



BRUCE ROBINSON,
Founder/Executive Artistic Director

Fresh Visions Youth Theatre Company

Transforming Kids and Communities Through the Arts

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HOW MUCH LONGER MUST THE BLACK WOMAN
"WAIT?"

FreshVisions Youth Theatre Adult Series Presents
THE RETURN OF ROBERT HIGHTOWER'S
“THE WAIT”

Back by popular demand, FreshVisions Youth Theatre's Adult Series presents **"The Wait"** at the **Germantown Theatre Center, 4821 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA** for three weekends, beginning **July 25th - August 10th**. Showtime: **Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 PM and Sunday matinees at 4:00 PM.** Ticket donation is **\$15** for all shows. For further information, call 215-228-0954 or 267 334-1512.

"**The Wait**," the late Robert Hightower's powerful and gripping play, is a celebration of and tribute to the African-American woman. The Wait combines the absurdist whimsy of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" along with the piecing poetry and dramatic poignancy of Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girl's Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf." This combination makes "**The Wait**" an unforgettable theatrical experience.

"**The Wait**" uses a surrealist style, which does not tell the story in the traditional sense. Rather, it explores the deep emotional reactions of eight very different black women-the "good girl," "the mother figure," the "fallen woman," etcetera - who have been compelled

to come to an undefined place—somewhere in time/space— to wait for direction and fulfillment. They say they are waiting for their men, and variously express their feelings, both bitter and sweet, towards these men (real or imagined) who are “supposed to come” to free them, care for them, and deliver to them the fulfillment they seek. While the women are waiting, magical and bizarre things transpire. Things, which lead them to discover a common bond of suffering and sacrifice, struggle and hope, joys and woes, from which emerges a sisterhood of radiant love. This stunning masterpiece of Robert Hightower's premiered in 1974 at the Germantown Theatre Guild,(now the Germantown Theatre Center, under the direction of Edie Chapman, the same venue to which it now returns, to once again, delight a new generation of audiences.

Robert Hightower, was a colossus of African American Theater in Philadelphia in the 70's and 80's. He was an actor, playwright, director and teacher. He was the long time Artistic Director and guiding force of Stage East Repertory Company, one of Philadelphia's premier Black theatre's during its time. In addition, he was the Festival Director for Philadelphia's first Black Theatre Festival. As an actor Mr. Hightower broke ground as one of the first black actors to be used in non-traditional casting by a major Philadelphia theatre when he was cast as Bob Cratchit in the Germantown Theatre Guild's "A Christmas Carol." Mr. Hightower also wrote a collection of poems; co-authored two elementary mathematics programs; wrote a weekly newspaper column for the Philadelphia Tribune and other published articles and educational tracts. He sadly passed away five years ago but, his legacy survives in the foundation he help to lay for the development of black theatre in Philadelphia; in the thousands of theatre patrons he touched, and in the countless theatre artists that he discovered, mentored, and shaped; including FreshVisions' founder and executive artistic director, Bruce Robinson.

“The Wait” is--for the third time--directed by Thom Wilkins, FreshVisions Associate Artistic Director, who was Hightower’s Assistant Artistic Director at Stage East. Directing this piece is a labor of love for Thom because it serves as his personal tribute to the life and artistry of his colleague and friend.

"The Wait" is produced by the FreshVisions Youth Theatre Company's Adult Series. FreshVisions Youth Theatre’s Adult series was launched with “The Wait,” some four years ago, and since then has presented such stellar pieces of theatrical power and

excellence as R. A. Murray's "Brother It Ain't About You;" Douglas Turner Ward's "Day of Absence;" and twice, to unprecedented popular and critical success James De Jongh's, "Do Lord, Remember Me." All of these productions, with the exception of "Brother It Ain't About You," were directed by Wilkins.

FreshVisions' mission is the transformation of kids and communities through the performing arts; and presents high-level professional caliber theatre with youth from the ages of 5-17. They are the product of FreshVisions unexcelled training component. FreshVisions joins a high standard of artistic excellence with a strong social purpose. The Adult Series continues and expands this tradition of excellence with plays that utilize older performers, many of whom are FreshVisions' alumni.—and, that delve into more mature themes. and subjects

"The Wait" will leave you breathless with its kaleidoscopic sweep of human emotions. You will, laugh, cry, and think as you experience the passion and glory of these beautiful Black women as they continue to.....**"Wait."**

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