

# Womyn With Wings

In his works "Black Man Rising" and "Our Young Black Men Are Dying And Nobody Seems To Care," Playwright James Chapmyn entertains while educating and enlightening audiences about the everyday struggles, joys and pains of African-American males. But the sistas aren't off-limits for this creative genius.

In "Womyn With Wings," Chapmyn tells of grief and growth, hurt and healing. Like all of his work, "Womyn" is a choreopoem - a work in which music, movement and the spoken word work in collusion. Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls" is perhaps the most famous work of this genre.

Chapmyn's works have been staged by playhouses around the world. The Flow Theater, a Columbus, Ohio-based based company with which Chapmyn is affiliated, will present "Womyn With Wings" at this year's NBTF.

The show celebrates the power of the female spirit by telling the stories of women who have endured the kind of trails and tribulations that could break people. But these women have survived, developed



Flow Theater Photo

*The Players.*

wings and flown on to better days. breast cancer, mutilation and other unimaginable abuses. Chapmyn makes it a point to stress that his play doesn't focus on prominent women, but everyday ladies who have endured rape,

- *The Chronicle*

# Black Man Rising

At the 2007 National Black Theatre Festival, "Black Man Rising" quickly became an audience favorite. The cast of good-looking, well-built actors undoubtedly drew many to the play, but they left the show knowing that these brothers were more than handsome faces.

Chapmyn's acclaimed choreopoem uses poetry, monologues, dancing, gospel music and hip hop to show how many black men are rising above expectations. StageFace Productions, in association with Obsidian Media Group, have received critical acclaim for their production of the play. The AUDELCO Awards, which recognizes the best in black theater, has embraced the show, honoring it with four awards: Best Director (Patricia R. Floyd), Outstanding Ensemble Performance, Best Choreographer (Juson Williams) and Dramatic Production of the Year.

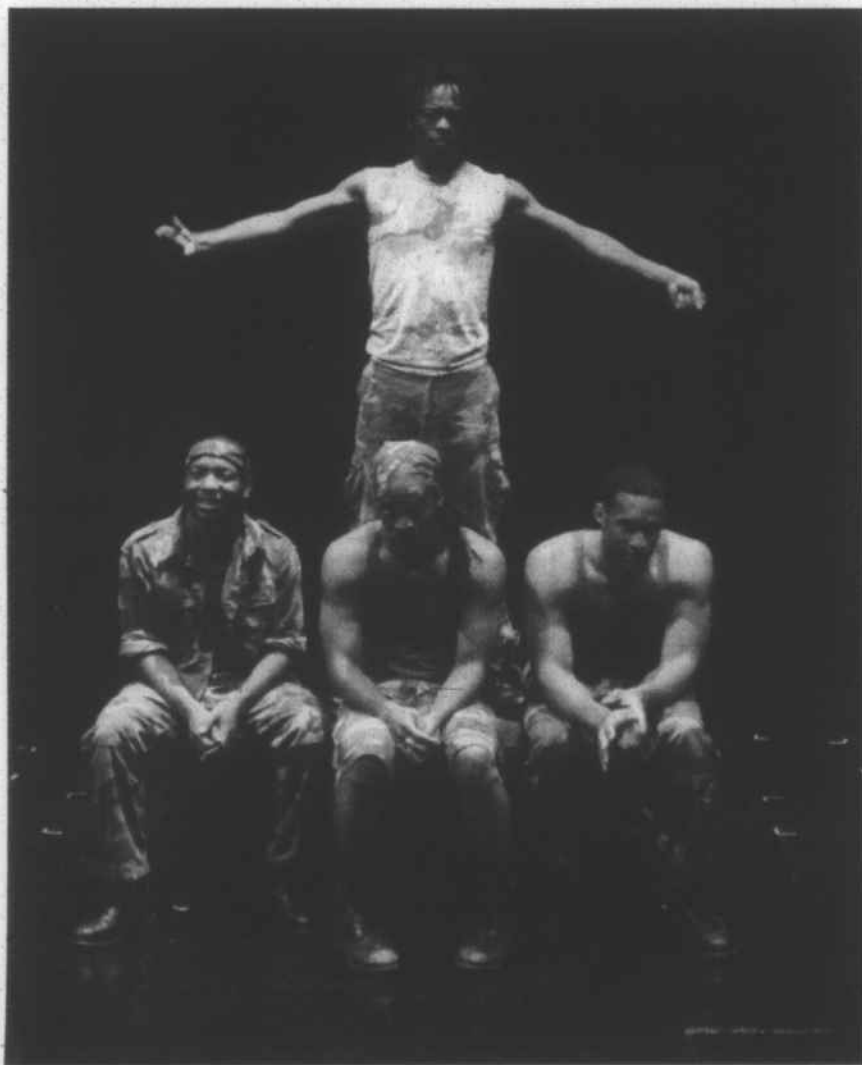
The show has been updated in recent months to reflect the changing dynamic in black America and among black men, in particular, since the election of President Barack Obama.

The cast is heavy on talent. Performers include Neil Dawson, whose theater credits include "Intimate Apparel" and "The Blacks;" Playwright/actor Larry Floyd, Lawrence Saint-Victor, who plays Remy Boudreau on "The Guiding Light;" well-respected stage actor Melvin Shambry; and actor/dancer/choreographer Juson Williams.

Director Patricia Floyd is also an actress who has had roles on "The Chris Rock Show," "Rescue Me" and "Reading Rainbow." Playwright Chapmyn is also a minister, activist, poet and motivational speaker. He has written more than a dozen plays, including "Our Young Black Men Are Dying and Nobody Seems To Care."

Aug. 6 at 8 p.m.  
Aug. 7 at 8 p.m.  
Aug. 8 at 3 & 8 p.m.  
at the Anderson  
Center

Ticket Price: \$37  
includes both shows



StageFace Photo

*The Players.*

- *The Chronicle*