



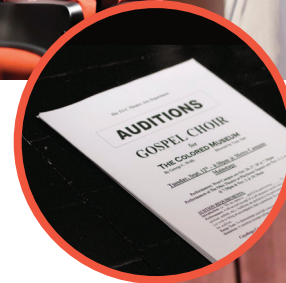
Theater Departments COLLABORATE AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

College-wide production of *The Colored Museum* will take the stage in Ohio Theatre

Cuyahoga Community College will stage its second College-wide theater production in early November in the Ohio Theatre at Playhouse Square. The production of *The Colored Museum* will bring together the theater departments from Eastern, Metropolitan and Western campuses and put the collective cast and crew under the lights of the second-largest theater district in the country.

Director Tony Sias said the College-wide production was the definition of “community.” “Casting students from all three campuses, the cast may be from three, but you are one,” Sias, president and CEO of Karamu House said.

The Colored Museum is a play told in 11 stand-alone vignettes, imagined as pieces hanging in a gallery. The satire, written by George C. Wolfe, explores race and stereotypes, both celebrating and criticizing African-American culture. With racial tension rising in the United States, Sias said the play could not be timelier. He added that, although the play explored themes as they related to African Americans, those themes — cultural assimilation, bigotry, etc. — were applicable to other minorities in the United States, like Muslims.



“It would be easy to only hear the humor,” Sias, who previously taught theater at Tri-C, said. “We want to stimulate a person’s consciousness. It’s a challenging piece to produce.”

The cast of 10-12 actors, choir of 8-10 singers and crew comprise mostly students. Sias said the set and lighting were critical. They have to convey multiple locations and times. They have to be flexible and — as the play will open at Western Campus before traveling to Playhouse Square — transportable.

Along with the pleasures of producing a play in one of the nation’s premier theaters come the challenges. Sias said staging a play at Playhouse Square taught students the nitty-gritty of producing a piece of

professional theater — fun stuff like policy and procedure, union rules, industry standards and more. It is an opportunity for real-world learning.

“It’s a very effective model, and it gives [students] real experience,” Sias said.

The College’s inaugural College-wide production was *To Kill a Mockingbird*, staged at Playhouse Square and Western Campus last year.

Cuyahoga Community College stages The Colored Museum at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 2-4 in the Ohio Theater, Playhouse Square, 1501 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.

Tickets are available at 216-241-6000 or playhousesquare.org.