



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Playbill for Further Mo'

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VILLAGE GATE

THE SPUNK OF ZORA

Spunk is playwright George C. Wolfe's brilliant adaptation of three short stories by the late Zora Neale Hurston

[[image - stage scene, a man and two women, the man is whipping a woman dressed as a slave]]
[[image - stage scene, 3 men and two women sitting on stage]]
[[image - stage scene, a man and a woman, the man plays a guitar]]
Photos by Martha Swope
[[caption]] [[three]] Scenes from Spunk, currently playing at NY Shakespeare Festival's Public Theatre [[/caption]]

The renewed interest in the works of Zora Neale Hurston (circa 1901-1960), known as the "Queen of the Harlem Renaissance," has inspired a fascinating theatrical event called Spunk at New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theatre. Playwright George C. Wolfe, author of the acclaimed play The Colored Museum, has adapted and directed three tales from the Hurston canon and fashioned them into a sort of black Canterbury Tales.

To set the project in motion, Wolfe has wisely chosen two superlative artists, guitarist Chic Street Man and blues singer Ann Duquesnay, to serve as musical narrators for the three stories about to be told. The first one, "Sweat," is based on a tale published posthumously in 1979 in a Hurston anthology called I Love Myself When I'm Laughing... and Then Again When I'm Looking Mean and Impressive. It concerns a Florida washerwoman who achieves a triumphant revenge on her husband who beats and abuses her. That may sound depressing, but Wolfe staging, the splendid acting of Danitra Vance and Reggie Montgomery, and an unusual course of men in masks who serve as commentators on the action fuse it into a work of art.

The second and most successful of the adaptations, "Story in Harlem Slang," is a hilarious vignette about two young comen from out of town trying to get the
By Louis Botto

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[[advertisement]]
[[image - photo showing a red Ford Taurus sedan about to turn into a curve of the road toward the observer, seen against a background of green trees]]

"Cars as good as the Ford Taurus roll forth but once per generation."
- Car and Driver

It's not often that a car receives this kind of praise. Then again, it's not

The collage consists of two main parts. On the left is a newspaper clipping from 'VILLAGE GATE' titled 'THE SPUNK OF ZORA'. The article discusses playwright George C. Wolfe's adaptation of three short stories by Zora Neale Hurston. It includes three small black and white photographs of stage scenes from the play. The text of the article is partially visible, mentioning the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theatre and the play's current run. On the right is a Ford Taurus advertisement. It features a large photograph of a red Ford Taurus sedan driving on a road. The headline reads: 'Cars as good as the Ford Taurus roll forth but once per generation.' Below this, it says 'Car and Driver'. The ad also mentions 'Unsurpassable 60MPG powertrain warranty' and 'Ford's 100,000 mile powertrain warranty'. At the bottom, it says 'Ford Taurus' and 'Have you driven a Taurus... lately?' with the Ford logo.

often that a car like Ford Taurus comes along. And over the years, its superb performance and innovative design have made it a resounding success with car buyers and critics alike. As Car and Driver put it: "This car, an established best-seller in the marketplace, established itself as first in the hearts of [our] staff..." (Which may explain why Taurus has been named one of Car and Driver's "Ten Best Cars" for five straight years.)

But you can rest assured that we're not resting on our laurels. In fact, Taurus now offers advanced features like optional anti-lock brakes – proof that this design leader is dedicated to staying a leader. Ford Taurus the next car of its kind may be a generation away.

Buckle up-together we can save lives.


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The best-built American cars are built by Ford. This is based on an average of consumer-reported problems in a series of surveys of all Ford and competitive '81-'89 models designed and built in North America. At Ford, "Quality is Job 1."

Taurus for 1990 comes equipped with a driver air bag supplemental restraint system.

Ford Taurus
Have you driven a Ford...lately? 
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