

SOUL REP. **ON THE CUSP...**



February 2020

WHO WE ARE

- A respected and critically acclaimed 23 year old company that recently concluded its 12th Season – CURTAINS RISING – at the South Dallas Cultural Center, our home base for the last 3 years
- A company founded by three Black women, alumni of Arts Magnet and dynamic HBCU theater programs
- A company committed to transforming lives and communities through the power and craft of theater that enlightens the IMAGINATION, SPIRIT, and SOUL
- A theater company committed to stories that EXPLORE, CELEBRATE, and VALUE the Black experience
- A theater company dedicated to developing and nurturing the next generation of theater artists and patrons
- A company with 51 productions under its belt, including 10 New Play Festivals and 13 full productions of original work developed by our company members, such as THE FREEDMANS, our signature piece featured in the 2018 Elevator Project, this past May



WHERE WE ARE

- On the cusp of our next level or organizational development: Moving from being a dynamic and quality community theater to full fledged professional theater company...again
- Four full engaging seasons under our belt since returning to the Dallas theater scene five years ago
- The last year of our current 5 year strategic plan that positions us for this next level of growth – securing part and full-time salaries, professional development for leadership; identifying a permanent “home” for company; diversifying



WHERE WE ARE (CONT'D)

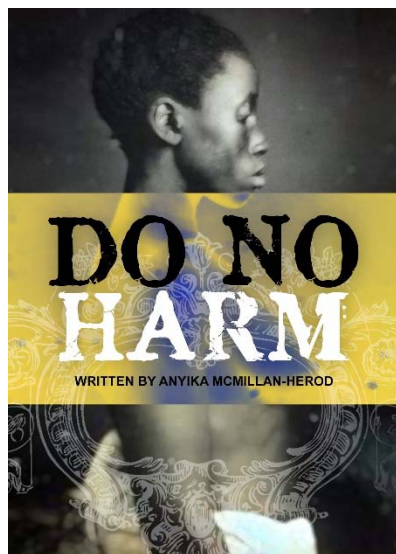
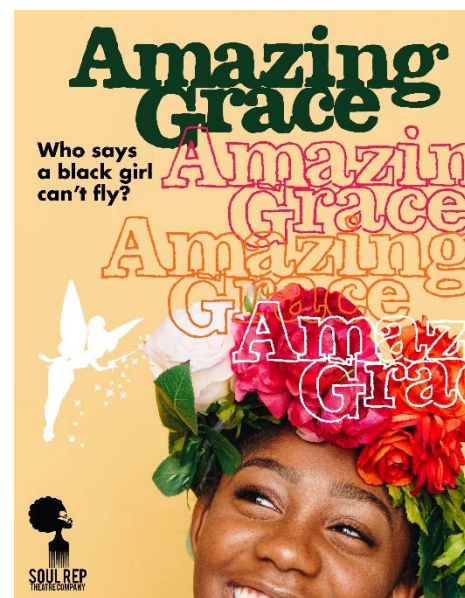
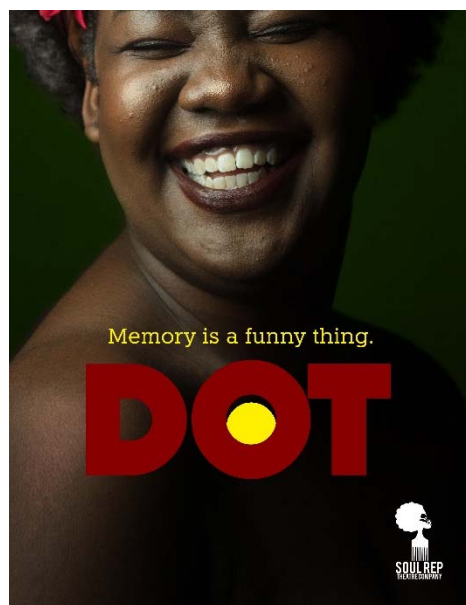
- Annual Budget is doubling each year. Last calendar/FY year was \$57,404. Current budget is over \$100k and 2020 is projected to be \$200k+
- Our partnership with the SDCC has given us stability to grow, re-engage with the community, and re-ignite our mission!
- Board leadership is growing with quality, effective members
- Embarking on “lucky” 13th season of plays – SOUL TO KEEP
- Plan on holding inaugural “signature”



Soul Rep 2

SOUL REP
THEATRE
SEASON 13





SOUL REP THEATRE 1996 – 2019

BY THE NUMBERS

- Produced **10** New Play Festivals that **PREMIERED 55** short or one act plays to Dallas audiences!
- Produced over 50 full plays, 30% of which were new works, 38% were regional premieres
- 72%** of the plays were written by women
- 70%** of the plays were written by playwrights of color
- 91%** of the talent hired (actors, directors, designers, and stage managers) were locally based

Building their rep art and soul

Company's festival brings new African-American plays to the stage

By Tom Sime

Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

Soul Rep is using its second annual New Play Festival to show off its talent pool. The festival features one-act plays written, directed and acted by members of Soul Rep, Dallas'



YOUNG, BLACK AND GIFTED

Though often raw, works sparkle with creativity

By Lawson Talbot
Staff Writer, The Dallas Morning News

The ideal theater has always been a company like Shakespeare's where the members take turns writing, directing and acting their own stuff. And that's exactly what Soul Rep is doing in its festival this weekend at Teatro Dallas, New Voices '96: Simply Black.

Given the artists' youth, it's amazing how fine the work on view at Thursday's opening performance was.

Soul Rep is the theatrical wing of a larger performance cooperative called Soul Nation. Artistic director Guineo Bennett has organized the festival from the work of five young African-American playwrights. Three of these writers are also directing each other's work, and four are onstage acting.

The other director is Nedra James, who taught many of these young creator-performers at the Booker T. Washington School of the Performing and Visual Arts. A number have gone on to become students or graduates of Prairie View A&M University or Howard University.

But Soul Rep doesn't feel like a student group. One measure of its maturity



The Dallas Morning News Photo Thompson

ENCOUNTER: Christopher Tracy and Guineo Bennett star in *The Prophet*, a work from the play festival New Voices '96: Simply Black.

former girlfriend. She is older, has two children and is on parole. His family doesn't approve, but she attracts him because she believes in him.

The Prophet, simpler and more sym-

The subtle performances help a lot. Mr. Bennett shades the disillusioned young woman in *The Prophet* with a wide spectrum of emotions. Mr. Jones and Ms. McMillan strike sparks from one

Infrared and the High Priest of Hip Hop will be featured at later performances.

■ **PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**
New Voices '96: Simply Black, presented by Soul Rep at Teatro Dallas, 2204 Commerce

Soul Rep play festival widens focus to embrace 'humanity'



TOM SIME

ARTS OUT THERE

Since it began as "New Voices: Simply Black" in 1996, Soul Rep Company's annual festival of new works has taken on a wider view.

As this year's official theme — "The Spirit of Humanity" — suggests, the Fourth Annual New Play Festival, opening Friday, isn't simply black anymore.

The evolution from a showcase for writings by Soul Rep company members to a multicultural regional event is "something we planned," says executive director Anyika M. Miles.

The company put out a call for



Gerardo Pineda, artist and associate curator at the Meadows Museum, Southern Methodist University, P.O. Box 750244, Dallas, Texas 75275-0204, or call 214-768-2014.

Tom Sime writes about emerging artists, community arts and theater for The Dallas Morning News. To submit information on upcoming events, call 214-877-7743 or fax 214-877-6934. Or write to Tom Sime, Arts and Entertainment, The Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, P.O. Box 65317, Dallas, Texas 75265.

There's a non-refundable \$15 entry fee. The poster deadline is July 11. Results will be announced Aug. 15. To request an applica-