

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER
52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

PRODUCTION NOTES

Project Name	"Little Ham" written by Langston Hughes
Project Type	Theater
Project Rate	\$0. All of our actors are volunteers from the local community and performances are an act of charity. All of our performances are fundraisers.
Union Status	Non-Union
Run	2 Consecutive Weekends April 28 – April 30; May 5 – 7
Audition Dates	February 20 – March 15, 2017 - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 3201 Adeline Street Berkeley, CA 94703
Submission Information	Please submit resume with current headshot to brgnation@blackrepertorygroup.com . Please note this is not required to audition. All are welcome to participate.
Callback Dates	March 6 – 15, 2017 (as applicable)
Final Casting	Notices will be emailed on or before 03/22/17 \$5 Donation to be used for Script & Headshot Printing
Project Synopsis	<p>Come join us as BRG Mainstage Reprises and brings to life this mega-stage production of a timeless classic,, a romantic urban comedy set in 1920s Harlem. We find a resilient community optimistic about money to be made and thriving on the hustle for money. An overwhelming jovial spirit and energy take over as the cast dances hope to life.</p> <p>Please note this is a 3-Act Stage-Play that culminates in the Savoy Ballroom for a Charleston Dance Contest. Dancing is required for most roles.</p> <p>To find more background information on Harlem 1920s please refer to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Harlem Renaissance 1920s – Savoy Ballroom 2. Charleston Dance 1920s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s58iTzznkp0
Rehearsal Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03/27/2017 – 04/27/2017 • Weekdays 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM • Weekend 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM • The Director reserves the right to add/change rehearsal dates and times after casting is completed.
Call Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fridays @ 6:30 PM • Saturdays @ 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM • Sundays @ 5:00 PM
Showtimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fridays @ 8:00 PM • Saturdays @ 3:00 PM & 8:00 PM • Sundays @ 5:00 PM

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[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

CAST OF CHARACTERS
PLEASE SELECT NAME BELOW TO SEE FULL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>Little Ham</u> | 20. <u>First Detective</u> |
| 2. <u>Tiny Lee</u> | 21. <u>Second Detective / Savoy Owner #1</u> |
| 3. <u>Madame Lucille Bell</u> | 22. <u>Youth / Male Dancer #3</u> |
| 4. <u>Boss Leroy</u> | 23. <u>Deaconess / Committee Member #4</u> |
| 5. <u>Shingle</u> | 24. <u>Tall Guy / Committee Member #3</u> |
| 6. <u>Sugar Lou</u> | 25. <u>Hot Stuff Man</u> |
| 7. <u>Mattie Bea</u> | 26. <u>Pretty Woman / Female Dancer #1</u> |
| 8. <u>Jasper</u> | 27. <u>Hardy / Female Dancer #3</u> |
| 9. <u>West Indian</u> | 28. <u>Butch</u> |
| 10. <u>Opal</u> | 29. <u>Jiggers</u> |
| 11. <u>Lulu</u> | 30. <u>Dutch / Savoy Owner #2</u> |
| 12. <u>Jack</u> | 31. <u>Female Customer / Jasper's Lady</u> |
| 13. <u>Gilbert</u> | 32. <u>Mama</u> |
| 14. <u>Male Customer / Male Dancer #1</u> | 33. <u>Snooks</u> |
| 15. <u>Janitor / Committee Member #2</u> | 34. <u>Staid Lady / Coat Check</u> |
| 16. <u>Shingle's Lady / Old Lady</u> | 35. <u>Missouri</u> |
| 17. <u>Shabby Man / Master of Ceremonies</u> | 36. <u>Lodge Lady</u> |
| 18. <u>Man In Boots / Sugar Lou's Boyfriend</u> | 37. <u>Divinite / Bahama Dancer</u> |
| 19. <u>News & Delivery Boy / Male Dancer #2</u> | 38. <u>Cop / Savoy Manager</u> |

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52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

MALE ROLES

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1. [Little Ham](#)
2. [Boss Leroy](#)
3. [Shingle](#)
4. [Jasper](#)
5. [West Indian](#)
6. [Jack](#)
7. [Gilbert](#)
8. [Male Customer / Male Dancer #1](#)
9. [Janitor / Committee Member #2](#)
10. [Shabby Man / Master of Ceremonies](#)
11. [Man In Boots / Sugar Lou's Boyfriend](#)
12. [News & Delivery Boy / Male Dancer #2](#)
13. [First Detective](#)
14. [Second Detective / Savoy Owner #1](#)
15. [Youth / Male Dancer #3](#)
16. [Tall Guy / Committee Member #3](#)
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52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

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1. [Tiny Lee](#)
2. [Madame Lucille Bell](#)
3. [Sugar Lou Bird](#)
4. [Mattie Bea](#)
5. [Opal](#)
6. [Lulu](#)
7. [Shingle's Lady / Old Lady](#)
8. [Deaconess / Committee Member #4](#)
9. [Pretty Woman / Female Dancer #1](#)
10. [Hardy / Female Dancer #3](#)
11. [Female Customer / Jasper's Lady](#)
12. [Mama](#)
13. [Staid Lady / Coat Check](#)
14. [Lodge Lady](#)
15. [Divinite / Bahama](#)

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER
52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

YOUTH ROLES

PLEASE SELECT NAME BELOW TO SEE FULL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

1. [Snooks](#)
2. [Missouri](#)

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER
52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

Little Ham: Lead Male.

- African American. Age: 23-33. Height: 5'0"-5'5".
- The plot centers around Hamlet Hitchcock 'Little Ham' Jones; a sporty young shoe shiner with a short & medium build. He is a ladies man who enjoys seducing women with his smile. While ducking and dodging the women in his life, he finds time to write numbers for the local boss of Harlem. It's love at first sight, as Little Ham falls hard for Tiny Lee. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Slacks and sport coat, white button up shirt and sporty cap, red muffler. 2. Shoe shiner uniform. 3. 1920's Dressy Suit for Savoy Ballroom

Tiny Lee: Lead Female.

- African American. Age 25-35. Height: 5'6" - 5'9".
- A young, single entrepreneur that owns a hair salon. Her shop is the center for the ladies of Harlem as she provides several services in her shop. Tiny Lee is a confident woman who goes after what she wants. As she falls head over heels for Little Ham, the drama unfolds as she fights for her man, Little Ham. Tiny Lee is curvy, full-figured and stands a few inches over Little Ham. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Skirt and Button Up Shirt with pumps; 2. Hair Salon Uniform with Smock
3. Nightgown with Robe; 4. All Red Evening Gown

Madam Lucille Bell: Female. Principal Role.

- African American. Age 40-55.
- Proprietress of Paradise Shining Parlors. A multifaceted establishment with tobacco, shoe shines and dream books. Everybody in Harlem knows to see Boss Leroy's "Partner" to get your daily number played. The Madam finds herself between a rock and a hard place when the law gets involved. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Casual Dress with pumps 2. Evening Gown

Boss Leroy: Male. Principal Role.

- African American. Age 40-55. Height: 5'8" +
- A Harlem Racketeer. Partner/Boyfriend to Madam Bell. He enjoys having his lady own a business he can run his numbers through. He's very authoritative with his workers and speaks down to the Shine Boys. He's the head man in charge in Harlem until the Butch, Dutch and Jiggers rolls in. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Business Suit 2. Tuxedo

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER
52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

Shingle: Male. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 21-30. Height: 5'6" – 6'.
- A Lazy Shine Boy. Always ready for his break and a meal. He would rather pass of the next customer than do any work. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Shine Boy Uniform 2. Tuxedo

Sugar Lou Bird: Female. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 21-30. Height: 5'2 – 5'5". Petite.
- A Harlem Chorus Girl. She has traveled the world with her shows. She's is very perky. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Casual Attire – Artistic Attire 2. Evening Gown

Mattie Bea: Female Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 35-45. Height: 5'6"-6'.
- Mattie Bea is a married woman who has found the attention she seeks from Little Ham. Mattie spends most days looking around Harlem for Little Ham. Apparently she's content to do so. She's very possessive and aggressive about her Little Ham. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Casual Attire 2. Evening Gown

Jasper: Male. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 21-30. Height: 5'8"-6'1".
- Night Shine Boy. Very quick witted young man. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Shine Boy Uniform 2. Tuxedo

West Indian: Male. Supporting Role.

- African American / West Indian. Age 36-50. Height: 5'8-6'3.
- He's is very confident and speaks with a West Indian accent. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Three Piece Suit with Walking Cane 2. Tuxedo with Walking Cane

Opal: Female. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 21-25.
- Manicurist in Tiny's Shop. Young flirtatious lady. She kindly greets the customers as they come into the shop.
- Wardrobe: 1. Work attire

Lulu: Female. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 20-30. Height: 5'4"-5'8". Full figure.
- A Hairdresser. Tiny Lee's Sister. She has a booth alongside her sister's in the shop. Enjoys working with her people and Loves Harlem. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Work clothes and smock 2. Evening Gown

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52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

Jack: Male. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 20-30. Height: 5'5"-5'8".
- Lulu's Boyfriend. He's ready to party and enjoy the night on the town with his lady.
- Wardrobe: 1. Three Piece Dress Suit

Gilbert: Male. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 40-55. Height: 5'8"-6'4".
- Tiny Lee's Ex-Flame & Mattie Bea's Husband. He's a man's man with a temper. He still wants Tiny bad and doesn't appreciate being denied.
- Wardrobe: 1. Slack pants & Sports Coat with Hat.

Male Customer/Male Dancer #1. Male. Special Role.

- African American. Age 21-31. Height: 5'6"+
- Male customer on the shine stand. Also the date for Female Dancer #1 in the Savoy Ballroom Charleston Contest. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Street Clothes and dress shoes 2. Dress Suit or Tuxedo with tails

Janitor/Committee Member #2: Male. Special Role.

- African American. Age 35-60. Height: 5'7"-6'4"
- Janitor in the shine stand. He's a numbers addict looking to make it out by striking it rich quick. Double cast as a committee member judge for the Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom.
- Wardrobe: 1. Janitor Overalls and Work Boots 2. Black Dress Suit with Ribbons and/or sash

Shingle's Lady/Old Lady: Female. Special Role.

- African American. Age 30-45. Height: 5'0"-5'6"
- The Old Lady is a regular patron coming into the shine shop to play her numbers. She poorly dressed and still optimistic about playing her numbers. Double cast as Shingle's Date. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Tattered clothes and shoes with old coat 2. Evening Gown

Shabby Man / Master of Ceremonies: Male. Special Role.

- African American. Age 45-65. Height: 5'7"-6'5"
- Man in the cigar shop, tries to present himself as clean and neat. Double Cast as the Master of Ceremonies for the Social Club Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom.
- Wardrobe: 1. Shabby, worn and/or un-matching clothes 2. Tuxedo with tails or Best Dress Suit

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER
52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

Man In Boots / Sugar Lou's New Boyfriend: Male. Special Role.

- African American. Age 30-40. Height: 5'6"-6'2"
- Customer in Shine Stand. Double Cast as Sugar Lou's New Boyfriend for the Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Riding Clothes and Riding Boots – muddy 2. Dress Suit

News & Delivery Boy / Male Dancer #2: Male. Special Role:

- African American. Age 18-21. Height: 5'0"-5'5".
- Upbeat demeanor and young at heart. Double Cast as Male Dancer #2 in the Hello Social Charleston Contest. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Sport Cap, khaki pants, button up shirt and shoulder bag to carry newspapers 2. Dress Suit

First Detective: Male. Other Role.:

- Caucasian. Age 40-50. Height: 5'4"-5'8"
- Detective with the NYPD 1920s Harlem. Medium to almost hefty build.
- Wardrobe: 1. Cheap Suit with tie, Brim Hat, Badge and Pistol on Waist.

Second Detective / Savoy Owner #1: Male. Special Role:

- Caucasian. Age 30-40. Height: 5'7"-6'3"
- Detective with the NYPD 1920s Harlem. Athletic. Double Cast as one of the Owner of Savoy Ballroom Moe Gale.
- Wardrobe: 1. Cheap Suit with tie, Brim Hat, Badge and Pistol on Waist. 2. Expensive three piece suit with hat.

Youth / Male Dancer #3: Male. Special Role.

- Mixed. Age 18-25. Height: 4'8" - 5'2"
- Effeminate Creole. Youth is a Vaudeville performer that does Mae West Impersonations. Double Cast as Male Dancer #3 in the Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe 1. Plain slacks that fit with button up shirt and slipper loafers 2. Dressy Suit or Tuxedo

Deaconess / Committee Member #4: Female. Special Role.

- African American. Age 40-70. Height: 5'4" -5'8".
- The Deaconess is a "Wash A Foot Baptist". She is very outspoken when it comes to spreading the word. Double Cast as Committee Member #4 at the Hello Social at the Savoy Ballroom. She is one of the host judges.
- Wardrobe: 1. Sunday Best Attire with Bonnet and Hymn Book. 2. Black skirt with white button up shirt. Sashes and/or buttons.

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER
52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

Tall Guy / Committee Member #3: Male. Special Role.

- African American. Age 25-55. Height: 6'5" +
- The Tall Guy is a well dressed fellow with an undercover street swag. He's a hot head ready to fight. He carries a pistol and is quick to pull it out and use it. Double Cast as Committee Member #3 as one of the host and judges of the Hello Social Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom.
- Wardrobe: 1. Suit with back pants pocket. Pistol. 2. All Black Dress Suit with Dress Hat. Sashes and/or badges.

Hot Stuff Man: Male. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 35-55. Height: 5'5"-6"
- Hot Stuff Man is your all around fast talking hustler. His bag he carries is his personal bag of tricks and trinkets. He fast talks his customers into buying his goods fast and quick. He is your average street salesman at his finest. He attends the Hello Club Social at the Savoy Ballroom with Mama from Tiny Lee's Shop. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Street clothes with hat; Mid length raincoat for the fall almost winter weather. 2. Finest suit any color.

Pretty Woman / Female Dancer #1: Female. Special Role.

- African American. Age 21-36. Height: 5'6 – 6'0".
- The Pretty Woman is the 'damsel in distress'. She is married yet very flirtatious with the men of the Shine Parlor. Double Cast as Female Dancer #1 in the Hello Social Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom . Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Pretty Shirt and Skirt, possible flower in her hair even in the fall. Pumps with medium to high heel. 2. Evening Dress Separates.

Hardy / Female Dancer #3: Female. Special Role.

- African American. Age 25-40. Height: 5'5"-6'2".
- Hardy has a bold and daring demeanor. With a deep commanding voice. She has a masculine posture to her stride. Double Cast as Female Dancer #3 in the Hello Social Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Pants and button up shirt with vest, mens' hat and shoes. 2. Evening attire of the era with dancing shoes.

Butch: Male. Other Role.

- Caucasian. Age 40-50. Height: 6'1 +
- Gangster in Jiggers gang. He is the quiet muscle hitter of the gang. Tall, stocky to hefty build.
- Wardrobe: 1. Three piece suit with hat and the finest shoes to match.

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER
52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

Jiggers: Male. Other Role.

- Caucasian. Age 31-40. Height: 5'6" - 6'0"
- Gang Leader. Medium Round build . Jiggers is calm assertive and uses his authority over Butch, Dutch and the residents of Harlem with ease. He's the new boss and ready to flex his muscle all around. Very confident with his protection and bodyguards around.
- Wardrobe: 1. Three piece suit with hat and the finest shoes to match.

Dutch/ Savoy Owner #2: Male. Special Role.

- Caucasian. Age 21-31. Height: 5'0"-5'6".
- Young Gangster in Jiggers Gang. He is a petite firecracker, that will jump at the chance to intimidate. Double Cast as Owner #2 of the Savoy Ballroom.
- Wardrobe: 1. Three piece suit with hat and the finest shoes to match 2. Dress suit or tuxedo.

Female Customer / Jasper's Lady: Female. Special Role.

- African American. Age 21-30. Height: 5'4"-5'7".
- Customer at Opal's Manicure table in Tiny's Salon. She's a talkative and slightly nosy. Double Cast as Jasper's Lady, she is his date for the Hello Social Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Plain street clothes 2. Evening attire and dancing shoes.

Mama: Female. Supporting Role.

- African American. Age 32 – 45. Height: 5'4" - 5'8"
- Customer in Tiny's Shop. Mama is getting her hair done in Lulu's Chair. She's into playing the numbers and superstitious about what and how she plays. While Mama is getting her hair done she has to contend with her quick-witted daughter Snooks. She is determined to attend the Hello Social Charleston Contest at the Savoy Ballroom; her dance partner is the Hot Stuff Man.
- Wardrobe: 1. House dress 2. Long sleeve button up shirt with knee length flowing skirt, ankle socks and flat dancing shoes.

Snooks: Female. Other Role.

- African American. Age 10-14.
- She is the daughter of Mama in Tiny Lee's shop. Quick-witted with her comebacks to her mother and adults. Borderline rude.
- Wardrobe: 1. Dress or top and skirt with dress shoes and ankle socks.

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER
52nd Mainstage Season 2016-2017
Langston Hughes' "Little Ham"

[PRODUCTION
NOTES](#)

[FULL
CAST](#)

[MALE
ROLES](#)

[FEMALE
ROLES](#)

[YOUTH
ROLES](#)

Staid Lady / Coat Check: Female. Special Role.

- African American. Age 26-36. Height: 5'6" - 6'0" .
- A customer in Tiny Lee's shop. The Staid Lady tries to portray that she is quiet but likes to gossip. She is self-restrained and set in her ways whether they be old-fashioned or religious. The Staid Lady is a bit protective of her daughter Missouri. Double Cast as the Coat Check girl in the Savoy Ballroom.
- Wardrobe: 1. Long skirt and long sleeve top with church hat and pocket book or long dress that looks southern colonial. 2. Skirt with short sleeve shirt.

Missouri. Female. Other Role.

- African American. Age 10-12.
- She is the Staid Lady's daughter. Missouri comes in with her mother so they both can get their hair done. She looks simple, but has a touch of sassy with her classy.
- Wardrobe: Southern Bell dress with ruffles and petticoat.

Lodge Lady: Female. Other Role.

- African American. Age 40-65. Height: 5'7" - 6'3"
- Very confident lady. She's very assertive with her actions and demeanor. Commanding presence. She is the head of the judges at the Hello Social Charleston Contest.
- Wardrobe: All white button up shirt and white skirt. Large sash ribbon.

Divinite / Bahama Dancer: Female. Special Role.

- African American. Age 21-35. Height: 5'6"-5'9"
- Formerly known as Gertrude. Sweet Delight is now a Member of Father Divine's Cult. She is filled with peace. All of her actions are fluid and peaceful. She glides as she moves. Double Cast as the Bahama Dancer; the date of the West Indian to the Hello Social Charleston Contest. Dancing is required for this role.
- Wardrobe: 1. Traditional Indian – Middle Eastern wear for women. Long skirt and jewels. 2. Flapper dress – English Style

Cop / Savoy Manager: Male. Special Role.

- African American. Age: 38-41 Height: 6'1-6'4" . The Cop is based on the life of the 1st Black NYPD Officer Samuel J. Battle. Double Cast as the Manager at the Savoy Charles Buchanan
- Wardrobe: 1. 1920s NYPD Police Uniform 2. Three piece dress suit with hat