



October 1, 2018

Dear School Supporters:

You are invited to come see Ma Rainey's Black Bottom! We thank you for your continued support for the Department of Art and Theatre. *Ma Rainey* is an explosive play written by acclaimed playwright, August Wilson as part of his century cycle of plays. Tickets as you know, are \$7 for students and free for chaperones. Tickets and season subscriptions are also available online at our box office. Go to: www.jsums.edu/art then click on Theatre, then click on Box Office. Tickets will also be on sale before each production at our Box Office in the lobby of the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium on the JSU campus. Remember to LIKE us on Facebook at 'Jsuboxoffice' for more updates. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

SYNOPSIS: It's 1927 in a rundown studio in Chicago where Ma Rainey is recording new sides of old favorites. More goes down in the session than music in this riveting portrayal of rage, racism, the self-hate and exploitation.

"Searing ... funny, salty, carnal and lyrical.... Wilson has lighted a dramatic fuse that snakes and hisses through several anguished eras of American life. When the fuse reaches its explosive final destination, the audience is impaled by the impact." - *The New York Times*

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom November 8-12, 2018

Nov. 8, 9,10, 12 at 7pm / Nov. 11 at 3pm Matinee

Special School Performance Friday Nov. 9th at 10am

Thank you kindly,

Prince Duren

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RESERVATION FORM

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

November 8-12, 2018

Special School Performance: Friday Nov. 9th at 10:00am

Raffle prizes at intermission

SCHOOL or GROUP _____

ADVISOR _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

____ # of Students ____ # of Chaperones

Admission is \$7/student

(There is no fee for chaperones)

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

PAYMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION!!

Make all Payments to:

JSU ART AND THEATRE

JSU Box 17126

Jackson, MS 39217

Purchase Orders Accepted

Director of Theatre/Prince Duren: (601) 979-3337

Box Office Hours: M-F 9am-5pm / (601) 979-5956

Marketing: (601) 979-4309

For more information: www.jsums.edu/art then click on 'Theatre' then 'Box Office'

You may fax this form to 601-979-9072 or email it to prince.duren@jsums.edu

ATTN: JSU Art & Theatre Box Office

or E-Mail: prince.duren@jsums.edu

***Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* Study Guide**

Pre- & Post Production Discussion Activity

Playwright August Wilson's Ten-Play Century Cycle—one for each decade of the 20th century—chronicle in the African American experience. Here's a decade-by-decade guide to Wilson's groundbreaking work. With the exception of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, all of the plays take place in Wilson's home neighborhood, the Hill District of Pittsburgh.

The World of Ma Rainey and Understanding Racism in the 1920s

Ma Rainey's world exists just 64 years after the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation (which declared freedom for African American slaves in Confederate States) and during the heart of the Great Migration (the movement of 2 million-plus African Americans from the south to the north). Intense disenfranchisement and strict segregation was preeminent. Individual racism was strong and unabashed—1927 witnessed race riots, lynching, violence and harassment. Institutional racism was ubiquitous. Not surprisingly, in this cultural milieu of oppression, the music business was no exception. When African American vaudevillian music legend Mamie Smith's record sold an unprecedented 100,000-plus copies in 1920, producers realized the untapped financial potential of marketing African American music. Struggling financially in the early 1900s because of the growth of commercial radio, the overwhelmingly white-controlled and operated recording industry was more than happy to profit from the growing popularity of African American music and the untapped potential of African American audiences. The world of Ma Rainey and Institutional Racism

Racism Any deed, intentional or not, which oppresses an individual or group on the grounds of their race.

Institutional racism Institutional racism is the built-in discrimination of governments, public organizations, corporations and businesses on the grounds of racial difference. It is a powerful, insidious force in American history. As it is inextricably embedded within social structure, institutional racism is often difficult to see and define except in retrospect, when examples come into focus as glaringly obvious. Therefore, its menace lies in its ever-present subtlety to those not experiencing its oppression. Institutional racism is a form of discrimination that can be both explicit and implicit. **Explicit institutional racism** A form of institutional racism which is overt in an institution's policy, mission and/or actions. An example of explicit institutional racism can be found at Chicago's Chess Recording studio, where well into the 1960s black musicians were only allowed entrance through the back door. Any segregation-era image of a business with a "Whites Only" sign in the window serves as another example, for it explicitly denies non-whites service on racial grounds.

Implicit institutional racism A form of institutional racism which is hidden and embedded within bureaucratic policies and procedures which systematically exclude based on race. When Ma Rainey's band members request to be paid in cash, they are responding to the implicit institutional racism of the banks, which made it nearly impossible for African Americans to cash checks. Steering, the practice of real estate agents guiding minorities to minority-dominated neighborhoods, is a present-day example which elucidates why residential division.

Quote of the Day: EDUCATION is the medium by which a people are prepared for the creation of their own particular civilization, and the advancement and glory of their own race.