



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 19, 2018**

**BISHOP ARTS THEATRE CENTER CELEBRATES 15 YEARS  
OF LANGSTON HUGHES WITH THE RETURN OF BLACK NATIVITY**

Dallas, TX – Bishop Arts Theatre Center, Oak Cliff's premiere performing arts venue, brings back the holiday gospel tradition, *Black Nativity* the acclaimed retelling of the Christmas story, by poet Langston Hughes. An energetic, toe-tapping, foot-stomping, finger-snapping holiday event, *Black Nativity* interprets the Nativity story capturing the hearts with soul-stirring sounds of traditional gospel music.

This year's production will be directed by Selmore Lorenzo Haines who was most recently seen on the Bishop Arts Theatre Center stage in *Thurgood*. Music Direction is by Anthony Holmes whom music directed Bishop Arts Theatre Center's 2018 production of *Banned Together* with choreography by Quintin Jones. The production features set design by Rodney Dobbs, Costume Design by Dale Wheeler, with stage management by Katelyn Kocher. Teresa Coleman Wash serves as Executive Producer.

The 2018 production features performances by Brandon Wilhelm\*, Myiesha J. Duff, Malcolm H. Hudson, Jamell Turner, Durant Searcy, Lizzie Combs, J.R. Bradford, Anthony Chambers, Natasha Wells, Sharon Wilson, L. Shaneen Smith, Doris Black-Hubbard, Betheny Sargent, LaTonya Reagor, Nicholas Williams & Deontay Roaf, most recently seen as Nina Simone in *The Champion* at Bishop Arts Theatre Center. They are joined by youth performers, Tony Washington, Xzaire Florence, and Jeffrey Berry. \*Mr. Wilhelm appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

**ABOUT THE PLAY & LANGSTON HUGHES**

Originally titled *Wasn't It a Mighty Day?* *Black Nativity* was performed Off-Broadway in 1961 at the 41st St. Theatre in New York, NY. At that time, it was one of the first plays written by an African American playwright to be performed Off-Broadway and at one point, gave rise to an upcoming new choreographer, Alvin Ailey. Hughes wrote the play as a means to engage the public and the African American community in his theatrical works. Originally, prominent members of the African American community would play the roles of the Three Wise Men to show their support of African Americans in the arts. Hughes intentionally left the music and style up for interpretation to reflect the times and bring new artistic life into each reiteration. Each year brings new perspective and new life to the play making *Black Nativity* a truly special holiday event. Played in two acts, this holiday production promises to fill you with the holiday spirit.

**TICKETING INFORMATION**

All performances are presented at the Bishop Art Theatre Center located at 215 South Tyler, TX 75208. Show times vary per production, visit [www.bishopartstheatre.org](http://www.bishopartstheatre.org) to verify dates and times. Ticket prices range from \$12 - \$30. Discount tickets are available for groups of 15 or more and may be purchased by calling (214) 948-0716. Administrative office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

**ABOUT BISHOP ARTS THEATRE CENTER (BATC)**

Nestled in the heart of Dallas' Oak Cliff community, the Bishop Arts Theatre Center is an award-winning, multicultural, multi-discipline theatre company. Founded in 1993, the mission of the organization is to cultivate a diverse and vibrant arts community while creating opportunities for local and emerging artists through performances and education. The BATC offers a full season of theatre performances, jazz concerts, a speaker series and year-round arts education programs.

***BLACK NATIVITY* is made possible by the generous support of the FROST BANK.**

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