

The August Wilson Century Cycle

Play Title	Period/Written	PPTCO Produce
Gem of the Ocean	1904/2003	2012
Joe Turner's Come and Gone	1911/1984	2005
Ma Rainey's Black Bottom	1927/1982	2003
The Piano Lesson	1936/1986	2006/2016
Seven Guitars	1948/1995	2009
Fences	1957/1983	2004/2015
Two Trains Running	1969/1990	2008
Jitney	1977/1979	2010
King Hedley II	1985/2001	2011
Radio Golf	1997/2005	2013

Autographs

Get your part of history

Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company

Presents

August Wilson's

Fences

Directed by Mark Clayton Southers



Artwork by Leslie Ansley

Greetings from the Artistic Director: Mark Clayton Southers



August Wilson has blessed us with his life's work as a playwright. His dedication to his craft was amazing, inspiring, and heart felt. He was the epitome of a playwright tirelessly honing his plays to perfection.

Those efforts are recognized in his realistic storytelling and rhythmic dialogue. Fences no doubt is his most produced and recognized play of his cannon, and it's a drama that grows on you. It's a drama that touches on real human emotions that just about everyone in not only the African American community can relate to but all of mankind.

The father and son struggle for understanding that reaches across generations and time, the responsibility of caring for our extended family and loved ones, maintaining bonds amongst

friends over a lifetime of change and the great divide that happens over time between husbands and wife's and the unnerving results that become reality when two hearts loose their connection.

To create an epic masterpiece such as this, Mr. Wilson no doubt wrote with great passion and drew from his vast collected resources, from what he called his "Blood Memory" of his daily existence in Pittsburgh's Hill District.

We hope that our take on Fences leaves you with a strong impression of these characters and with a sense of pride and respect for the Black family and our ability to make it work through all of the adversity that we face in this world. Thank you August for displaying all of our joys and pains so eloquently and with a sense of truth and nobility. Sit back and thank you for taking this journey with us.

Mark Clayton Southers
Founder and Producing
Artistic Director

Production Staff

Playwright
Director
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Set Design
Assistant to the Set Designer
Scenic Artist
Light Design

Sound Design
Costume/Makeup Design
Prop Master
Fight Choreographer
Raynell Acting Coach
Rose Acting Coach
Raynell Vocal Coach
1st Unit Technical Director
2nd Unit Technical Director
Carpenters

Scenic Painters

Production Artwork
Laborer

Graphic Design
Production Crew

August Wilson
Mark Clayton Southers
Eric A. Smith
Tashia Terry
Ashley Southers
Tony Ferrieri
Jeffrey M. Fuga
Leah Blackwood
Bob Steineck and
Madeleine Steineck
Mark Whitehead
Cheryl El-Walker
Joshua Fedorski
Joseph Martinez
Marcy Woodruff
Chrystal Bates
Delana Flowers
Kenny Ellis
Alex Barnhart
Thomas Jacob Howard
David Conley
Michael Boone
Alicia Diaz
Diane Melchitzky
Leslie Asnley
Lonzo Green
Mat Dorman
Nick Furar
Eric Donaldson
Mont Jones

Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company Staff

Founder/Artistic Director
Artistic Associate
Business Manager
Resident Costumer
Resident Sound Designer
Box Office
Concessions

PR
Media
Marketing Design
Website

Mark Clayton Southers
Monteze Freeland
Lorill Readie
Cheryl El-Walker
Mark Whitehead
Carl Southers III
Marcus Southers
Matthew Southers
Andre Southers
Tene Croom
CREW Productions LLC
Eric Donaldson
Steven Doerfler

Special Thanks

The cast and crew of August Wilson’s Fences would love to give special thanks to:

Dr. Michael Ramsay (Guest Artist Sponsor) for your sponsorship of this production and your continued support for what we do at Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre.

Marci Woodruff (Raynell Acting Coach) for getting *Raynelle Maxson* into character and ready for the show.

Chrystal Bates (Rose Acting Coach) for bringing in your expertise as a Wilsonian and a veteran actor to the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company’s production of August Wilson’s Fences.

Delana Flowers (Vocal Coach) for getting the ‘Blue’ singing just right.

Properties and set pieces are provided through the generosity of

City Theatre Company

Annette Ferrieri

We B’ Props

Special Thanks to our Board of Directors

Board President
Board Treasurer
Board Secretary

Dr. Michael Ramsay
Elizabeth Reiss
Lorill “Neicy” Readie

Wayne Walters
Tawnya Ferris-Redwood
Ryan Scott
Mark Clayton Southers
Donna Drewery
Carl R. Southers III

Lynne Hayes-Freeland
Mark A. Freeman
Delores Southers
Janis Burley Wilson
Susan McGregor-Laine
Eric A. Smith

Set in the 1950s, Fences evokes the early rumblings of the civil rights movement. The central character is Troy Maxson, a middle-aged resident of Pittsburgh’s Hill District. The play follows Troy’s struggle to accept the generational changes that allowed his son, Cory, to succeed in ways Troy never could.

This play is presented in two acts
There will be one 15-minute intermission
Restrooms are located on the second floor

Troy Maxson
Rose Maxson
Gabriel Maxson

Lyons Maxson
Cory Maxson

Raynell Maxson

Jim Bono

Kevin Brown
Sandra Dowe
Anthony Chisholm*
Bryant Bentley*
Maurice Redwood
Carter Redwood*
Sundiata Rice (understudy)
Nia Woodson
Lemiah Cross
Wali Jamal

*The * acknowledges the actors who appear courtesy of Actor’s Equity.*

About the Pittsburgh Playwright: August Wilson



Born Frederick August Kittel, Jr. in Pittsburgh in 1945, as the fourth of seven children, August Wilson grew up in the impoverished Bedford Avenue area of the city. The family moved from there when his mother remarried and Wilson attended school; he dropped out at 16 and focused on working in menial jobs, while fostering his burgeoning love of the written word with trips to the Carnegie Library. Reading the works of Langston Hughes and Ralph Ellison embedded a desire within the teenage Wilson to become a writer, though his mother wanted him to pursue a career in law. Disagreements over this decision led to Wilson leaving the family home. He intended to spend three years in the army, but he left after a year and returned to Pittsburgh to work in various

jobs.

After his father's death in 1965, Frederick Kittel Jr became August Wilson, a decision made to honor his mother. The late sixties saw Wilson become heavily influenced by Malcolm X and the blues, and he converted to Islam to sustain his 1969 marriage to Brenda Burton. A year earlier, Wilson set up the Black Horizon Theater with Rob Penny where his first plays, *Recycling* and *Jitney*, were performed.

Wilson divorced in 1972, and in 1976 saw a production of *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* at the Pittsburgh Public Theater, the first time he'd seen a professional play. Two years later the budding playwright moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he worked writing educational scripts for the Science Museum of Minnesota. The Playwrights' Center in Minnesota awarded him a fellowship in 1980 and he left his job a year later. He continued writing plays while working as a chef for the Little Brothers of the Poor.

In Minnesota, Wilson built a strong relationship with the Penumbra Theatre Company, which produced many of his plays in the eighties. In 1987 the city named May 25th August Wilson Day, after his Pulitzer Prize award in the same year. Wilson left St. Paul for Seattle in 1990, after his second marriage, to Judy Oliver, ended in divorce, and while there the Seattle Repertory Theatre performed a number of his plays.

In 1995 Wilson received an honorary degree from the University of Pittsburgh, one of many, where he became a Doctor of Humanities and was a member of the Board of Trustees. He married again in 1994, to Constanza Romero. In 2005 he was diagnosed with liver cancer, and in October of that year, he passed away.

Donors and Sponsors

Our donors and sponsors made this production of *Fences* possible. Become a donor today to keep the great stories from Pittsburgh going strong.

Anonymous	Barbara Abramovitz	Andrew Ade
Stephanie Akers	Adam Becker	June Belkin
Sharon Bernstein	Don Bertschman	Kyle Bostian
Linda Carter	Thomas Clinton	Gilbert DeBenedetti
Steven Doerfler	Hallie Donner	Kathleen Downey
Jeanne Drennan	Theodore Elrick	Lisa Favorini
Margaret J. Forbes	Mark Freeman	Sarah Friedman
Vanessa German	Arlyn Gilboa	Mark Heine
Mary Ellen Hoy	Cecelia Johnson	Jeanne Zell
Diana Johnson	Sherdina Jones	Chris Josephs
Janet Kafka	Emily Keebler	Jeffrey Leber
John Lenkey III	Randolph Matuscak	Patricia McElligott
Gale McGloin	Fiona McGrath	Ann M Miner
Geraldine Monroe	Nancy Moore	Ayisha Morgan-Lee
Veronica Morgan-Lee		Mel Packer
Marilyn Painter	Joyce Penrose	Thomas Poole
Katherine Radkoff	Barbara Rainard	Dr. Michael Ramsay
Mary Rawson	Carlana Rhoten	Robert Robinson
Barbara Russell	John Sawyer	Karen Scansaroli
Judith Starr	Craig Stevens	Irene Surmik
Michele Sweeney	Holly Thuma	Sheila Washington
Eileen Weiner	Robert and Arlene Weiner	Ray Werner
Peggy Whitehurst	Rita Wilson	Edwin Woll
Sister Rita Yeasted		



**THE
PITTSBURGH
CULTURAL
TRUST**



Allegheny Regional Asset District

Behind the Scenes Continued

Madeleine Steineck (Light Design) graduated from Temple University in 2011 with a degree in Theatre: Lighting Design. This is her seventh show with Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company as she designed lights for PPTC's productions of *Sold: Renn Woods in Concert*, *Poe's Last Night*, *Book of Ezra*, *A Christmas Star*, *Ubuntu Holiday*, and most recently, *Dinah!*. She also designs lights for various high school and middle school musicals, including *Curtains*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Seussical*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She is the resident lighting designer for Mercyhurst University's Theatre Program, having designed *Urinetown: The Musical*, *The Laramie Project*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Cabaret*, *The Tempest*, and *Clothes For A Summer Hotel*. She has designed for Morgantown Dance Studio. She worked as a Master Electrician for Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre (2013) and was the Master Electrician for Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh's Summerfest 2014.

Mark Whitehead (Sound Design) is the founder of Saints & Poets Theater, for which he produced and directed Christiane D's *Saffronia*, Sam Shepard's *The Late Henry Moss* and Donald Freed's *Secret Honor: The Last Testament of Richard M. Nixon*. He was a member of timespace, for which he produced *hamletmachine* and directed *4-H Club* and *Insignificance*. For PPTCO Mark directed *The Revenants*, *Comfort Zone*, and several one-acts for the annual Black & White Festival. He has directed *Cry Havoc*, *Taking Sides*, and *Fool for Love* for other local theaters. Mark is Resident Sound Designer for PPTCO and The Unseam'd Shakespeare Company, and has designed for many local theaters. Mark won Onyx awards for best sound design three straight years for his work on PPTCO's annual August Wilson productions. He was named best sound designer and listed among the best directors in City Paper's 2001 theater round-up, and was named best sound designer of 2000 by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Mark was a founding producer of the Dark Night Cabaret performance series, and has produced and directed music videos for several local bands.

Cheryl El-Walker (Costume/Makeup) is an award-winning costume designer and makeup artist who is also a veteran stage actor from Pittsburgh. She has provided her skills for seven of August Wilson's full-length productions. Her creative theatre work has earned her several Onyx awards from the African American Council for the Arts (AACTA): Best Make-up Artist (2007); *Christmas Is Coming Uptown* (Best Costume for a Musical 2008); New Horizon Theatre, *Freeman* (Best Leading Actress 2008); Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, (Best Costume Design for a Play 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012) and the PPTCO 2012 Legacy Award. In 2013, she received PPTCO's Theater Festival in Black and White Award for Best Director. Most recently, Cheryl was seen on the PPTCO stage as "LaRue" in *Dinah! The Musical*.

Joseph Martinez (Fight Choreographer) is delighted to be a part of August Wilson's *Fences*. He has had the privilege and honor to work with director Mark Clayton Southers on several projects as fight choreographer. Past fight choreographer credits include *August in August*, August Wilson Center; *The Gammage Project*, Pitt Rep; *Ma Noah*, PPTCO; *Johnny Lee Hooker, Jr. Story*, 700 Club- ABC Family. Joseph is currently performing in *Othello* at The Pittsburgh Public Theater.

About the Director: Mark Clayton Southers

Mark Clayton Southers is an award winning playwright, photographer, scenic designer, theatrical producer and stage director. He and his family reside in Pittsburgh's historic Hill District. He is the founder and Producing Artistic Director of the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company where he has produced over 140 full length and one-act plays, including August Wilson's entire ten play Pittsburgh Century-Cycle.

Mr. Southers is a published poet and playwright as well. His play, *Ma Noah*, was the recipient of the 2004 Theodore Ward prize at Columbia College, Chicago. His poem play, *End Angered Species AKA Angry Black Man Poetry*, had a successful run at Teatr Slaski in Katowice, Poland in 2009.



Some of his favorite directing credits include Paul Robeson for the Griot Ensemble Theatre Company; *Pill Hill* and *Freeman* for New Horizon Theatre; *Almost Maine* for South Park Theatre; the August in February Series for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust; *Dutchman* for Bricolage Production Company; *Angry Black Men Poetry* for Teatr Slaski; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Piano Lesson* and *Radio Golf* for American Stage Theatre, St. Petersburg, Florida; *Gem of the Ocean* for Human Race Theatre, Dayton, Ohio; *Passing Strange* for North Short Stage, Columbus, Ohio; *Papa Doc* and *Paul Robeson* for The Trilogy Opera Company and *Dorothy Six*, *Sty of The Blind Pig* for The Banyan Theatre Company, Sarasota, FL, *The Piano Lesson*, *Two Trains Running*, *Seven Guitars*, *VALU-MART*, *Jitney* and *Gem of the Ocean* for the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company.

He is a four-time recipient of the AACTA Onyx award for best director. His directed production of *Two Trains Running* was voted one of the top ten plays of the decade by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and his directed production of *Jitney* broke all house attendance records at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre and was voted one of the top ten best plays for 2010 by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. The Dayton Metro News named him best director for his work on Dayton's Human Race Theatre's production of *Gem of the Ocean*. For more info please visit: www.markclaytonsouthers.com



We buy clothing in good to excellent condition. We buy based on season, style, condition, brand, and store need and customer base.

From vintage to luxury brands.

www.clothesmindedpgh.com

412.685-4017

Instagram: [clothes_minded_pgh](https://www.instagram.com/clothes_minded_pgh)

4740 Liberty Ave, 15224 (Bloomfield)

Behind the Scenes

Tashia Terry (Stage Manager) She had no idea how much she would love the backstage world until she took her first job as SM for Ubuntu Holiday with the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre. She was then offered an opportunity to run lights for the Black/White festival, Program B. This will be her third production as SM with the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre and after falling in love with the process she hopes to expand her skills within this field. Thank you to the Mark, this amazing cast and phenomenal production/design team for your patience and kindness.

Ashley Southers (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Pittsburgh Obama alumna. She plans to attend Point Park University in the fall for screenwriting. She enjoys working as a light technician and soon she would like to work on sound. In Ashley's spare time she enjoys writing plays just like her father Mark Clayton Southers. Ashley has been with Playwrights since the very beginning and can't wait for what the future will bring.

Tony Ferrieri (Scenic Designer) Awards and milestones include over 36 years with City Theatre, New Works Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, "Designer of the Year" by *Pittsburgh City Paper* and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, "Frankel Award," "Fred Kelly Award for Outstanding Achievement," "Harry Schwalb Excellence in the Arts Award," features in *Live Design* and *Stage Directions*, and over 500 designs. Recent CTC designs include: *Elemeno Pea*, the world premieres of *Mr. Joy* and *Smart Blonde*, *Sister's Late Nite Catechism-Las Vegas*, *The Mountaintop*, *South Side Stories*, *2 Pianos 4 Hands*, *Charles Ives Take Me Home*, *Vanya and Sonia* and *Masha and Spike*, and *Abigail/1702*. Other recent designs include: *Congo Square* for Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, *Boeing Boeing*, *Ring of Fire*, *Judge Jackie Justice* for CLO Cabaret, *Tell it to the Marines* for The International Poetry Forum, *You Say Tomato I Say Shut up!* For Dana Phil Playhouse Productions, *A Streetcar Named Desire* for barebones, *Pantagleize* for Quantum Theatre and *A Feminine Ending* for Off the Wall. Other credits include designs for CLO Cabaret, Quantum Theatre, Jewish Theatre of Pittsburgh, Carrnivale Theatrics, Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre, Emelin Theatre, Northlight Theatre, barebones, Madison Rep, TheatreWorks, 1812 Productions, Playhouse Rep, Playhouse Conservatory, Tuesday Musical Club, and Unseam'd. Tony wishes to express his appreciation to all those who made these productions possible.

Bob Steineck (Light Design) has design credits spanning over 30 years that include concerts, ballet, modern dance, opera and theatre. He is currently resident lighting designer for Reed Dance, Squonk Opera, Mercyhurst University Dance Dept, Texture Contemporary Ballet, Off The Wall Theatre, Pittsburgh Playwright's Theatre, and Recording Artist, Maria Del Rey. Mr. Steineck has toured throughout the United States with such Companies as Rennie Harris' Pure Movement & RHAW, Squonk Opera, the Lyon Opera Ballet, Sankai Juku, Phoenix Dance Company, Kirov Ballet Academy and the "America Tour" for Stars on Ice. Television/Video/DVD credits the *DIZZY GILLESPIE Allstar Big Band* for A&E Cable, the *SPYRO GYRA* concert for PBS, *Lindy & Loon* for Maria Del Rey and *JOHNNY A TRIO* by Warner Bros. Publications. He has designed for several corporate events & fundraisers. His most recent lighting designs include: Texture Contemporary Ballet's Rep *Unleashed Emotion*; *OR & Uproar* for Off The Wall Productions; Erie Festival of Dance; *Luv American Style* at New Victory Theatre, NYC for Rennie Harris' RHAW; *Rejoice* for Reflections Theatre CO-op; and *Snow White* for Morgantown Dance Theatre & Studio.

Support Great Theater by making a donation today!

Visit our box office in the lobby,
or go to
www.pghplaywrights.com/donations

Are you on Social Media?



Friend us on Facebook PGHplaywrights

Follow us on Twitter @ PGHplaywrights

Watch us and stay up to date by going to
pghplaywrights.com/video

The Players of Fences



Kevin Brown (*Troy Maxson*) A native of August Wilson's Hill District is thrilled over the moon to be a part of this cast! Brown has appeared in six of August Wilson's ten play Pittsburgh cycle. Brown last appeared in New Horizon Theater's world premiere "Queen of The Blues" portraying the father of gospel music, Thomas Dorsey. He recently filmed a remake of the classic Crying Indian commercial for PRC's anti-littering campaign. Additional credits: The Piano Lesson, Jitney, King Hedley II, Gem of The Ocean, Radio Golf, Comfort Zone, Romance, Do Lord Remember Me, Driving Miss Daisy, Gospel at Colonus, Beautiful Dreamer, Last Of The Line, Livin' Fat, Bubbling Brown Sugar, Flight, Jelly's Last Jam, Mahalia Jackson: Standing on Holy Ground, Get Ready, Blue, Sophisticated Ladies and The Billie Holiday Story in South Africa's Grahamstown Theater festival. I dedicate this performance to my sons Anthony and Aduan and my godson Dorion. Not only do I love you guys.... I like you too!



Carter Redwood (*Cory Maxson*) is a Princess Grace Theater Honorary recipient and founding member of the former August Wilson Center Theatre Ensemble. He is thrilled to return home to Pittsburgh where he recently earned his BFA in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University and was the recipient of the prestigious John Arthur Kennedy Acting Award. He has also trained at the Drama Centre London. Over the years he's had the pleasure of working around the city with companies such as: City Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, Bricolage, New Horizon, Prime Stage, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, and Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Co. Off-Broadway: *When January Feels Like Summer* (Ensemble Studio Theatre) and *Gertrude Stein Saints* (La Mama, Abrons Arts Center). Film/TV: "The Good Wife," "Madam Secretary," *Underdogs*, *Blood First*, *Not Cool*. Check out his web series "Redwood Time" on YouTube or www.carterredwood.com



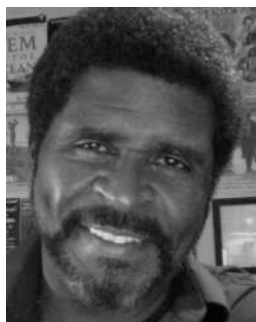
Sandra Dowe (*Rose Maxson*) What an honor and a privilege it is to be in this space again! I have been an instructor of the creative and performing arts and a professional vocalist in the Pittsburgh area for many years. I wasn't sure if I could handle such a task, but I am so glad for this opportunity. I thank God for August Wilson who created Rose, a role that stretched me beyond what I could imagine, Chrystal Bates who blessed me with her amazing insight, talent and spirit in helping me to find Rose, Mark Southers who is such a talented and creative director, and this wonderful cast. It is a joy to work with you all. Thank you to my friends and family for your love and support. Thank you God for your many blessings, especially that of being an artist. Enjoy the show!

The Players Continued



Anthony Chisholm (*Gabriel Maxson*) is an American actor. He is a Tony Award Nominee (Best Supporting Actor in a play, in the role of Elder Joseph Barlow in August Wilson's Radio Golf). He also performed on Broadway in August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean in the role of "Solly Two Kings", and Two Trains Running in the role of Wolf. He is a winner of both the Drama Desk Award and the Obie Award for August Wilson's Jitney, which enjoyed a ten month run in New York City. He is also the recipient of the NAACP Theatre Award, the AUDELCO Award, the Ovation Award, and the I.R.N.E. Award. He has also received nominations for the Drama Desk Awards, Drama League Award, Joseph Jefferson Award, Ovation Award, NAACP Theatre Awards, and AUDELCO Award.

He has performed internationally in the hit Vietnam play, Tracers, at The Seymoure Center, Sydney, Australia; the Universal Theatre, Melbourne, Australia; The Royal Court Theatre, London, England. He also performed Jitney at London's prestigious National Theatre on the South Bank, winning the Olivier Award for Best New Play. Chisholm played Burr Redding on the HBO television series "Oz" for three seasons.



Wali Jamal (*Jim Bono*) is honored and proud to be performing in this, his NINTH production of August Wilson's Ten Play Century Cycle. His past performances of Mr. Wilson's work include: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (Toledo), Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Seth Holly), Seven Guitars w/Kuntu Rep. (Canewell), Piano Lesson (Avery), Seven Guitars w/PPTCO (Hedley), Two Trains Running (Wolf), Jitney (Doub), Gem of the Ocean (Caesar), Radio Golf (Sterling). This production of Fences makes #9, leaving King Hedley II to complete the ten play cycle. "Special thanks to my good buddy, Mark Clayton Southers, who introduced me to August Wilson and his magnificent body of work. Thanks Mark O!!!"



Maurice Redwood (*Lyons Maxson*) was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. His introduction to theater came in 2003 as sound engineer for Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Company's production of 'When The Water Turns Clear'. Since, he has studied and worked, both on and off stage, on various productions and performances in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. Also a musician, Maurice has had the opportunity to learn from and perform with musicians from all over. He is a co-founder of Pittsburgh-based production company CREW Productions LLC, which provides production, marketing and media services to local artists, arts organizations and arts supporters. He is also executive producer for the web series 'The 411 with CREW 412.' To date, some of his favorite projects include: *Langston Hughes' Black Nativity* (Shona Sharif African

Dance & Drum Ensemble), *Pill Hill* (New Horizon Theater), *August Wilson's Jitney* (Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Co.), *Raisin: The Lorraine Hansberry Story* (August Wilson Center) and *Smokey Joe's Cafe*.



Nia Woodson (*Raynell Maxson*) is a fourth grader at Liberty School. She got her acting debut as Cordelia in Shakespeare's King Lear and has seen stars ever since. Nia attends Pittsburgh Ballet Theater and runs track. This is her first major play and she plans to be in many more.



Lemiah Cross (*Raynell Maxson*), Eight years old. She is in the 2nd grade at Urban Pathways Charter School. She is a high honor roll student. She is a very active member of the YPD at St. James A.M.E. church.



Sundiata Rice (*Cory Maxson understudy*) is thrilled to be working with the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre again as an understudy for the role *Cory*, under the outstanding direction of Mark Clayton Southers! He is currently a freshman at Pittsburgh CAPA and a 2015 finalist in the August Wilson Monologue competition. In addition to working with the Pittsburgh Playwrights, Sundiata has had the pleasure of working and learning with the following theatres: **Bricolage Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse, and Off the Wall Theatre**. Film credits are: **Blood First**. Commercial: Children's Institute and Allegheny Health Network.

Sundiata is very thankful for this opportunity and all the support from his family, friends and Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre.



Bryant Bentley (*Gabriel Maxson understudy*) is very excited to join Pittsburgh Playwrights again in this fabulous production of Fences. You may have seen Bryant here before in his portrayal of Slick in Marlon Youngblood's. Comfort Zone. Bryant is a native of Dayton Ohio and he resides in Columbus Ohio. Some of his memorable performances include: Boy Willie in The Piano Lesson at American Stage Theater Company, Jackie Robinson in Most Valuable Player, Indiana Repertory Theater, Willie in Master Harold And The Boys, Clarence Brown Theater, Sterling Johnson in Two Trains Running, Lank in Dominique Morriseau's Detroit 67 at the Ensemble Theater of

Cincinnati, Walter Lee in A Raisin In The Sun, Wright State University and Leland Cunningham in Blues For An Alabama Sky. Other credits includes: The Whipping Man, Plenty Of Time, Jitney, The Color Of Justice, Topdog/Underdog, Huckleberry Finn, The Meeting and many more. Bryant has been nominated numerous times for his performances and he received the 2013 Theater Roundtable Award for Best Actor for his betrayal of Simon in Mathew Lopez's The Whipping Man. He credits all of his accomplishments to his Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST and would like to acknowledge his Beautiful Wife Rachael and his Die Hard friends for their love and support. " I aint nothin' but dirt with GOD'S breath in me!"

