

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Smith as King

PlayMakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill will present the regional premiere of Roger Guenveur Smith's powerful new one-man show "Rodney King" from Sept. 2-7.

The show is coming to North Carolina after acclaimed runs in New York and Washington, D.C.

"Rodney King" has been hailed as a poetic, rhythm-charged look at the flawed everyman behind the myth. King endured police brutality, the glare of an unrelenting media and notoriety as the symbolic spark of the LA riots. His plaintive "Can we all get along?" remains an open question in America's complicated relationship with race.

A critic has said that actor/solo performer Smith "likes his topics hot." His one-man stage shows include "A Huey P. Newton Story" and "Frederick Douglass Now." His screen credits include Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing" and "Get on the Bus" and Steven Soderbergh's "K Street" and HBO's "Oz."

The Los Angeles Times raved that Smith's performance in "Rodney King" is "solo wizardry ... riffing as freely and confidently as Sonny Rollins on sax." The Washington Post called it "intensely cathartic and moving."

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. nightly from Sept. 2-5 and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 7.

PlayMakers is the professional theater company in residence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Performances will be presented in the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre at UNC's Center for Dramatic Art on Country Club Road.

Ticket prices start at \$15 and may be purchased at [www.playmakersrep.org](http://www.playmakersrep.org) or by calling 919-962-PLAY (7529).



Smith

## Marvtastic Bash is Sept. 27

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company will kick off its 35th season by commemorating the birthday of its founder - the late Larry Leon Hamlin.

The Marvtastic Bash will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Marriott Twin City Quarter from 7 to 11 p.m. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, dancing, a silent auction and door prizes.

In addition to founding the Black Rep, the state's first professional black theater company, Hamlin created the successful National Black Theatre Festival in 1989. Every other year, the

event brings tens of thousands of tourists and Broadway-class musicals and plays to the city.

A native of Reidsville, Hamlin passed away on June 6, 2007 at the age of 58. His legacy is being carried on at the Black Rep and NBTF, which will held next summer.

Tickets for the Marvtastic Bash are \$40 per person and may be purchased from any NCBRC Guild Board member, online at [www.ncblackrep.org](http://www.ncblackrep.org) or by calling the NCBRC office. Individuals or businesses that would like to contribute a tax-deductible donation may do so by calling 336-723-2266.



The late Larry Leon Hamlin.

File Photo

## Astronauts Visit White House



Photo by Bill Ingalls/NASA

President Barack Obama meets with Apollo 11 astronauts Michael Collins, seated left, Buzz Aldrin, Carol Armstrong, widow of Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and Patricia "Pat" Falcone, OSTP Associate Director for National Security & International Affairs, far right, on Tuesday, July 22 in the Oval Office of the White House during the 45th anniversary week of the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

## SciWorks going to dogs

On Saturday, Aug. 23 from 11 am to 4 pm, SciWorks will host its second annual "Dog Day of Summer."

This special event, designed to showcase service dogs and working dogs, was such a big hit with visitors last year that SciWorks decided to offer it again this summer.

"Everyone knows that dogs are considered 'man's best friend,'" said event coordinator Ally McCauley, "but not everyone realizes that they are also some of our best helpers. This is an opportunity for the general public to get a first-hand look at the amazing work that so many of these dogs do."

All "Dog Day of Summer" activities are included in museum admission. In case of rain or high heat, this event will be postponed until Saturday, Aug. 30. SciWorks is located just off University Parkway at 400 W. Hanes Mill Rd. For more information, visit [www.sciworks.org](http://www.sciworks.org) or call (336) 767-6730.

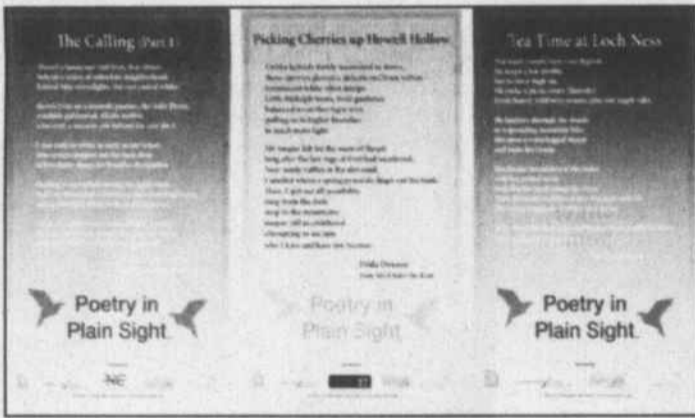
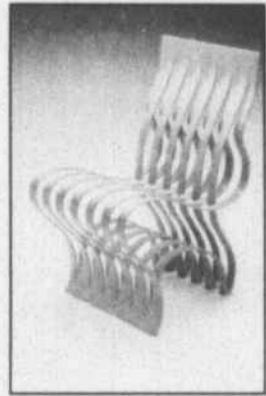
## Chair art

Reynolda House Museum of American Art will host "The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design" Aug. 23-Dec. 31, 2014. The traveling exhibition features 43 chairs representing two centuries of American history, design and craftsmanship. Reynolda House is the exhibition's only venue with its own decorative arts collection on view in its original setting.

"The Art of Seating" presents iconic and historic chairs dating from the early 1800s to today's studio furniture movement. The exhibition provides an opportunity for visitors to see readily recognizable pieces from the Arts and Crafts movement and the mid-century Modern period alongside rare and exceptionally well-preserved antiques.

Members of the museum are invited to an invitation-only preview of the exhibition on Thursday, Aug. 21, that will include a brief talk by Diane DeMell Jacobsen, from whose private collection the exhibition is curated. The exhibition opens to the public at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23. Several after-hours events will be offered during the exhibition, which are listed below and are available at [reynoldahouse.org](http://reynoldahouse.org).

Curated by Ben Thompson, curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, "The Art of Seating" takes the viewer into the design studio, sharing stories behind the designs, patent drawings and artist renderings.



## Poems by locals to be featured in storefronts

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

In 2013, a collaboration between Winston-Salem Writers, Press 53, and Barnhills brought posters of poems by North Carolina poets to the Arts District. Later, thanks to an Arts Council grant, the Poetry in Plain Sight project expanded to WSTA buses.

Now, a partnership with Associated Artists is bringing the poems to full-scale art installations in storefronts. Storefront Winston-Salem will have its grand unveiling at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5, as a part of Gallery Hop festivities. The unveiling will begin with readings of the selected poems at the Pepper Building, 104 West Fourth St., which houses two of the installations.

Poems from previous Poetry in Plain Sight winners will be read - "Rumors" by Jaki Shelton Green, "Night Fishing" by Kathryn Stripling Byer, "Tea Time at Loch Ness" by Tara Lynne Groth, "A Love Song" by Teri Hairston, "Picking Cherries Up Howell Hollow" by Hilda Downey and "The Calling (Part 1)" by John Thomas York.

Each month, Winston-Salem Writers will choose four new poems to be placed on posters displayed throughout the Arts District and other locations. The winners for September are: "Song" by Adrian Rice, "Sourwood" by Bill Griffin, "Owls on Runnymede" by Becky Gould Gibson, "Pharr Yarns" by Molly Rice from Finishing Line Press' "Mill Hill."

These poets and their works will be celebrated at 4 Poems and A Party on Saturday, Aug. 30 at 1 p.m. at Barnhills, 811 Burke St. The monthly party is usually on the first Saturday of the month but was rescheduled so as not to conflict with Bookmarks.

For more information, go to [ws.writers/poetry-in-plain-sight](http://ws.writers/poetry-in-plain-sight)

## Gantt Center symposium featuring Common

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Actor/author/rapper Common will headline the Second Annual Gantt Symposium at Charlotte's Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture on Oct. 2.

During the event, which is presented by Wells Fargo, the Grammy winner will share his personal perspective on defining and achieving greatness. Tracing his journey from childhood to today, Common will share defining moments that influenced the discovery of his voice - his tool for achieving professional success, and creating social change.

From Michael Jackson to Emmett Till, Common will trace major influences on his path to discovering greatness with the hopes of inspiring others.

Common's appearance will conclude the Center's Question Bridge: Black Males exhibition, which explores challenging issues within the black male community by instigating a transmedia conversation across the geographic, economic, generational, educational and social divisions of American society.

Named for a respected former mayor of the Queen City, the Harvey B. Gantt Center is located at 551 S. Tryon St. at the Levine Center for the Arts. Its mission is to celebrate the contributions that Africans and African Americans have made to American culture and serve as a community epicenter for music, dance, theater, visual art, film, arts education programs, literature and community outreach.

Tickets for symposium are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members or \$10 for students and are available online at [www.ganttcenter.org](http://www.ganttcenter.org).



Common

Press Photo

← PREVIOUS EVENT

AUGUST 22  
John Dillard  
Nick Coltonne

**J·A·Z·Z**

FRIDAYS

6:00-9:00

CORPENING PLAZA

**DOWNTOWN**

**MUSIC SERIES**

→ NEXT EVENT

AUGUST 30  
The Mighty Eliminators  
(Old School Variety)

**TRADE**

SATURDAYS

7:00-10:00

6TH & TRADE ST.