



PRESS RELEASE

October 11th, 2021

For Immediate Release

Contact: Juanita Smith

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Department of Theatre and Dance

presents

Trouble in Mind by Alice Childress

Students take on a trailblazing 1950s play with continued relevance in a bid to learn about the present by learning about the past

Department of Theatre and Dance is excited to present *Trouble in Mind* by Alice Childress in the Lupin Theatre. Heralded as a play with great insight, drama and deep meaning, *Trouble in Mind* is an excellent choice to kick off a school year. Addressing issues of race, problem solving and cultural differences this drama sparks with moments of humor and satire.

With the selection of this play, director and professor of theatre at Tulane, John “Ray” Proctor, MFA, Ph.D., helps the university move forward in its mission to grow understanding on diversity – a value that coincides with the vision for stronger, more aware and relevant art that the department made in 2019 by signing on to the Jubilee commitment as well as happily coinciding with the long-awaited Broadway debut of the play happening later in 2021; now is a great time to revisit the themes of the play and celebrate the powerful writing of the valiant Alice Childress.

The pioneering play within a play originally written in 1957, challenged attitudes and posed questions then but could be ripped from today’s headlines. The issues on race and classism are to be discussed in more detail in post-show talkbacks that will help audiences process what they have just experienced. This show promises to be an entertaining and engaging experience for audience members of all ages. A sensory and emotional performance that will be meaningful – don’t miss this one-of-a-kind show as the arts, once again, becomes vanguard in social justice.

A preview performance prior to the run, will be open to the public, on Monday, November 8th at 7:30pm. The performance will run Tuesday, November 9th – Sunday, November 14th, 2021 at the Albert Lupin Memorial Theater in the Dixon Performing Arts Center (Dixon Annex – Building #69). Performances on Tuesday, November 9th – Saturday, November 13th will be at 7:30pm. Matinee performances will be on Saturday, November 13th and Sunday, November 14th at 2pm. Cast, crew and special guests will join the audience for a talkback following the opening night performance on Tuesday,

November 9th and the evening performance on Saturday, November 13th and Please anticipate at least 30 minutes for a robust talkback session post show.

Tickets:

ON SALE MONDAY, October 11th, 2021 at 5pm

Students*: \$14.00 | Faculty/Staff/ Patrons: \$21.00

Tickets can be purchased at the box office, by phone or online via our website starting October 11th, 2021 at: <https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/theatre-dance/box-office>

**Tulane students registered in fundamentals classes who have paid activity fees along with their tuition have covered their costs for this performance. Please use your student ID number as the promo code to check out with a zero balance.*

PLEASE NOTE: ALL AUDIENCE MEMBERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT PROOF OF VACCINATION AT CHECK OUT AND UPON ARRIVAL AT THE THEATRE. MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES FOR ALL AUDIENCE MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE PERFORMANCE. SEATING IS RESTRICTED FOR THIS PERFORMANCE AS SEATS WILL BE SOCIALLY DISTANCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COVID19 GUIDELINES FROM THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS AS WELL AS TULANE'S OWN ADVISORS.

For more information on indoor gatherings rules and regulations please consult <https://ready.nola.gov/incident/coronavirus/safe-reopening/>. Please keep in mind that Tulane University reserves the right to expand upon the city's guidelines as it sees fit.

Venue:

Albert Lupin Memorial Theatre

Suite 150, Dixon Performing Arts Center Annex

6823 St. Charles Ave

New Orleans LA 70118

Nearby street parking is available. Please contact the box office for more parking information.

Contact us:

Lupin Box Office

Suite 155, Dixon Performing Arts Center Annex

6823 St. Charles Ave

New Orleans LA 70118

Monday – Friday 11am – 4:00pm and at the venue 1 hour before the performance

box@tulane.edu | 504-865-5106

<https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/theatre-dance>



TROUBLE IN MIND

by Alice Childress

directed by John "Ray" Proctor, MFA, PHD

November 9th - 12th @ 7:30pm
November 13th @ 2pm & 7:30pm
November 14th @ 2pm

Tickets: Students - \$14
Fac/Staff/ Patrons -\$21

Lupin Theatre (Dixon Annex 150)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: ALICE CHILDRESS BIO AND HEADSHOT



Born South Carolina in 1916 and raised in New York during the Harlem Renaissance under the watchful eye of her beloved maternal grandmother, Alice Childress grew up to become first an actress and then a playwright and novelist. A founding member of the American Negro Theatre, she wrote her first play, *FLORENCE*, in 1949. The script was written on a dare from close friend and actor Sidney Poitier, who had told Alice that he didn't think a great play could be written overnight. She proved him wrong, and the play was produced Off-Broadway in 1950.

In 1952 Childress became the first African-American woman to see her play (*GOLD THROUGH THE TREES*) professionally produced in New York. In 1955, Childress' play *TROUBLE IN MIND* was a critical and popular success from the beginning of its run Off-Broadway at the Greenwich Mews Theatre. The play drew interest from producers for a Broadway transfer. In an ironic twist echoing the tribulations of the characters in the play itself, the producers wanted changes to the script to make it more palatable to a commercial audience. Childress refused to compromise her artistic vision, and the play didn't open on Broadway. If it had, at that time Childress would have been the first African -American woman playwright to have a play on Broadway.

Childress is perhaps best-known today for *A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH*, her 1973 novel about a 13-year-old black boy addicted to heroin, which was subsequently made into a movie in 1978. Other plays written by Childress include *JUST A LITTLE SIMPLE* (1950), *WEDDING BAND: A LOVE/HATE STORY IN BLACK AND WHITE* (1966) and *GULLAH* (1984).

Alice Childress died in New York in 1994. Throughout her career, she examined the true meaning of being black, and especially of being black and female. As Childress herself once said, "I concentrate on portraying have-nots in a have society."

TROUBLE IN MIND, directed by Charles Randolph Wright, produced by the Roundabout Theatre Company, will open on Broadway in November 2021.