

'Home' Comes To Central's B.N. Duke Auditorium

A Broadway play that is as "black as a multi-move hand-shake," and as soul-stirring as an O'Jays love song," comes to NCCU Wednesday, September 14.

"Home," the story of a North Carolina man who grew up on a farm, pulled time in prison, and ran north to find freedom, but returned home to find peace and contentment, will be performed by a national touring company in B.N. Duke Auditorium on campus.

The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1 for students and \$3 for everyone else. Tickets are on sale in Room 125 at the Student Union. The plays NCCU appearance is sponsored by the Student Union.

The play, which opened on Broadway in May 1980 and later garnered several awards after playing to rave reviews, tells a story that almost everyone black can identify with.

It is the story of Cephus Miles, a bright, playful character who loves the simple life—the field work on his grandfather's farm, the fiery kick of homemade whiskey and the rip-roaring Saturday night fish fries.

But as a young man, he loses his girl, his grandfather loses the farm, and Miles, who firmly believes people shouldn't kill each other, marches off to prison for refusing to go to Viet Nam.

Upon his release from prison, he runs north to New York to find freedom, but instead finds the hard times of welfare handouts and street corner drug deals.

Finally, like the prodigal son he'd often read about in the New Testament, Miles takes the long bus ride home to North Carolina where he finds love, peace and contentment. This causes him to say that the God he's accused of being on vacation in Miami has returned, and Miles says simply "Welcome back."

The play is the work of Samm-Art Williams, 36, a native of Burgaw, N.C., a small farming town in eastern North Carolina that claimed some degree of notoriety several years ago as the site of the Wilmington 10 convictions. Burgaw is just like the country town where the play takes place.

Williams' mother, a drama and literature teacher, encouraged him to develop an interest in writing as early as his high school years. After graduating from Baltimore's Morgan State College in 1968, Samm-Art set out for New York to launch a career in both acting and playwriting.

He adopted his hyphenated name when he found an actor in New York, already on stage, whose name is also Sammy Williams.

Though Samm-Art enjoyed reasonable success as an actor, his playwriting career was going no place fast.

"Home" went through many rewrites before I reached the final draft. From December 22, 1976 until the summer of 1978, I was constantly with the play. Having readings. Trying to find a producer. Beating the pavement to drum up interest, he said.

"At times it seemed so difficult and hopeless and rejection of the script so constant, I began to wonder if I was the only person in the world who considered 'Home' a great play. 'Maybe it's too simple,' I thought. 'Not complicated enough. Positive endings are old-fashioned.'"

Williams also thought about how far from the roots of "Home" he had come. "It all began on Greyhound. Being afraid to fly, I usually travel home to Burgaw, by bus. This one particular Christmas, 1976

it was, rolling south from New York City, I began to daydream about old friends and times past. I anticipated with joy, being home with my family for the holidays, seeing my old buddies, and getting my hands on some good home-made wine. Little did I know, as my thoughts wandered, that I was planting the seeds of a Broadway play."

Back in New York, the romance was over. Once Williams had the script, he then had to get it produced. Finally, after a long seige, Douglas Turner Ward, the artistic director of the Negro Ensemble Company, put the play in a staged reading series. Williams had been a member of the company's Playwright's Workshops for some time, and so his play had found a niche, however small, at NEC.

Next came a full production.

"I cried. All the rejections and turn-downs going from producer to producer just melted away," Williams said. First, the show opened off-Broadway to rave reviews. It was happening! Then when I found out that the major producing team of McCann-Nugent (the sponsors of "Dracula" and "The Elephant Man") wanted to move the play to Broadway, I was practically struck dumb. Surely I must be receiving someone else's blessings!"

The play opened at the Cort Theatre on May 7, 1980 and again received rave reviews. The play ran for over 400 performances in New York that season, an exceptional record for a non-musical presentation. In addition, "Home", nominated for two Tony Awards and the Outer Circle Critics Award for Best Play of the Year, won the 1980 Audelco Award for the highest achievement in the craft of black playwriting and theatre production.

Since then "Home" has been seen in Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh — practically every major city in the country. "Home," a tale whose beginnings hark back to an actor-writer's holiday bus ride down South, has joined "For Colored Girls" and "The River Niger" as one of the most successful and best loved black plays of the past decade.

Sunday

September 12, 1982

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	Kenneth Copeland	Jerry Falwell	Mighty Mouse Heckle/Jockle Blackstar		Jimmy Swaggart	World Tomorrow Spiritual Awakening	James Robison It Is Written	Dr. D. James Kennedy
7:15								
7:30	Rex Humbard Oral Roberts	Kenneth Copeland	Visitation Mystery Gospel Jubilee		Frederick K. Price	Robert Schuller He Is Risen	Three Stooges & Friends	Gospel Expo Show My People
7:45								
8:00	Sunday Morning	Jim Bakker	Sunday Morning		Dr. Jerry Falwell	Oral Roberts Rex Humbard	Lost In Space	Jimmy Swaggart
8:15								
8:30		Jerry Falwell			Domino Effect Matinee: "Blondie"	Day Of Discovery Dimensions 5	Lighter Side Of News Theatre	Robert Schuller
8:45	Day Of Discovery		David Horowitz					
9:00	Champion Fishing Face The Nation	Jimmy Swaggart	F.Y.I. Face The Nation		Has Servant Trouble	First Presbyterian Church		TBA
9:15								This Week With David
9:30	UNC Football NFL FB: Washington	UNC Football NFL '82	TBA NFL FB: Washington		Theatre II: "Somewhere In The Night"	Monte Kiffin Duke Football		Brinkley Little Rascals
9:45								
10:00	vs. Eagles	NFL FB: Houston vs. Cincinnati	vs. Eagles	Firing Line		This Week With David Brinkley	Rat Patrol This Week In Baseball	Battleship Galactica
10:15								
10:30				Crisis To Crisis	Theatre III: "Don't Make Waves"	Pro & Con Southern Sportsman	Atlanta Braves	Showcase: "Law And Order"
10:45								
11:00				Oil Painting Moneymaker		Cinema 5: "Tailgunner Joe"		
11:15								
11:30	U.S. Open Tennis	Miami vs. N.Y. Jets	U.S. Open Tennis	Lap Quilting Victory Garden	Movie: "Don't Look Now"			
11:45								
12:00				World At War			News Undersea The Park	Sanford & Son Sportsbeat
12:15								
12:30				N.C. People	Playhouse 5: "Newman's Law"	News 5	Jacques	News
12:45				Reel Perspectives	Stateline	ABC News	Coastal Nice People	ABC News
1:00	60 Minutes	Catalina C Lab	60 Minutes	Classic Country		Code Red	Wrestling	Code Red
1:15								
1:30	Archie Bunkers One Day At A Time	Chips	Archie Bunker's One Day At A Time	Nova	Lawrence Welk	Modesty Blaise		Modesty Blaise
1:45								
2:00	Alice Jeffersons	Theatre: "Skyward"	Alice	Masterpiece Theatre	Merv Griffin	ABC Movie: "Death On The Nile"	This Week In Review	ABC Movie: "Death On The Nile"
2:15								
2:30	Trapper John		Trapper John	Rubenstein	News		TBS News	
2:45					Healthbeat			
3:00	News	Montage	News CBS News Mary Tyler Moore	Twilight Zone	Sports Wrapup Movie: "The Show"	News 5 ABC News: Late Movie	Jerry Falwell	News ABC News Barry Farber's
3:15	Mo Forte Show	Jim Bakker						
3:30	Movie: "Charlie Chan In Rio"	Insight	Rockford Files		Deadly Game		Open Up	Entertain This Week
3:45								

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