



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **Playbill for Ma Rainey's Black Bottom on Broadway**

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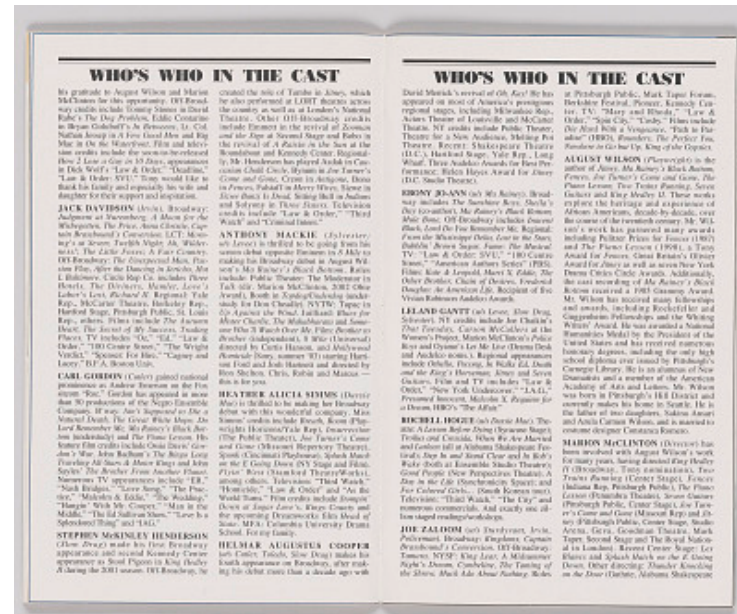
his gratitude to August Wilson and Marion McClinton for this opportunity. Off-Broadway credits include Tommy Stones in David Rabe's *The Dog Problems*, Eddie Contarino in Bryan Goluboff's *In Between*s, Lt. Col. Nathan Jessep in *A Few Good Men* and *Big Mac* in *On the Waterfront*. Film and television credits include the soon-to-be-released *How 2 Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, appearances in Dick Wolf's *"Law & Order,"* "Deadline," *"Law & Order: SVU."* Tony would like to thank his family and especially his wife and daughter for their support and inspiration.

JACK DAVIDSON (Irvin). Broadway: Judgment at Nuremberg, A Moon for the Misbegotten, The Prince, Anna Christie, Captain Brassbound's Conversion. LCT: Morning's at Seven; Twelfth Night; Ah, Wilderness!; The Little Foxes; A Fair Country. Off-Broadway: The Unexpected Man, Passion Play, After the Dancing in Jericho, Hot L Baltimore, Circle Rep Co. includes Three Hotels, The Diviners, Hamlet, Love's Labor's Lost, Richard II. Regional: Yale Rep., McCarter Theatre, Berkeley Rep., Hartford Stage, Pittsburgh Public, St. Luis Rep, others. Film include the Autumn Heart, The Secret of My Success, Trading Places. TV includes "OZ," "Ed," "Law & Order," "100 Centre Street," "The Wright Verdict," "Spenser: For Hire," "Cagney and Lacey." B.F.A. Boston Univ.

CARL GORDON (Cutler) gained national prominence as Andrew Emerson on the Fox sitcom "Roc." Gordon has appeared in more than 50 productions of the Negro Ensemble Company. B'way: Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death, The Great White Hope, Do Lord Remember Me, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (understudy) and the Piano Lesson. His feature film credits include Ossie Davis' Gordon's War, John Bradham's The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars & Motor Kings and John Sayles' The Brother From Another Planet. Numerous TV appearances include "ER," "Nash Bridges," "Love Song," "The Practice," "Malcolm & Eddie," "The Wedding," "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper," "Man in the Middle," "The Ed Sullivan Show," "Love Is a Splendored Thing" and "JAG."

STEPHEN MCKINLEY HENDERSON (Slow Drag) made his first Broadway appearance and second Kennedy Center appearance as Stool Pigeon in King Hedley II during the 2001 season. Off-Broadway, he created the role of Turnbo in Jitney which he also performed at LORT theatres across the country as well as at London's National Theatre. Other Off-Broadway credits include Emmett in the revival of Zooman and the Sign at Second Stage and Bobo in the revival of A Raisin in the Sun at the Roundabout and Kennedy Center. Regionally Mr. Henderson has played Azdak in Caucasian Chalk Circle, Bynum in Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Creon in Antigone, Bono in Fences, Falstaff in Merry Wives, Sizwe in Sizwe Banzi Is Dead, Sitting Bull in Indians and Solonyon in Three Sisters. Television credits include "Law & Order," "Third Watch" and "Criminal Intent."

ANTHONY MACKIE (Sylvester; u/s Levee) is thrilled to be going from his screen debut opposite Eminem in 8 Mile to making his Broadway debut in August Wilson's Ma Rainey's Black Bottom. Roles include: Public Theater: The Moderator in Talk (dir. Marion McCClinton, 2002 Obie Award), Booth in Topdog/Underdog (Understudy for Don Cheadle). NYTW: Tupac in Up Against the Wind. Julliard: Blues for Mister Charlie, The Mahabharata and Someone Who'll Watch Over Me. Film: Brother to Brother (independent), 8 Mile (Universal) directed by Curtis Hanson, and Hollywood Homicide (Sony, summer '03) starring Harrison Ford and Josh Hartnett and directed by Ron Shelton. Chris. Robin and Marcus --



this is for you.

HEATHER ALICIA SIMMS (Dussie Mae) is thrilled to be making her Broadway debut with this wonderful company. Miss Simms' credits include *Breath, Boom* (Playwrights Horizons/Yale Rep), *Insurrection* (The Public Theater), *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Missouri Repertory Theatre), *Spunk* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *Splash Hatch on the E Going Down* (NY Stage and Film), *Flyin' West* (Stamford TheatreWorks), among others. Television: "Third Watch," "Homicide," "Law & Order" and "As the World Turns." Film credits include *Stompin' Down at Sugar Love's*, *Kings County* and the upcoming Dreamworks film *Head of State*. MFA: Columbia University Drama School. For my family.

HELMAR AUGUSTUS COOPER (u/s Cutler, Toledo, Slow Drag) makes his fourth appearance on Broadway, after making his debut more than a decade ago with

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#### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

David Merrick's revival of *Oh, Kay!* He has appeared on most of America's prestigious regional stages, including Milwaukee Rep., Actors Theatre of Louisville and McCarter Theatre. NY credits include Public Theater, Theatre for a New Audience, Melting Pot Theatre. Recent: Shakespeare Theatre (D.C.), Hartford Stage, Yale Rep., Long Wharf. Three Audelco Awards for Best Performance; Helen Hayes Award for *Jitney* (D.C. Studio Theatre).

EBONY JO-ANN (u/s Ma Rainey). Broadway includes *The Sunshine Boys*, *Sheila's Day* (co-author), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* *Mule Bone*. Off-Broadway includes *Inacent Black*, *Lord Do You Remember Me*. Regional: *From the Mississippi Delta*, *Lost in the Stars*, *Bubblin' Brown Sugar*, *Fame: The Musical*. TV: "Law & Order: SVU," "100 Centre Street," "American Authors Series" (PBS). Films: *Kate & Leopold*, *Marci X*, *Eddie*, *The Other Brother*, *Chain of Desires*, *Frederick Douglas: An American Life*. Recipient of five Vivian Robinson Audelco Awards.

LELAND GANTT (u/s Levee, Slow Drag, Sylvester). NY credits include Joe Chaikin's *That Tuesday*, Carson McCullers at the Women's Project, Marion McCClinton's *Police Boys* and Oyamo's *Let Me Live* (Drama Desk and Audelco noms.). Regional appearances include *Othello*, *Pecong*, *In Walks Ed*, *Death and the King's Horseman*, *Jitney* and *Seven Guitars*. Film and TV includes "Law & Order," "New York Undercover," "J.A.G.," *Presumed Innocent*, *Malcolm X*, *Requiem for a Dream*, HBO's "The Affair."

ROCHELL HOGUE (u/s Dussie Mae). Theatre: *A Lesson Before Dying* (Syracuse Stage); *Troilus and Cressida*, *When We Are Married* and *Lurleen* (all at Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *Step In and Stand Clear* and *In Bob's Wake* (both at Ensemble Studio Theatre); *Good People* (New Perspectives Theatre); *A Day in the Life* (Synchronicity Space); and *For Colored Girls...* (South Korean tour). Television: "Third Watch," "The City" and numerous commercials. And exactly one zillion staged readings/workshops.

JOE ZALOOM (u/s Sturdyvant, Irvin, Policeman). Broadway: Kingdoms, Captain Brassbound's Conversion. Off-Broadway: Tamara. NYSF: King Lear, A midsummer Night's Dream, Cymbeline, The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado About Nothing. Roles at Pittsburgh Public, Mark Taper Forum, Berkshire Festival, Pioneer, Kennedy Center. TV: "Mary and Rhoda," "Law & Order," "Spin City," "Cosby." Films include Die Hard With A Vengeance, "Path to Paradise" (HBO), Rounders, The Perfect You, Nowhere to Go but Up, King of the Gypsies.

AUGUST WILSON (Playwright) is the author of Jitney, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Fences, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, The Piano Lesson, Two Trains Running, Seven Guitars and King Hedley II. These works explore the heritage and experience of African Americans, decade-by-decade, over the course of the twentieth century. Mr. Wilson's work has garnered many awards including Pulitzer Prizes for Fences (1987) and The Piano Lesson (1990), a Tony Award for Fences, Great Britain's Olivier Award for Jitney as well as seven New York Drama Critics Circle Awards. Additionally, the cast recording of Ma Rainey's Black Bottom received a 1985 Grammy Award. Mr. Wilson has received many fellowships and awards, including Rockefeller and Guggenheim Fellowships and the Whiting Writers' Award. He was awarded a National Humanities Medal by the President of the United States and has received numerous honorary degrees, including the only high school diploma ever issued by Pittsburgh's Carnegie Library. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Mr. Wilson was born in Pittsburgh's Hill District and currently makes his home in Seattle. He is the father of two daughters, Sakina Ansari and Azula Carmen Wilson, and is married to costume designer Constanza Romero.

MARION McCLINTON (Director) has been involved with August Wilson's work for many years, having directed King Hedley II (Broadway, Tony nomination), Two Trains Running (Center Stage), Fences (Indiana Rep, Pittsburgh Public), The Piano Lesson (Penumbra Theatre), Seven Guitars (Pittsburgh Public, Center Stage), Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Missouri Rep) and Jitney (Pittsburgh Public, Center Stage, Studio Arena, Geva, Goodman Theatre, Mark Taper, Second Stage and the Royal National in London). Recent Center Stage: Les Blancs and Splash Hatch on the E Going Down. Other directing: Thunder Knocking on the Door (Guthrie, Alabama Shakespeare

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