

**UAB Department of Theatre
Upcoming Productions**

The Praying Mantis

By Alejandro Sieveking
Directed by Naomi Baker
March 10, 11 and 15-19, 2006
Odess Theatre

The Doctor In Spite of Himself

By Molière
Directed by Ward Haarbauer
April 19-23, 2006
Sirote Theatre

For Individual Tickets please call ASC Box Office at 975-2787.

A Special Partnership with Artist Homer O. Johnson

The antique piano with ancestral African carvings is the focal point of the late August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize winning play, *The Piano Lesson*. Every producing company faces the daunting task of recreating an heirloom of such striking beauty and provocative nostalgia as to incite an enduring family feud. To achieve the realism the designers were striving for, UAB Theatre researched regional sources for a craftsman specializing in African wood carving. **The Kentuck Festival**, nationally recognized for the quality and diversity of artistic styles ranging from folk, traditional to contemporary arts, provided the name of Tuskegee artist Homer O. Johnson, and a special partnership was formed. UAB designer Cliff Simon and student scene designer Monica Hooper worked closely with Johnson, providing specifications for the panels covering an antique upright. Johnson's artistry brings the ancestors of Boy Willie and Berniece, central characters of *The Piano Lesson*, to life. His work with UAB Theatre led to a special exhibit of his other works at The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute through March 26. Information on the exhibit is available by calling the BCRI at (205) 328-9696.

Homer Johnson was born at John Andrew Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1958. He attended St. Joseph Elementary School and graduated from Tuskegee Institute High in 1976. After graduation Johnson joined the U.S. Army and served three years in Europe for his full tour of duty.

Upon his return to the U.S. Johnson resided in Atlanta, Georgia, where he met George "Ju Ju" Ferrell Jr., an accomplished jewelry maker. Through his association with Ferrell, Johnson began making jewelry and, after a few years branched out into clay and metal sculpting. This new passion prompted him to enroll in Atlanta Junior College to study art. Johnson graduated in June 1990 with an Associate of Arts degree and soon after relocated to Tuskegee because of his mother's ill health.

In 1994 Johnson changed mediums out of necessity. He explains, "I tried my hand at wood carving because it was the only medium that was available to me. I taught myself to carve faces and learned a few techniques from an associate. I worked with a small roofing company to earn a meager living."

Since his mother's passing in March 2000 Johnson has devoted all his spare time to wood carving and various kinds of wood work, most of them African American related. Johnson's thoughts tend toward the spiritual when talking about the chain of events that led him to regional recognition.

"God has blessed me with this talent to share with anyone who can relate. The message in my art is create, educate and elevate yourself."

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

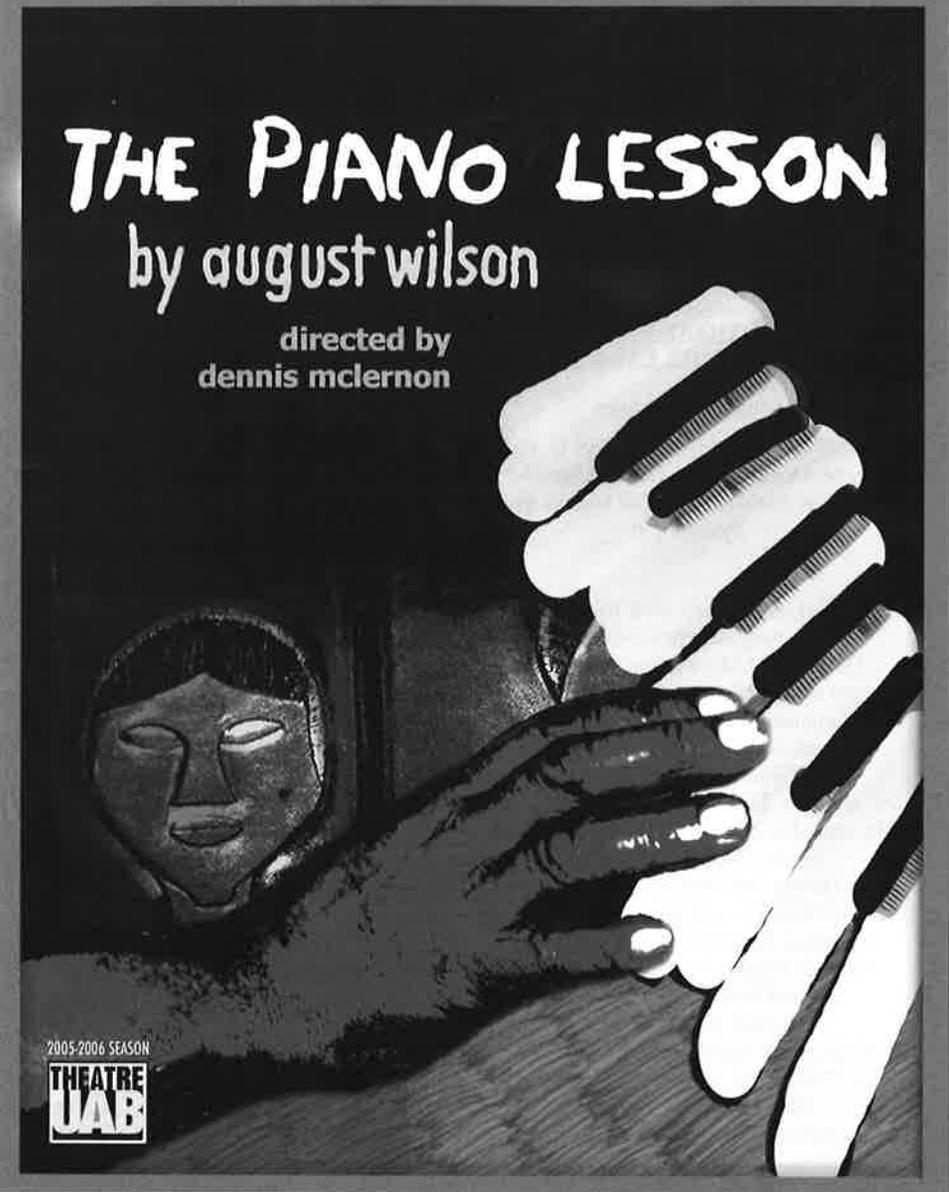
Department of Theatre

at the Sirote Theatre

in the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center

THE PIANO LESSON
by august wilson

directed by
dennis mclernon



2005-2006 SEASON
**THEATRE
UAB**

OVATION UAB

(Sponsored by Theatre Advisory Committee)

Opening nights at Theatre UAB are OVATION UAB nights. OVATION UAB sponsors a box dinner and conversation with the director and designers before the show, as well as a post-performance party with the cast and crew.

Join us! You will be able to invite your friends to enjoy a tasty meal before the plays, be already parked and ready to settle back for an evening of live theatre.

OVATION UAB has the mission to support and sponsor the students working backstage and performing in Theatre UAB. Membership dues, ranging from \$10 - \$2500, are used to off-set the costs required of each student to participate in the productions.

To become a member of OVATION UAB, please pick up a brochure in the lobby outside the theatre and complete the form. Follow mailing directions listed in the brochure.

Help us support our rising stars!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT OVATION UAB MEMBERS

Founding Members

Russell Drummond, Col. Daniel D. Hall,
Patty McDonald, Carol Odess, Chandler S.
Smith, Jane Paris Smith, BBS Martha Moore
Sykes Fund

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berg, Bert Brouwer,

Drs. Eli and Mary Lynne Capilouto,
Peggy and Michael Carlisle, Louise Cecil,
Mel Christian, Glen Conn Jacqueline David,
Frank Dawson, Linda DeRocher,
Wilbur & Denise Doonan

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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Freeman, Pat Fresk,
Dr. and Mrs. Woodie Fritz,

Dan Gainey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Glaze,
Darlene Gray, Dr. and Mrs. Ward Haarbauer,
Jonathan Harrison, S. David Herring,
Charles Joyner, Dr. Deborah Levine,

Mr. and Mrs. C. David Loggins,
Mr. and Mrs. John Meier,

Drs. George and Emily Omura, Herb Patterson,
W. B. Philips, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rentschler,
Mr. and Mrs. John Smith,

Martha Sykes, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Tournay,
Joyce Whitten, Chalethia Williams and Will York



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival-
XXXVIII

Presented and Produced by

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Supported in Part by

The U.S. Department of Education
Dr. and Mrs. Gerald McNichols

The Laura Pels International Foundation

The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund
The National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2006.

Last year more than 1,400 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Theatre UAB Production Staff

Production Manager.....Kelly Allison
Technical Director.....Ed Zuckerman♦
Costume Studio Supervisor.....Elizabeth Ayres Pollard

Program Manager.....Mel Christian

Stage Electrics Director.....Richelle Thompson
Properties Master.....Phillip Anderson♦
Scenic Studio Foreman/Master Carpenter.....T. J. King

Assistant Costume Studio Supervisor.....Rachel Vrubel
Scenic Studio Assistants.....Ethan Feigel, J. Reid Patton, Tobie Windham,
Robert Woods

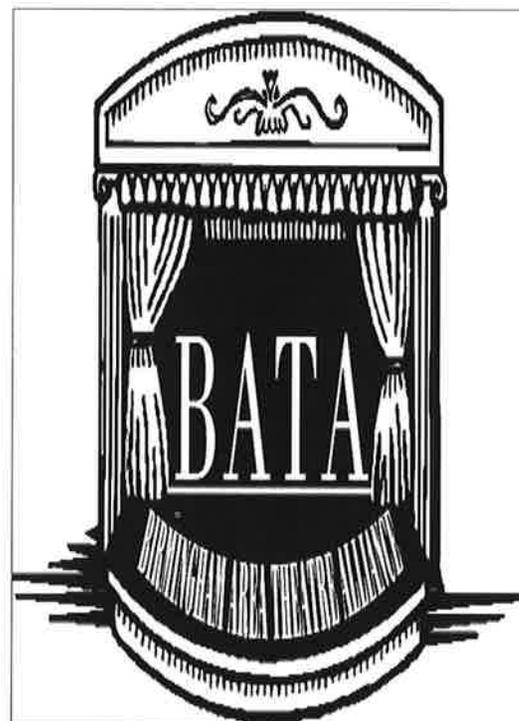
Lighting Assistants.....Dustin Cañez, Jonathon Offutt
Costume Assistants.....Skye Geerts, Kristina Howard, Amanda Mattes
Jennifer Pouyadou, Valerie Wynn

Properties Assistants.....Monica Hooper♦, Jonathan Offutt

Media Relations.....Shannon Thomason

House Manager.....Jerry Sims

Associate House Manager.....Ed Rosendahl



Theatre UAB Advisory Committee

Russell S. Drummond
and
Joyce Whitten, Co-Chairs
Peggy Carlisle
Woodie and Victoria Fritz
Ward Haarbauer
Jonathan Harrison
Alan Hunter
Deborah Levine
Patty McDonald
Bob and Nancy Rentschler
Pierre and Holly Tournay
Chalethia Williams

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Theatre
and
Patty McDonald and Carol Odess
present

The Piano Lesson

By August Wilson

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Scenic Design
Monica Hooper♦

Lighting/EFX Design
Ed Zuckerman♦

Costume Design
Rachel Vrubel

Audio Design
Richelle Thompson

Stage Manager
Dustin Cañez

**Directed by
Dennis McLernon**

Opening Night, Wednesday, February 22, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

This production is funded in part by The UAB Cultural Activities Committee

♦Member of Psi Beta Cast, Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honorary

CAST *In Order of Appearance*

Doaker.....James McCarty, Jr.
Boy Willie.....Tobie Windham
Lymon.....T.J. Crawford
Berniece.....Stefannie Azoroh
Maretha.....Shari Perry
AveryJason Hudson
Wining BoyAnthony Orum
GraceRobin Reed

SETTING

The action of the play takes place in the kitchen and parlor of the house where Doaker Charles lives with his niece, Berniece, and her eleven-year-old daughter, Maretha.

The play will be performed with two intermissions.

Director's Notes

The Piano Lesson is a story that needs to be heard. August Wilson has crafted a play which focuses on many experiences of the Charles Family. The family serves as the particular inhabitants of a world that is peopled by countless others and has effected and has impacted the entirety of civilization. For though the background of *The Piano Lesson* is slavery, that "peculiar institution", its foreground is humanity. Mr. Wilson chronicles the several journeys of the Charles family. We have the benefit of the record of August Wilson's writing to take us with him. Boy Willie, Berniece, Doaker, Wining Boy, Avery, Lymon and young Maretha have no such benefit. They must rely upon what has emerged as the foremost vehicle for African American heritage in the modern age: the oral tradition. And beyond that the representation of legacy and lineage in the handcrafted work of artisans that were deprived the opportunity to tell their stories. The journeys that each of these family members embarks upon will appear, in many ways, particular to their heritage. Yet, as we watch the passion of their struggle, the universal comes forward, and we recognize the essence of the underlying question which burns within each of us : Who am I?

The exploration of this single question, through the genius of Mr. Wilson, uncovers the complexities of still deeper questions and issues of faith, heritage, family, self-awareness, metamorphosis, independence, and the permutations of bondage which still haunt our lives.

UAB THEATRE FACULTY

Kelly Allison, ProfessorHead of Design Technology
Naomi Baker, Assistant Professor.....Voice
Jack Cannon♦, Assistant Professor.....Intro to Theatre
D. Ward Haarbauer, Professor/Associate Dean.....Theatre History
Cheryl Hall♦, Assistant Professor.....Intro to Theatre
Ron Hubbard, Associate Professor.....Movement
Karma Ibsen.....Professor Emeritus
Tad Ingram, Visiting Assistant Professor.....Acting/Directing
Dennis McLernon, Assistant Professor..... Acting
Elizabeth Ayres Pollard, Assistant Professor.....Costume Technology
Kimberly Schnormeier, Associate Professor/Associate Chair.....Costume Design
Lee Shackleford♦, Instructor..... Playwriting
Cliff Simon, Assistant Professor.....Scene Design
Will York♦, Professor/Interim Chair..... Head of Performance
Ed Zuckerman♦, Associate Professor.....Technical Director

Adjunct Faculty

Martha Haarbauer.....Acting
Charlotte Lantz.....Dance
Chalethia Williams.....Acting

Billie Sheldon.....Administrative Associate

A Special Thank-You To:

Travis Smith of Smith Farms for donated trees.

*Homer Johnson for piano carvings and to
Phillip Anderson, Monica Hooper and
Jonathon Offutt for additional details to the piano.*

Staff for this Production

Vocal/Dialect Coach.....Naomi Baker
Production Master Electrician.....Richelle Thompson
Cutter/Draper.....Rachel Vrubel
Assistants to Scene Designer.....Jonathon Offutt, J. Reid Patton
Assistant Lighting Design.....Jonathon Offutt
Assistant Stage Managers..... Ashley Culpepper, Cathie Strickland
Scenery/Lighting Construction..... Timothy Craig, Kyle Darson,
Sarah Hereford, Rachel Hill, Jason Hudson,,
Christopher Lopez, Courtney Love, James McCarty, Jr.,
Jonathan McCrary, Pete Moffatt, Jason Neil,
Kevin Parker, J. Reid Patton, Michael Scott,
Angela Watkins, Chris Whetstone,
Tobie Windham, Robert Woods
Scene PaintersEthan Feigel, Sarah Hereford, Jason Hudson,
James McCarty, Jr., J. Reid Patton,
Properties Construction.....Raven Alexander, Marie Bolivar-Cano,
Ashley Hubbert♦, Jason Neil, Wes Seals♦
Costume/Craft Construction.....Jacob Blagburn, Sarah Brandt,
Dessilyn Chappell, Alyssa Duke, Alex Fritz, Rachel Hill,
Krystal Hsu, Ashley Hubbert♦, Alec James, Jason Neil, Kristi Norton,
Sara Oakes, Anthony Orum, Keith Pettaway, Brittney Rentschler,
Briski Shoultz, Ashley Starling, Charlsie Taylor, Linda Thach,
Chris Whetstone, Melissa West, Robert Woods
Electrics Crew.....Bridgette Humphries, Norman Ferguson, John Kevin Pocus
Scenery/Properties Running Crew.....Raven Alexander
Costume Running Crew.....Jacob Blagburn♦, Joelle Tucker♦
Light Board Operator.....Pete Moffatt
Audio Board Operator.....Rafael Rios
Cover/Poster Design..... Cliff Simon

Theatre UAB

Presents

A New Theatre For Youth Production

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Adapted by Lee Shackleford from the novel by Mark Twain

June 9-17, 2006

Odess Theatre