



The Gospel at Colonus

Avant Bard theatre presents one of the world's most thrilling musicals. The score is an inspiring fusion of Black church gospel with elements of blues and Motown. A soaring celebration of transcendence and the fragility of life, THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS combines Greek tragedy and African American heritage with a message of redemption for our time. With its epic poetry and magnificent score, THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS reminds us that out of the deepest sorrows, the highest and most uplifting hope can emerge.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/sing-out-oedipus-gospel-at-colonus-looks-its-sunday-best/2017/03/01/8bd7cd82-fe9c-11e6-8ebe-6e0dbe4f2bca_story.html?utm_term=.1bc7b52f7203

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2017/03/12/moment-qa-minister-becky-may-jenkins-leader-womens-ecumenical-choir-performing-gospel-colonus-avant-bard1/>

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2017/03/07/moment-qa-bob-telson-composer-gospel-colonus-now-playing-avant-bard/>

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2017/03/01/review-gospel-colonus-avant-bard/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WSCAvantBard/videos/1335667243175361/>

LTBT Reviews

A nun and a low-level thief come across the ultimate fight for their lives in the comedic crime thriller *Little Thing, Big Thing*. Written by Donal O'Kelly, the story follows Sister Martha, who finds a mysterious film roll and attracts the unwanted attention of dangerous men. Meanwhile, Larry the thief has one final job to do before retiring. Don't miss all the comedy and suspense when the play comes to the Mead Theatre Lab in Washington D.C.

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2016/11/13/little-big-thing/>

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2016/11/09/time-laugh-rex-daugherty-directs-quirky-dublin-comedy-little-thing-big-thing/>

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2016/11/15/thief-nun-run-little-thing-big-thing-review/>

Yellowman Reviews

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2016/07/28/yellowman-anacostia-playhouse-review/>

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2016/07/18/review-yellowman-anacostia-playhouse/>

The Secret Garden

Next Stop Theatre Company

The Secret Garden: March 26-April 19, 2015

Directed by Evan Hoffmann, the musical production features a live orchestra led by Steve Przybylski, and a cast of 18. Mary Lennox is a sad and forgotten little girl, sent to live with her embittered, reclusive uncle after the tragic death of her parents. Left alone to wander about a vast Yorkshire estate, Mary finds an equally neglected garden. She slowly begins to discover its ghosts, which will help unravel the mysteries of her family's painful past. Can her forgotten garden return to life with enough love and care?

<http://www.nextstoptheatre.org/shows/secretgarden/>

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2015/03/29/the-secret-garden-at-nextstop-theatre-company/>

<https://youtu.be/nYgtKXgQFb0>

Gidion's Knot

Gidion's Knot: Aug. 28-Sept 14, 2014

Gidion's Knot by Johnna Adams, a Co-Production between NextStop Theatre Company and Forum Theatre, opens on August 28th in Herndon VA after an engagement at Forum Theatre in Silver Spring MD July 19-August 3, 2014.

Over the course of an unexpected parent/teacher conference in a 5th grade classroom, a mother and her son's teacher battle over the circumstances that led to Gidion's tragic death. As the story unravels, the "truth" becomes increasingly complex and alarming.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/fifth-graders-fiction-leads-to-tragedy-in-gidions-knot/2014/07/22/20670a10-11ad-11e4-8936-26932bcfd6ed_story.html

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2014/07/22/gidions-knot/>

The critics respond to *Gidion's Knot*

[Tim Treanor . DCTheatreScene](#) ... a story of irredeemable grief.

[Eric Denver . DCMetroTheaterArts](#) (at NextStop) two top-notch unforgettable emotional performances

[Tanya Pei . Washingtonian](#) If *Gidion's Knot* were an installment of a TV series, it could be considered a "bottle episode."

[Nelson Pressley . Washington Post](#) ... sharp as a knife, but undone by threadbare plot details.

[John Soltenberg . DCMetroTheaterArts](#) At the core of this inexorable and engrossing drama by Johnna Adams is a disturbing enigma...

[Jennifer Perry . BroadwayWorld](#) ...not one of your standard, paint-by-the-numbers, afterschool special type of plays about bullying in the schools.

[Elliot Lanes . MDTheatreGuide](#) Any play that deals with a hot topic like bullying in school is likely to get a lot of attention from theatre companies across the country. [/ezcol_3quarter_end]

SideMan

Side Man is the comic and tender story of Clifford, a young man who looks back on his family life; prior to leaving home, Clifford reconciles the role that he has long played as parent to his parents. Smoothly gliding between present and past, the play tells the story of a time before the Beatles and Elvis, when jazzmen were heroic like ballplayers and there was no shortage of Saturday-night gigs. Side Man is both a tribute to the men whose lives were their music and a sober look at a family drama left in the wake of that passion.

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2012/04/03/side-man-at-1st-stage/>
<http://1ststagespringhill.org/press/SideMan.html>

Outstanding Lead Actress, *Side Man*, Lee Mikeska Gardner
-2013 Helen Hayes Awards-

Theater Alliance

Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea

<http://www.theateralliance.com/project/dontrell-kissed-sea/>

National New Play Network (NNPN) Rolling World Premiere

Rolling World Premieres

NNPN's flagship initiative, the Continued Life of New Plays Fund (CLNPF), supports three or more theaters that choose to mount the same new play within a 12-month period. The result is an NNPN Rolling World Premiere, in which a playwright develops a new work with multiple creative teams in at least three different communities. The playwright is part of the process, working on the script and making adjustments based on what is learned from each production.

Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea

by Nathan Alan Davis

[Skylight Theatre Company](#)

Los Angeles, CA

[Cleveland Public Theatre](#)

Cleveland, OR

Theater Alliance

Washington, DC

[Phoenix Theatre](#)

Indianapolis, IN

[Oregon Contemporary Theatre](#)

Eugene, OR

REVIEWS

DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA Artfully Balances Poetry and Practicality

by Pamela Roberts | [Broadway World](#)

Provocative Play Takes Center Stage in Southeast D.C.

by Michael Sainte-Andress | [Washington Informer](#)

Buoyant ‘Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea’: Heavy themes, light touch

Nelson Pressley | [Washington Post](#)

‘Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea’ at Theater Alliance

by John Stoltenberg | [DC Theater Arts](#)

ARTICLES

Another Chance for Audiences to See a Promising Play

by Geoffrey Himes | [Washington Post](#)

BLACK NATIVITY

Written by Langston Hughes | Directed by Eric Ruffin

Music Direction by e’Marcus Harper-Short | Choreography by Princess Mhoon

November 25, 2015 – January 3, 2016

Anacostia Playhouse

Winner of 3 Helen Hayes Awards

This retelling of the Christmas story from an Afro-centric perspective is infused with rich gospel, blues, funk, jazz, and dance with griot style story telling from an ensemble cast. Embracing the original spirit of Hughes’ work, ***Black Nativity* serves as a deep exploration of cultural identity, pride, and unity within the African-American community** while also bringing a fresh voice to this holiday classic.

Directed by **Eric Ruffin**, with music direction by **e’Marcus Harper-Short** and choreography by **Princess Mhoon**, ***Black Nativity*** will feature a talented ensemble cast of 13 DC based performers.

This holiday classic returns to Theater Alliance with the fresh voice of director Eric Ruffin, as Hughes chronicles and celebrates the Nativity, while also celebrating the miracle of Blackness. Hughes' retelling of the Nativity Story encourages audiences to find joy and beauty in being Black, which will ultimately lead to peace and hope for the world and will be one's salvation. This timeless story asks audiences to look inward and find the wonder in life itself.

Black Nativity originally premiered at New York City's Lincoln Theatre in December 1961. It was the first play by an African American playwright to be produced at the venue.

Failure: A Love Story (FALS)

by Philip Dawkins

directed by Matt Bassett

1928 is the last year of each of the Fail Sisters' lives. Nelly was the first of the Fail girls to die, followed soon after by her sisters Jenny June and Gerty. As with so many things in life—blunt objects, disappearances and consumption—they never saw death coming. Written by Chicago playwright Philip Dawkins, *Failure: A Love Story* is a magical, musical fable that traces the sisters' triumphs and defeats, lived out in the rickety two-story building by the Chicago River that was the Fail family home and clock shop. This funny, moving and profoundly wise play reminds us that in the end, all that remains is love. DC Premier

First Rehearsal: March 25, 2014

Opening night: April 25, 2014

Closing: May 18, 2014

NEXT @ FORUM

Forum 10th Anniversary Production

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot

By Stephen Adly Guirgis

Directed by John Vreeke

May 22 - June 14, 2014

In purgatory, Judas is on trial, yet so overwhelmed by guilt that he cannot speak in his own defense. So lawyers, witnesses, saints, and even the Devil try the case without him, debating punishment, redemption, and the nature of free will in this darkly comic play. This Helen Hayes-nominated production returns to Forum after 2 sold out runs to celebrate the company's 10th season!

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2014/05/28/last-days-judas-iscariot-forum-theatre/>

<http://forum-theatre.com/judas>

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2014/05/28/last-days-judas-iscariot/>

<http://mdtheatreguide.com/2014/05/theatre-review-the-last-days-of-judas-iscariot-at-forum-theatre/>

LETO LEGEND

by Kristen LePine

Directed by Helen Pafumi

Leto Legend by Kristen LePine and directed by Helen Pafumi. Charlie is a full time mom, writer and superhero. How does she do it all? And more importantly, is there a way for her to stop? The mythical and modern collide in this comedy about today's superwoman.

First Rehearsal - June 9, 2015

Load-In - June 20, 2015

Tech begins - July 3, 2015

Open - July 10, 2015

Close - Aug 2, 2015

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2015/07/15/letto-legend-at-hub-theatre-review/>

Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea

by Nathan Alan Davis // directed by Megan Sandberg-Zakian // May 21 - June 6, 2015

[Cleveland Public Theatre](#), [NNPN Rolling World Premiere](#)

It's a month before his first day in college and Dontrell Jones III wakes up from a dream that will change his life. The young man's unconventional journey begins with swimming lessons, and ends in a boat drifting into the sea to meet his grandfather's spirit. A magical play about our connection to the past and living in the moment.

(FCG/WBF) For Colored Girls.../Words Become Flesh

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow is Enuf

By Ntozake Shange

Directed by Deidra Starnes

An American classic, the power of *for colored girls*...is eternal. This stirring choreopoem weaves together 20 separate poems with music and movement to tell the stories of love, empowerment, and struggle of seven African American women. Originally produced on Broadway in 1976, Ntozake Shange's work proves as vital today as it was then.

Word Becomes Flesh

By Marc Bamuthi Joseph

Directed by Psalmayene 24

Through spoken word, dance, djing, and visual images, a collective of performers delivers a series of letters from a single father to his unborn son, documenting the range of emotions, fears, and expectations. *Word Becomes Flesh* critically, lyrically, and choreographically examines masculinity and responsibility from a young, single father's perspective within the constructs of hip-hop culture.

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2016/02/29/word-becomes-flesh-for-colored-girls-who-have-considered-suicidewhen-the-rainbow-is-enuf-at-theater-alliance1/>

Youtube WBF

<https://youtu.be/RUBM2BWWAHY>

Youtube FCG

<https://youtu.be/A4t6MdroR6Y>

FCG/WBF Feature

<https://youtu.be/umbGVdDpvIM>

Cry, the Beloved Country

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/video/index/M6648>

Rev. Nolan Williams Jr., artistic director, presents a concert of freedom songs from the South African liberation movement featuring combined choirs, Voices of Southern Africa and Williams's D.C.- Voices of Inspiration, in performance with the Simunye Dance Ensemble of Southern Africa. *Produced by NEWorks Productions as a community engagement initiative in support of Washington National Opera's [Lost in the Stars](#).*

Candide

<https://youtu.be/3z6hNtac5ys>

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2013/04/28/optimism-or-voltaires-candide1/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/spooky-actions-optimism-the-best-of-all-possible-candide-adaptations/2013/05/05/ea0993aa-b4e9-11e2-9fb1-62de9581c946_story.html?utm_term=.bd249cfb6a35

Photos by Franc Rosario

Cast of 9

Voltaire's masterpiece, adapted for the stage in rhymed couplets by playwright [TJ Edwards](#), is an assault on society, religion, human nature, education, government and above all, optimism. Candide's journey was here enacted by nine actors playing over 70 roles in a madcap journey to discover just what it is that makes life worth living.

NOMINATED FOR TWO HELEN HAYES AWARDS ©

outstanding ensemble, resident play and movement (Monalisa Arias), resident play starring

“High-energy and highly inventive staging... into all the scenic atmosphere, Chamberlin's actors bring an easy athleticism and a light touch with Edwards's rhymed couplets and whimsy.”

– [The Washington Post](#)

Italian American Reconciliation

Shots are fired and promises broken in this exhilarating romantic comedy from the author of *Moonstruck* and *Doubt*. After his divorce from a shrewish wife, Huey Bonfigliano takes to the

arts, but bad poetry and worse clothing can't replace what he's lost, no matter how terrifying his wife may have been. Against the advice of his best friend, Aldo, he decides to win back his ex. In a moonlit balcony scene right out of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Aldo pleads his lovesick friend's case and is met, as in all great romances, with a something more than a warm embrace.

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2013/02/05/italian-american-reconciliation/>

The Flick

Welcome to a run-down movie theatre in Worcester County, MA, where Sam, Avery and Rose are navigating lives as sticky as the soda under the seats. The movies on the big screen are no match for the tiny battles and not-so-tiny heartbreaks that play out in the empty aisles. Annie Baker (*THE ALIENS*) and Artistic Director Shawn LaCount reunite with this hilarious and heart-rending cry for authenticity in a fast-changing world.

March 12, 2014

[The Flick](#) by Sheila Barth, *Theater Mirror*

March 3, 2014

[BWW Review: New England Premiere of Annie Baker's THE FLICK at Company One Theatre](#) by Nancy Grossman, *Broadway World*

March 2, 2014

[C1's New Flick](#) by Fabiana Cabral, *My Entertainment World*

February 28, 2014

[Theater: The Flick](#) by Joyce Kulhawik, *Joyce's Choices*

February 26, 2014

[Movies Not Always Magical for Those in 'The Flick'](#) by India Pearl, *Boston Events Insider*

February 25, 2014

[Annie Baker Embraces The Movies; Company One Embraces Annie Baker, Her Characters, And Her 'Flick'](#) by Ed Siegel, *WBUR*

February 24, 2014

[Lives unfold beneath the big screen in Company One's 'The Flick'](#) by Don Aucoin, *The Boston Globe*

February 20, 2014

[The sound of silence imbues 'The Flick'](#) by Christopher Wallenberg, *The Boston Globe*

February 20, 2014

['The Flick' reverses the spotlight](#) by Alexander Stevens, *Wicked Local*

February 20, 2014

[Company One Reunites With Annie Baker for 'The Flick'](#) by Maureen Dezell, *WBUR*

HWGO

It's 1988: Hank, Julian and Luann have each finally found the beats and dubs that make the suburbs bearable, but they need each other more than they know. Rap battles and poetry in parking lots lead to dreams of something more, as a DJ takes us to the flipside, loops us into the remix, and breaks it down. Spoken word poet and hip-hop playwright Idris Goodwin MC's a theatrical coming-of-age mix tape about how we become the people we're meant to be, flowing and rhyming our way to adulthood.

August 1, 2013

['How We Got On' Fuses Coming-Of-Age Tale With Hip-Hop Beats](#) by *WGBH News*

July 23, 2013

[HIP-HOP DREAMS BURST TO LIFE IN 'HOW WE GOT ON'](#) by Don Aucoin, *The Boston Globe*

July 23, 2013

[New England Premiere of "How We Got On" Presented by Company One at the Boston Center for the Arts](#) by Dr. Al Chase, *The White Rhino Report*

July 22, 2013

[How We Got On](#) by Kilian Melloy, *EDGE Boston*

July 22, 2013

[Throwback Time in Company One's HOW WE GOT ON](#) by Alex Lonati, *Broadway World*

July 20, 2013

[Idris Goodwin, playwright with an ear to the streets](#) by Joel Brown, *The Boston Globe*

July 15, 2013

[Company One's 'How We Got On' is a musical lesson in hip-hop history](#) by Nora Dunne, *Metro Boston*

December 31, 1969

[Culture Calendar: Five Must-See Arts and Entertainment Events in July](#) by Matthew Reed Baker, *Boston Magazine*

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2014/11/04/got-forum-theatre/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/idris-goodwins-how-we-got-on-at-forum-theatre/2014/11/05/eebfe9fc-6515-11e4-ab86-4600e1d0035_story.html?utm_term=.c7e2c4603c5c

<http://howlround.com/forum-theatre-s-how-we-got-on>

King Lear

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2017/05/30/review-king-lear-avant-bard/>

<https://mdtheatreguide.com/2017/06/theatre-review-king-lear-at-wsc-avant-bard/>

<http://www.metroweekly.com/2017/06/avant-bards-king-lear-rick-foucheux/>

Review: Avant Bard's "King Lear" - Metro Weekly - <http://www.metroweekly.com/2017/06/king-of-fools/>

<http://www.theatrebloom.com/2017/05/king-lear-at-avant-bard/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/king-lear-with-rick-foucheux-is-a-family-meltdown/2017/05/30/5ab779d8-454f-11e7-a196-a1bb629f64cb_story.html?utm_term=.94c1ca507496