



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Theatre playbill for A Soldier's Play

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[[circled]] the Negro Ensemble Company inc. [[/circled]]

1560 BROADWAY * SUITE 800 * NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036 *
212-575-5860

Dear Friend,

Having just seen "A Soldier's Play", I know that you share our pride and joy for Charles Fuller's great success. You know that the play won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize, 3 Obie Awards, The Outer Critics Circle Award, New York Drama Desk Award and the Theatre Club Award. But, are you aware of the long road traveled to reach this success?

The NEC'S relationship with Charles Fuller began in 1974 with our production of his early play, "In The Deepest Part Of Sleep". Then in 1976 we produced "The Brownsville Raid", and in 1980 our production of his "Zooman And The Sign" won two Obie Awards. Without the NEC -- the only fully professional Black theatre company in the United States -- today Charles Fuller might still be an unknown, black playwright in search of a company to produce his works and an audience to appreciate them. But, because there is an NEC to provide Charles Fuller with these unique opportunities to mature and refine his craft in a professional setting, "A Soldier's Play" will now become a major motion picture from Columbia Pictures. The current NEC tour of "A Soldier's Play" will be seen in 16 cities, coast to coast, including a week of performances at the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival in Los Angeles.

Charles Fuller is only one of our success stories. In the 16 years of the NEC's existence, more than 4,000 minority men and women have received training, experience and encouragement through the NEC in all aspects of legitimate theatre. The alumni roster of the NEC is a virtual "Who's Who" of Black Artists in the theatre, television and film industry today.

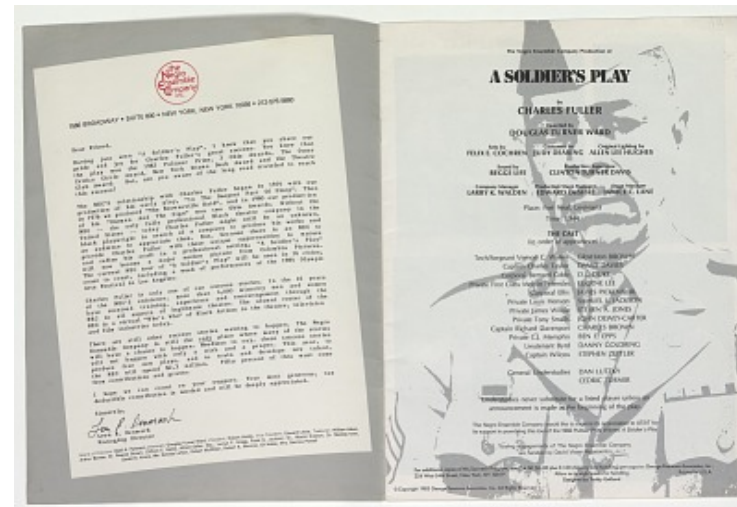
There are still the success stories waiting to happen. The Negro Ensemble Company is still the only place where many of the stories will have a chance to happen. Needless to say, these success stories will not happen with only a wish and a prayer. This year, to produce four new plays, and to train and develop new talent, the NEC will spend \$2.3 million. Fifty percent of this must come from contributions and grants.

I hope we can count on your support. Your most generous, tax deductible contribution is needed and will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

[[signature]]
Leon B. Denmark
Managing Director

Board of Directors: Basil A. Paterson, Chairman; Douglas Turner Ward, President; Robert Hooks, Vice President; Edward Lewis, Treasurer; William Aiken, Arthur Barnes, Dr. Roscoe Brown, Clifford E. Gates, Alfred Geller, Esq., Lucius P. Gregg, Pazel G. Jackson, Sr., Martin Kreston, Dr. Matilde Krim, Gerald S. Krone. Ms. DaVida Lofton, Robert



McMillan, Robert A. Monroe, Gil Noble, Mrs. Bernice Powell

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[[text superimposed on image of black man in military uniform]]

The Negro Ensemble Company Production of

A SOLDIER'S PLAY

by CHARLES FULLER

Directed by DOUGLAS TURNER WARD

Sets by FELIX E. COCHREN
Costumes by JUDY DEARING
Original Lighting by ALLEN LEE HUGHES
Sound by REGGE LIFE
Production Supervisor CLINTON TURNER DAVIS
Company Manager LARRY K. WALDEN
Production Stage Manager EDWARD DeSHAE
Stage Manager JANICE C. LANE

Place: Fort Neal, Louisiana
Time: 1944

THE CAST
(in order of appearance)
Tech/Sergeant Vernon C. Waters GRAHAM BROWN
Captain Charles Taylor DAVID DAVIES
Corporal Bernard Cobb O.L. DUKE
Private First Class Melvin Peterson EUGENE LEE
Corporal Ellis JAMES PICKENS, JR.
Private Louis Henson SAMUEL L. JACKSON
Private James Wilkie STEVEN A. JONES
Private Tony Smalls JOHN DEWEY-CARTER
Captain Richard Davenport CHARLES BROWN
Private C.J. Memphis BEN E. EPPS
Lieutenant Byrd DANNY GOLDRING
Captain Wilcox STEPHEN ZETTLER

General Understudies DAN LUTZKY CEDRIC TURNER

Understudies never substitute for a listed player unless an announcement is made at the beginning of the play.

The Negro Ensemble Company would like to express its appreciation to AT&T for its support in promoting this tour of the 1982 Pulitzer Prize Winner, A Soldier's Play.

Touring engagements of the Negro Ensemble Company are handled by David Visser Represents.

For additional copies of this Souvenir Program, send \$4.00 (\$3.00 plus
\$1.00 shipping and handling) per copy to:
George Fenmore Associates, Inc.,
254 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019.
Allow six to eight weeks for handling.
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