

FREE Events Throughout the Week

Beyond the stage, the National Black Theatre Festival has a lot to offer. Here is information about some of the free events that will be offered throughout the week.

International Colloquium

Award-winning poet and playwright Marcus Gardley will deliver the keynote address at this year's International Colloquium, a collaborative effort between the National Black Theatre Festival, Winston-Salem State University and the Black Theatre Network. "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Black Life" is the theme of the **four-day (Aug. 4 - Aug. 7) Colloquium**, which is again being coordinated by Dr. Olasopé Oyelaran.

Gardley, who has an MFA from the Yale School of Drama, teaches at Brown University. His play "Every Tongue Confess" premiered at Washington, D.C.'s Arena Stage in 2010, with Phylicia Rashad in the starring role and Kenny Leon in the director's chair. His "On The Levee" earned 11 Audelco Award nominations. His other credits include "And Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi," "This World in a Woman's Hands" and "Love is a Dream House in Lorin."

This year's theme is timely. There are three plays – "Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South," "Accept 'Except' LGBT NY" and "The Brothers Size" – being staged at the festival that explore LGBT issues. Many other academics and theater professionals from around the globe will be weighing in on the topic as well. The International Colloquium is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Embassy Suites. **For exact times of presentations, check the information desk in the Marriott Hotel or see the schedules that will be posted in the Embassy and Marriott hotels.**



Marcus Gardley

Tribute to Thompson

This will be the first National Black Theatre Festival without the vibrant presence of Garland Lee Thompson Sr. The well-respected actor, stage manager, dramaturge, producer and playwright died in November after a long illness. Thompson, who founded the Frank Silvera Writers Workshop with Morgan Freeman, Billie Allen and Clayton Riley, was a constant at the NBTF, often leading the Closing Night Parade in unique



Garland Lee Thompson Sr.

garb and while playing a drum. "A Celebration of Life Salute for Garland Lee Thompson Sr." will be held on **Thursday, Aug. 6 from 3-6:30 p.m. on the Main Level of the Benton Convention Center.** Coordinated by Aduke Aremu, the program will feature music, ritual salutes, dance, monologues and celebrity guests. It is free and open to the public.

Readers' Theatre, Workshops and Seminars

The first component of the popular Readers' Theatre, "New Plays at High Noon," will start in the Marriott Hotel on **Tuesday, Aug. 4 at 11:30 a.m.** Later in the week, "Theatre Conversations at Midnight" will begin, also at the Marriott, at **11:30 p.m.** During the week, more than 25 original works by up-and-coming playwrights will be read before an audience that will include actors, directors and other theater professionals. The general public is also welcome to attend these free readings, which are being coordinated by Garland Lee Thompson Jr., who is continuing his late father's legacy at the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop. Locations for the readings will be posted in the hotel's lobby, as will times and locations of the many



Luther Goins

free workshops and seminars that will be offered. Among the presenters are Actors' Equity Association's Luther Goins and Vera Katz, a well-respected acting coach. Kathryn Mobley is the coordinator of the workshops and seminars.