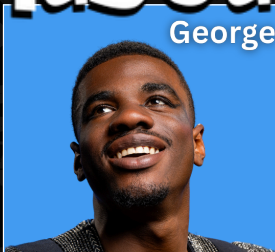
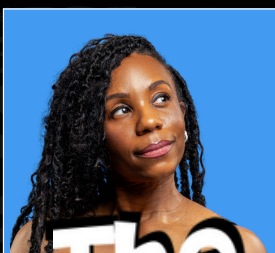


PLAYBILL

The Belrose

GRIOT
THEATER COMPANY



The colored Museum

George C. Wolfe

Directed by LeShawn Holcomb

June 20-29, 2025

griottheatercompany.org

Artistic Director's Message

Why The Colored Museum?

This play scares me—in the best way. It uproots long-held truths and tropes of Black culture. It dissects the Black experience and leaves us at a powerful crossroads between pain and pride. I see myself in every character. And I felt it was important—necessary—to share that with the world. Through our fears, our hopes, our dreams, and our wounds, The Colored Museum reveals one universal truth: we are all connected by the will to survive and the desire to live a life greater than ourselves. I first worked on this play in 2016 as an Associate Artist with the African American Shakespeare Company. It was there that I truly fell in love with directing—and with this piece. That early experience planted the seed for the work you're seeing today.

What's Up With Roj?

Never did I imagine I'd be playing Roj. But the more I read the script, the more I understood—Roj is the heartbeat of this play. While each museum exhibit sheds light on a different aspect of the Black experience, Roj carries something deeper: the longing for belonging, the ache of invisibility, the search for something more. I believe Roj represents the most under-acknowledged narrative in American society. George C. Wolfe's hands, Roj becomes a voice of connection, pain, & power.

Our Pathways and Fellowship Program

The Griot Pathways and Fellowship Program is a year-long residency designed for high school students and emerging adult artists. It combines classes, hands-on experience, and mentorship to nurture the next generation of Black and Brown theater makers. This season, four high school students and two young adults have worked behind the scenes to help shape the Griot Theater season—from creative design to production support. Our culminating June production brings their work to the stage, alongside professional Bay Area artists. This is theater as education. This is what it means to pass the torch.

The Future of Griot

We're just getting started. In six years, we've taken 28 students on a life-changing theater and education trip to New York. We've produced over 15 plays. We've provided our students with paid opportunities to gain professional experience. And now, we're offering scholarships to those who continue their journey into college. At Griot, once a student—always a student. With your support, we can grow this pipeline of Black and Brown excellence.

Thank you for believing in us. - **LeShawn Holcomb**

GRIT

The Exhibits

Preshow

Git on Board

Intermission 1 (13 min)

The Photo Session

Lala's Opening

Symbiosis

Permutations

Intermission 2 (12 min)

The Hairpiece

Soldier with a Secret

Cookin' with Aunt Ethel

The Gospel According to Miss Roj

Intermission 3 (8 min)

The Party

The Last Mama-on-the-Couch Play

About the Play



The Colored Museum is a groundbreaking satirical play by George C. Wolfe that boldly examines the complexities of African American identity, culture, and history.

Premiering in 1986, the play is structured as a series of 11 exhibits in a metaphorical museum, each one spotlighting a different facet of Black life in America—from legacy and assimilation to trauma, joy, resistance, and rebirth.

Through sharp wit, biting humor, and surrealism, Wolfe confronts stereotypes and celebrates Black resilience. Characters like "Miss Roj," "The Lady in Plaid," and the iconic "Git on Board" flight attendant guide the audience through a rollercoaster of emotional and cultural experiences. Blending satire with serious reflection, The Colored Museum forces viewers to question the narratives they've inherited and invites them to reimagine what it means to be free.

Provocative, theatrical, and deeply poignant, The Colored Museum remains a powerful work of art that continues to challenge & inspire audiences decades after its debut.

George C. Wolfe



George C. Wolfe is an acclaimed American playwright, director, and producer known for his bold, imaginative, and socially impactful work in theater and film.

Born on September 23, 1954, in Frankfort, Kentucky, Wolfe rose to prominence with his satirical play *The Colored Museum* (1986), which critiques and celebrates African American identity through a series of theatrical "exhibits."

He later solidified his legacy as a transformative figure in American theater during his tenure as Artistic Director of The Public Theater in New York City (1993–2004), where he nurtured groundbreaking works including *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*.

Wolfe has directed numerous Broadway productions and films, such as *Angels in America*, *Caroline, or Change*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *Lackawanna Blues*.

Known for blending humor, history, and activism, Wolfe has received multiple Tony Awards and remains a vital force in shaping American cultural narratives.

GRIT

Cast



Andre K. Jefferson
Junie Robinson
& The Kid



Antoine Hunter
The Man, Flo'rance
& Miss Roj (US)



Arista D'Nae
Girl, Lady in Plaid,
& Lawanda



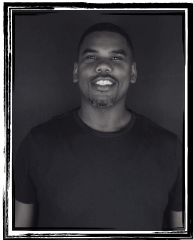
Ashley Jai
Normal Jean Reynolds
& Miss Pat



Brooklyn Price
Child



Kyandre Callaway
Guy & Walter Lee



LeShawn Holcomb
Miss Roj



Mikki Johnson
Topsy Washington,
Janine & Admonia



Samantha Wright
Lala Lamazing Grace
& Medea



Veronica Talton
Mama & Aunt Ethel

GRIT

Pathways



Adrian Garcia



Briana Zuniga



Emily Cuich



Luisa Esinosa

Directors & Designers

Director: LeShawn Holcomb

Musical Director: Veronica Talton

Costumer: Jai Banks

Stage Manager: Emily Cuich

Assistant Stage Manager and Lighting Designer: Adrian Garcia

Sound Designer Sanaa Green

Set Designer: Kyandre Callaway, & Eric Christ

Board of Directors: Vester Wiggins, Ida Green, & Kristen Wolslegel



CRIO

Bios

Adrian Garcia

Adrian, an incoming senior at Tamalpais High School, is a passionate aspiring theatre designer and actor dedicated to crafting performances that challenge perspectives and spark reflection in audiences.

As an actor, Adrian has performed in Pinocchio, Macbeth, and Hamlet, bringing depth and versatility to a wide range of classical and contemporary roles. Behind the scenes, he continues to grow as a designer and technician. His design work includes serving as set designer for War of the Roses, and both stage director and designer for Whoosh!, where he explored the intersection of visual storytelling and movement. He was the master electrician for The Government Inspector, helping bring the production to life through dynamic lighting design, and worked as the sound operator for The House of Bernarda Alba.

Adrian's dedication to theatre extends beyond the stage—he is continually exploring new ways to merge design, direction, and performance in service of powerful, transformative stories. He aims to continue his theatre journey, expanding his creative voice both onstage and off.

Andre K. Jefferson

Andre K. Jefferson graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana, earning his bachelor's in Psychology. For over a decade, he has toured the U.S. in several stage play productions and performing in theatre festivals.

Andre is the author of the children's book "Big Kid Book," the Producer of "Brother's Keeper," and the writer of the feature film "Karter Hall," which has been nominated for best action film. Andre is the founder of "Dre'lentless Productions" and "Brain Unchained," a mental health and suicide prevention organization that supports creatives, and he has been featured on The Disney Channel, Amazon, Netflix, ABC, NBC, and HULU. Andre K. Jefferson is an actor, director, writer, author, poet, producer, and advocate whose mission is to change the world- one production at a time.

Bios

Antoine Hunter

Antoine Hunter brings a lifelong love of the stage to this production. From a young age, Antoine has been captivated by the magic of theater and the ability to transport audiences to new worlds. With a background in musical theater and storytelling, Antoine is excited to collaborate with this talented cast and crew. Offstage, Antoine enjoys talking about Jesus, eating good food, and meeting new people.

Arista D'Nae

Arista D'Nae doesn't chase applause—she chases truth. Actor. Voice Artist. Stunt Performer. She's about the grind, the grit, and the grace of real stories told from real places. No flex, just facts. Guided by faith and grounded in purpose, she brings lived experience and spiritual depth to every role. Whether on stage, behind the mic, or in motion, Arista shows up with power, presence, and prayer in her pocket.

Ashley Jaye

Ashley Jaye (she/they) is an actress, writer, director, and mental health advocate. She is best known for her solo performance "Who Wants to be a Neurotypical?" which hilariously highlights the complex intersectional life she lives as a queer, disabled, Black woman. Their recent acting credits include: Savannah Hill in "Bamboozled" (Directed by Terrence Tyrie Ivory) and Cicely Pigeon in "The Odd Couple" (Directed by Adria Swan). She is excited to be performing in one of her favorite plays with Griot Theater Company!

Briana Zuniga

Briana Zuniga is an emerging artist and performer entering her junior year at Tamalpais High School. A gifted dancer and cheerleader, Briana brings energy, discipline, and creativity to every stage she steps on. She has appeared in three theatrical productions and is a proud and active participant in Performing Stars, where she continues to develop her skills in performance and leadership. Briana plans to attend a four-year university to pursue degrees in both psychology and graphic design, combining her passion for understanding people with her eye for visual storytelling.

Bios

Brooklyn Price

Brooklyn is a bright and creative 7-year-old from Marin City, CA, and a proud student at MLK Academy. She's already making her voice heard—most recently performing in Griot's 5th Annual Oratorical, celebrating the legacy of August Wilson. Brooklyn loves painting, singing, acting, and dancing, and she dreams of becoming an art teacher one day. She's also a young entrepreneur, proudly owning a slushie business called Cousins Seasonal Drinks. Brooklyn believes it's always okay to try new things and enjoys inspiring others with her creativity and courage.

Emily Caiuch

Emily Caiuch is a passionate young artist who believes in the magic of live theater. For her, the stage is a living, breathing space—where no two performances are ever the same, and every moment is a unique exchange between actor and audience. She has appeared in *Richard III* and *The Government Inspector* with CTE Drama (Conservatory Theatre Ensemble), where she continues to grow as a performer.

Emily's artistic interests span across music, visual art, dance, acting, and even sailing—she's always exploring new ways to express herself. After graduation, she dreams of pursuing a career in both film and on Broadway, bringing stories to life on screen and stage alike.

Kyandre Callaway

Kyandre "Lil Dre" Calloway is a Griot Original, having been part of the journey since day one. A powerhouse performer, he has appeared in every single Griot stage production—from *The Grinch Who Stole Kwanzaa* to the very first James Baldwin Oratorical, from *Queen of Cubs* to the August Wilson Oratorical.

Beyond Griot, Kyandre has performed in *Burning Wild* with AVIVA Arts, *Frankenstein* with Tam High School Theatre, and *Alice in Wonderland*, directed by Sophina Caldwell. Lil Dre is trained in stage acting, movement, and voice, specializing in improv, drama, and comedy. He is also a set designer, carpenter, painter, teaching artist, and standout actor—recently becoming the face of Griot.

Bios

LeShawn Holcomb

LeShawn Darnell Holcomb is a dedicated educator, artist, and community leader based in Marin County, California. He currently serves as the Dean of Students at Tamalpais High School, where he empowers young people to find success both in the classroom and beyond.

Holcomb is the founding artistic director of The Griot Theater Company, established to support middle school students from Martin Luther King Jr. Academy as they desegregated with the predominantly white neighboring school. Griot was created as a safe, affirming space for Black and Brown youth to explore their creativity and culture.

He holds a Master of Science in Urban Education and Social Justice with a concentration in English from the University of San Francisco, and a Bachelor of Science in Human Services and Afro-Ethnic Studies.

Holcomb has collaborated with both local and regional theater companies as a teaching artist, playwright, and performer. He believes that theater—and the arts at large—are powerful tools for healing and hope.

Luisa Espinosa

Luisa Espinosa is a recent graduate of Tamalpais High School, where she was an active member of the cheer team and a vibrant presence on campus. Originally from New York, Luisa brings a bold sense of style and a love for sports and fashion to everything she does. Since joining Griot's Pathways Program in February 2025, she has emerged as a standout leader in marketing and social media, helping to amplify the company's reach and impact. This fall, Luisa will attend Santa Barbara City College to pursue a degree in Business Administration and Finance. Her favorite aspect of working with Griot is the intergenerational spirit of the company—where she has the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with people across all ages and walks of life.

Bios

Mikki Johnson

Mikki Johnson is a Bay Area native and studied Theatre Arts (with the concentration of Acting and Musical Theater) at California State East Bay. She has recently been seen onstage in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with the Berkeley Shakespeare Company and previously in "Blood at the Root" & "1984" at California State East Bay. Mikki is very passionate about voice, artistry and amplifying BIPOC and LGBTQ+ presence in the theater and entertainment world.

Samantha Wright

Samantha Wright is honored to make her professional stage debut with The Griot Theater Company. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she trained at the Playwrights Horizons Theater School. Samantha is deeply grateful to have earned a place in the 2025 Acting Fellowship with Oakland Theater Project and looks forward to performing in their upcoming season.

Her stage credits include Richard III and All's Well That Ends Well, both directed by Louis Scheeder, and Conversation with a Sphinx under the direction of Amy Feldman. On screen, Samantha has appeared in a national Heinz commercial and a music video for Heavy D. A multidisciplinary artist, she is also a singer, writer, and dancer, with professional on-camera training rounding out her wide-ranging performance background.

Samantha dedicates this performance to her great-great-grandfather, General Richard Robert Wright and her sister Sabrina, whose laughter would have echoed through the theater tonight—gone but never forgotten.

Bios

Sanaa Green

Sanaa Green is a passionate theater artist and storyteller who began her journey on stage at the age of eight, playing Sneezy in Snow White with the Throckmorton Theatre. A 2024 graduate of Tamalpais High School, Sanaa has since performed in multiple productions with the Griot Theater Company, where she found a powerful sense of community and belonging.

She recently completed her freshman year at Kent State University, where she is majoring in Theater Production and honing her skills behind the scenes. Whether she's working on stagecraft or collaborating with a cast, Sanaa is driven by a love for creative expression and a deep belief in the healing power of the arts.

In addition to theater, Sanaa enjoys basketball and visual art, and brings her full self—creative, curious, and committed—to every project she's part of.

Veronica Talton

Veronica Talton is a performing arts educator, arts education consultant, vocalist & songwriter passionate about public education as well as championing the rights of the arts. Veronica was most recently seen as Velma in the musical, Crowns, with the Tabia African American Theatre Ensemble. She has also appeared in Ragtime: The Musical with Lyric Theater and in The Other Mr. Lincoln with Showcase Theater Actors Repertory. Additional theater credits include as production assistant for Shaking The Mess Out Of Misery; as Sister Stallworth in The Front Porch Society; and as Ruth Younger in A Raisin In The Sun. Veronica regularly performs in traveling shows in Santa Clara County and for various civic and community engagements across the San Francisco Bay area.

Our Sisters Keeper

We are proud to support Griot Theater & Leshawn
A sacred space where Black voices rise, truth is told, and community
is ignited. Your work reminds us that storytelling is not just art it is
legacy, liberation, and light.

Best of Luck to all Performers

With much love,
Ebony McKinley Founder
Our Sisters Keeper "Where bonding happens"

"Be the change you wish to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi



MCCT seeks to combat the vast disparities imposed upon the Black community in key issue areas and break down the silos that exist among nonprofits serving the Black community.

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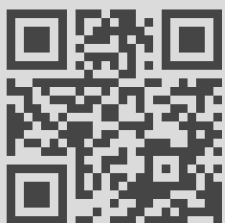


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Anansi The Trickster Spider October 2025



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The Griot Theater Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit celebrating artists of color and empowering Marin City youth. Your donation helps us nurture the next generation of storytellers, amplifying their unique voices in the arts & beyond. Thank you for your support!

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