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## Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company Staff

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# Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company Presents



August Wilson's Radio Golf

#### Words from the Artistic Director Mark Clayton Southers



It's amazing how time effortlessly passes before our eyes. How we age and constantly exist in what a second later becomes history. All of Pittsburgh should rejoice in our journey these past ten years. It has been a pleasurable passage of time. Always moving forward. From our humble beginnings in Garfield to our edgy garage mezzanine, and to here our penthouse boutique theatre space. We have survived with the help of foundations, a well balance pool of wonderful and committed actors, crew, directors and designers and most importantly you our supportive audience. So, here we are after ten years of producing Mr. Wilson's It really hasn't hit me yet of what we've work. accomplished. But I pray that August is smiling down upon us from the heavens. My sincerest thanks to you all for sharing this space in time with us. Theatre continues...

#### Words from the Managing Director Eric A. Smith



Thank you for joining us, and I hope that you will spread the word and continue to support Pittsburgh Playwrights as we celebrate 10 years and go onward as we strive to bring playwrights from Pittsburgh to the stage. Over the years, Pittsburgh Playwrights has given life to so many scripts born here in Pittsburgh by Pittsburghers. One of the most well known of playwrights from Pittsburgh, Mr. August Wilson, who was influential on our Artistic Director Mark Clayton Southers, has been celebrated throughout the ten years of PPTCO's existence. Mark set out on a journey ten years ago when he produced Ma Rainey's Black Bottom at the small intimate Penn Theatre located in Garfield. Each year he has produced one of Mr. Wilson's plays in the order they were presented on Broadway: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Fences, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Piano Lesson, Two Trains Running, Seven Guitars, Jitney, King Hedley II, Gem of the Ocean. As we now produce Radio Golf, we will make history as being one of the first companies in the world to present all ten plays in his Century Cycle (also known as the Pittsburgh Cycle) in 10 consecutive years. Thank you for joining us and please spread the word. Great art needs a loud voice, and all of our voices collectively will be the conduit for this great piece of Pittsburgh history.

Support great theater by making a donation today. Visit our box office in the lobby, or go to www.pghplaywrights.com/donations

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To stay up on the latest from Pittsburgh Playwrights

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We at Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company would love to give special thanks to the following for their continued support:



## Ben Cain (WBTZ Radio DJ voice) Janet Kafta

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And to you, our loyal patrons for being with us on this 10 year journey through August Wilson's

Pittsburgh Century Cycle



About the Playwright

August Wilson authored *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, and Radio Golf.* These works explore the heritage and experience of African-Americans, decade-by-decade, over the course of the twentieth century. His plays have been produced at regional theaters across the country and all over the world, as well as on Broadway. In 2003, Mr. Wilson made his professional stage debut in his one-man show, *How I Learned What I Learned*.

Mr. Wilson's works garnered many awards including Pulitzer Prizes for *Fences*(1987); and for *The Piano Lesson* (1990); a Tony Award for *Fences*; Great Britain's Olivier Award for *Jitney*; as well as eight New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Fences*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Two Trains Running*, *Seven Guitars*, *Jitney*, and *Radio Golf*. Additionally, the cast recording of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*received a 1985 Grammy Award, and Mr. Wilson received a 1995 Emmy Award nomination for his screenplay adaptation of *The Piano Lesson*. Mr. Wilson's early works included the one-act plays *The Janitor*, *Recycle*, *The Coldest Day of the Year*, *Malcolm X*, *The Homecoming* and the musical satire *Black Bart and the Sacred Hills*.

Mr. Wilson received many fellowships and awards, including Rockefeller and Guggenheim Fellowships in Playwrighting, the Whiting Writers Award, 2003 Heinz Award, was awarded a 1999 National Humanities Medal by the President of the United States, and received numerous honorary degrees from colleges and universities, as well as the only high school diploma ever issued by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. He was an alumnus of New Dramatists, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a 1995 inductee into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and on October 16, 2005, Broadway renamed the theater located at 245 West 52nd Street - The August Wilson Theatre. Additionally, Mr. Wilson was posthumously inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 2007. Mr. Wilson was born and raised in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and lived in Seattle, Washington at the time of his death. He is immediately survived by his two daughters, Sakina Ansari and Azula Carmen Wilson, and his wife, costume designer Constanza Romero.

# **Characters**

Mark Clayton Southeres Art Terry Kevin Brown Wali Jamal Chrystal Bates Harmond Wilks Roosevelt Hicks Elder Joseph Barlow Sterling Johnson Mame Wilks

Location Bedford Hills Redevelopment Office, Pittsburgh, PA

> <u>Year</u> 1997

This play is present with special arrangements by Samuel French

# There will be a 15-minute intermission



Words from the Director

I am honored to complete the August Wilson 10 play cycle at Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre with my theatrical partner, colleague and friend, Mark Clayton Southers. Like Lorraine Hansberry, George Hawkins, Woodie King, Doc Lillie, Lou Bellamy and so many others that have founded African American theatre companies, Mark has a dream to make the City of Pittsburgh and the world a better place through its ART. So, when Mark first approached me about joining this artistic journey with him of producing all 10 plays of the Pittsburgh Cycle in the order that they were produced, I immediately wanted to be on board to share my talents, to make a difference and to assist in the stories being told. What I have learned from these experiences are a part of the fabric of my soul forever. Each play that August has given us challenges us as human beings to experience the dynamics of family, community, happiness, friendship, history and most importantly love. Love in so many ways. Who knew that when August shared with the world these Pittsburgh stories, that history would again be made? August's plays always encourage us to make a difference in our community and to remember 'the ground on which we stand.' I know that I am a better woman, human being and artist because of his work.

"Art does not change the world; it changes people. People change the world." ~August Wilson~

#### **Radio Golf Production Bios**

Ayisha Morgan-Lee (*Production Stage Manager*) is a 2007 graduate from CMU, John Heinz School of Public Policy Masters in Arts Management Program. She interned with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre in New York and apprenticed with August Wilson Center for African American Culture. Ayisha is a 2005 cum laude graduate of Howard University with a BFA in Dance and Theater. While a student at Howard, Ayisha, under the tutelage of her professor, oversaw the management of the 2002 through 2005 International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) annual conferences. In 2003, Ayisha received the first Howard University Provost fellowships, which allowed her to travel to South Africa to study indigenous dances of South African people and perform at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival in South Africa with Kuntu Repertory Theatre in productions of Mahalia and Lady Sings the Blues. From this trip, Ayisha created a documentary on Dance in South Africa funded by Howard University. She is a sought after national speaker and presenter for national and local arts groups and conferences. Ayisha is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Bob Steineck (Light Design) has design credits spanning over 24 years that include concerts, ballet, modern dance, opera and theatre. He is currently resident lighting designer for Squonk Opera, Mercyhurst University Dance Dept., August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, Recording Artist, Maria Del Rey, and Stavcee Pearl Dance Project. Mr. Steineck has toured throughout the United States with such companies as Rennie Harris PUREMOVEMENT & RHAW, Squonk Opera, the Lyon Opera Ballet, Sankai Juku, Phoenix Dance Company, Kirov Ballet Academy and the "America Tour" for Stars on Ice. He has toured with Squonk Opera to Uijeongbu and Busan, South Korea, Edinburgh, Scotland and several cities in Belgium. As technical director, he has traveled to France, Italy and Iceland for Butoh dancer Maureen Fleming. For Bill Shannon/Crutch Productions, he has traveled to France and Mexico with the production Sketchy. Television/Video/DVD credits include The Paranoid Firebird for Pillow Proj. Dance Company, Astro-Rama for Squonk Opera, 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: AWCDE - The List & Dedication; OvreArts & Textures Ballet Co. world premieres of The Alkonost & Infinity; Squonk Opera's Go RoadShow performed for Ingenuity Cleveland & Mesa AZ; Octavia for Staycee Pearl Dance Proj. and Chicago for Univ. of Pgh. Johnstown.

**Mark Whitehead** (*Sound Designer*) 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. Additional directing credits include The Revenants, Cry Havoc, Taking Sides, and Fool for Love. Mark has designed sound for numerous local theaters, and is Resident Sound Designer for The Unseam'd Shakespeare Company and Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Company. Mark has won Onyx awards for best sound design three years in a row 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. He has also produced and directed music videos for several local bands.

**Cheryl M. El Walker** (*Costumes*) is an award-winning costume designer and make-up artist who is also a veteran stage actor from Pittsburgh. Her creative work has been seen in Kim El's "Straightening Combs" and she has earned several Onyx Awards for Best Costume Design, Best Make-up and Leading Actress, all from The African American Council for the Arts (AACTA). She also received the 2012 Legacy Award from The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company. Cheryl's stage performances include The Wilkinsburg Arts Theatre, New Horizon Theatre, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, PPTCO and most recently with the B.U.S 8 Tour with Bricolage. Cheryl is an alumna of Point Park University and is currently working at The August Wilson Center.

#### **Radio Golf Actor Bios Continued**



Kevin Brown (Elder Joseph Barlow)

A Native of August Wilson's Hill District. Radio Golf marks the sixth play in August Wilson's ten-play Pittsburgh cycle that he has had the pleasure of being a part of. The others include Eli in Gem of the Ocean, Gabriel in Fences, Wining Boy in The Piano Lesson, Sheally in Jitney, and Elmore in King Hedley II. Other credits include Hoke, Driving Miss Daisy The Jewish Theatre of Pittsburgh, The Billie Holiday Story and Mahalia Jackson Standing on Holy Ground performed in South Africa at the Grahamstown Theatre Festival. Flight-City Theater, Gospel at Colonus Opera Theater, Beautiful Dreamer-Pittsburgh Irish Classical Theater, Last Of The Line-August Wilson Center for African American Culture, Get Ready-New Horizon Theater, Bubbling Brown Sugar-Kuntu Repertory Theater and I Nipoti - Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater. Brown also has a few short films and commercials to his credits. Brown is one of the original founding members of the August Wilson Theater Ensemble. To my Family, Thank you for your allowing me the time to create.



Chrystal Bates (Mame Wilks)

An award-winning actor who just appeared at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater as Rebecca Pratt in Ma Noah, written by Mark Clayton Southers. This followed her performances at The August Wilson Center as Aunt Ester in Pittsburgh Playwright Theater's production of Gem of the Ocean and as Mother-Sister in Marcus Gardley's Every Tongue Confess produced by the August Wilson Center. Chrystal has performed in various other venues, including Southern Repertory Theater, Dillard University Theater, Pittsburgh City Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Alleghenv Regional Theater, Kuntu Theater, Rites and Reasons Theater, Little Lake Theater, Holt Cabaret, and the New Orleans' House of Blues. Some of her favorite roles include Big Momma (Livin' Fat), Marie Laveau, (In the Voodoo Parlour of Marie Laveau), Sophie (Flyin' West), Berniece (A Member of the Wedding), Susannah (Tintypes), Bertha (One Mo' Time), and Lola (Damn Yankees). Chrystal is also a playwright, poet, and director. Her play Jesus the Light of the World was produced by Victorious Faith Evangelistic Outreach, which toured ten years, including a performance at Howard University, and helped to fund the establishment of several water wells and churches in Kenya, Africa. She only recently returned to directorial duties this year, when she directed Pittsburgh Playwright Theater's production of Straightening Combs, an August Wilson Center's stage reading of Lyin' Ass, and a short for the SWAN Festival. Chrystal would like to dedicate her performance to Pap Pap, Charles Brown!



Eileen J. Morris (Director) is the artistic director of The Ensemble Theatre in Houston, Texas, the oldest African American theatre company in the Southwest that owns its facility. She worked closely with the founder of The Ensemble Theatre, George W. Hawkins, from 1982 until his death in 1990. As artistic director, she has produced over 78 productions, which include four world premieres and 57 regional premieres. She directs three plays each season at The Ensemble, most recently David Mamet's Race, Broke-ology, and the Nacerima Society. Her life journey led her to Pittsburgh for seven years where she was managing director for Kuntu Repertory Theatre and worked in the Pittsburgh theatrical community as a director and actress. Her strong Pittsburgh ties at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre have been directing-King Hedley II, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Fences as well as other plays; at New Horizon Theatre, she directed last season's production of Nothin' But the Blues, Hi Hat Hattie, I Gotcha: The Joe Tex Story (winner of the 2010 African American Council on the Arts Award) and others; and at Kuntu Repertory Theatre her directing credits include *Liftin*', and *Flyin' West* to name a few. Her artistic journey with Houston's Alley Theatre includes directing it's touring production of *I. Barbara Jordan* for three years and performing in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and *A Christmas Carol* (for three years). She was featured in the Women In Theatre Magazine (December 2011 Issue). She was a 2011 conversationalist with Table Talk through the University of Houston's 2011 Women's Studies Department, honored at the National Black Theatre Festival with the 2011 Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award, and awarded the 2012 Missouri City Chapter of Links Inc. Our Choice Award. Under her leadership, in 2012, The Ensemble Theatre became one of a few theatre companies to produce all ten August Wilson plays. Eileen holds the distinct privilege of being the only woman in the world to have directed eight plays of the August Wilson 10 play cycle.

# For more information on Eileen at The Ensemble Theatre visit www.ensemblehouston.com.

#### **Radio Golf Actor Bios**



Mark Clayton Southers (Harmond Wilks)

Kuntu Repertory Theatre under the helm of Dr. Vernel Audrey Watson Lillie. Some of his Kuntu productions include, Rob Penny's Among the best, Boppin with the ancestors and Diane Heart cries out for more. Other roles include Mae, Toussaint, Booker T and W.E. Dubois, Blues for an Alabama Sky, Tambourines of Glory, Cryin' Shame and Lifting by Frank Hightower. For New Horizon Theatre, The Trials and Tribulations of Stagger Lee Booker T Brown by Don Evans. Next Stop Ellipses for Each One Tell One in Gramstown South Africa. For Bricolage Theatre Company, Bus 3 & 6 and for the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company When The Water Turns Clear and the Comfort Zone. His film appearances include, Silence of the Lambs. Hoffa, Iron Maze, Striking Distance, Still I Rise and Lightweight. He's also appeared briefly on the Young and the Restless as police officer Eddie Giles. Numerous commercial, print & runway work. Mark 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 currently celebrating its tenth season. Mr. Southers has produced well over 125 full length and one act plays, including August Wilson's complete 10 play Pittsburgh Century Cycle. Mr. Southers is a published Poet, Actor and Playwright as well. His play Ma Noah was the recipient of the 2004 Theodore Ward prize at Columbia College, Chicago, His poem play Angry Black Man Poetry had a successful run at Teatr Śląski in Katowice, Poland in 2009.

Mark Clayton Southers began his theatrical career with the

I would like to thank August and this wonderful cast, crew & director for this great experience.



Arthur Terry (Roosevelt Hicks)

#### **Radio Golf Actor Bios Continued**

Playing Roosevelt Hicks is Art Terry who is greatly pleased to return to the local stage with this great cast. A multi-faceted acting professional, Art has been seen in a variety of media. A former "Theatre Festival in Black and White" Best Director and Best Monologue Winner, his previous stage credits include "Hambone" at PPTCO, where he played the role of Bishop and received the first AACTA "Best Leading Actor in a Play" award in 2004, "Get Ready" at New Horizons Theatre Co where he played "Knobby Coles" in 2007, and "The Separation of Blood: The Charles Drew Story" at Kuntu Repertory, directed by Woody King, where he played the title character in 2008. A talented voice artist and model, he's best known locally as the "Dollar Bank Fireman" in the popular long running radio, ty, and billboard ad campaign in PA and OH. Industrial credits are many and varied, with Bayer Corporation, Nationwide Insurance, Golf Galaxy, The Cleveland Clinic, Dietz and Watson Brand, Comcast Cable, and Penn State University among the opportunities, and his film credits include "Abduction", directed by John Singleton, released in 2011. He gives special thanks to Eileen J Morris for all she's done to preserve "Art for Art's Sake", is grateful for the opportunity to deliver August's work as a Pittsburgher, to Pittsburghers, and dedicates these performances to his family, especially "Big G in the Sky".



Wali Jamal (Sterling Johnson)

Being named by Mr. Bill Nunn as an "August Wilson Soldier" as the "The Struggle Continues". Radio Golf makes the ninth full production of Mr. Wilson's work that Jamal has performed in. His previous Wilsonian roles include; Toledo in Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Seth Holly in Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Avery in Piano Lesson, Canewell in Seven Guitars. Wolf in Two Trains Running. Hedley in Seven Guitars, Doub in Jitney, Caesar Wilks in Gem of the Ocean. Wali is very active as an actor, playwright, director in the theatre world. He also is videographer, editor and voice over artist at his own media enterprise, SLY VOX Video/Audio Service. "It is truly a milestone for Pittsburgh Playwright's Theatre Company to be the first theatre company to have completed the ten play cycle in the order of the productions produced on Broadway. It is equally a milestone for me to have performed in the first AW play that Mark produced and now the tenth. I feel so grateful for having met and chatted with Mr. Wilson on a few occasions. It definitely gave a much richer insight to approaching the characters he created." I wish to congratulate my dear friend, Mark Clayton Southers' company for providing this community with culture and significant entertainment.