

National Video Archive of Performance and Audio-Video Collection

The latest addition to the Core Collections is the Video Archive, comprising both commercially recorded videos and also unique recordings made by the Museum's National Video Archive of Performance (NVAP). The latter are recorded live under a unique agreement between the Theatre Museum and the Federation of Entertainment Unions. Holdings are listed on the Museum's web site at: <http://theatremuseum.org>. The Museum is beginning to develop an oral history collection, and in 1997 created Blackgrounds - a series of video recorded interviews with older black theatre writers and artists.

NVAP Recordings by Black and Asian Writers or Companies

EAST IS EAST by Ayub Khan-Din. Directed by Kristine Landon-Smith, designed by Sue Mayes, produced by Tamasha Theatre Co., recorded at Theatre Royal Stratford East March 1997. Cast: Nasser Memarzia, Linda Bassett, Paul Bazely, Jimi Mistry, Emil Marwa, Chris Bisson, Zita Sattar, Imran Ali, Gillian Hanna, Kriss Dosanjh. This Asian play deals with the conflicts of a mixed marriage, the struggle to maintain Muslim culture in British society, and the tension between the aspirations of parent and child. *1 hr 45 mins, 1 camera.*

KING LEAR by William Shakespeare. Directed by Yvonne Brewster, designed by Ellen Cairns, produced by Talawa Theatre Company, recorded at Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, April 1994. Cast includes: Ben Thomas, Mona Hammond, Cathy Tyson, Lolita Chakrabarti, Diane Parish. Presented with a multi-racial cast. "The production is a landmark not just for the skin pigmentation of most of its performers but for the boldness of vision...an abstraction...it could be any militarist society of warring clans." *2 hrs 49 mins, 3 cameras (Separate camera recs also available)*

LIFT OFF by Roy Williams, directed Indhu Rubasingham, designed by Ultz, produced by the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs at the Ambassadors, March 1999. Cast: Sarah Cakebread, Ashley Chin, Mohammed George, Sid Mitchell, Michael Price, Laura Sadler, Alex Walkinshaw. A highly immediate and contemporary piece of new writing by a black playwright, exploring a group of black and white kids and their experience at school and afterwards. "Williams has a gift for creating fast furious dialogue... a courageous and heartfelt drama" *1 hr 30 mins, 1 camera.*

Copyright: Theatre Museum



Ben Thomas as
King Lear by
Shakespeare,
Talawa Theatre
Company, 1994

Photograph by
Graham Brandon

OROONOKO adapted from the novel by Aphra Behn, by Biyi Bandele, directed by Gregory Doran, designed by Niki Turner, produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company at The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, September 1999. Cast: Nicholas Monu, Ewart James Walters, Ewen Cummins, Farimang Singhateh, Israel Aduramo, David Oyelowo, Geff Francis, Jo Martin, Nicky Reid, Kemi Baruwa, Michael Fenner, Nadine Marshall, Israel Aduramo, Rod Arthur, David Collings. "A thrilling adaptation". "A vivid portrait of a disparate slave-society acquiring moral cohesion and of Oroonoko himself growing into a 17th century Martin Luther King."
2 hrs 40 mins, 3 cameras.

Talawa KING LEAR rehearsal footage

THE ISLAND by Athol Fugard scripted with performers John Kani and Winston Ntshona, directed by Athol Fugard, designed by the company, produced by Market Theatre of Johannesburg, recorded at the Lyttelton Theatre, February 2000. Final revival with original cast, who also devised the 27 year old play about two prisoners on Robben Island. The first play to show defiance of apartheid; played illegally and without a script in South Africa, it first came to the Royal Court in 1974 and passed into legend. "A great work of art that also bears witness to the darkest nights of the century ..." "nobody with a thinking mind and an open conscience should miss this play".
1hr 30mins, 1 camera

WINE IN THE WILDERNESS by Alice Childress directed by Nicolas Kent, designed by Poppy Mitchell, produced by the Tricycle Theatre originally as part of Black History Month 2000, recorded March 2001. Childress is an important African-American dramatist. Her play explores the demand on black people to present 'positive images' in their art and their lives and the intolerance that can produce. Written and set in the late 1960s it addresses issues central to the Black Power movement and debates of the time. Cast: Jenny Jules, Ray Shell, Ricco Ross, Gary MacDonald and Cecelia Noble,
1hr 20 mins, 2 cameras

WATER by Winsome Pinnock, directed by Surian Fletcher-Jones, designed by Poppy Mitchell, produced by the Tricycle Theatre. Pinnock's play was written as a companion piece to Alice Childress's WINE IN THE WILDERNESS and looks at issues of cultural authenticity in the art world of contemporary Britain and the media image of the artist. Cast: Gary MacDonald and Cecelia Noble, *40 mins, 2 cameras*

A RAISIN IN THE SUN by Lorraine Hansberry, directed by David Lan, designed by Francis O'Connor, produced by the Young Vic / Salisbury Playhouse. Hansberry's classic play explores the hopes, struggles and conflicting ambitions of the Younger family over grandfather's insurance money and their determination to buy a house despite the opposition of white neighbours. Critics described Novella Nelson as Lena as magnificent, Walter as superbly played by Lennie James. Cast also includes: Cecelia Noble, Kananu Kirimi, Ofo Uhiara, Faz Singhateh, William Chubb. Recorded at the Young Vic, June 2001,
2 hrs 38 mins, 2 cameras.

CARNIVAL 2001. Edited recording of Notting Hill Carnival with footage of all participating bands before nightfall featuring Mahogany, Genesis, Flamingo and Dragons including interview and gala material. Produced with funding from ACE and LA. August 2001, *40 mins (Rushes of gala and carnival available for research viewing)*

MOON ON A RAINBOW SHAWL by Errol John, directed by Paulette Randall, designed by Ellen Cairns with Ram John Holder, Victor Romero Evans, Davinia Anderson, Tracey Saunders, Dystin Johnson, Inika Leigh Wright, Jim Findley. Produced by Eclipse Theatre. Caribbean classic depicting a man's struggle to escape poverty and petty crime in the slums of Port-of-Spain. Recorded Royal Theatre, Northampton, April 2003, *1 hr 50 mins, 2 cameras.*

Related Recordings

OTHELLO by William Shakespeare, directed by Michael Attenborough, designed by Robert Jones, produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, October 1999. Cast includes: Ray Fearon in the title role with Richard McCabe as Iago, Zoe Waites as Desdemona with Rachel Joyce, Henry Ian Cusick, Aidan McArdle. Ray Fearon was the first actor of African descent to play Othello in the mainhouse at Stratford-upon-Avon since Paul Robeson in the 1950s. "Gripping...stirring..magnificent." *3 hrs 30 mins, 3 cameras.*

Black History Month Compilation video from above material
994047 18th October 1999

Black Theatre on Video in Theatre Museum Collections

Blackgrounds: An oral history project: interviews with key first generation Black theatre practitioners. Funded by Heritage Lottery and recorded by Theatre Museum in conjunction with Talawa Theatre Company,

David Johnson in conversation with:

Barry Reckord 22nd April 1997 *at Barry's home in Primrose Hill, London. (Transcript available) 9704091/A, 994031/A, 994031/A2*

Cy Grant 7th May 1997 *at Cy's home in Highgate, London (Transcript available) 9704092/A, 994032/A, 994032/A2*

Alaknanda Samarth 19th May 1997 *at the Theatre Museum, Covent Garden (Transcript available) 9704093/A, 994033/A, 994033/A2*

Earl Cameron 29th May 1998 *at Jill Evans's home in Queen's Park London. (Transcript available) 9704094/A, 994034/A, 994034/A2*

Pearl Connor 25th June 1997 *at Pearl's home in Wembley, London. (Transcript available) 9704095/A, 994035/A, 994035/A2*

Compilation (16:9 Letterbox) and Compilation (Loop) 2 x 26 min (16:9 Letterbox) 9704100/A, 9704097/A

also **A Taste of Blackgrounds** Blackgrounds Series One
994048 15th October 1999 6 mins.

Blackstage: a further series of interviews with a new group of key first generation Black theatre practitioners. Funded by Heritage Lottery and recorded by Theatre Museum in conjunction with Talawa Theatre Company, transcripts available:



Palbo Fanque performing at Astley's famous equestrian Circus, 1840's





The Darker Face of the Earth by
Rita Dove, National Theatre
Cottesloe, 1999.

Photograph by *Graham Brandon*

Michael Abbensetts
Thomas Baptiste
Yvonne Brewster
Corinne Skinner Carter
Frank Cousins
Mona Hammond
Ram John Holder
Naseem Khan
Carmen Munroe
Rudolph Walker

Black Mime Theatre video archive

(Black Mime Theatre and Black Women's Mime Theatre).
Directed by Denise Wong, highly physical performance
company, whose movement vocabulary drew on visual arts,
film, TV, comic strips and black street culture for
inspiration:

Drowning

Super Heroes

Dirty Reality 2

Mantrail

Mothers

Goin' Home

Total Re-think

Heart

Mourning Song

Promotional Video

Television clips (various)

Workshop and Rehearsal clips (various)

(Also hold audiotapes / soundcues from several productions)

Five Guys Named Moe

(Theatre Royal Stratford East transfer)

The African Company Rehearse Richard III

(Five Points Co., NY: company recording)

OJ Othello by Maarten van Hinte, performance by Frank
Shepperd (company recording)

Temba Videos Off-air (donated)

1. *Ebony* inc. Temba 60 mins

South Bank Show 30 mins

Temba: *Black Love* Songs 01 for London 25 mins

2. *This Week Next Week* - Pantomime

You Meet All Sorts - *Panorama*

The Marketing Mix - New Faces New Places

3. *Caribbean Focus* - Unit 1 Caribbean Theatre

Caribbean Focus - Unit 3 Caribbean Theatre

British Dance 97

Compilation video includes:

Phoenix Dance

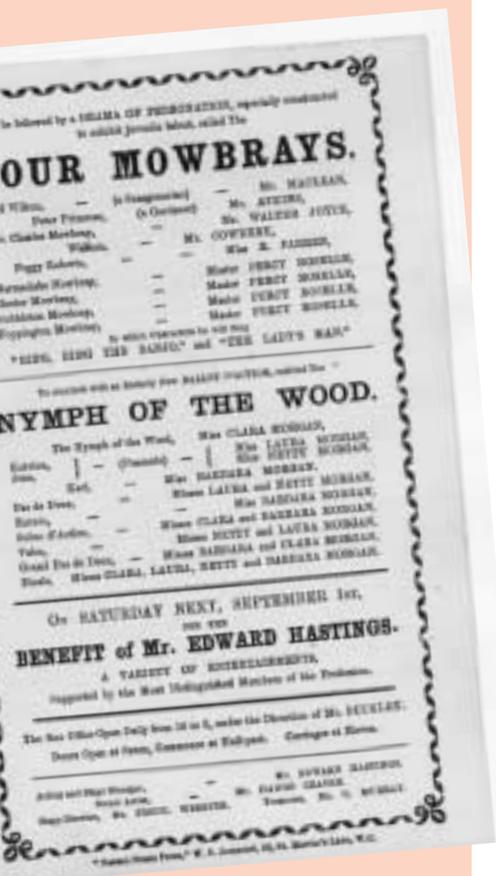
Co/ Shobana Jeyasingh Dance

Co/Adzido

Pan African Dance Ensemble

- British Theatre** *Compilation video about British Theatre produced by The British Council. Companies include: Tara Arts*
- The Emperor**
984065 *Jonathan Miller directs Ryszard Kapuscinski's book. Arena BBC TV Production. Producer: A. Low
Transmission:
05.02.1988*
- Arawak Gold**
9600392 *Talawa Theatre Company
Cochrane Theatre,
January 13th 1993*
- Ballet Black**
004069 *Video about Ballets Negres produced by the Arts Council, 1986*
- Master Harold... and the boys**
024055 *directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg
Broderick/Mokae/Kani
1986 90 mins*
- Othello**
004029 *Play by William Shakespeare
Willard White/Stubbs/McKellen & RSC*
- Celebration of the Life of Paul Robeson**
014001, 014002, 014003, 014004 *Tapes One to Four of of conference proceedings*
- also Robeson feature films:** *The Proud Valley, Sanders of the River, Native Land*
- Paul Robeson Interviewed**
024096/S *Monitor, interview with Al Alvarez
1959, BBC Production, 20 mins*
- The Colour of Justice**
004058 *Version of the Tricycle Theatre documentary play, based on the Stephen Lawrence murder enquiry 112 mins*
- Suraya Hilal**
014055 *Choreography by Suraya Hilal
extracts from Jewels/ Devine Rites/
& Colours of Cairo*
- Death Catches the Hunter**
9704063 *Extract from the play by Biyi Bandele
London Stage '95 LWT Production
Programme 3 of 11
Transmission: 15. 10. 1995*
- Grove Carnival**
004066 *Video produced by the Arts Council, 1981.
Filmed at Notting Hill Carnival*
- The Black Tragedian**
024081 *Documentary on Ira Aldridge
Produced by Joseph Mydell*
- Market Day**
014141 *A documentary on the production of Market Day. Reconstruction of Ballets Negres' 1946 production. Recorded*





Programme for
Morgan Smith as
Othello, 1866

Clarke Peters
9704067

at various locations at the Theatre
Museum (Includes sequences from
the production)

*Interview on London Stage '95 LWT
Production Programme 7 of 11
Transmission: 12th Nov, 1995*

Porgy and Bess
9704035

*Opera by George Gershwin
White/Hayman & Glyndebourne
Festival Opera*

Steel 'n' Skin
004071

*Video produced by the Arts
Council, 1979, about music and
dance company with members from
Africa, West Indies and the UK*

**An Enemy of
the People**
024107

*Feature film based on Ibsen's play.
In Bengali with English sub-titles.
Directed by Satyajit Ray*

**Winsome Pinnock
speaking at**
984036/A

*Concepts Conference
The Future of Political Theatre
2 of 2 3rd May 1998*

The Piano Lesson
024066

*Play by August Wilson
Dutton/Woodard/Gordon/Hollis
Directed by Lloyd Richards*

**Paul Robeson
Memorial Concert**
024094

*Queen Elizabeth Hall 6th May 1985
Presented by Joseph Marcell
Paul Robeson Jnr/Ashcroft/Willard
White/African Dawn/Elisabeth Welch
Welsh Male Voice Choir
180 mins (POOR QUALITY
RECORDING)*

**for colored girls who
have considered
suicide when the
rainbow is enuf**
034038

*Ntozake Shange
Broadway Theatre Archive version,
1982 Woodard/ Whitfield / Shange*

**To be Young, Gifted
and Black**
024069

*Based on the stage play and
book by Robert Nemiroff, about
the life and based on the work of
playwright, Lorraine Hansberry,
Scheider/Danner/Dee
Directed by Michael A. Schultz*

Voices of Sarafina
024068

*Film directed by Nigel Noble
Makeba/Cast of Broadway
production of Sarafina
(South African musical)*