

BOYS' LATIN OF PHILADELPHIA CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

AUGUST WILSON'S JITNEY



**VIEWER
DISCRETION
ADVISED**

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2024

5501 Cedar Ave / Philadelphia, PA 19143

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

While I love Wilson's work - the way his dialogue crackles, punctuating gut punches with harsh realities while slithering in humorous quips - I had no reason to believe as a white-presenting Latino that I would go near his work as an artist. Yet here we are.

August Wilson (1945-2005) is undeniably one of the most prolific Black American Playwrights to date. His work is frequently studied in the high school classroom, alongside Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, for the way it challenges audiences to examine what it means to be Black in America. Wilson went so far as to pen ten plays known as the American Century Cycle. Each play takes place in a different decade from 1900s-1990s and examines how universal themes and ideologies uniquely impact Black American life over the landscape of time.

Wilson's father, a Sudeten German immigrant, was mostly absent, so he was raised by his Black mother. Being biracial, Wilson struggled with identity. When his mother remarried following the divorce to his father, his family fell victim to much scorn. Wilson dropped out of high school multiple times, working odd-jobs to hide the fact he wasn't going to school. An undisputed bibliophile, he earned an honorary diploma for spending so much time in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh reading works by prolific Black writers. Against his mother's wishes, he pursued a career in writing and began writing plays. Among those early plays was *Jitney*.

Despite *Jitney* being the first play Wilson wrote for the American Century Cycle, it was the last to make it to Broadway. Wilson would continue to edit and re-write *Jitney*, playing in smaller theatres and Off-Broadway houses, while his subsequent plays would take on the big stages. In 2017, 12 years after Wilson's death, Manhattan Theatre Club brought *Jitney* to the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre on Broadway.

Wilson's legacy is undeniable. His work is produced nationally, including in Philly (most notably by Arden Theatre; they're mounting *King Hedley II* in February 2025). George C. Wolfe has committed to producing film adaptations of all 10 of the American Century Cycle plays, with *Fences* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* complete and *The Piano Lesson* coming soon. On October 16, 2005, 14 days after his death, the Virginia Theatre on Broadway was renamed the August Wilson Theatre.

As much as I think it is theatre's job to entertain, it is also the job of modern theatre to challenge the audience to think about the world. Some questions to ponder tonight: What has changed since the 1977 in Wilson's *Jitney*? What problems are we still seeing? How can we be a part of the change we want to see? What is stopping us from being the change? Why does it feel like this play was written only last week?

-C. J. Celeira

HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE TEACHER
HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT CHAIR

**BOYS' LATIN OF PHILADELPHIA
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS**

AUGUST WILSON'S JITNEY

**AUGUST WILSON'S JITNEY
IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT
WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS
ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.**

WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

NOTICE

TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE OF *AUGUST WILSON'S JITNEY* IS PRESENTED IN ITS ORIGINAL TEXT. THIS INCLUDES THE USE OF PROFANITY AND RACIALLY CHARGED LANGUAGE. THIS LANGUAGE IS NOT A REFLECTION OF THE BOYS' LATIN COMMUNITY, YET IT HAS BEEN PRESERVED TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE NARRATIVE AND THE AUTHOR'S INTENTION. VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.

CAST & CREW

CAST

In order of appearance

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| YOUNGBLOOD | MAKIH HEMPHILL* |
| TURNBO | ETHAN KENNEDY* |
| FIELDING | RANDELL CAMPBELL* |
| DOUB | ROBERT DOBBS* |
| SHEALY | MESSIAH OUTERBRIDGE |
| PHILMORE | ALEXANDER JARRELLS* |
| BECKER | KYLE ROBERTS* |
| RENA | CAMIEL WARREN-TAYLOR |
| BOOSTER | JA'KI SEALS |

CREW

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| DIRECTOR | MR. C.J. CELEIRO |
| STAGE MANAGER | MICAH WHITE* |
| PROP MASTER | BRIAN GREEN |
| WARDROBE SUPERVISOR | JEVONMICHAEL LEWIS |
| BACKSTAGE CREW | KHALIF BARAKAT-COOPER ZION FOXWORTH ISAIAH LEE |
| UNDERSTUDY | ISAIAH LEE |

*DENOTES MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY TROUPE #11493

SETTING

JIM BECKER'S JITNEY CAR SERVICE
HILL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

TIME

EARLY FALL, 1977

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE:
MID-MORNING

SCENE TWO:
EARLY AFTERNOON, THE SAME DAY

SCENE THREE:
THE FOLLOWING MORNING

SCENE FOUR:
THIRTY MINUTES LATER

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE:
THE NEXT DAY

SCENE TWO:
EARLY EVENING, THE SAME DAY

SCENE THREE:
THE FOLLOWING DAY

SCENE FOUR:
THREE DAYS LATER

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

SETTING

BECKER'S JITNEY CAB SERVICE
HILL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

TIME

EARLY FALL, 1977

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

DR. WILLIAM HAYES, CEO

MS. COLLEEN SMITH, COO

MR. ROBERT PARKER III, H.S. PRINCIPAL

MR. ROBERT FLETCHER, H.S. ACADEMIC SYSTEMS MANAGER

MR. MICHAEL SANFORD, M.S. PRINCIPAL

MS. RUTH GONZALEZ, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

MS. CHRISTINA SHEPPARD, H.S. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MR. TYLER JACKSON, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

MR. GARY EVANS, FACILITIES MANAGER

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MR. JAMES JONES

COACH MICHAEL CARTER

NECOLE WARREN-TAYLOR

THE BOYS' LATIN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AMANDA, FINN, MIKE, KATHY, CLARE,

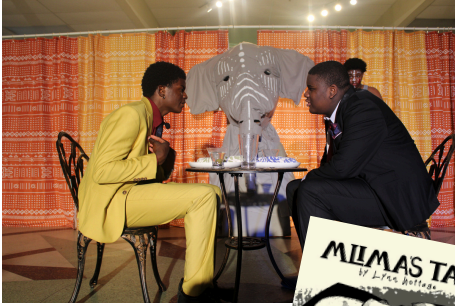
MOM, DAD, VINCENT, PERDITA, & TITUS

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,
THE ENTIRE BOYS' LATIN COMMUNITY OF
FACULTY, STAFF, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY**

THAT INCLUDES YOU.

**IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU AND YOUR SUPPORT THAT WE
ARE ABLE TO CREATE LIVE THEATRE AND KEEP THE
ARTS ALIVE IN OUR SCHOOL.**

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF BL'S NEW THEATRE DEPARTMENT!



AUGUST WILSON'S JITNEY MARKS THE 6TH PRODUCTION UNDER MY DIRECTION OF THE NEW THEATRE DEPARTMENT.

**HERE'S TO MANY MANY MORE!
THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
-MR. CELEIRO**

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/07/2024 **FALL PLAY:**
11/08/2024 ***AUGUST WILSON'S JITNEY***
11/09/2024 THE FIRST PLAY WRITTEN BY AUGUST WILSON
FOR THE AMERICAN CENTURY CYCLE

12/18/2024 **STAR OF WONDER**
WINTER CONCERT
FEATURING BROTHERS IN SONG

02/28/2025 **BLACK HISTORY MONTH HARAMBEE**
A FULL CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY
FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY THE BOYS'
LATIN COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

04/03/2025 **SPRING PLAY:**
04/04/2025 ***WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S THE TEMPEST***
04/05/2025 SHAKESPEARE'S LATE ROMANCE FILLED WITH
MAGIC, MISCHIEF, AND MADNESS

04/09/2025 **SOLO RECITAL**
FEATURING BROTHERS IN SONG

05/29/2025 **SPRING CONCERT**
FEATURING BROTHERS IN SONG

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