee Richardson, Artistic Director).

Original New York production by New York Shakespeare Festival, produced by Joseph Papp.

Its fall 2019 and the Oakwood School has accepted the challenge of implementing the 1619 Project, an initiative that “aims to reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of the United State’s national narrative.” *The Colored Museum* by George C. Wolfe was chosen to be the first part of that process.

Then came 2020 and... Boom! The world in which we knew was turned upside down. The country which we knew, or thought we knew, has revealed itself for what it truly is... a nation divided. A nation engulfed in ignorance of the unknown, fear, hatred, misinformation and flat out lies which has torn the very fabric of our people apart. Lines have been drawn, sides taken, and trust has eroded from our psyche. From the pandemic to the justified BLM protests of this past summer, to the detestable insurrection on the Capitol, America has come to a point where we must face the truth of who we really are, a fracture society with many broken pieces.

But all is not lost. Many times, in our nation’s history it has been the artists which have stepped up and ushered in the push for much needed change. Through their work they have held on to the Hope that there are brighter days ahead. These young artists you are about to see embody that Hope. That inspiring spirit to put themselves out there and let their voices be heard. To help shift the narrative and open up the conversation for a better understanding. Through the celebration and sharing of each other’s culture we will be able to see that we are more alike than different. And that it is ok to look at someone else, see their cultural differences, acknowledge it and appreciate it for the beauty that it is. The more we understand each other the better we will be, and our nation can begin the process of healing, tending to old wounds and nursing each other back to health.

African Americans throughout our history are well verse in adversity, in the struggle against what seems to be insurmountable odds, in the fight for freedom, equality and for what is right. From Slavery, to Jim Crow, to Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter, we forge ahead with the idea that there is still Hope for a better tomorrow; a tomorrow that is inclusive of all.

And so, we present.... *The Colored Museum*, a play which celebrates, satirizes and subverts the African American legacy, exploring cultural identity, and examines the African American experience past and present. An artistic team of students from various ethnic backgrounds have come together to present a play rich in the culture of the African American experience as proof that when we work together, as one, to foster understanding and celebrate each other’s differences, we will be able to advance as a nation filled with love, acceptance, and Hope for a brighter future.

DRAMATURG NOTE

The Colored Museum is a 1986 play written by George C. Wolfe, known for satirizing prominent themes of racism, stereotypes, and intra-community conflicts of Black culture. The play is set in a fictional museum where historic African American figures are kept for public display. As a museum is a place where static, unchanging artifacts from the past are displayed, this location highlights the stagnant nature of race relations there to be observed and not evolved. Told in a story of 11 “exhibits”, each scene depicts different characters demonstrating what it means to be a person of color in the United States from slavery until the 1980s.

The play has received overwhelming critical praise for its provocative subject matter and in-depth exploration of the African American theatrical and cultural past. *The Colored Museum* has been performed all over the world; in New York, New Jersey, and, most famously at the Royal Court Theater in London. The initial cast featured prominent TV and movie actress Loretta Devine and was directed by L. Kenneth Richardson. *The Colored Museum* has electrified, discomforted, and delighted audiences of all colors, and played a pivotal role in defining our ideas of what it means to be Black in America today.



GEORGE C. WOLFE

TECHNICAL NOTE

Over the years the technical theatre and design side of our productions have become increasingly student lead and driven. Student and professional mentors have been key to this. I relish in the moments when I can open the doors for students to engage in this art-form and they make the theatre happen themselves.

Due to the nature of a LIVE socially distanced broadcast, we had to lean more on the cast's participation in the technical side of this production than ever. They had to be their own hair and makeup stylists, dressers, props mavens, sound operators, and ensure that their green screens, lights, and mics are set up for each rehearsal and performance exactly the same way. There is no Stage Manager following behind them to triple check. This cast has stepped up to this challenge and have gained a unique experience as a result.

Since the pandemic hit, developers and programmers all around the world have been making adjustments to existing applications commonly used by online streamers, pushing for opening up software up to allow for big changes. Changes that have been essential in simulating a theatrical experience live on Zoom. If it isn't obvious, this was NOT what Zoom was designed for.

But like many things...theatre finds a way.

TouchDesigner, ZoomOSC, Qlab, NDI and OBS are the applications that have responded best to the challenges of our production and in every case their creators', Slack channels, and private Facebook groups have given us tips and tricks we needed to pull this off. Literally as I am typing this new code is coming out....and we tech tomorrow.

This production would not have been possible without the ingenuity and determination of Leo '23 who taught me the ways of NDI and developed the integration of Touch Designer into the production.

I am also extremely proud of our Costume Team, lead by Johnnyangel Pineda. A group of 5 students divided up the scenes, created and styled what you will be seeing tonight. Several costumes were built from scratch. That dulcet hum of the sewing machine brings great pleasure to so many young folks in our community.

With that I hope that you find joy in this beautiful LIVE production, and when we are able to be in person that you continue to support LIVE performance on the Oakwood stage and beyond.

SCENE LIST

GIT ON BOARD

KENNEDY '22
CALEB '22
NOAH '21
AMAYA '21

COOKIN' WITH AUNT ETHEL

NADIYA '21

THE PHOTO SESSION

CALEB '22
LOLA '21

SOLDIER WITH A SECRET

NOAH '21
CALEB '22
RYAN '21

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MISS ROJ

RYAN '21
CALEB '22

THE HAIRPIECE

NADIYA '21
AMAYA '21
LOLA '21

THE LAST MAMA-ON-THE-COUCH PLAY

NADIYA '21
RYAN '21
NOAH '21
KENNEDY '22
AMAYA '21

SYMBIOSIS

CALEB '22
NOAH '21

LALA'S OPENING

LOLA '21
RYAN '21
NADIYA '21
KENNEDY '22

PERMUTATIONS

KENNEDY '22

THE PARTY

AMAYA '21
FULL ENSEMBLE

CAST

Cast Members

Male Slave, Guy, Waiter, Man	Caleb '22
Girl, Woman, Lala	Lola '21
Male Slave, Soldier, Walter Lee, Kid	Noah '21
Miss Pat, Lady in Plaid, Little Girl, Normal Jean	Kennedy '22
Female Slave, Lawanda, Medea, Topsy	Amaya '21
Miss Roj, Narrator, Announcer/Florence	Ryan '21
Aunt Ethel, Janine, Mama, Admonia	Nadiya '21

Production Team

Director	Herb Newsome
Producer	Javier Rivera
Performing Arts Chair	Brian Walsh
Technical Director	Sarah Moretz
Student Technical Director	Leo '23
Production Stage Manager	Coco '22
Assistant Stage Manager	Ella '23
Assistant Stage Manager	Jordan '24
Assistant Stage Manager	Richard '23
Dramaturg	Becca '24
Program Builder	Pearl '22
Costume Design Team Mentor	Johnnyangel Pineda

DESIGNERS

Background Design	Leo '23
Costume Designer, Program Cover Art	Ninah '24
Costume Designer	Mia '22
Costume Designer	Lori '26
Costume Designer	Henry '22
Costume Designer	Emma '22
Sound Designer	Arlo '23
Sound Designer	Otis '23

CAST

GUEST ARTISTS

Hair & Wig Design and Instruction Nikiya Mathis
Makeup Design Instructor Earon Nealey

SPECIAL THANKS

Oakwood Security for helping with supply pickups and seemingly endless deliveries.

Oakwood IT Department for enthusiastically setting up our broadcast computers in the theatre and scene shop.

Oakwood Business Office, especially Patricia Mondragon, who processes the massive number of purchases efficiently.

Families of our Cast members for supporting converting spaces in their homes into broadcast studios and giving up their wifi to the production.

Elisha Schaefer, De Toledo HS Technical Director, who gave us lots of key instruction in setting up our broadcast software OBS.

EB Brooks - Who crafted the 4 rag dolls in *Cookin' With Aunt Ethel* with love on her Great Grandmother's sewing machine.

Ron Frankel (Proof Inc.), *Jarrett Smith* (Derivative), *Roy Gerritsen* ($y=f(x)$ labs), and *David Bianciardi* (AV&C) - for their guidance and mentorship with Leo Frankel as he navigated the steep learning curve integrating the Media Server into this new theatrical format.

Rowan C. Young - for your insight into the behind the scenes nature of running virtual performance on the tech side. Your willingness to share your experience was invaluable.

Charles Dumas - who's words were in my head constantly during this production. Your words and wisdom have always been an inspiration and deep well of guidance in the art that I create.

Herb Newsome

Director

Herb Newsome (Director) is an actor/writer/Director originally from New York City currently living here in Los Angeles. The artistry he brings into any theatre space goes well beyond what you might see on his resume. Looking at his credits you will see that he likes to get his hands dirty and be involved in every aspect of the production to bring a complete and clear vision to the audience at the same time embracing the bold choices that each and every student has brought to the table. Herb would like to thank the Oakwood Community for allowing him to come on in and be a part of this wonderful production. Visit herbnewsome.com for more info.

Caleb '22

as Male Slave, Guy, Waiter, Man

Caleb (Actor/Symbiosis, Photo Session, Git on Board and Gospel According to Miss Roj) is excited to be a part of TCM. This is his debut performance and introduction to theater. He is a junior at the Oakwood School, a competitive tennis player and serves as a leader for the clubs BMORE and CAAMASO. He would like to thank his parents and brother for their support throughout the journey, his friends, the cast/crew and also thank the school for presenting such a chance to be a part of something so phenomenal! (He/Him)

Lola '21

as Girl, Woman, Lala

Lola (Lala/Woman/Girl) is so excited to be apart of TCM as her last play at Oakwood. Her past credits include June in Chicago, Martha in Spring Awakening, and Claire in Proof, to name a few. She is an avid member of the Choraliers here at Oakwood, as well as the co-leader of Cultural Awareness Association. She would like to thank her family and friends in and outside of the Oakwood theater, as well as Herb's amazing direction. (She/Her)

Noah '21

as Male Slave, Soldier, Walter Lee, Kid

Other than a tenth grade docudrama, Noah (Soldier/Son) has never been a part of any Oakwood show. Although he is mainly film and writing focused in terms of extracurriculars, he has joined many of Javier's classes in the past and decided *The Colored Museum* was a meaningful play to add his voice to. He is grateful to the cast and crew for bringing important themes to life.

Kennedy '22

as Miss Pat, Lady in Plaid, Little Girl, Normal Jean

I love animals, picnics, and music. I have always loved musical theater ever since I was 5. When I was younger I would sing and dance around the house giving little performances to my mom. Even now I still do that every now and then. I was in every play and musical in elementary school from Peter Pan to Wicked so it's something I knew I liked to do. This is my third year at Oakwood but my first year doing a play. I am so excited to be a part of this play and get to know everyone in it and I hope it is not my last performance here. (She/Her)

Amaya '21

as Female Slave, Lawanda, Medea, Topsy

Amaya is ecstatic to be able to participate in such a groundbreaking production, especially in this political climate. She's been in productions of The Wizard of Oz, Mary Poppins and, In A Grove: Four Japanese Ghost Stories. She's been apart of the Oakwood Community for five years now, and she's grateful to have this opportunity. She'd like to thank the cast and crew for being wonderful and doing everything they could to make this play wonderful.

Ryan '21

as Miss Roj, Narrator, Announcer/Florence

Ryan is excited to be apart of TCM, as he has primarily been a technician since his freshman year. Ryan's most recent productions were "Medea" (Stage Manager) and Spring Awakening (Sound Designer). Ryan is ready to finally hit the stage after years of acting classes with Javier. He would like to thank the cast and crew for being able to put on something so amazing from the safety of our own homes. (He/Him)

Nadiya '21

as Aunt Ethel, Janine, Mama, Admonia

Nadiya (Aunt Ethel, Janine, and Mama) is excited to be a part of *The Colored Museum*. The past productions she's been a part of is Chicago, The 10th grade Docu-Drama, and Medea. She also co-leads CAAMASO and DIVAS of Color. She would like to thank her Mom for always supporting her and she is very grateful that the last play she'll be a part of at Oakwood is *The Colored Museum*. (She/Her)

Javier Rivera

Producer

Javier Rivera feels privileged and honored to be able to produce George C Wolfe's poignant and provocative piece in the Oakwood Theatre...and he feels privileged to work at an institution that puts their money where their mouth is. #blacklivesmatter

Brian Walsh

Performing Arts Chair

Brian Walsh is a woodwind specialist, educator, and Chair of the Performing Arts at Oakwood Secondary School. He is incredibly excited and honored to be involved in Oakwood School's production of *The Colored Museum*. This is an incredibly important and necessary production, and I feel lucky to be working with this truly amazing cast, crew, faculty and administration. #blacklivesmatter (He/Him)

Sarah Moretz

Technical Director

The pandemic has not been easy for me. However, I have gotten so much joy working with Herb, the ensemble cast, and our enterprising crew. Thank you for being a part of telling these important stories that reflect real life.

Johnnyangel Pineda

Costume Design Team Mentor

Fabric and costume aficionado, Johnnyangel Pineda, has been designing, sewing, and studying fabric for nearly a decade. Having designed costumes for film, stage, cosplayers, and drag queens, he strives to create and unlock the magic that is often times hidden from reality. This is his second year with Oakwood. But many eons ago, he jumped head-first into costuming as the lead stitcher on Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dream Coat (2007), he has been both apprenticing & freelance-designing ever since. He has twice won 'Best Costume Design' award at the Mother Lode Drama Festival, designed/constructed costumes for 12 full length plays and musicals, and created countless commission pieces.

Leo '23

as Background Design

This is Leo's fifth Oakwood production. He has worked as an assistant lighting designer on a number of shows, including Spring Awakening, Chicago, and Medea. For this virtual production he is working on the visuals as well as the broadcasting. He is very excited to learn the new technologies involved in an online play. Leo would like to thank Ron Frankel (Proof Inc.), Jarrett Smith (Derivative), Roy Gerritsen ($y=f(x)$ labs), and David Bianciardi (AV&C) for being his technology gurus.

Coco '22

Production Stage Manager

Coco is very excited to be the production stage manager on *The Colored Museum*. This is her 4th Oakwood production and she looks forward to continuing tech at Oakwood. She would like to thank the whole cast and crew and a special thanks to her stage management team. (She/Her)

Ella '23

Assistant Stage Manager

Ella (ASM) is really excited to be a part of TCM. This is her fourth show at Oakwood, others include Spring Awakening, Madea, and The Dining Room. Ella is so glad to be working on such a great show with an amazing cast and crew. (She/Her)

Jordan '24

Assistant Stage Manager

This will be Jordan, aka Mini Seth/The Chef's, second show as an official part of the crew, however; in reality, this will be the fourth show that he has worked on. He is very excited to continue learning more about stage management and being able to take on more responsibility. Also, he is sad that this play will be on Zoom, but he is ready to try and make the best of it. (He/Him/His)

Richard '23

Assistant Stage Manager

I am excited to be able to join Oakwood in creating TCM and giving me the chance to do so. Although this is my first time working in a production, I am excited to learn the process in making a production that will move people today.

Pearl '22

Program Builder

As a member of Oakwood's Thespian Troupe 7954, Pearl has been a key supporter of our department. She is very excited to be of help even in this little way and appreciates all the work this cast and crew have done tremendously. Now, in her Junior year, she has stepped into roles in the upcoming *She Kills Monster's* Radio Play and as Henry in *The Fantasticks* later this year.

Nikiya Mathis

Hair & Wig Design and Instruction

Nikiya Mathis is the recipient of the Henry Hewes Design Award, The Antonyo Award and a Drama Desk nominee in wig design. She is a classically trained actress, who holds an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Nikiya's designs and styles have appeared on shows such as Luke Cage, Jessica Jones, Someone Great, and Charmed. Off- Broadway: The Public Theatre, Signature Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, MCC, Soho Rep, Women's Project, Ars Nova, Page 73 Productions @Walker Space, and more. Ensemble Studio Theatre, Classical Theater of Harlem, National Black Theater. Regionally: Hartford Stage, Huntington Theatre, & Longwharf Theatre, among others. www.ActTRESSESHair.com

Earon Nealey

Makeup Design Instructor

Earon Chew Nealey (Makeup Designer) is a wig, hair and makeup designer from Texas. Her design credits include Broadway: Sweat (Associate Makeup Designer). Other Design Credits include Once On This Island (Pioneer Theatre Company); Little Women (Dallas Theater Center); Oklahoma, Patsy Cline (Weston Playhouse); Mojada (The Public Theater); Memphis, Dream Girls (Cape Fear Regional Theater); Cadillac Crew, Twelfth Night (Yale Rep). Matilda (Colorado University).

Becca '24

Dramaturg

Becca (Dramaturg) is honored to be a part of *The Colored Museum* team. She was most recently seen as Sandrine in 8th grade's showing of *Almost, Maine*. Becca is a new member of the ITS community and is excited to be working as a Dramaturg for her first Oakwood high school production. She wants to thank the cast and crew for making this a wonderful experience! (She/Her)

Ninah '24

as Costume Designer, Program Cover Art

Ninah is very glad to be apart of this production. She has been apart of a few past Oakwood shows but has contributed more than ever to TCM. She has a passion for design and sewing and is excited to see her, and the rest of the crew's creations brought to life. She would like to thank her parents, her friends, and the leaders of the costume team for keeping her creativity flowing and giving her this amazing experience. (She/Her)

Mia '22

as Costume Designer

Mia is excited to be working on some of the costume designs for *The Colored Museum*. She is very thankful to get to be a part of this wonderful cast and crew. She has enjoyed working with the other designers on the team and is looking forward to seeing everyones designs come to life.(she/her/hers)

Lori '26

as Costume Designer

Lori (Costume Design) was thrilled to create some of the costumes in Oakwood's production of *The Colored Museum*. Lori enjoys reading, writing, fashion design, inventing, and helping the environment. She is on Oakwood's debate team and placed first in the Golden State League tournament. She would like to thank Herb Newsome, Sarah Moretz, Javier Rivera, Johnnyangel Pineda, and the cast and crew of TCM for this extraordinary production.

Emma '22

as Costume Designer

Emma (Costume Team) has loved designing costumes for TCM and the opportunity to work alongside such an amazing cast and crew. Her previous shows in the Oakwood theater include *Medea*, as a costume team member, and *It's Kind of Weird to Say I'm Beautiful* as a stage manager. Outside the theater Emma is a member of The Pad Project and co-leader of Environmental Justice Oakwood. She would like to thank her family for their support and Johnnyangel, Sarah, and Herb for their inspired leadership throughout this process. (She/Her)

Arlo '23

as Sound Designer

December 17th 8:42:32 AM. Whilst completing last-minute studying, a lab, and an essay, I checked my inbox on my phone. I saw an email, and my heart stopped. My life flashed before my eyes. I dropped everything and rushed to my computer. Left, right, turn, twist, pada beret. I finally reached my computer after dropping all of my assignments to complete a bio. I hit submit, wipe the sweat from my forehead, and take a deep breath. I return to my assignments. (They/he)

Otis '23

as Sound Designer

Otis is thrilled to be a sound designer for the TCM production. He had previously worked as an A2 for the 2019 Oakwood production of Spring Awakening, and then went on to be the co sound designer for their 2020 production of Medea. He draws a lot of his sound inspiration from the Star Wars franchise, particularly the series Clone Wars and The Mandalorian. He would like to thank his mom, dad, sisters and friends for making his life enjoyable and supporting him in all that he does. (He/Him/His)

Henry '22

as Costume Designer

Henry (costume team) has had so much fun working on this show. He also worked on the costumes for last year's play, Medea. Henry is a cellist in the LA Youth Orchestra. He also enjoys baking, reading, and hanging out with his friends. He would like to thank Herb, Sarah, and Johnnyangel as well as the cast and crew for all the hard work that went into this show.

EMBRACE THE MOMENT