

Provocative Questions Meet Satirical Wit in *The Colored Museum*

Pascale Florestal's Fresh Production Redefines Ideas of Being Black in America

May 5, 2022

Concord, MA—*The Colored Museum* has electrified, discomfited, and delighted audiences of all colors, redefining our ideas of what it means to be Black in contemporary America.

Running May 20-June 5, 2022, the production is directed in a fresh, relevant new way for The Umbrella Stage Company by versatile director, dramaturge, educator and writer [Pascale Florestal](#), recently spotlighted in WBUR's "[Artery 25: Artists Of Color Transforming The Cultural Landscape](#)".

The powerful satire centers on a kind of character museum featuring eleven "exhibits" represented in vignettes that undermine Black stereotypes old and new, explore inter-community conflicts, and ultimately return to the facts of what being Black means.

Alternately stinging and hysterically funny, the show was created by award-winning playwright George C. Wolfe, praised by *The New York Times* as "the kind of satirist, almost unheard of in today's timid theater, who takes no prisoners," and who "says the unthinkable, says it with uncompromising wit."

While seriously tackling the racial legacy of America's history, the play does so with defiant humor. Sketches parody everything from classic Black theater and fashion models to sell-out businessmen and wigs, and are laced with wisecracks about popular culture and lively music by Kysia Bostic. It also challenges traditional notions of the museum or cultural institution itself, "humanizing the Black experience that we so often see purely as entertainment," says Florestal.

Also an educator at Boston's Front Porch Arts Collective, Florestal says she hopes audiences will take the opportunity to really look at themselves and consider the role they play in the Black experience, and whether they contribute to perpetuating the problem.

"I want us to think about how artists are taken advantage of," she says, "and how BIPOC people are put on display for entertainment's sake, and sometimes not paid a living wage in order for them to continue. For the white audiences who come to experience, or the 'Members' or the Donors who are putting money into these institutions, it's giving them the opportunity to see themselves in that role of the spectator. How do you make it better so that the people who are being put on display can have the acknowledgement, credit and life that we all deserve?"

Chosen by a selection committee comprising board, staff, directors, designers and performers representing highly diverse perspectives, the show wraps up a season that deliberately "celebrates joy, amplifies marginalized voices, and champions uniquely theatrical storytelling," says Umbrella Stage Company Producing Artistic Director Brian Boruta. Audiences will find its thought-provoking messages enhanced by The Umbrella's other programs, including a concurrent visual art gallery exhibition, *The Colored Museum: Past/Present/Future*, curated by Cedric Vise1 Douglas, spotlighting 10 emerging and established Black artists, and joint events with area partners including the The Robbins House and the Town Visitor Center's African-American History of Concord Walking Tour.

ABOUT THE SEASON

The Colored Museum will be presented at The Umbrella Arts Center's Main Stage Theater144, 40 Stow Street, Concord, with restricted capacity and facemasks required.

Tickets range from \$15-\$44, with special pricing for Students, Seniors, and participants in the EBT, WIC and ConnectorCare Card-to-Culture Program. For ticketing, COVID, and Accessibility information see ***TheUmbrellaArts.org/BoxOffice***

See <http://TheUmbrellaStage.org>

CALENDAR LISTING & PRESS OPENING DETAILS

Theatre | Performing Arts

WHAT

The Colored Museum

WHO

Directed by Pascale Florestal for The Umbrella Stage Company, written by George C. Wolfe,
Music by Kysia Bostic, featuring Kai Clifton, Yasmeen Duncan, BW Gonzalez*, Lorraine Kanyike,
Damon Singletary*

WHEN

RUN: May 20-June 5, 2022

PRESS OPENINGS: Sunday May 22, 2022 at 3:00PM, followed by The Colored Museum Gallery
Exhibition Artist Reception

Fridays & Saturdays 8PM; Sundays 3PM

WHERE

The Umbrella Arts Center, 40 Stow Street, Concord, MA 01742

ABOUT SUMMARY

The Colored Museum has electrified, discomfited, and delighted audiences of all colors,
redefining our ideas of what it means to be black in contemporary America

Tickets \$15-\$44 ; Flex Subscription Packages available

Discounts for students, seniors, military families, groups, Card-to-Culture eligible attendees

Group Discounts: Groups of 10 – 14 save 10%; groups of 15 and up save 15%. EBT, WIC,
ConnectorCare Card-to-Culture discounts available. Contact the Box Office for more details.

Press Photos available from Stewart@TheUmbrellaArts.org or 978-371-0820, or [online here](#).

ACCESS

The Umbrella is wheelchair accessible. Large Print playbills and Assistive Listening Devices are
available by advance request to Cregan@TheUmbrellaArts.org or 978-371-0820

BOX OFFICE CONTACT

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