

PROGRAMS of THE ESSENTIAL THEATRE

Mission

The Essential Theatre is a non-profit professional theatre dedicated, but not limited to producing theatre reflective of the African-American experience, that speaks distinctly from an African-American voice. It is also an objective of the company to produce programs for youth in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area that promotes interdisciplinary education and positive levels of self-esteem.

New Play Reading Series

The New Play Reading Series is created to give voice to the work of new and established playwrights. It is in substance an incubator that serves to nurture the work for a three-year period in a supportive and collaborative environment with other artisans, actors and directors. Further, it is a forum where audience members are welcomed to engage in an open dialogue with the playwright and director about the issues presented in the material as well as techniques used to present them. The New Play Reading Series was initiated in the spring of 1992.

Children's Programming

The Essential Theatre Children's Program in Public Schools was initiated in the winter of 1993. The Program currently maintains relationships with three DC Public Schools in S.E. Washington D.C. (Ward 8), traditionally the district's most under-served quadrant. The general purpose of this project is to allow students attending the selected schools an introduction to the theatrical process through interdisciplinary education. It offers them active participation in the creation of a theatrical event. This process affords students exposure to each aspect of the theatre, i.e.; acting, production and management. The core objective is to arm students with a sense of accomplishment through assuming different levels of responsibility and working together to realize and end product of quality.

Women's Works

The Women's Works Program is created to celebrate, investigate, and cultivate the work for, by, and about women. The Theatre endeavors to present one of its productions each year that is solely dedicated to women's issues; totally staffed by women. It is a priority for the company to reach out to women and girls of all socio-economic backgrounds through this program as it celebrates the triumphs and travails of women around the world.