

Black Playwrights and Authors

Looking for ways to incorporate Black History Month into your classroom? Below is an initial list of works from nearly 100 Black authors, compiled in partnership with Wiley College. If there is a work you believe should be included here, please email annie.reisener@speechanddebate.org.



A

Elizabeth Alexander (poet) – Elizabeth Alexander was born in Harlem, New York, but grew up in Washington, D.C., the daughter of former United States Secretary of the Army and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission chairman, Clifford Alexander Jr. She holds degrees from Yale, Boston University, and the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned her Ph.D. She is currently a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and the inaugural Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry at Yale University. Her book *American Sublime* (2005) was shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize, and in 2005, she was awarded the Jackson Poetry Prize. She is often recognized as a pivotal figure in African American poetry. When Barack Obama asked her to compose and read a poem for his Presidential inauguration, she joined the ranks of Robert Frost, Maya

Angelou, and Miller Williams; her poem, “Praise Song for the Day,” became a bestseller.

Ron Allen (playwright) – was an African American poet and playwright who described his work as a “concert of language.” Allen’s early works included *Last Church of the Twentieth Century*, *Aboriginal Treatment Center*, *Twenty Plays in Twenty Minutes*, *Dreaming the Reality Room Yellow*, *WHAM!*, *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, *Relative Energy Sack Theory Museum*, and *The Heidelberg Project: Squatting in the Circle of the Elder Mind*. After his move to Los Angeles, CA in 2007, Allen wrote three more plays: *Swallow the Sun*, *My Eyes Are the Cage in My Head*, and *The Hieroglyph of the Cockatoo*. Allen published books of critically acclaimed poetry, including *I Want My Body Back* and *Neon Jawbone Riot*. He released a book of poetry in 2008 titled *The Inkblot Theory*.

Garland Anderson (playwright) – (February 18, 1886 – June 1, 1939) An African American playwright and speaker. After having a full-length drama on Broadway, Anderson gave talks on empowerment and success largely related to the New Thought movement.

- Garland Anderson (1925). *From Newsboy and Bellhop to Playwright*. Cathedral Publishing Company.
- Garland Anderson (1925). *The Hows and Whys of Your Success*.
- Garland Anderson (1925). *Appearances: A Play*.
- Garland Anderson (1933). *Uncommon Sense: The Law of Life in Action*. L. N. Fowler & Company.

Regina M. Anderson – Regina Andrews was one of ten African American women whose contributions were recognized at the 1939 World’s Fair in New York. She was the first minority to climb the ranks and become a supervising librarian at the New York Public Library and her struggle to break the color barrier has earned her numerous accolades.

- Climbing Jacob’s Ladder (1931, play)
- Underground (1932, play)
- A Public Library Assists in Improving Race Relations (1946, thesis)
- Intergroup Relations in the United States: A Compilation of Source Material and Service Organizations (1959, article)
- Chronology of African Americans in New York, 1621–1966 (1971, co-editor)
- The Man Who Passed: A Play in One Act (published posthumously in 1996, play)

Maya Angelou – (April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014) She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and was credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years.

Ray Aranha – (May 1, 1939 – October 9, 2011) In 1974, he won a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding New Playwright for *My Sister, My Sister*. Aranha also wrote and toured in a one-man show, *I Am Black*.

Russell Atkins – Music is central to Atkins’s methods of writing; he once wrote of his practice, “I would ‘compose’ like a painter and write poems like a composer.” Atkins developed a mode of composition he calls “phenomenalism,” in which image and sound combinations extend the possibilities of semantic meaning through sonic play and visual forms. He is often described as a “concrete poet,” and his influential essay “A Psychovisual Perspective for ‘Musical’ Composition” elaborated on the visual aspects of musical and verse composition.

Atkins’s collections of poetry include the chapbooks and small-press books:

- A Podium Presentation (1960)
- Phenomena (1961)

- Objects (1963)
- Objects 2 (1964)
- Heretofore (1968)
- The Nail, to Be Set to Music (1970)
- Maleficium (1971)
- Whichever (1978)

He also wrote two verse-plays or “poems in play forms”: *The Abortionist* and *The Corpse*, both published in *Free Lance*. His only full-length collection, *Here in The* (1976), was published by the Cleveland State Poetry Center.

B

James Baldwin – (August 2, 1924 – December 1, 1987) Baldwin was an American writer and social critic. His essays, as collected in *Notes of a Native Son* (1955), explore palpable yet unspoken intricacies of racial, sexual, and class distinctions in Western societies.

- *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (semi-autobiographical novel; 1953)
- *The Amen Corner* (play; 1954)
- *Notes of a Native Son* (essays; 1955)
- *Giovanni’s Room* (novel; 1956)
- *Nobody Knows My Name: More Notes of a Native Son* (essays; 1961)
- *Another Country* (novel; 1962)
- *A Talk to Teachers* (essay; 1963)
- *The Fire Next Time* (essays; 1963)
- *Blues for Mister Charlie* (play; 1964)
- *Going to Meet the Man* (stories; 1965)
- *Tell Me How Long the Train’s Been Gone* (novel; 1968)

- No Name in the Street (essays; 1972)
- If Beale Street Could Talk (novel; 1974)
- The Devil Finds Work (essays; 1976)
- Just Above My Head (novel; 1979)
- Jimmy's Blues (poems; 1983)
- The Evidence of Things Not Seen (essays; 1985)
- The Price of the Ticket (essays; 1985)
- The Cross of Redemption: Uncollected Writings (essays; 2010)
- Jimmy's Blues and Other Poems (poems; 2014)

Amiri Baraka – (born Everett LeRoi Jones; October 7, 1934 – January 9, 2014) Baraka was an African American writer of poetry, drama, fiction, essays and music criticism.

Poetry

- 1961: Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note
- 1964: The Dead Lecturer: Poems
- 1969: Black Magic
- 1970: It's Nation Time
- 1975: Hard Facts
- 1980: New Music, New Poetry (India Navigation)
- 1995: Transbluesency: The Selected Poems of Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones
- 1995: Wise, Why's Y's
- 1996: Funk Lore: New Poems
- 2003: Somebody Blew Up America & Other Poems
- 2005: The Book of Monk

Drama

- 1964: Dutchman
- 1964: The Slave
- 1967: The Baptism and The Toilet

- 1966: A Black Mass
- 1969: Four Black Revolutionary Plays
- 1970: Slave Ship
- 1978: The Motion of History and Other Plays
- 1989: Song
- 2013: Most Dangerous Man in America (W. E. B. Du Bois)

Fiction

- 1965: The System of Dante's Hell
- 1967: Tales
- 2006: Tales of the Out & the Gone

Non-fiction

- 1963: Blues People
- 1965: Home: Social Essays
- 1965: The Revolutionary Theatre
- 1968: Black Music
- 1971: Raise Race Rays Raze: Essays Since 1965
- 1979: Poetry for the Advanced
- 1981: reggae or not!
- 1984: Daggers and Javelins: Essays 1974–1979
- 1984: The Autobiography of LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka
- 1987: The Music: Reflections on Jazz and Blues
- 2003: The Essence of Reparations

Tanya Barfield – an African American playwright whose works have been presented both nationally and internationally.

- Bright Half Life
- The Call
- 121° West
- Blue Door
- Dent

- The Houdini Act
- Medallion
- Of Girl & Wolf and Wanting North
- Pecan Tan and The Quick
- Of Equal Measure

Barry Beckham – He began his first novel, *My Main Mother* (1969), while in his senior year at Brown University. His second novel, *Runner Mack* (1972) was nominated for a National Book Award. Beckham’s wrote the play *Garvey Lives!* about Jamaican-born Black Nationalist Marcus Garvey.

Marita Bonner – Marita Odette Bonner (Ocomy) was an African American writer, essayist, and playwright associated with the Harlem Renaissance Era.

Short Stories

- “The Hands – A Story.” *Opportunity: A Journal of Negro Life* 3 (August 1925): 235–37.
- “The Prison-Bound.” *The Crisis* 32 (September 1926): 225–26.
- “Nothing New.” *The Crisis* 33 (November 1926): 17–20.
- “One Boy’s Story.” *The Crisis* 34 (November 1927): 297–99, 316–20 (pseudonym: Joseph Maree Andrew).
- “Drab Rambles.” *The Crisis* 34 (December 1927): 335–36, 354–56.
- “A Possible Triad of Black Notes, Part One.” *Opportunity* 11 (July 1933): 205–07.
- “A Possible Triad of Black Notes, Part Two: Of Jimmie Harris.” *Opportunity* 11 (August 1933): 242–44.
- “A Possible Triad of Black Notes, Part Three: Three Tales of Living Corner Store.” *Opportunity* 11 (September 1933): 269–71.

- “Tin Can.” *Opportunity* 12 (July 1934): 202–205, (August 1934): 236–40.
- “A Sealed Pod.” *Opportunity* 14 (March 1936): 88–91.
- “Black Fronts.” *Opportunity* 16 (July 1938): 210–14.
- “Hate is Nothing.” *The Crisis* 45 (December 1938): 388–90, 394, 403–04 (pseudonym: Joyce M. Reed).
- “The Makin’s.” *Opportunity* 17 (January 1939): 18–21.
- “The Whipping.” *The Crisis* 46 (January 1939): 172–74.
- “Hongry Fire.” *The Crisis* 46 (December 1939): 360-62, 376–77.
- “Patch Quilt.” *The Crisis* 47 (March 1940): 71, 72, 92.
- “One True Love.” *The Crisis* 48 (February 1941): 46–47, 58–59.

Essays

- “On Being Young—A Woman—And Colored.” *The Crisis* (December 1925).
- “The Young Blood Hungers.” *The Crisis* 35 (May 1928): 151, 172.
- “Review of Autumn Love Cycle, by Georgia Douglas Johnson.” *Opportunity* 7 (April 1929): 130.

Drama

- “The Pot-Maker (A Play to be Read).” *Opportunity* 5 (February 1927): 43-46.
- “The Purple Flower.” *The Crisis* (1928).
- “Exit – An Illusion.” *The Crisis* 36 (October 1929): 335-36, 352.

Thomas Bradshaw (playwright) – an American playwright. whose work has been extensively reviewed. He is the recipient of PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award as the Emerging American Playwright.

Plays

- Thomas & Sally (2017)
- Fulfillment (2015)
- Intimacy (2014)
- Job (2012)
- Burning (2011)
- Mary (2011)
- The Bereaved (2009)
- Southern Promises (2008)
- Purity (2007)
- Prophet (2005)

William B. Branch – an African American playwright who has also been involved in many aspects of entertainment, including journalism, media production, editing, a short-lived career acting for television as well as talking on the radio. He has “written, directed, and produced extensively for the stage, television, radio, and his own media consulting and production firm”

Plays

- A Medal for Willie, 1951.
- Light in the Southern Sky, 1958.
- To Follow the Phoenix, 1960.
- A Wreath for Udomo, 1961.
- Baccalaureate, 1975.
- In Splendid Error, 1978.

Donari Braxton – an American filmmaker and writer. His independent narrative films are generally considered experimental, though have been featured diversely both in film festivals and art film reviews internationally.

- The Ballad of Chico Walfer, Announcing, (2014)

- No One’s Rose, Paul Celan Translations, (2006)
- I, Slow Toe Publication, (2005)
- On My Generation; Poetry and Politics, Slow Toe Publication, (2004)

Elizabeth Brown-Guillory – a playwright, performing artist and professor of English at the University of Houston and is now the Dean of Texas Southern University’s Thomas F. Freeman Honors College.

Plays

- The Break of Day. In Black Theatre in Texas. Ed. Sandra Mayo and Ervin Holt. Austin: University of Texas Press. (forthcoming in 2011)
- When the Ancestors Call. In Black Theatre in Texas. Ed. Sandra Mayo and Ervin Holt. Austin: University of Texas Press. (forthcoming in 2011)
- ‘Saving Grace. The Griot (the official journal of the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc.) 22.2 (Fall 2003): 47-66.
- La Bakair. The SUNO REVIEW: A Journal of the Arts and Humanities 1:2 (Spring 2001): 49-88.
- Mam Phyllis. In Wines in the Wilderness: Plays by African American Women from the Harlem Renaissance to the Present. Ed. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1990: 191-227.
- Snapshots of Broken Dolls. Colorado: Contemporary Drama Service, a division of Meriwether Publishing Co., 1987. 36pp.
- Bayou Relics. Colorado: Contemporary Drama Service, a division of Meriwether Publishing Co., 1983. 30 pp.

Oscar Brown – (October 10, 1926 – May 29, 2005) was an American singer, songwriter, playwright, poet, civil rights activist, and actor.

Book

- What It Is: Poems and Opinions of Oscar Brown Jr. This book includes lyrics to some of Brown's better-known songs, as well as lyrics to songs he never got to record.

Musicals

- Kicks & Co.
- Oscar Brown Jr. Entertains (one-man show in London, UK)
- Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadow
- Summer in the City
- Opportunity Please Knock
- Joy '66; Joy '69
- Big-Time Buck White
- Slave Song
- Oscar Brown Jr.'s Back in Town
- Great Nitty Gritty

William Wells Brown – (circa 1814 – November 6, 1884) was a prominent African American abolitionist lecturer, novelist, playwright, and historian in the United States. Born into slavery in Montgomery County, Kentucky, near the town of Mount Sterling, Brown escaped to Ohio in 1834 at the age of 20. He settled in Boston, Massachusetts, where he worked for abolitionist causes and became a prolific writer.

Writings

- Narrative of William W. Brown, a Fugitive Slave. Written by Himself, Boston: The Anti-slavery office, 1847.
- Narrative of William W. Brown, an American Slave. Written by Himself, London: C. Gilpin, 1849.
- Three Years in Europe: Or, Places I Have Seen and People I Have Met. London: Charles Gilpin, 1852.

- Brown, William Wells (1815-1884). Three Years in Europe, or Places I Have Seen and People I Have Met. with a Memoir of the author. 1852.
- William Wells Brown, CLOTEL; or the President's Daughter (1853), An Electronic Scholarly Edition, edited by Professor Christopher Mulvey.
- The American Fugitive in Europe. Sketches of Places and People Abroad. Boston: John P. Jewett, 1855.
- The Black Man: His Antecedents, His Genius, and His Achievements. New York: Thomas Hamilton; Boston: R.F. Wallcut, 1863.
- The Rising Son, or The Antecedents and Advancements of the Colored Race. Boston: A. G. Brown & Co., 1873.
- My Southern Home: or, The South and Its People, Boston: A. G. Brown & Co., Publishers, 1880.
- The Negro in the American Rebellion; His Heroism and His Fidelity.

Ed Bullins – is an African American playwright. He was also the Minister of Culture for the Black Panthers. In addition, he has won numerous awards, including the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and several Obie Awards. He is one of the best known playwrights to come from the Black Arts Movement.

Plays

- "Dialect Determinism." Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). Published in The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- "How Do You Do." Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1965 Published in Black Fire: An Anthology of Afro-American Writing, Baraka, Amiri and Neal, Larry, eds, New York: William Morrow, 1968.

- “Goin’ a Buffalo.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1966 Published in *Black Theatre, U.S.A.: Plays By African Americans: The Recent Period, 1935-Today*, revised and expanded edition, Hatch, James V., and Shine, Ted, eds, New York: The Free Press, 1996.
- “The Helper.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1966 Also in *The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- “It Has No Choice.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1966 Also in *The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- “A Minor Scene.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1966 Also in *The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- “Black Commercial #2.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1967 Also in *The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- “The Corner.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1967 Also in *Black Drama Anthology*, King, Woodie, Jr. and Milner, Ron, eds., New York: New American Library, 1986.
- “The Electronic Nigger.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1967 Also in *New American Plays*, vol. 3, Hill & Wang, New York, NY, 1970.
- “The Man Who Dug Fish.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1967 Also in *The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- “A Son, Come Home.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1968 Also in *New American Plays*, vol. 3, New York: Hill & Wang, 1970.
- “We Righteous Bombers.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1968 Also in *New Plays From the Black Theatre*, Bullins, Ed, ed., New York: Bantam Books, 1969.
- “The American Flag Ritual.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1969 Also in *The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- “The Gentleman Caller.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1969 Also in *Contemporary Black Drama: From A Raisin In the Sun to No Place To Be Somebody*, Oliver, Clinton F. and Sills, Stephanie, eds, New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1971.
- “In New England Winter.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1969 Also in *New Plays From the Black Theatre*, Bullins, Ed, ed., New York: Bantam Books, 1969.
- “One-Minute Commercial.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1969 Also in *The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- “State Office Bldg. Curse.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1969 Also in *The Theme Is Blackness: The Corner and Other Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1973.
- “You Gonna Let Me Take You Out Tonight, Baby?” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1969 Also in *Black Arts: An Anthology of Black Creations*, Alhamisi, Ahmed and Wangara, Harun Kofi, eds, Detroit, MI: Black Arts Publications, 1969.
- “Death List.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1970 Also in *Four Dynamite Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1972.

- “The Devil Catchers.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1970
- “The Duplex.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1970 Also in *The Duplex: A Black Love Fable in Four Movements*, New York: William Morrow, 1971.
- “The Pig Pen.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1970 Also in *Four Dynamite Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1972.
- “Malcolm: ‘71, or, Publishing Blackness.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1971
- “Night of the Beast.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1971 Also in *Four Dynamite Plays*, New York: Morrow, 1972.
- “The Psychic Pretenders.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1972
- “House Party.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1973
- “I Am Lucy Terry.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1975 Also in *New / Lost Plays by Ed Bullins: An Anthology*, Walker, Ethel Pitts, ed., Aiea, HI: That New Publishing Company, 1993.
- “The Taking of Miss Janie.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1975 Also in *Famous American Plays of the 1970s*, Hoffman, Ted, ed., New York: Dell, 1988.
- “Home Boy.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1976
- “The Mystery of Phillis Wheatley.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1976 Also in *New / Lost Plays by Ed Bullins: An Anthology*, Walker, Ethel Pitts, ed., Aiea, HI: That New Publishing Company, 1993.
- “Daddy, Or The Prince of Darkness.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1977
- “Sepia Star.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010).
- “C’mon Back to Heavenly House.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1978
- “City Preacher.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1984 Also in *New / Lost Plays by Ed Bullins: An Anthology*, Walker, Ethel Pitts, ed., Aiea, HI: That New Publishing Company, 1993.
- “High John Da Conqueror.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1985 Also in *New / Lost Plays by Ed Bullins: An Anthology*, Walker, Ethel Pitts, ed., Aiea, HI: That New Publishing Company, 1993.
- “A Sunday Afternoon.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1987
- “Salaam, Huey Newton, Salaam.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1990 Also in *New / Lost Plays by Ed Bullins: An Anthology*, Walker, Ethel Pitts, ed., Aiea, HI: That New Publishing Company, 1993.
- “Dr. Geechee and the Blood Junkies.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1996
- “Mtumi X.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 1999
- “Boy Times Man.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 2000
- “King Aspelta: A Nubian Coronation.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 2000
- “A Ten Minute Play.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010). © Ed Bullins, 2001
- “Blacklist.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010).
- “The Doorway.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010).
- “Snickers.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010).
- “Spaces.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010).
- “That Day.” Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press (2010).

C

Laurie Carlos – (January 25, 1949 – December 29, 2016) was an American actress and avant-garde performance artist, playwright and theater director.

Plays

- White Chocolate
- The Cooking Show
- Vanquished by Voodoo
- Nonsectarian Conversations with the Dead
- Organdy Falsetto

Steve Carter (playwright) – is an American playwright, best known for his plays involving Caribbean immigrants living in the United States.

Plays

- Eden
- Nevis Mountain Dew
- Dame Lorraine
- House of Shadows
- Pecong and the musical
- Shoot Me While I'm Happy

Charles Smith (playwright) – Many of his plays use various historical contexts to explore contemporary issues of race, identity, and politics in America. His work spans a gamut from contemporary investigations of historic icons such as Denmark Vesey, Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. Dubois, and Alexandre Dumas, to examinations of race and politics in a more current setting such as the impact of the end of segregation on Chicago's Southside.

Plays

- Knock Me a Kiss
- Freefall
- The Sutherland
- The Gospel According to James
- Sister Carrie
- Les Trois Dumas
- Denmark
- Pudd'nhead Wilson
- Takunda
- City of Gold
- Jelly Belly
- Young Richard
- Free Man of Color

Alice Childress – (October 12, 1916 – August 14, 1994) was an American playwright, actor, and author, acknowledged as “the only African American woman to have written, produced, and published plays for four decades.”

Plays

- Florence (1949)
- Just a Little Simple (1950)
- Gold Through the Trees (1952)
- Trouble in Mind (1955)
- Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White (1966)
- String (1969)
- Wine in the Wilderness (1969)
- Mojo: A Black Love Story (1970)
- Sea Island Song (1977)

- Moms: A Praise Play for a Black Comedienne (1987)

Novels

- Like One of the Family (1956)
- A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich (1973), which became a film of the same title in 1978.
- A Short Walk (1979)
- Rainbow Jordan (1981)
- Those Other People (1989)

Kirsten Childs – is an American playwright, librettist, and former actress.

Plays

- If You Give A Mouse A Cookie & Other Story Books
- Miracle Brothers
- Doris to Darlene, A Cautionary Valentine
- Bella: An American Tall Tale
- The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin

Cheril N. Clarke – is a Canadian-born contemporary author and playwright of gay and lesbian romance, drama, and comedy. She has lived in the United States for the majority of her life.

Books

- Foundations: A Novel of New Beginnings
- Different Trees from the Same Root
- Intimate Chaos
- Tainted Destiny
- Losing Control

Play

- Intimate Chaos

Eugenia Collier – an African American writer and critic best known for her 1969 short story “Marigolds,” which won the Gwendolyn Brooks Prize for Fiction award.

Book

- Breeder and Other Stories (1993)

Play

- Ricky

Other Writings

- Impressions in Asphalt: Images of Urban America (1999)
- A Bridge to Saying It Well (1970)
- Sweet Potato Pie (1972)
- Langston Hughes: Black Genius (1991)
- Afro-American Writing: An Anthology of Prose and Poetry (1992)
- Modern Black Poets: A Collection of Critical Essays (1973)

Kathleen Collins – (March 18, 1942 – September 18, 1988) was an African American playwright, writer, filmmaker, director, civil rights activist, and educator from Jersey City, New Jersey. Her two feature narratives—The Cruz Brothers and Miss Malloy (1980) and Losing Ground (1982)—furthered the range of Black women’s films.

Plays

- In the Midnight Hour (1981)
- The Brothers (1982)

D

Eisa Davis – an American playwright, actor and singer-songwriter. She is most commonly known for her work as a playwright.

Plays

- Passing Strange
- Burlrusher
- Ramp
- The History of Light

Thulani Davis – is an American playwright, journalist, librettist, novelist, poet, and screenwriter. In 1992, Davis received a Grammy Award for her album notes on Aretha Franklin's Queen Of Soul — The Atlantic Recordings, becoming the first female recipient of this award.

Books

- My Confederate Kinfolk (2006)
- Maker of Saints (1996)
- Malcolm X: The Great Photographs (1993)
- 1959, a novel (1992)
- Playing the Changes (1985)
- All the Renegade Ghosts Rise (1978)

Plays

- The Souls of Black Folk (2003)
- Everybody's Ruby: Story of a Murder in Florida (1999)
- Ava & Cat in Mexico (1994)
- Adaptation, Brecht's The Caucasian Chalk Circle (1990)
- Paint (1982)
- Shadow & Veil, with Ntozake Shange, Jessica Hagedorn, Laurie Carlos, et al. (1982)

- Sweet Talk and Stray Desires (1979)
- Where the Mississippi Meets the Amazon, with Shange and Hagedorn (1977)

Lydia R. Diamond – an American playwright and professor. Her plays have received national attention and acclaim, receiving the Lorraine Hansberry Award for Best Writing, an LA Weekly Theater Award, and a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award.

Plays

- Here I Am...See Can You Handle It
- The Gift Horse (2001)
- Voyeurs de Venus (2006)
- The Bluest Eye (2007)
- Stick Fly (2008)
- Lizzie Stranton (2009)
- Harriot Jacobs (2011)
- Smart People (2016)

Owen Dodson – (November 28, 1914 – June 21, 1983) was an American poet, novelist, and playwright. He was one of the leading African American poets of his time, associated with the generation of Black poets following the Harlem Renaissance.

Poetry

- Powerful Long Ladder (1940)
- The Confession Stone: Song Cycles (1970)
- Poems from The Confession Stone were set to music by composer Robert Fleming (1968).
- The Harlem Book of the Dead (1978). Collaboration with photographer James Van Der Zee and artist Camille Billops.

Plays

- Bayou Legend
- Divine Comedy
- Till Victory Is Won
- New World A-Coming
- Garden of Time (1945)
- The Confession Stone (1960)

Novels

- Boy at the Window (1951)
- Come Home Early, Child (1967)

Henry Francis Downing – was an African American sailor, politician, dramatist, and novelist. His cousin was Hilary R. W. Johnson, the first African-born president of Liberia (1884–1892).

Plays

- The Shuttlecock; or Israel in Russia: An Original Drama in Four Acts (1913)
- Human Nature, or The Traduced Wife: An Original English Domestic Drama, in Four Acts (1913)
- The Arabian Lovers: Or the Sacred Jar; an Eastern Tale in Four Acts (1913)
- Placing Paul’s Play; A Miniature Comedy (1913)
- Lord Eldred’s Other Daughter: An Original Comedy in Four Acts (1913)
- Incentives: A Drama in Four Acts (1914)
- A New Coon in Town: A Farcical Comedy Made in England (1914)
- Voodoo: A Drama in Four Acts (1914)

Jackie Sibblies Drury – is a Brooklyn-based playwright. Her plays include We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as South West Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915, Really, Social Creatures, and And now I only dance at weddings.

E

Trey Ellis – an American novelist, screenwriter, professor, playwright, and essayist.

Plays

- Fly
- Satchel Page and the Kansas City Swing

Don Evans – (April 27, 1938–October 16, 2003) was an African American playwright, theatre director, actor, and educator.

Plays

- Sugarmouth Sam Don’t Dance No More (Dramatists Play Service, NY)
- The Trials and Tribulations of Staggerlee Booker T. Brown (Dramatists Play Service)
- The Prodigals (Dramatists Play Service)
- One Monkey Don’t Stop No Show (Dramatists Play Service)

F

Charles Fuller – is an African American playwright, best known for his play A Soldier’s Play, for which he received the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Plays

- The Village: A Party (also known as The Perfect Party), 1968
- An Untitled Play, 1970
- In My Many Names and Days, 1972
- The Candidate, 1974.
- In the Deepest Part of Sleep, 1974
- First Love (one-act), 1974.
- The Lay out Letter (one-act), 1975
- The Brownsville Raid, 1976
- Zooman and the Sign, 1982.
- A Soldier's Play, 1982
- We, 1988
- Eliot's Coming, 1988

G

Marcus Gardley – is a poet and playwright from West Oakland, California. The New Yorker describes Gardley as “the heir to Garcia Lorca, Pirandello, and Tennessee Williams.” Gardley is among a new group of young African American playwrights who have come to prominence during the “Age of Obama.”

Plays

- ...And Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi
- The House That Will Not Stand
- This World in a Woman's Hands (2009)
- Love is a Dream House in Lorin (2007)

Kirsten Greenidge – Kirsten's work shines a strong light on the intersection of race and class in America, and she enjoys the challenge of placing underrepresented voices on stage. Her plays are

known for their realistic language and focus on social issues such as the intersectionality of race, gender, and class.

Plays

- Milk Like Sugar
- Luck of the Irish
- Baltimore

Sam Greenlee – (July 13, 1930 – May 19, 2014) was an African American writer, best known for his controversial novel *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* in March 1969. The novel was subsequently made into the 1973 movie of the same name, which is now considered a “cult classic.”

Bonnie Greer – is an American-British playwright, novelist, critic, and broadcaster who has lived in the U.K. since 1986.

Books

- *Hanging by Her Teeth* (Serpent's Tail, 1994), novel. ISBN 978-1852421854
- *Entropy* (Picnic Publishing, 2009), novel.[33] ISBN 978-0956037039
- *Obama Music* (Legend Press, 2009).[34] ISBN 978-1906558246
- *Langston Hughes: The Value of Contradiction* (2011) (Arcadia/BlackAmber Books).[35] ISBN 978-1906413767
- *A Parallel Life* (Arcadia Books, 2014). ISBN 978-1909807624

Plays

- *Munda Negra* (1993)
- *Dancing On Blackwater* (1994)
- *Jitterbug* (Arcola Theatre, 2001)

Angelina Weld Grimké – (February 27, 1880 – June 10, 1958) was an American journalist, teacher, playwright, and poet who came to prominence during the Harlem Renaissance. She was one of the first women of color to have a play publicly performed.

Plays

- Rachel – one of the first plays to protest lynching and racial violence.
- Mara

Bill Gunn (writer) – (July 15, 1934 – April 5, 1989) was an American playwright, novelist, actor, and film director. His 1973 cult classic horror film *Ganja and Hess* was chosen as one of ten best American films of the decade at the Cannes Film Festival, 1973.

Plays

- *Marcus in the High Grass* (1959) – produced in New York City by Theatre Guild.
- *Johnnas* (1968) – produced in New York City at Chelsea Theatre.
- *Black Picture Show* (1975) – produced in New York City at Vivian Beaumont Theater.
- *Rhinestone* (musical; based on novel *Rhinestone Sharecropping*) (1982) – produced in New York City at Richard Allen Center.
- *Family Employment* (1985) – produced in New York City at The Public Theater.
- *The Forbidden City* (1989) – produced in New York City at The Public Theater.

Rosa Guy – (September 1, 1922 – June 3, 2012) was a Trinidad-born American writer who immigrated to the US with her family as a child and grew up in the New York metropolitan area.

Bibliography

- *Bird at My Window* (London: Souvenir Press, 1966; Allison & Busby, 1985; Virago, 1989; Coffee House Press, 2001)
- *Children of Longing* (essays, introduction by Julius Lester; Holt, Rinehart, 1971)
- *The Friends* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1973; Macmillan Educational, 1982; New York: Bantam Books, 1983; Perfection Learning, 1995; Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers, 1996; Heinemann, 1996; Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 2001)
- *Ruby* (New York: Viking Press, 1976; London: Gollancz, 1981; Puffin Books, 1989)
- *Edith Jackson* (New York: Viking Juvenile, 1978; London: Gollancz, 1978; Longman, 1989; Puffin, 1995)
- *The Disappearance* (New York: Delacorte, 1979; Puffin, 1985)
- *Mirror of Her Own* (New York: Delacorte, 1981)
- *Mother Crocodile: An Uncle Amadou Tale from Senegal* (illustrated by John Steptoe – Coretta Scott King Award; New York: Delacorte, 1981; Doubleday, 1993). A translation of Birago Diop's *Maman-Caiman* (1961)[10]
- *A Measure of Time* (New York: Henry Holt, 1983; London: Virago, 1983)
- *New Guys Around the Block* (New York: Delacorte, 1983; London: Gollancz, 1983; Laurel Leaf, 1992; Puffin, 1995)
- *Paris, Pee Wee and Big Dog* (London: Gollancz, 1984; New York: Delacorte, 1985; Puffin, 1986; Nelson Thornes Ltd, 1988)
- *My Love, My Love, or the Peasant Girl*[11] (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1985; London: Virago, 2000; Coffee House Press, 2002)
- *And I Heard a Bird Sing* (New York: Delacorte, 1987; London: Gollancz, 1987; Puffin, 1994)

- The Ups and Downs of Carl Davis III (Delacorte, 1989; Gollancz, 1989; Collins Educational, 1994)
- Billy the Great Child (London: Gollancz, 1991; New York: Delacorte, 1992)
- The Music of Summer (New York: Delacorte, 1992)
- The Sun, the Sea, A Touch of the Wind (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1995)

H

Katori Hall – American playwright, journalist, and actress from Memphis, Tennessee.

Plays

- Awake
- The Beyonce Effect
- Boogie Dreams
- Children Of Killers
- Diaspora
- The Fire This Time Festival
- Freedom Train
- Hoodoo Love
- Hurt Village
- Miscegenation Of Miss Emma Brown
- The Mountaintop
- On the Chitlin’ Circuit
- Oreogirl
- Our Lady of Kibeho
- Remembrance
- Whatabloodclot!!!

Lorraine Hansberry – (May 19, 1930 – January 12, 1965) was an African American playwright and writer. She was the first Black woman to write a play performed on Broadway.

Plays

- A Raisin in the Sun (1959)
- A Raisin in the Sun, screenplay (1961)
- “On Summer” (essay) (1960)
- The Drinking Gourd (1960)
- What Use Are Flowers? (written c. 1962)
- The Arrival of Mr. Todog – parody of Waiting for Godot
- The Movement: Documentary of a Struggle for Equality (1964)
- The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window (1965)
- To Be Young, Gifted and Black: Lorraine Hansberry in Her Own Words (1969)
- Les Blancs: The Collected Last Plays / by Lorraine Hansberry. Edited by Robert Nemiroff (1994)
- Toussaint

Hilly Hicks Jr. – is an American playwright and screenwriter.

Plays

- Heaven and Hell (On Earth): A Divine Comedy
- A Hole in the Dark
- The Home Life Of Polar Bears
- Note To Self
- The Trophy Room
- Uncle Sam’s Satiric Spectacular

Vy Higginsen – is an American theater producer, playwright, former disc jockey, and radio and television personality.

Plays

- Mama, I Want to Sing!
- Sing, Mama 2
- Born to Sing: Mama 3

Ike Holter – is an American playwright who won a Windham–Campbell Literature Prize for drama in 2017.

Plays

- S.L.O.P.
- Vigilante
- Servant
- Hit the Wall
- B-Side Studio (2013)
- Exit Strategy (2014)
- Sender (2016)
- The Wolf at the End of the Block (2017)

Sterling Houston – (1945 – November 8, 2006) was an African American experimental playwright, actor, musician, and prose writer renowned for his works of social commentary exploring Black and gay identity.

Plays

- Relationships: Good and Not So Good
- La Frontera
- High Yello' Rose
- Isis in Nubia
- Santo Negro
- On the Pulse of the Morning (collaboration with Maya Angelou)
- Black Lily, White Lily

- The Alien Show/Kool Jams '99
- Message Sent
- Cameoland
- Miranda Rites

Langston Hughes – (February 1, 1902 – May 22, 1967) was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri. He was one of the earliest innovators of the then-new literary art form called jazz poetry. Hughes is best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance in New York City.

Novels and Short Story Collections

- Not Without Laughter. Knopf, 1930
- The Ways of White Folks, Knopf, 1934
- Simple Speaks His Mind, 1950
- Laughing to Keep from Crying, Holt, 1952
- Simple Takes a Wife, 1953
- Sweet Flypaper of Life, photographs by Roy DeCarava. 1955
- Simple Stakes a Claim, 1957
- Tambourines to Glory, 1958
- The Best of Simple, 1961
- Simple's Uncle Sam, 1965
- Something in Common and Other Stories, Hill & Wang, 1963
- Short Stories of Langston Hughes, Hill & Wang, 1996

Major Plays

- Mule Bone, with Zora Neale Hurston, 1931
- Mulatto, 1935 (renamed The Barrier, an opera, in 1950)
- Troubled Island, with William Grant Still, 1936
- Little Ham, 1936
- Emperor of Haiti, 1936
- Don't You Want to be Free?, 1938

- Street Scene, contributed lyrics, 1947
- Tambourines to Glory, 1956
- Simply Heavenly, 1957
- Black Nativity, 1961
- Five Plays by Langston Hughes, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1963
- Jerico-Jim Crow, 1964

J

C. Bernard Jackson – (November 4, 1927 – July 16, 1996) was an American playwright who founded the Inner City Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

Musical

- Fly Blackbird

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins – is an American playwright. He won the 2014 Obie Award for Best New American Play

Plays

- Neighbors
- Appropriate
- An Octoroon
- War
- Everybody
- Gloria

Georgia Douglas Johnson – (September 10, 1880 – May 14, 1966), was an African American poet, one of the earliest African American female playwrights.

Poetry

- The Heart of a Woman (1918)
- Bronze (1922)
- An Autumn Love Cycle (1928)
- Share My World (1962)
- The Ordeal

Plays

- Blue Blood (1926)
- Plumes (1927)
- Frederick Douglass (1930s)
- Paupaulekejo (1926)
- Starting Point (play) (1930s)
- A Sunday Morning in the South (1925)
- And Yet They Paused (1938)
- A Bill to Be Passed (1938)

Lisa Jones – is an American writer and journalist. She is the daughter of poets Hettie Jones and Amiri Baraka (formerly known as LeRoi Jones).

Plays

- Carmella & King Kong
- Combination Skin
- Aunt Aida's Hand (1989)
- Stained (1991)
- Ethnic Cleansing (1993)

K

Adrienne Kennedy – is an African American playwright. She is best known for her first major play, *Funnyhouse of a Negro* (1964).

Plays

- *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, 1964
- *The Owl Answers*, 1965
- *A Rat's Mass*, 1967 (revised as an improvisational jazz opera *A Rat's Mass/Procession in Shout* in 1976)
- *The Lennon play: In His Own Write* (adapted from John Lennon's *In His Own Write* and *A Spaniard in the Works*; with Victor Spinetti), 1967
- *A Beast's Story*, 1969 (produced with *The Owl Answers* under the title *Cities in Beziqie*)
- *Boats*, 1969
- *Sun: A Play for Malcolm X Inspired by His Murder* (monologue), 1968
- *A Lesson in Dead Language*, 1968
- *Electra and Orestes* (adapted from the plays by Euripides), 1972
- *An Evening with Dead Essex* (one-act documentary drama), 1972
- *A Movie Star Has to Star in Black and White*, 1976
- *A Lancashire Lad* (children's musical), 1980
- *Black Children's Day* (children's play), 1980
- *Diary of Lights* ("A Musical Without Songs"), 1987
- *She Talks to Beethoven* (one-act play, later collected as part of *The Alexander Plays*), 1989
- *The Ohio State Murders* (one-act play, later collected as part of *The Alexander Plays*), 1992

- *The Film Club* (A Monologue by Suzanne Alexander), published 1992
- *The Dramatic Circle* (radio play based on the events in the monologue *The Film Club*; published in 1994 in *Moon Marked and Touched By Sun: plays by African American women*, edited by Sydné Mahone), 1992
- *Motherhood 2000* (single scene short play), 1994
- *June and Jean in Concert* (play version of Kennedy's book *People Who Led to My Plays*), 1995
- *Sleep Deprivation Chamber* (with her son, Adam Kennedy), 1996
- *Mom, How Did You Meet the Beatles?* (with Adam Kennedy), 2008

L

Leslie Lee (playwright) – (1930-2014) was an American playwright and Professor of Playwriting. He was formerly Artistic Director of the Negro Ensemble Company.

Plays

- *Sundown Names*
- *Night Gone Things*
- *Colored People's Time*

M

Judi Ann Mason – (February 2, 1955 – July 8, 2009) was an American television writer, producer and playwright.

Plays

- Living Fat
- A Star Ain't Nothin' But A Hole In Heaven
- The Cornbread Man
- Indigo Blues

Robbie McCauley – is an African American playwright, director, and performer. She is best known for her plays *Sugar* and *Sally's Rape*.

Plays

- Sugar
- Sally's Rape
- Indian Blood
- Mississippi Freedom
- Turf: A Conversational Concert in Black and White
- The Other Weapon
- Quabbin Dance

Tarell Alvin McCraney – (born October 17, 1980) is an American playwright and actor. He is the incoming chair of playwriting at the Yale School of Drama.

Plays

- Head of Passes (Steppenwolf Theatre, Berkeley Rep, The Public Theater)
- Choir Boy (Royal Court, Manhattan Theatre Club)
- American Trade, an adaptation of *Hamlet* for young people (RSC)
- Wig Out!
- Without/Sin
- Run, Mourner, Run

May Miller – (January 26, 1899 – February 8, 1995) was an African American poet, playwright, and educator. Miller became known as the most widely published female playwright of the Harlem Renaissance.

Poetry

- *Into the Clearing*. Washington, D.C.: Charioteer Press, 1959.
- *Poems*. Thetford, Vt: Cricket Press, 1962.
- *Lyrics of Three Women*. With Katie L. Lyle and Maude Rubin. Baltimore: Linden Press, 1964.
- *Not That Far*. San Luis Obispo: Solo Press, 1973. ISBN 978-0-941490-12-2.
- *The Clearing and Beyond*. Washington, D.C.: Charioteer Press, 1974. ISBN 0910350086.
- *Dust of Uncertain Journey*. Detroit: Lotus Press, 1975. ISBN 9780916418052.
- *Halfway to the Sun*. Washington, D.C.: Washington Writers Publishing House, 1981. ISBN 093184617X.
- *The Ransomed Wait*. Detroit: Lotus Press, 1983. ISBN 978-0-916418-40-3.
- *Collected Poems*. Detroit: Lotus Press, 1989. ISBN 978-0-916418-70-0.

Plays

- *The Bog Guide*. Alexandria, Virginia: Alexander Street Press, 2003. (Original work published in 1925.)
- *Scratches*. Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press, 2003. (Original work published in 1929.)
- *Stragglers in the Dust*. Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press, 2001. (Original work published in 1930.)
- *Nails and Thorns*. Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street Press, 2001. (Original work published in 1933.)

Dominique Morisseau – is an American actor and playwright. She has authored numerous plays, three of which are part of a cycle she is currently working on called “The Detroit Projects.”

Plays

- Detroit ‘67
- Paradise Blue
- Skeleton Crew

Ntare Mwine – is an American stage and film actor, playwright, photographer, and documentarian.

Play

- Biro

N

Lynn Nottage – is an American playwright whose work often deals with the lives of women of African descent. She is an associate professor of theater at Columbia University and a lecturer in playwriting at the Yale School of Drama.

Plays

- Poof (1993)
- Crumbs from the Table of Joy (1995)
- Por’Knockers (1995)
- Mud, River, Stone (1997)
- Las Meninas (2002)
- Intimate Apparel (2003)
- Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine (2004)
- Ruined (2008)
- By the Way, Meet Vera Stark (2011)

- Our War (2014)
- In Your Arms (2015)
- Sweat (2015)

Antoinette Nwandu – Antoinette graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College with a bachelor’s degree in English and holds a Master’s of Science degree in Cultural Politics from The University of Edinburgh, and an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

Plays

- FLAT SAM (2013)
- Vanna White Must Die (2012)
- Black Boy & the War (2011)
- 4 Sustenance (2012)
- Pass Over (2017)
- BREACH: a manifesto on race in America through the eyes of a Black girl recovering from self-hate (2018)

O

Robert O’Hara – is an African American playwright and director.

Plays

- Eclipsed
- Insurrection: Holding History
- Brave Blood
- 14: An American Maul
- Antebellum
- The Etiquette of Vigilance
- Bootycandy
- Barbecue

Dael Orlandersmith – is an actress, poet, and playwright. She is known for her Obie Award-winning *Beauty’s Daughter* and the 2002 Pulitzer Prize Finalist in Drama, *Yellowman*.

Plays

- *Beauty’s Daughter* (1995, American Place Theater: New York)
- *Monster* (1996, New York Theatre Workshop)
- *The Gimmick* (1998-1999, McCarter Theatre: Princeton, Long Wharf Theatre: New Haven, & New York Theatre Workshop)
- *My Red Hand, My Black Hand* (2001, Long Wharf Theatre: New Haven)
- *Yellowman* (2002, McCarter Theatre: Princeton, Wilma Theater: Philadelphia, Long Wharf Theatre: New Haven, and Manhattan Theatre Club)
- *Raw Boys* (2005, Wilma Theater: Philadelphia)
- *The Blue Album* (2007, Long Wharf Theatre: New Haven)
- *Stoop Stories* (2009, Studio Theatre: Washington, D.C., and Goodman Theater: Chicago)
- *Bones* (2010, Kirk Douglas Theater: Los Angeles)
- *Horsedreams* (2011, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater: New York)
- *Black N Blue Boys/Broken Men* (2012, Berkeley Rep and Goodman Theater: Chicago)
- *Forever* (2014, Kirk Douglas Theater: Los Angeles and New York Theatre Workshop)

OyamO – Charles F. Gordon, known professionally as OyamO, is an American playwright and professor. He is currently a writer-in-residence at the University of Michigan.

Plays

- *Breakout* (1969)
- *The Last Party* (1970)

- *The Juice Problem* (1974)
- *The Resurrection of Lady Lester* (1981)
- *Singing Joy* (1988)
- *Famous Orpheus* (1991)
- *Angels in the Men’s Room* (1992)
- *I Am a Man* (1992)
- *In Living Colors* (1992)
- *Pink and Say* (1996)
- *Boundless Grace* (1997)
- *Let Me Live* (1998)
- *The White Black Man* (1998)
- *Liyanja* (1998)
- *In Living Colors* (1999)
- *Mundele* (2001)
- *Harry and the Streetbeat* (2001)
- *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice* (2006)
- *Club Paradise* (2007)
- *City In a Strait* (2007)
- *Sing Jubilee* (2008)

P

Suzan-Lori Parks – American playwright, screenwriter, and novelist. Her 2001 play *Topdog/Underdog* won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 2002; Parks is the first African American woman to achieve this honor for drama.

Plays

- *The Sinner’s Place* (1984)
- *Betting on the Dust Commander* (1987)
- *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* (1989)

- The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World (1989–1992)
- Pickling (1990) (radio play)
- Third Kingdom (1990) (radio play)
- Locomotive (1991) (radio play)
- Devotees in the Garden of Love (1992)
- The America Play (1994)
- Venus (1996)
- In The Blood (1999)
- Fucking A (2000)
- Topdog/Underdog (2001)
- 365 Days/365 Plays (2006)
- Ray Charles Live! (2007)
- Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 8 & 9) (2009)
- The Book of Grace (2010)
- Porgy and Bess (2011) (adaptation with Diedre L. Murray)
- Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1,2&3) (2014)
- Venus (2017), Off-Broadway

Shauneille Perry – is an American stage director and playwright. She was one of the first African American women to direct off-Broadway.

Plays

- Things of the Heart: Marian Anderson’s Story
- Aunt Willie Pays a Call
- Clinton: An Urban Fairytale
- Mio

Louis S. Peterson – (June 17, 1922 – April 27, 1998) was a playwright, actor, screenwriter, and professor. He was an American playwright and the first African American playwright to have a dramatic play produced on Broadway.

Plays

- Entertain a Ghost
- Crazy Horse
- Take a Giant Step

Toni Press-Coffman – is the recipient of several national playwriting awards.

Plays

- Touch
- That Slut!

Robert Earl Price – is an African American playwright and poet. He is a recipient of the American Film Institute’s William Wyler award for screenwriting.

Plays

- Black Cat Bones for Seven Sons
- Yardbird’s Vamp
- Blue Monk
- HUSH: Composing Blind Tom Wiggins
- Come on in My Kitchen
- All Blues

R

Willis Richardson – (November 5, 1889 – November 7, 1977) was an American playwright.

Plays

- Plays and Pageants from the Life of the Negro. ISBN 9781436685184.
- The Chip Woman’s Fortune; a play. OCLC 27409054.

- The flight of the natives. OCLC 58934982.
- Joy rider: a play. OCLC 964682451.
- The visiting lady: a comedy. OCLC 964682350.
- The broken banjo. OCLC 235941136.
- The man who married a young wife. OCLC 27417501.
- The king's dilemma, and other plays for children: Episodes of hope and dream. OCLC 881630084.
- The peacock's feathers; a play in one act. OCLC 27417513.
- A pillar of the church; a play. OCLC 27417530.
- The curse of the Shell Road Witch; a play in one act. OCLC 27409046.
- The jail bird; a play in one act. OCLC 27417481.
- Bold lover; a play. OCLC 27417415.
- The dark haven; a play. OCLC 27409041.
- The nude siren; a play. OCLC 27417506.
- The amateur prostitute; a play. OCLC 27417397.
- Victorian Poems. OCLC 28123722.
- Imp of the devil; a play. OCLC 27417465.
- The brown boy; a play. OCLC 27417450.
- Rooms for rent; a play in one act. OCLC 27417545.

Harrison David Rivers – is the winner of a GLAAD Media Award, McKnight and Many Voices Jerome Fellowships (Playwrights' Center), a Van Lier Fellowship (New Dramatists) an Emerging Artist of Color Fellowship (New York Theatre Workshop) and the New York Stage & Film's Founders' Award.

Plays

- Only You Can Prevent Wildfires
- And She Would Stand Like This
- Sweet
- Look Upon Our Lowliness
- When Last We Flew

- Where Storms Are Born
- This Bitter Earth
- A Crack in the Sky
- Five Points
- When Last We Flew

S

Sandra Seaton – is an American playwright and librettist. She received the Mark Twain Award from the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature in 2012.

Plays

- The Bridge Party (1989)
- The Will (1994)
- Do You Like Philip Roth? (2001)
- Room and Board (2002)
- Sally (2003)
- A Bed Made In Heaven (2005)
- Martha Stewart Slept Here (2008)
- A Chance Meeting (2009)
- Music History (2010)
- Estate Sale (2011)
- The Lookout (2013)
- Black for Dinner (2014)

Other Genres

- "Nightsong" [short story], *Obsidian II: Black Literature in Review* (Winter 1989)
- King: A Reflection on the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (2005). Spoken word with choral accompaniment.

- Libretto: From The Diary of Sally Hemings (2000), CD: White Pine Music (2010). Score: Hal Leonard (2011)

Charles Sebree – (1914-1985) was an African American painter and playwright best known for his involvement in Chicago’s Black arts scene of the 1930s and 1940s.

Plays

- My Mother Came Crying Most Pitifully (1949)
- Mrs Patterson (1954)
- Dry August (1972)

Victor Séjour – (2 June 1817 – 20 September 1874) was an American expatriate writer who worked in France. Though mostly unknown to later American writers, his short story “Le Mulâtre” (“The Mulatto”) is the earliest known work of fiction by a Creole author.

Ntozake Shange – is an American playwright and poet. As a self-proclaimed Black feminist, she addresses issues relating to race and feminism in much of her work.

Plays

- for colored girls who have considered suicide/ when the rainbow is enuf (1975). Nominated for a Tony Award, Grammy Award, and Emmy Award; first published 1976; updated 2010 with a new section, “Positive” (Scribner)
- A Photograph: Lovers-in-Motion (1977). Produced Off-Broadway at the Public Theater.
- Where the Mississippi Meets the Amazon (1977)
- A Photograph: A Study of Cruelty (1977)
- Boogie Woogie Landscapes (1979). First produced at Frank Silvera’s Writers’ Workshop in New York, then on Broadway at the Symphony Space Theatre.

- Spell #7 (written spell #7) or spell #7: geechee jibara quik magic trance manual for technologically stressed third world people (1979). Produced Off-Broadway at Joseph Papp’s New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theater.
- Black and White Two Dimensional Planes (1979).
- Mother Courage and Her Children (1980). Produced off-Broadway at the Public Theater. Winner of a 1981 Obie Award.
- Three for a Full Moon (1982).
- Bocas (1982). First produced at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.
- From Okra to Greens/A Different Kinda Love Story (1983).
- Three views of Mt. Fuji (1987). First produced in San Francisco at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre; first produced in New York at the New Dramatists.
- Daddy Says (1989).
- Whitewash (1994)

Poetry

- Melissa & Smith (1976).
- Natural Disasters and Other Festive Occasions (1977)
- Nappy Edges (1978)
- A Daughter’s Geography (1983)
- From Okra to Greens (1984)
- Ridin’ the Moon in Texas: Word Paintings (St. Martin’s Press, 1987)
- The Love Space Demands (a continuing saga) (St. Martin’s Press, 1987)
- A Photograph: Lovers in Motion: A Drama (S. French, 1977)
- Some Men (1981)
- Three Pieces (St. Martin’s Press, 1992)
- I Live in Music (1994)

- The Sweet Breath of Life: A Poetic Narrative of the African American Family (Atria Books, 2004). Photography by Kamoinge Inc.
- “Enuf”
- With No Immediate Cause”
- “you are such a fool”
- “People of Watts” (first published November 1993 in VIBE Magazine)
- “Blood Rhythms”
- “Poet Hero”
- Wild Beauty (Atria Books, 2017)

Novels

- For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf (Shameless Hussy Press, 1976)
- Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo (1982)
- Betsey Brown (St. Martin’s Press, 1985)
- The Black Book (1986, with Robert Mapplethorpe).
- Liliane (1994)
- Some Sing, Some Cry (2010) (with Ifa Bayeza)

Children’s Books

- Coretta Scott (2009)
- Ellington Was Not a Street (2003)
- Float Like a Butterfly: Muhammad Ali, the Man Who Could Float Like a Butterfly and Sting Like a Bee (2002)
- Daddy Says (2003)
- Whitewash (1997)

Essays

- See No Evil: Prefaces, Essays & Accounts, 1976–1983 (1984)

Levy Lee Simon – is an American playwright, actor, director, and screenwriter, perhaps best known for his trilogy about the struggle for Haitian independence, For the Love of Freedom.

Plays

- The Bow-Wow Club
- Caseload
- For the Love of Freedom
- God, the Crackhouse and the Devil
- The Guest at Central Park West’
- Same Train
- The Stuttering Preacher

- Smell the Power
- Pitbulls and Daffodils
- The Magnificent Dunbar Hotel
- The Last Revolutionary

Anna Deavere Smith – is an American actress, playwright, and professor. She is currently the artist-in-residence at the Center for American Progress.

Plays

- Fires in the Mirror
- Let Me Down Easy
- Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992

Eulalie Spence – (June 11, 1894 – March 7, 1981) was a Black writer, teacher, director, actress, and playwright from the British West Indies.

Plays

- The Starter (1923)

- On Being Forty (This play was never published, but was first presented on October 15, 1924 at the Lafayette Theater in Harlem. No extant copies of the script have been found.)
- Foreign Mail (1926)
- Fool’s Errand (1927)
- Her (1927)
- Hot Stuff (1927)
- The Hunch (1927)
- Undertow (1927)
- Episode (1928)
- La Divina Pastora (1929)
- The Whipping (1934)

Essays

- “A Criticism of the Negro Drama as it Relates to the Negro Dramatist and Artist.” Opportunity, June 28, 1928.
- “Negro Art Players in Harlem.” Opportunity, December, 1928.

Aurin Squire – is an American playwright, screenwriter, and reporter. He has written numerous plays, while his reporting has appeared in The New Republic, Talking Points Memo, Chicago Tribune, Miami Herald, and ESPN, among other outlets.

Plays

- A Light In My Soul/Una Luz En Mi Alma
- Matthew Takes Mannahatta
- To Whom It May Concern
- Obama-ology
- Freefalling

Jeff Stetson – is an American writer best known for such novels and plays as Blood on the Leaves and The Meeting, a 1987 play about an imaginary meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X in

1965 in a hotel in Harlem. The play was later televised on American Playhouse in 1989.

Rashida Strober – is an American playwright and dark skin activist.

Play

- A Dark Skinned Woman’s Revenge

Lee Summers – is an American theatre, television and film actor, singer, librettist, composer, director, and theatre producer best known for creating and producing Off-Broadway’s From My Hometown.

Plays

- 2016 Poetics Justice (Author) (Published)
- 2013 One Shot Deal (Author) (Published)

T

David E. Talbert – is an American playwright, author, and filmmaker.

Plays

- Lawd Have Mercy
- Talk Show Live
- What Goes Around Comes Around
- Tellin Like It TIZ
- A Fool and His Money
- Love Makes Things Happen
- Mr. Right Now
- His Women, His Wife
- The Fabric of a Man
- He Say, She Say But What Does God Say?

- Love on Layaway
- Love in the Nick of Tyme
- What My Husband Doesn't Know
- Suddenly Single
- Another Man Will

Regina Taylor – is an American actress and playwright. She has won several awards throughout her career, including a Golden Globe Award and NAACP Image Award.

Plays

- Escape From Paradise
- Watermelon Rinds
- Inside the Belly of the Beast
- Mudtracks
- Love Poem #97
- Love Poem #98
- Millennium Mambo
- A Night in Tunisia
- Oo-Bla-Dee
- Crowns
- Drowning Crow
- The Dreams of Sarah Breedlove
- Magnolia
- The Trinity River Plays
- Jar Fly
- Rain
- Ghoststory

V

Melvin Van Peebles – is an American actor, director, screenwriter, playwright, novelist, and composer.

Plays

- The Hostage (Dutch National Theatre Tour, writer, 1964)
- Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death (writer, 1972)
- Don't Play Us Cheap (writer, 1972)
- Out There by Your Lonesome (one-man play, 1973)
- Waltz of the Stork (actor, writer, 1982)
- Champeen (musical, writer, 1983)

W

Douglas Turner Ward – is an American playwright, actor, director, and theatrical producer best known as a founder and artistic director of the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC).

Plays

- The Redeemer
- Day of Absence
- Brotherhood
- The Reckoning
- Happy Ending

Theodore Ward – (September 15, 1902 – May 8, 1983) was a leftist political playwright and theatre educator during the first half of the 20th century and one of the earliest contributors to the Black Chicago Renaissance.

Plays

- 1937: Sick and Tiahd
- 1938: Big White Fog: A Negro Tragedy
- 1938: Even the Dead Arise
- 1942: Deliver the Goods
- 1947: Our Lan'
- 1951: John Brown
- 1953: The Daubers
- 1967: Candle in the Wind
- The Creole
- Whole Hog or Nothing
- Challenge
- Skin Deep
- Shout Hallelujah
- Falcon of Adowa
- Throwback
- Charity
- John de Conqueror

Cheryl West – West holds a degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. She worked as a social worker and taught before turning to playwriting.

Plays

- Before It Hits Home. Dramatists Play Service, Inc. 1999. ISBN 978-0-8222-1322-2.
- Jar the Floor. Dramatists Play Service, Inc. 2002. ISBN 978-0-8222-1809-8.
- Puddin 'n Pete – 1993
- Holiday Heart – 1994
- Play On! – 1997
- Birdie Blue – 2005

- Addy: An American Girl Story.
- Pullman Porter Blues – 2012

Aaron White – is an American actor and director as well as the owner and founder of Slingshot Media.

Plays

- City Noise (play) (2003)
- The Blood They Shed (2004)
- The Dance: The History of American Minstrelsy (2005)

Jason Christophe White – Theater Award-winning American playwright.

Play

- The Dance: The History of American Minstrelsy (2005)

Samm-Art Williams – is an American playwright, screenwriter, and stage and film/TV actor.

Plays

- Home
- The Montford Point Marine

August Wilson – (April 27, 1945 – October 2, 2005) was an American playwright whose work included a series of ten plays, The Pittsburgh Cycle, for which he received two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama.

- Gem of the Ocean
- Joe Turner's Come and Gone
- Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
- The Piano Lesson
- Seven Guitars
- Fences

- Two Trains Running
- Jitney
- King Hedley II
- Radio Golf (2005) – 1990s

Tracey Scott Wilson – is an American playwright and TV writer whose works have been produced nationally and internationally.

Plays

- Exhibit #9, New Perspectives Theatre/Theatre Outrageous, New York (1999)
- Leader of the People, New Georges, New York (1999)
- Order My Steps, Cornerstone Theater, Los Angeles (2003)
- The Story, The Public Theater (2003) (Published as The Story. Dramatists Play Service, Inc. 2004. ISBN 978-0-8222-1998-9.)
- Neon Mirage, New York International Fringe Festival (2006)
- The Good Negro, The Public Theater (2009) (Published as The Good Negro. Dramatists Play Service, Inc. 2010. ISBN 978-0-8222-2380-1.)
- Buzzer, The Public Theater (2015)

George C. Wolfe – is an American playwright and director of theater and film.

Plays

- Jelly’s Last Jam
- Shuffle Along, or, the Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed
- Tribal Rites, or The Coming of the Great God-bird Nabuku to the Age of Horace Lee Lizer
- The Colored Museum
- Spunk
- Bring in ‘Da Noise, Bring in ‘Da Funk

- The Wild Party

Anita Woodley – is a journalist, actress, playwright, literary teaching artist, mixed-media artist, poet, producer, and free jazz vocalist.

Plays

- Bucking the Bull
- Mama Juggs
- The Men in Me

Z

Ahmos Zu-Bolton – (October 21, 1948, – March 8, 2005) was an activist, poet, and playwright also known for his editing and publishing endeavors on behalf of African American culture.

Works

- Zu-Bolton, Ahmos (1975), A niggered amen: poems / by Ahmos Zu-Bolton II., Solo Press
- Zu-Bolton, Ahmos; Miller, E. Ethelbert (1975), Synergy D.C. Anthology, Energy BlackSouth Press
- Thomas, Lorenzo; Alakoye, Adesanya; Zu-Bolton, Ahmos (1978), Hoo-doo 6½, Energy Earth Communications
- Peter Blue Cloud; William Oandasan; Ahmos Zu-Bolton; Ricardo Sánchez (1979), “Featuring four third world poets,” A: A Journal of Contemporary Literature, A Press, 4 (1)
- Zu-Bolton, Ahmos (1998), Ain’t No Spring Chicken: Selected Poems, Voice Foundation, Incorporated, The, ISBN 978-0-9668063-0-4
- Zu-Bolton, Ahmos (2002), 1946: a poem, Ishmael Reed Pub. Co., ISBN 978-0-918408-34-1