Plays by Black Artists

Featured Playwrights

Adrienne Kennedy

- Funnyhouse of a Negro (1964)
- The Owl Answers (1965)
- A Rat’s Mass (1967)
- The Lennon Play: In His Own Write (1967)
- A Beast’s Story (1969)
- A Lesson in Dead Language (1968)
- Electra and Orestes (1972)
- An Evening with Dead Essex (1972)
- A Movie Star Has to Star in Black and White (1976)
- A Lancashire Lad (1980)
- Black Children’s Day (1980)
- Diary of Lights (1987)
- She Talks to Beethoven (1989)
- The Ohio State Murders (1992)
- The Film Club (monologue by Suzanne Alexander), 1992
- The Dramatic Circle (radio drama based on The Film Club; published 1994 in Moon Marked and Touched By Sun: Plays by African-American Women, edited by Sydné Mahone), 1992
- Motherhood 2000 (single scene short play), 1994
- June and Jean in Concert (play version of Kennedy’s book People Who Led to My Plays), 1995
- Sleep Deprivation Chamber (with son Adam Kennedy), 1996
- Mom, How Did You Meet the Beatles? (with son Adam Kennedy), 2008
- He Brought Her Heart Back in a Box, 2018

Lynn Nottage

- Poof! (1993)
- Por’Knockers (1995)
- Crumbs from the Table of Joy (1996)
- Mud, River, Stone (1996)
- Las Meninas (2002)
- Intimate Apparel (2003)
- Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine (2004)
- Ruined (2007)
- By the Way, Meet Vera Stark (2011)
Sweat (2015)
Milma’s Tale (2018)

August Wilson
Recycle (1973)
Black Bart and the Sacred Hills (1977)
Fullerton Street (1980)
Jitney (1982)
Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom (1984)
Joe Turner’s Come and Gone (1984)
Fences (1987)
The Homecoming (1989)
The Coldest Day of the Year (1989)
The Piano Lesson (1990)
Two Trains Running (1991)
Seven Guitars (1995)
King Hedley II (1999)
How I Learned What I Learned (2002)
Radio Golf (2005)

Suzan Lori Parks
The Sinner’s Place (1984)
Betting on the Dust Commander (1987)
Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom (1989)
Pickling (1990) (radio play)
Third Kingdom (1990) (radio play)
Locomotive (1991) (radio play)
Devotees in the Garden of Love (1992)
The America Play (1994)
Venus (1996)
In The Blood (1999)
 Fucking A (2000)
Topdog/Underdog (1999)
Unchain My Heart (The Ray Charles Musical) (2007)
The Book of Grace (2010)
Porgy and Bess (2011) (Book Adaptation)
Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2, and 3) (2014)
White Noise (2019)

General List

19th Century
Slaves’ Escape; or, The Underground Railroad by Pauline Hopkins (1880)
Clorindy By Will Marion Cook and Paul Laurence Dunbar (1898)

20th Century
Treemonisha by Scott Joplin (1911)
Undertow by Eulalie Spence (1927)
The Medea by Countee Cullen (1935)
Pocomania by Una Marson (1938)
Big White Fog by Theodore Ward (1938)
Take a Giant Step by Louis Peterson (1953)
The Amen Corner by James Baldwin (1954)
Venetian Blinds by Rosa Guy (1954)
 Trouble in Mind by Alice Childress (1955)
A Land Beyond the River by Loften Mitchell (1957)
Moon on a Rainbow Shawl by Errol John (1958)
The Marriage of Anansewa by Efua Sutherland (1958)
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry (1959)
The Lion and the Jewel by Wole Soyinka (1959)
The Tragedy of King Christophe by Aimé Cesaire (1963)
Blues for Mister Charlie by James Baldwin (1964)
Dutchman by Leroi Jones (1964)
Day of Absence by Douglas Turner Ward (1965)
Dream on Monkey Mountain by Derek Walcott (1967)
The Corner by Ed Bullins (1967)
In the Wine Time by Ed Bullins (1968)
A Tempest by Aimé Cesaire (1969)
Ceremonies in Dark Old Men by Lonne Elder (1969)
Black Masque by George Houston Bass (1970)
Don’t Bother Me, I Can’t Cope by Vinnette Justine Carroll and Micki Grant (1971)
Toe Jam by Elaine Jackson (1971)
Sizwe Banzi Is Dead by Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona (1972)
Freedom Ways by Amah Harris (1973)
What the Wine Sellers Buy by Robert Milner (1974)
Black Picture Show by Bill Gunn (1974)
The Fabulous Miss Marie by Ed Bullins (1974)
The Great MacDaddy by Paul Carter Harrison (1974)
Death and the King’s Horseman by Wole Soyinka (1975)
For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf by Ntozake Shange (1976)
A Photograph: Lovers In Motion By Ntozake Shange (1977)
Unfinished Woman Cry In No Man’s Land While A Bird Dies In A Gilded Cage by Aishah Rahman (1977)
Anansi Tales by Amah Harris (1977)
The Mighty Gents by Richard Wesley (1978)
Daughters of the Mock by Judy Ann Mason (1978)
Spell #7 by Ntozake Shange (1979)
Take it from the Top by Ruby Dee (1979)
A Season to Unravel by Alexis DeVeaux (1979)
Jazz Set by Robert Milner (1980)
Malacoff Blue by George Houston Bass (1981)
The Brothers by Kathleen Collins (1982)
Brown Silk and Magenta Sunsets by PJ Gibson (1985)
The Tale of Madame Zora by Aishah Rahman (1985)
The Mojo and The Sayso by Aishah Rahman (1987)
Konvergence by PJ Gibson (1989)
dark diaspora in dub: a dub theatre piece by Ahdri Zhina Mandiela (1992)
Fires in the Mirror by Anna Deavere Smith (1992)
Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 by Anna Deavere Smith (1994)
Only In America by Aishah Rahman (1994)
Sistahs by Sharon Lewis and Maxine Bailey (1994)
Angelique by Lorena Gale (1995)
Insurrection: Holding History by Robert O”Hara (1996)
Diva Studies by Elizabeth Alexander (1996)
Dink’s Blues by Philip Hayes Dean (1996)
Harlem Duet by Djanet Sears (1997)
21st Century

The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin by Kristen Childs (2000)
Neat by Charalayne Woodard (2001)
Da Kink In My Hair by Trey Anthony (2001)
Yellowman by Dael Orleandersmith (2002)
In Real Life by Charalayne Woodard (2002)
Born Bad by Debbie Tucker Green (2003)
Generations by Debbie Tucker Green (2005)
Stick Fly by Lydia Diamond (2006)
Flight by Charalayne Woodard (2007)
Passing Strange by Stew (2007)
In The Continuum by Danai Gurira and Nikkole Salter (2008)
The Mountaintop by Katori Hall (2009)
The Good Negro by Tracy Scott Wilson (2009)
The Ballad of Emmett Till by Ifa Bayeza (2009)
Gas Girls by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard (2009)
Eclipsed by Danai Gurira (2010)
Seed by Radha Blank (2010)
Nannyland by Radha Blank (2010)
Reverb by Radha Blank (2010)
Chiaroscuro By Aishah Rahman (2010)
Bootycandy by Robert O’Hara (2011)
The Night Watcher by Charalayne Woodard (2011)
The Brother/Sister Plays by Tarrell McCraney (2011)
Steal Away Home by Shauntay Grant (2011)
We Are Proud to Present... by Jackie Sibblies Drury (2012)
Casket Sharp by Radha Blank (2012)
pomme is french for apple by Bahia Watson and Liza Paul (2012)
Detroit 67 by Dominique Morisseau (2013)
The Convert by Danai Gurira (2013)
Luck of the Irish by Kirsten Greenidge (2013)
Harry and the Thief by Sigrid Gilmer (2014)
Bright Half Life by Tanya Barfield (2014)
Forever by Dael Orleandersmith (2014)
Our Lady of Kibeho by Katori Hall (2014)
Black Odyssey by Marcus Gardley (2014)
The House That Will Not Stand by Marcus Gardley (2014)
Appropriate by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (2014)
An Octoroon by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (2014)
Gloria by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (2015)
Good Friday by Kristiana Rae Colón (2016)
Venus’ Daughter by Meghan Swaby (2016)
Notes from the Field: Doing Time in Education by Anna Deavere Smith (2016)
Familiar by Danai Gurira (2016)
Buzzer by Tracey Scott Wilson (2016)
Nat Turner in Jerusalem by Nathan Alan Davis (2016)
Adventures Of The Black Girl In Search Of Her God by Lisa Codrington (2016)
Skeleton Crew by Dominique Morisseau (2016)
Pipeline by Dominique Morisseau (2017)
Pass Over by Antoinette Nwandu (2017)
School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play by Jocelyn Bioh (2017)
Coat by Yomi Sode (2017)
HYPE MAN: a break beat play by Idris Goodwin (2017)
The Emancipation of Ms. Lovely by Ngozi Paul (2017)
Good Grief by Ngozi Anyanwu (2017)
Homecoming Queen by Ngozi Anyanwu (2018)
SELL/BUY/DATE by Sarah Jones (2018)
Slave Play by Jeremy O’Harris (2018)
What to Send Up When It Goes Down by Aleshea Harris (2018)
Is God Is by Aleshea Harris (2018)
Florissant and Canfield by Kristiana Rae Colón (2018)
Tilikum by Kristiana Rae Colón (2018)
Misty by Arinzé Kene (2018)
Mingus by Tyler English-Beckwith (2018)
Fairview by Jackie Sibblies Drury (2018)
Marys Seacole by Jackie Sibblies Drury (2019)
A Strange Loop by Michael R. Jackson (2019)
BLKS by Aziza Barnes (2019)
How to Catch Creation by Christina Anderson (2019)
The Bridge by Shauntay Grant (2019)
Mashup by Bahia Watson and Liza Paul (2019)
Ain’t No Mo by Jordan E Cooper (2019)
One in Two by Donja R Love (2019)
Obeah Opera by Nicole Brooks (2019)
The Negroes Are Congregating by Natasha Adiyana Morris (2019)
Mirrors by Azure D. Osborne-Lee (2020)
Black Feminist Video Game by Darrel Alejandro Holnes (2020)
Bayano by Darrel Alejandro Holnes (2020)

**Further Resources**

I’m Black When I’m Singing, Blue When I Ain’t by Sonia Sanchez (2010)
Embodying Black Experience: Stillness, Critical Memory, and the Black Body by Harvey Young (2010)
Say Word! Voices from Hip Hop Theater by Daniel Banks (2011)
Beyond Blackface: African Americans And the Creation of American Popular Culture, 1890-1930 by W. Fitzhugh Brundage (2011)
Solo/Black/Woman by E. Patrick Johnson & Ramon Rivera Servera) (2013)
Blacktino Queer Performance by E. Patrick Johnson & Ramon Rivera-Servera (2016)
The Black Scholar by Stephanie Batiste (2019)
Casting a Movement: The Welcome Table Initiative, eds. Daniel Bank & Claire Slyer (2019)
Staging Black Fugitivity - Stacie Selmon McCormick (2019)