

BLACK REPERTORY GROUP THEATER  
54TH MAINSTAGE SEASON 2017-2018  
SWEAT & SPUNK

**PRODUCTION NOTES**

**CAST LIST**

**ROLE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**SWEAT   SPUNK**

**PRODUCTION NOTES**

PROJECT NAME	SWEAT & SPUNK
PROJECT TYPE	Theater
PROJECT RATE	<p>\$0*. All of our actors are volunteers from the local community and performances are an act of charity. All of our performances are fundraisers for the programs and services we offer the community.</p> <p>*There are revenue opportunities as a “BRG Box Office Affiliate” call (510) 652-2120 for details.</p>
UNION STATUS	Non-Union
PROJECT SYNOPSIS	<p>Two phenomenal short-stories written by Zora Neale Hurston. Two classic narratives about revenge and redemption. Zora Neale Hurston captures the brave and daring spirit of a 1920s all Black town in the South.</p> <p>“Sweat” is a story of liberation that follows Delia and Sykes Jones along a psychologically pressured journey of extreme love versus extreme hate. The terror of the tale unfolds as Delia has to cope with her increasingly intimidating, violent adulterating husband.</p> <p>“Spunk” is about a time when gossip and story-telling are a valued source of entertainment. News travels fast, after a trusted local source reports an eyewitness account of Spunk Banks in the bushes, with a married woman. Family dramas quickly escalate as the quiet town gets rocked with fear.</p> <p>For follow up research please visit the links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">1920s – Eatonville, Florida</a></li> </ul>
LOCATION & VENUE DETAILS	<p>Black Repertory Group Theater 3201 Adeline Street Berkeley, CA 94703 One block south of Ashby BART Station</p>
RUN	<p>3 Consecutive Weekends : January 12 – 28, 2018 01/12/18—01/14/18 01/19/18—01/21/18 01/26/18—01/28/18</p>
AUDITION DETAILS	<p>November 2017 Open Calls: Tuesdays 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM Saturdays 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM</p> <p>Please be prepared to present no more than two(2) short monologues. If you are a vocalist or musician please have no more than two(2) short selections prepared.</p> <p>If you have questions about your role or need to schedule a time other than those listed please call (510) 652-2120 or email <a href="mailto:auditions@blackrepertorygroup.com">auditions@blackrepertorygroup.com</a> for further details.</p>

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SUBMISSION INFORMATION	Please submit resume with current head-shot and videos to <a href="http://www.blackrepertorygroup.com/audition.html">http://www.blackrepertorygroup.com/audition.html</a> . Photo & Resume are appreciated; but are not required to audition. ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE.
CALLBACK DATES	November 27 – December 1, 2017. As applicable.
FINAL CASTING	On or before December 1, 2017
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE	December 1, 2017 – January 11, 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekdays 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM</li><li>• Weekends 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM</li><li>• The Director reserves the right to add/change rehearsal dates and times after casting is completed.</li></ul>
CALL SCHEDULE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fridays @ 6:30 PM</li><li>• Saturdays @ 1:30 PM &amp; 6:30 PM</li><li>• Sundays @ 3:30 PM</li></ul>
SHOWTIMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fridays @ 8:00 PM</li><li>• Saturdays @ 3:00 PM &amp; 8:00 PM</li><li>• Sundays @ 5:00 PM</li></ul>

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Alphabetical Order

Please select the character name for the description.

**Sweat : Act I**

1. [Bertha](#)
2. [Dave Carter](#)
3. [Delia Jones](#)
4. [Elijah Moseley\\*](#)
5. [Jim Merchant](#)
6. [Joe Clarke](#)
7. [Old Man Anderson](#)
8. [Sykes Jones](#)
9. [Walter Thomas\\*](#)

**Spunk : Act II**

1. [Elijah Moseley\\*](#)
2. [Joe Kanty](#)
3. [Lena Kanty](#)
4. [Narrator](#)
5. [Spunk Banks](#)
6. [Walter Thomas\\*](#)

\*Characters Elijah Moseley and Walter Thomas appear in both “Sweat” and “Spunk”

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ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

SWEAT

1.)	Bertha	Role Type: Supporting		Female	Age: 25-35	Height: 5'4" - 5'8"
		Character Description	Bertha is Sykes Jones' plump mistress, who he brings to town from Apopka, Florida. Bertha has picked up a bad reputation in her previous town and carried it to Eatonville. For three months, Sykes has been paying for Bertha to stay in Della Lewis' disreputable inn. Bertha is spoiled by the many gifts and attention she receives from Sykes. She takes pleasure in parading around town with a married man and even bold enough to call for Sykes at the front gate of his home with Delia.			
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>			
2.)	Dave Carter	Role Type: Supporting		Male	Age: 25-35	Height: Any Height
		Character Description	One of the men on the porch of Joe Clarke's store. Dave is a singer and dancer, who makes a living entertaining people. He is a happy-go-lucky character, who appears slightly dumb. He's funny and speaks with a heavy southern dialect.			
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>			
3.)	Delia Jones	Role Type: Principal		Female	Age: 31 - 45	Height: 5'4" - 5'7"
		Character Description	The protagonist of the story. Delia has been married to Sykes Jones for 15 years. She provides for herself and her husband as a hardworking wash-woman. Delia is a timid woman that holds tight to her Christian beliefs, in which she takes great solace in her difficult life; fighting to keep her house and her sanity. She is a thin woman with sagging, overworked shoulders. Delia has taken his psychological torture, beatings, unfaithfulness, and squandering of her money without a fight for a very long time. Sykes exploits Delia by bringing his mistress Bertha to stay in their town. Delia is driven to contemplate her ethics when Sykes cruelty turns into a terrifying moment of reckoning.			
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>			

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4.)	Elijah Moseley*	Role Type: Special	Male	Age: 40 - 65	Height: Any Height
		Character Description	Elijah Moseley is one of the men sitting on Joe's porch of the town store. His is close friends with Walter Thomas and they are contributors to spreading the town gossip. He has strong feelings about Sykes Jones treatment of his wife Delia and his dealings with Bertha. Elijah along with his friends on the porch are witnesses to many of the dramas that unfold in both Sweat & Spunk. He's funny and speaks with a heavy southern dialect.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>		
5.)	Jim Merchant	Role Type: Supporting	Male	Age: 35-55	Height: Any Height
		Character Description	Jim Merchant is is one of the men sitting on Joe's porch of the town store. He is a contributor to spreading the town gossip. He speaks in heavy Eatonville slang and provides some important insight into the general attitude of the town towards Sykes, Delia and Bertha. Jim knows first hand about Sykes behavior from when he tried to seduce his wife. He's funny and speaks with a heavy southern dialect.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>		
6.)	Joe Clarke	Role Type: Supporting	Male	Age: 50 - 70	Height: Any Height
		Character Description	Joe Clarke is one of the village elders He has been the Mayor, since the town was built. He is also the postmaster and owner of the general store. As an authority figure, he's a guy who doesn't say much, but when he does everyone listens. His porch and his store are a popular gathering place and a source of the town gossip. Joe is involved in many of the affairs of the community. He's funny and speaks with a heavy southern dialect.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>		

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7.)	Old Man Anderson	Role Type: Supporting	Male	Age: 55 - 70	Height: Any Height
		Character Description	Old Man Anderson is a farmer who lives outside the city limits of Eatonville and only comes to the town two or three times a year. He is not a very adventurous or courageous man. Old Man Anderson plays it "safe"; many of his neighbors find him odd as he's never seen a train before. He is an elder sitting on the porch of Joe Clarke's general store. He's funny and speaks with a heavy southern dialect. He's funny and speaks with a heavy southern dialect.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>		
8.)	Sykes Jones	Role Type: Principal	Male	Age: 35 - 60	Height: 5'7" -
		Character Description	The antagonist of the story. Sykes Jones is not very popular with the townspeople. He is the kind of guy your parents warn you about: cowardly, mean, unfaithful, childlike and cruel. Sykes has been married to Delia for 15 years. Shortly after they married he became physically and verbally abusive to Delia. He has no job and cheats frequently. He's decided to move his mistress to town. On Delia's dime, Sykes houses Bertha at the local boarding house and showers her with gifts. He even parades her public ally around town. Sykes decides to play a prank on Delia; when karma comes and turns the tables around leading to his own demise.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>		
9.)	Walter Thomas*	Role Type: Special	Male	Age: 40 - 65	Height: Any Height
		Character Description	Walter Thomas is an elder sitting on the porch of Joe Clarke's general store. His is close friends with Elijah Mosley and they are contributors to spreading the town gossip. He is always ready to spread his opinions on the town news. Walter along with his friends on the porch are witnesses to many of the dramas that unfold in both Sweat & Spunk. He's funny and speaks with a heavy southern dialect.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>		

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**SPUNK**

1.)	Elijah Moseley*	<a href="#">Please click here for character description.</a>
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2.)	Joe Kanty	Role Type: Principal	Male	Age: 30-50	Height: 5'4-5'7
		Character Description	Joe Kanty the protagonist of this tale is married to Lena Kanty. He is a small, slightly round man; often his clothes don't fit properly. Joe lacks the machismo of the antagonist of the tale, Spunk Banks. They are polar opposites in every way except the one that matter the most: Lena Kanty! Joe is crushed to hear the rumors and see his loving wife gallivanting around town with Spunk. It appears that Joe lacks the courage and strength to fight Spunk for his wife. When Joe finally confronts Spunk; an epic fight leads to Joe Kanty' death.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>		

3.)	Lena Kanty	Role Type: Principal	Female	Age: 25-45	Height: 5'0"- 5'7"
		Character Description	Lena Kanty is the wife of Joe Kanty. She is a small, pretty woman that uses her beauty to assert her power to her own advantage. Lena is comfortably in love with Spunk Banks. She has rejected Joe and taken to publicly carrying on with Spunk Banks. She doesn't care when Joe finds out about her affair. Lena has mixed emotions about Spunk after an epic fight with Joe that left her a widow. Without regret and seemingly not to grieve for her husband, Lena welcomes Spunk with open arms. Karma soon comes into play as Lena has to grieve for Spunk soon after her husbands death.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>		

4.)	Narrator	Role Type: Special	Either	Age: 30-65	Height: N/A
		Character Description	The Narrator plays an vital role in the progression of the tale. The narrator represents the communities voice as the drama unfold. The Narrator brings the tone of each moment that is played out from the perspective of the town to the audience.		
		Wardrobe / Costume	N/A		

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5.)	Spunk Banks	Role Type: Principal		Male	Age: 21 – 45	Height: 5'7" -
		Character Description	Spunk Banks is the antagonist of this story. He is described as “a giant of a brown-skinned man”. Spunk is a guitar playing, saw-mill worker with flashy clothes and a way with all of the women. He is bold and extremely confident and unafraid in everything he does. This is proven when he carries on with a married woman Lena Kanty in front husband and his friends. Spunk can be quite intimidating at times, he is quick-tempered and carries a pistol. When Joe confronts him about his activities with his wife, an epic fight ensues and he shoots him dead. Spunk is released from the police and boldly asks Lena, to marry him. It's not long before Spunk is haunted by karma for his actions.			
		Wardrobe / Costume	Costume is provided. For examples research 1920s Eatonville, Florida or visit <a href="https://goo.gl/CjefJQ">https://goo.gl/CjefJQ</a>			

6.)	Walter Thomas*	<a href="#">Please click here for character description.</a>
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