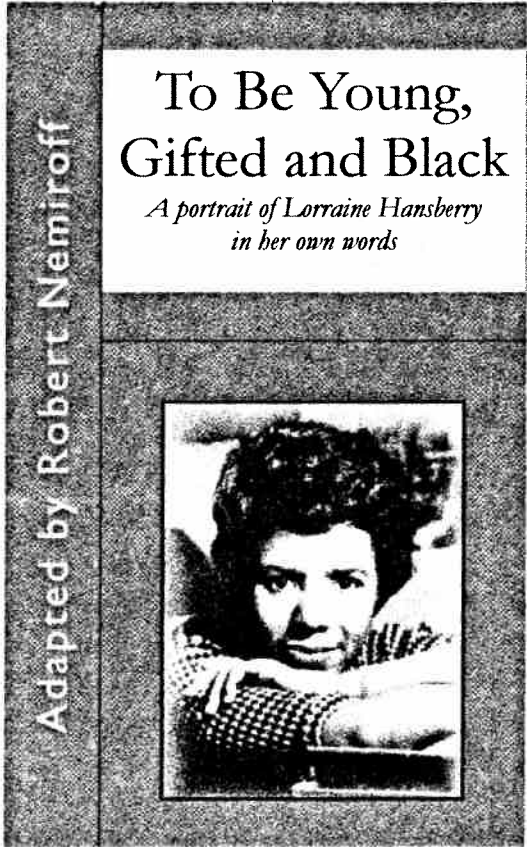


By special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

UW Ethnic Cultural Theatre

Presents



Special Thanks To...

- UW Office of Minority Affairs* Luis Ramirez
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- Tom Burke Enrique Morales
- Kris Bain Betty Schmitz
- Anne Stewart Susan Jeffords
- Josie Gardner Mika Burns
- Kim Powell Our families and friends

Contact us

For information on UW Ethnic Cultural Center & Theatre complex programs or services, please contact us at:

UW Ethnic Cultural Center
3931 Brooklyn Avenue NE
Seattle WA 98118

Phone: (206) 543-4635
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January 14-23, 2000

Tuesday-Saturday 7:30 PM
and Sunday 2:00 PM

(206) 543-4635

To Be Young, Gifted and Black

Directed by

Valerie Curtis-Newton

Note from the Author

“ Never before in the entire history of the American theatre, had there been so much of the truth of black people’s lives seen on the stage... That marvelous laugh. That marvelous face. She was my sister and my comrade... on the same barricades, listening to the accumulating thunder of the hooves of horses and the treads of tanks.”

So wrote James Baldwin of Lorraine Hansberry and her first play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, which made her at 29 the first woman and the first black to win the N. Y. Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play of the Year (1959). Five years later, while her second play, *The Sign In Sidney Brustein’s Window*, was running on Broadway, Miss Hansberry died of cancer at the age of 34.

To Be Young Gifted and Black is the story of Lorraine Hansberry told in her own words. Woven together from letters, diaries, notebooks and portions of her plays, the form is free-flowing but chronological, with scenes and memories merging into each other without sharp division. No single member of the company plays Miss Hansberry; rather, all in turn—male and female, colored and white—portray her, her characters and the people most affected by her.

In 1970, the writer Julius Lester wrote of the impact of Hansberry’s work: “She stands as the quintessential black writer: a political radical whose politics are not dogma but... oneness with her people... If Lorraine Hansberry was the last of her kind, then chaos and barbarism stretch before us into infinity. My God, how we need her today.”

The Production Team

Stage Manager	Ryan Conlin
Lighting Designer	Steven O’Shea
Sound Designer	Melissa Dow
Board Operater	Malena Fitting
House Manager	ECT Staff
Tour Manager	Mika Burns

The Cast

Actress #1	Christina Hardin-Juarez
Actress #2	Shontina Vernon
Actress #3	Sheila Williams
Actress #4	Carin Towne
Actress #5	Jillian Boyd
Actor #1	Erwin Thomas
Actor #2	Matthew Siedman

By Robert Nemiroff