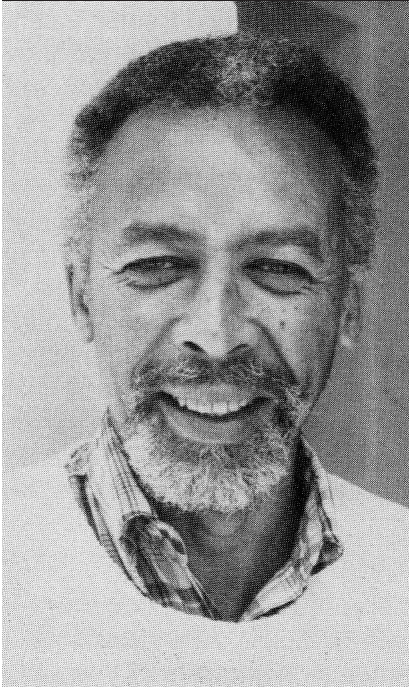


THE 2017 INNER CITY CULTURAL CENTER AWARDS SHOW



“Art may be the only tool we have left to save ourselves from destruction.”

THE CIRCLE By C. Bernard Jackson



A circle is formed
by the joining of hands.
It links us together
Across time shifting sands.

The circle reminds us
That all things are one.
That what may seem over
Has only begun.

Each point of the circle
Is equal in length.
Each part of the circle
Is equal in strength.

If all things are equal
As the circle will show,
Then there is no high
There is no low.

There is no weak.
There is no strong.
There is no short.
There is no long.

And no one need travel
The circle alone.
All things are united
As the circle has shown.

They say every season
Has its own time
And every reason
Has its own rhyme.

And there'd be no joy
If there were no sorrow.
Remember today
Will soon be tomorrow.

And even tomorrow
Soon will be gone.
The circle keeps turning
Keeps moving on.

It has no beginning.
It has no end.
The circle will bring us
Together again

ABOUT THE AWARDS SHOW DIRECTOR



ICCC Alumni, Hawthorne James is an actor and director from Chicago, IL. This theater veteran studied at the London Shakespeare Academy. He is best known for his role as Big Red Davis in the 1991 film *The Five Heartbeats*. He is also known for his role in films such as *Sam*, the injured bus driver, in *Speed*, *The Color Purple*, *Amistad* and for television series such as *Seven*, *NYPD Blue*, and guest-starring on *Frasier* as Bill in the season one episode “Miracle on Third or Fourth Street.” Hawthorne is excited to direct the show and present some of C. Bernard Jackson’s treasured musical works to the audience tonight.

THE PROGRAM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

OPENING PERFORMANCE:

"Out of the Ashes"

Written and Performed by Nina Womack
ICCC Spoken Word Tribute

Award Show Welcome Introductions:

Ernest Dillihay & Ernie Hudson, Master of Ceremonies

PERFORMANCE:

Matilda Haywood sings "The Lilac Tree"

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights
C. Bernard Jackson Playwrights Award
USC School of Dramatic Arts-, Velina Hasu
Houston MFA, PhD., Presenter: Dan Berkowitz

PERFORMANCE:

Kiko Ellsworth, "Slow Dance on the Killing
Ground" – monologue

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The C. Bernard Jackson Legacy Awards
Lula Washington Dance Theatre - Lula and
Erwin Washington, Artistic & Executive Direc-
tors, Presenter: Iona Morris
East West Players- Snehal Desai, Artistic
Director, Presenter: Ben Guillory, Artistic
Director the Robey Theatre Company
Bilingual Foundation for the Arts - Margarita
Galban, Artistic Director, Presenter: Suzanna
Guzmán

PERFORMANCES:

Raja Michael, Comedienne
Sylvan De La Cruz, Jazz Vocalist

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

The Elaine Gayle Kashiki-Josie Dotson Awards
Introduction by Jesse Dizon, Actor, Writer,
Producer
Towne Street Theatre – Nancy Cheryl
Davis-Bellamy, Producing Director & Nancy
Renee, Co-Artistic Director, Nathaniel Bellamy
Production Designer/Producer, Presenter: Sy
Richardson Actor/Author/Screenwriter/Director,
President of FEED MY SHEEP PRODUCTIONS
L.A. Women's Theater Festival - Adilah Barnes,
President, Board of Directors, Presenter: Iona
Morris

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

The Special Recognition Diversity &
Inclusion Awards

Sheldon Epps – Artistic Director Emeritus Pasade-
na Playhouse, Presenter: Iona Morris

Michael Alexander- Executive Director Emeritus,
Grand Performances, Presenter: Charmaine Jeffer-
son, Department of Cultural Affairs Commission,
Chair

Tim Dang – Artistic Director Emeritus East West
Players, Presenter: Marilyn Tokuda, Actress, Arts
Education Director

PERFORMANCE:

Steve Chang – Comedian

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Special Recognition Diversity & Inclusion
Awards

Introduction by Barbara Roberts- National Council-
or, Western Region Board National Equal Employ-
ment Opportunity 2nd Vice Chair - Actors Equity
Association

Actors Equity Association – Western Regional Vice
President, Doug Carfrae, and Western Regional
Director, Gail E. Gabler - Presenter: Steven Leigh
Morris, Executive Director Los Angeles Stage
Alliance

PERFORMANCES:

Musician, Edwing Sangkey performs "Lotus"
Vocalist, Jahsha sings "Kawa" and "Take A Chance"
from "Liliom" a play by C. Bernard Jackson.

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

The Inner City Essence Awards
Chester Whitmore – Choreographer, Dancer, Enter-
tainer, Presenter: Tap Dancers and Tony Nicholas,
Arts Activist and Son of the legendary Fayard
Nicholas of the Nicholas Brothers

PERFORMANCE:

Fernando Pullum Arts Center – "The Little Mer-
maid"

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

The Inner City Essence Awards
Wendy Raquel Robinson Actress, Producer, Direc-
tor, Founder-Amazing Grace Conservatory

PERFORMANCE:

Nancy Cheryl Davis Bellamy and Nancy
Renee read from "Pacific Ocean" by
C. Bernard Jackson

Art Evans – Actor, Director, Presenter: Glynn
Turman, Emmy Award Winning Actor
Video Message from Ted Lange, Actor, Direc-
tor, Playwright

PERFORMANCES:

Gia Scott-Heron –Spoken Word Artist presents
"The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"
"The Circle" by C. Bernard Jackson
"In Memorium"- A video tribute
Talya Ferro sings "The New Year's Eve Song"
by C. Bernard Jackson John Rodby, Pianist
Brenda Lee Eager sings "Fly Blackbird" by C.
Bernard Jackson

CLOSING REMARKS:

Ernie Hudson

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

"The Envisioning Seminar"

"Envisioning Seminar" discussion, a design
thinking process focused on the Center's
library. Andrew W. Thornhill, Digital Strat-
egist, and founder of THE DIGITAL TELEVI-
SION REPORT (DTR) will lead the seminar.
Invited guests include Michael Rendler (AIA)
of e7Studios and others.

The seminar will convene on Sunday,
November 5, 2017, from 2:00^{PM} to 4:00^{PM}.
The great minds will gather in the Studio
Room at the Nate Holden Performing Arts
Center, 4718 West Washington Boulevard,
Los Angeles, California 90016.



ABOUT THE INNER CITY CULTURAL CENTER

The Board of Directors and alumni of the Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center's (LAICCC) 50th Anniversary Planning Committee present the third of three 50th anniversary celebrations recognizing a milestone in the history of the Inner City Cultural Center. Entitled "OUT OF THE ASHES: FROM MULTI-CULTURALISM and DIVERSITY TO INCLUSION 1967-2017," this anniversary is not only a reason for celebration and recognition of those who have made significant contributions in diversity and inclusion, but this is the anniversary of the 1967 inaugural season that launched the Inner City Cultural Center and the Langston Hughes Memorial Library. It was then, in 1967, that the Inner City Cultural Center concretely established itself as the "original genesis," (that is, the "O.G.") and advocate for multi-culturalism, diversity and inclusion in the theater, film and television industries.

The Center was conceived prior to the 1965 Watts Rebellion, but rising from the ashes of this social upheaval, was given birth by co-founders C. Bernard Jackson, a UCLA music student and Dance Department rehearsal pianist, and neuro-psychiatrist, Dr. J Alfred Cannon. They connected with Academy Award winning actor Gregory Peck. Mr. Peck was a board member of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Council on the Arts. With Peck and the NEA securing support from the Ford Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the Inner City Cultural Center became one of three theaters approved nationally, as part of the Educational Theater Laboratory Project. The theater project was designed to introduce classical and professional theater to students. From 1967-

1970, Inner City exposed 35,000 LAUSD students and additional audiences to live theater. However, rather than cast shows in a "normal" fashion, Inner City introduced a multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-ethnic, program philosophy of non-traditional and color-blind casting. The first play of that inaugural season, TARTUFFE, included future Academy Award winners and nominees such as Louis Gossett, Jr. and Paul Winfield, amid a diverse group of actors including Bonnie Bedelia, Robert Ito and Roscoe Lee Browne among others.

With the additional assistance of such luminaries as the late Robert Wise, Milton Berle, Eddie & Margo Albert, Budd Schulberg, and others

such as Marlo Thomas, Sidney Poitier, members of the UCLA Theater and Dance Departments, the Inner City Cultural Center thrived and provided a platform and a home base for minority artists to develop their skills and talents.



1968 Production of Thornton Wilder's play, "Our Town" C. Bernard Jackson, director seated on the table surrounded by the cast and crew.

Included among the supporters and contributors were people such as: Mako, Luis Valdez, Alvin Ailey, Beah Richards, Twyla Thorpe, Denzel Washington, Paul Winfield, Carmen Zapata, Marla Gibbs, Pat Morita, George C. Wolfe, Bella Lewitsky. Ernie Hudson, George Takei, Glynn Turman, Art Evans, Soon Tek Oh, Ted Lange, Ruth Warshawsky, Alvin

Ailey, Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Nobu McCarthy, Janet Jackson, June Kim, Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs, Pat Morita, Quincy Jones, Bonnie Bedelia, Ted Lange, Donald McKayle, Aretha Franklin and Arthur Mitchell, among many others, who were instrumental in supporting and advancing the mission of the Inner City Cultural Center.

Inner City Cultural Center, true to its production and programming philosophy, was therefore the "original genesis," i.e. the "O.G.," of multi-culturalism, diversity and inclusion. Coupled with its color-blind and non-traditional casts, Inner City provided a space allowing minorities of all stripes a voice. Other organizations and individuals also gained their footing at Inner City or were influenced by its programming. The Inner City Cultural Center was indeed the "O.G." and the leader of diversity and inclusion in the stage screen and television industries. Thus, the theme of our anniversary celebrations, "From Multi-Culturalism and Diversity to Inclusion 1967-2017".

The awards portion of this celebration has a long history, which commenced with the Elaine Gayle Kashiki Award, now the Elaine Gayle Kashiki- Josie Dotson Award. Kashiki and Dotson, key administrative

directors at the Center, met with their untimely demise during their employment with Inner City. This award is dedicated to them and the administrators who strive often under extreme circumstances to keep arts organization doors open. As we have evolved, we have included the C. Bernard Jackson Legacy, Inner City Essence, and this year the Special Recognition Diversity and Inclusion Awards. Additionally, we embrace the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights as they present their C. Bernard Jackson Playwright's Award named in honor of Mr. Jackson.

Previous Kashiki-Dotson, C. Bernard Jackson Legacy and Inner City Essence Award recipients have included George Takei of "Star Trek" fame, Miles Davis, Alvin Ailey, film director Robert Wise, Glynn Turman, Ted Lange; and posthumous awards to people like Margo Albert, founder of Plaza de la Raza; and architect Robert Kennard, an original board member of the Cultural Center, among others. Cecilia



George Takei accepts the Inner City Essence Award from Ernest Dillihay

Peck accepted a Kashiki-Dotson Award on behalf of her father, the late Gregory Peck, a staunch supporter at the Center's inception.

In addition to the launch of the 1967 inaugural season, C. Bernard Jackson also launched the Langston Hughes Memorial Library. Hughes was Jackson's favorite writer.

Mr. Jackson collected and eventually published works by minority artists that were then placed in the library. The Inner City Cultural Center mission was to utilize the arts as a vehicle to increase cultural communications among ethnic and racial groups and "...for the presentation and study of the performing and other arts to make available to the minority groups residing in that area the finest performing and other arts and to furnish to such groups an outlet and facilities for the development of their talents and capabilities." (Articles of Incorporation, 1966)

The inaugural season also included several fundraisers to bolster support for the Langston Hughes Memorial Library. Chief among them was The Courrèges Fashion Show at The Factory hosted by Ms. Veronique Peck, the wife of Gregory Peck. Ms. Peck recruited famous French fashion designer, André Courrèges and a few Hollywood "friends" to raise funds for the library.

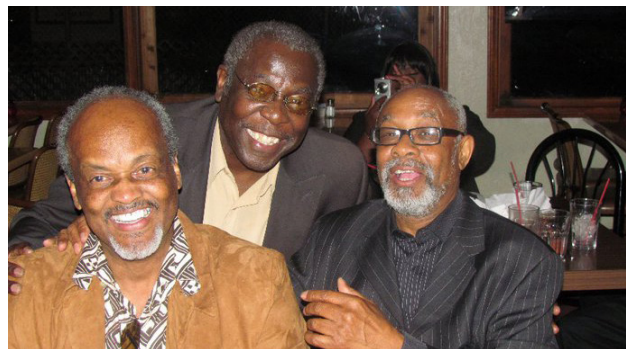
This year, fifty years after the inaugural season and the fundraising for the Langston Hughes Memorial Library, we announce our plans to publish a 2nd edition of the book OUT OF THE ASHES and our story for a documentary film of the same title. To house the book, the film and the collected works of C. Bernard Jackson, as well as works by Inner City alumni and future artists representative of the people Mr. Jackson nurtured, we are announcing our plans to design and build

the Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center C. Bernard Jackson Memorial Library to honor the legacy of Mr. Jackson and the artists and cultural workers who strengthen and liven up make our communities.

The gala and seminar will launch of a new era in the history of the Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center. As we design for the future, Partner with us to help build the C. Bernard Jackson Library and re-establish the place called Inner City Cultural Center. Your monthly pledge will enable us achieve that goal.

Pledge now at

www.patreon.com/Innercityculturalcenter



L TO R: ICCC Board of Directors, Ernest Dillihay and James Burks with actor/director, Ian Foxx.

ICCC AWARDS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Executive Producer, Ernest Dillihay is currently President of Arts Culture Entertainment (ACE), LLC, a program development, production and promotions company. He is Chairman of the Friends of the Vision Theatre.

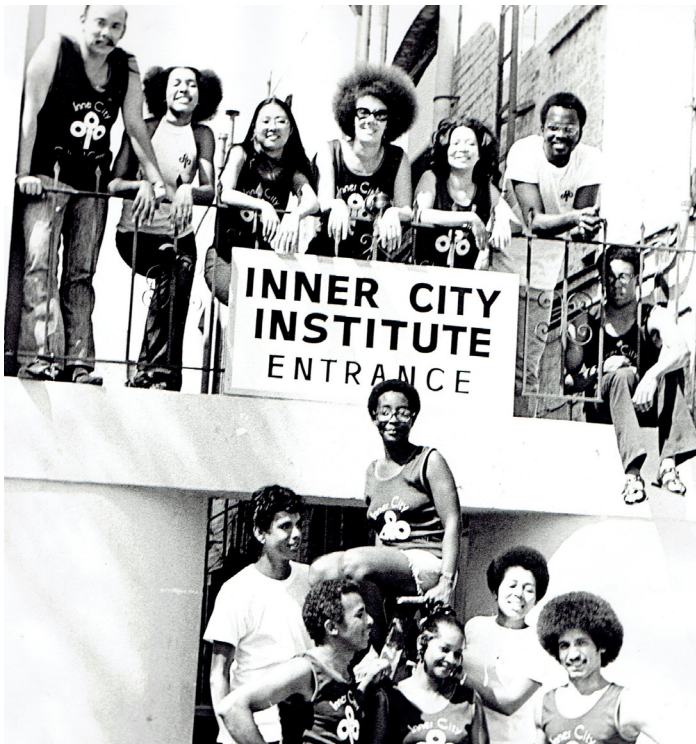
Ernest was the Performing Arts Director and Cultural Facilities Director of the City of Los Angeles, supervising, Festival, Folk & Traditional Arts Programs and operations at five city-owned theaters, (the Madrid Theatre, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Warner Grand Theatre, Nate Holden Performing Arts Center and the Vision Theatre), and 27 art centers, museums and galleries.

His efforts for the City of Los Angeles resulted in raising \$14.5Million for the state-of-the-arts renovation of the Vision Theatre in Leimert Park. He worked with Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, the late August Wilson's national black theater advocacy organization, African Grove Institute for the Arts (AGIA), establishing the first state chapter of AGIA in California; is a Cable ACE Award Winner; EMMY and NAACP Image Award Nominee; and an OVATION Theatre Award winner. He is a UCLA Ethnic Arts (B.A.) and Theatre Management (M.F.A.) graduate and a former National Endowment for the Arts and CORO Public Affairs and the Arts Program Fellow.

THE FIRST SEASON

1967-1968

ICCC is selected as one of three national sites for The Educational Laboratory Theatre project, a three-year experimental pilot project sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts.



THE EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY THEATRE PROJECT

TARTUFFEE

THE FLIES

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

THE SEA GULL

SLOW DANCE ON THE KILLING GROUND

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

SUNDAY EVENING CONCERT SERIES

Al Huang & Suzanne Pierce

Inestia, Flamenco dancer

The Sounds of Ketty Lester

The World of My America

Pauline Myers

A one-woman dramatization by Pauline Myers as a part of a special benefit for the founding of the Langston Hughes Memorial Library

Mamoko Japanese Mime

Japan's Odori Festival of Dancers

SPECIAL ARTISTIC EVENTS

Photos by SI-CHI-K'O

Brought to the USA from Taiwan for the exhibit

I Too Am America

A photo exhibit by Marion Palfi, social research as a special benefit for the founding of the Langston Hughes Memorial Library.

Banquet Honoring Black Artists:

Owen Dotson, Ted Shine and Lofton Mitchel

American Indian Dancers

Noche De Mexico

Osamu Ozawa, Karate

Won Kyung Cho, Korean dancer

Black Baber Tells Riot Commission Like It Is

Pre-Apprentice Training Program

The Role of Non-White and Spanish Speaking Americans in the Theater Arts

COURREGES at The FACTORY

A charity party at The Factory to benefit the Langston Hughes Memorial Library



THE TIMES FROM SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA NOVEMBER 14, 1967



Gregory Peck, who helped found Inner City, table throughout the evening, telling guests, "Well, the project's getting off the ground now!!" Steve Allen stood up to get a better view when young singer Bobbie Gentry mounted the stage to sing her popular song. Sen. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy joined hundreds of film and television stars Monday night for a benefit party. Other party goers at Hollywood's most "in" discotheque, The Factory, were such stars as Barbara Streisand, Omar Sharif and a radiant Ava Gardner, wearing.

Sen. Kennedy, D - N.Y. and his wife, Ethel, seated at a table with Mr. and Mrs. Andy Williams, actress Shirley McLaine and Tom Smothers of the Smothers Brothers, watched as California's millionaire hippies Sonny and Cher, Fat Mama Cass and all their flower power friends in pants suits and evening pajamas to short, sequined minis. André Courrèges, French fashion designer, presented his first American showing. Most of the men wore turtle neck sweaters under blazers. The building was once used as a warehouse and furniture manufacturing. Mrs. Gregory Peck, was in a pink and white Courrèges dress. The ladies' clothes ranged from ganzie and green satin. Mrs. Pierre Salinger whispered comments to an obviously interested Kennedy. Nicole Salinger, wife of the former press secretary to President John F. Kennedy, wore a blue and white version of the "little dress," a Courrèges original. Ethel Kennedy sparkled in a silver-sequined dress. The Kennedys, who have been vacationing at the Palm Springs home of Mrs. and Mrs. Kirk Douglas, came to Hollywood especially for the benefit, staged to raise funds for the Inner City Cultural Center. The center is an inter-racial project partially sponsored by government agencies to bring theater to 10th grade school children. The Courrèges fashion show was a gay, fast-paced romp...

Edited excerpt

THE ALLIANCE OF LOS ANGELES PLAYWRIGHTS (ALAP) C. BERNARD JACKSON AWARD



ALAP is a support and service organization dedicated to protecting the rights and addressing the professional needs of the Los Angeles playwriting community. Founded in 1993, ALAP now counts members in 15 states, the District of Columbia, and even New Zealand. Membership ranges from students and beginning writers to established professionals. ALAP is all-volunteer, and is a nonprofit 501c3 entity which gratefully accepts donations!

We encourage all those interested in theatre and playwriting to visit the website and sign up for the ALAP email list to be notified of our upcoming events and programs.

<http://laplaywrights.org/>

THE C. BERNARD JACKSON AWARD

The Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights (ALAP) created the C. Bernard Jackson Award to recognize individuals and organizations which have nurtured, developed, and supported the playwrights of Los Angeles and/or playwriting in Los Angeles. It was conceived, not as a competition, but rather as a way for L.A. playwrights to periodically say “thank you” to a deserving party. The award was named for its initial recipient, the late Jack Jackson, who founded the Inner City Cultural Center. Subsequent winners have included Highways, The Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater Projects, FirstStage, Paula Holt, Celebration Theatre, and Playwrights’ Arena.

USC SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS- MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN DRAMATIC WRITING

The Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing was established at USC in 1990 by Velina Hasu Houston. Current faculty includes Houston, Oliver Mayer, Paula L. Cizmar, and Luis Alfaro.

The MFA in Dramatic Writing is an intensive, intimate, mentor-based, practicing literary arts program for today’s dramatic writer. Centrally housed in the School of Dramatic Arts at USC, an elite research university, designed to mine the literary potential of the artist, and prepare the artist to engage meaningfully in global society and the profession. In association with the USC School of Cinematic Arts, the MFA in Dramatic Writing offers a foundational playwriting curriculum augmented with courses in new media, television writing, and screenwriting toward the thesis project of a professionally promising full-length play.

At every juncture, the USC MFA in Dramatic Writing seeks to engage with multiple theaters in Southern California to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The USC MFA in Dramatic Writing has hired numerous Los Angeles-based actors and directors, and invited playwrights and other dramatists to speak in classes and at its Western Edge Playwrights’ Salon, which emphasizes voices in theatre west of the Mississippi River.

VELINA HASU HOUSTON

Velina Hasu Houston is the founder and director of the Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing, Professor of Theatre, Associate Dean of Faculty, Director of Dramatic Writing, and Resident Playwright.



An internationally acclaimed playwright, Houston has written over thirty plays including sixteen commissions in a career that began Off-Broadway with her play *Tea* at Manhattan Theatre Club and *American Dreams* at Negro Ensemble Company. Her plays have been produced at important theatres around the globe and others including in the People’s Republic of China, Japan, Singapore, Australia, and Malaysia. The recipient of many honors, Houston also writes opera, television, and film and is a published poet and essayist.

She serves on the federal agency US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange. At the USC School of Theatre, in the past she has served on the faculty of the UCLA Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting and Kyoto’s Doshisha University.
<http://www.velinahasuhouston.com>

KASHIKI-DOTSON AWARD RECIPIENTS



ADILAH BARNES

Adilah Barnes, best-known for her role as Anne Marie on ABC's *Roseanne*, is one of few veteran actors in Hollywood that have not only mastered the art of successfully marketing herself, but also of utilizing all of

her many creative skills which include radio host and writer— all the while staying true to herself and maintaining her integrity.

Adilah Barnes is the Co-Founder of the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival, an annual, multi-cultural festival that showcases female artists in the disciplines of dance, music, theatrical performances, spoken word and comedy that has produced well over 400 artists and is now in its 24th year.

Among many, Adilah's achievement awards include X-Cel Entertainment's Lifetime Achievement Award in Entertainment; Stop the Violence, Increase the Peace Foundation's Spirit of Peace Award; Black Theatre Network's Winona Fletcher Award; Oroville, CA's Dr. Martin Luther King Day Award, and Towson University's Program of the Year Award.

Also, in 2010, Barnes was honored with the establishment of the 1st Annual Adilah Barnes Arts and Literary Achievement Scholarship for Minneapolis, MN inner city youth.

Both The Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival and Ms. Barnes, individually, were honored with the prestigious Women in Theatre Award in 2006



TOWNE STREET THEATRE

Towne Street Theatre is the premiere African-American theatre company in Los Angeles. Founded in the aftermath of the 1992

Los Angeles riots with the belief that we could affect social change through our art, the Towne Street Theatre's mission is creating, developing, and producing original work that is reflective of the African American experience and perspective for theatre and film.

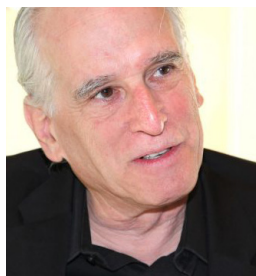
Since its inception in 1993 with Cyndi James Reese and Louise Mita's one women shows, the theatre has featured a diverse selection of intriguing productions from "Walking With A Panther", Sheri Bailey's gritty drama about the stormy reunion of a Black Panther and his family, after a 23-year prison sentence, to Bernardo Solano's "Science & the Primitives," a story of "altered states" in the jungles of South America and Before 1950, a collection of plays and poetry by African-American women writers, such as Margaret Walker and Alice Childress.

In order to further illuminate the role African American artists have played in the history of American theatre, we also produce a series entitled "Black Classics" dedicated to the work of playwrights seldom produced such as Loftin Mitchell, Alice Childress, and Steve Carter. Our mission of affecting social change is extended with our commitment to developing the next generation of theatre artists through our programming.

Originally located in the Downtown Fashion District, events are now held at the Stella Adler Theatre in Hollywood and other locations throughout the Los Angeles area. TST continues to be an oasis for creativity and imagination and a theatre that helps to bridge the cultural divide by bringing artists and audiences of all colors together.

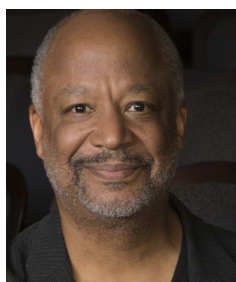
TST has successfully produced twenty-three years of main stage productions and fifteen years of youth theatre productions. We are currently celebrating our 24th year with a slate of exciting productions, readings and events.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: LEGACY AWARD RECIPI-



MICHAEL ALEXANDER
Michael Alexander - Executive Director for GRAND PERFORMANCES, the free public concert series in downtown Los Angeles.

As the first Artistic Director for the series, Michael set the tone for Grand Performances' approach to programming with an eye to serving the entire community and to developing supportive relationships with the local arts community. Mr. Alexander serves on the California Arts Council as Past Chair, and serves on numerous arts and community service boards.



SHELDON EPPS
Sheldon Epps - Artistic Director Emeritus of the renowned Pasadena Playhouse.

In 1997, Sheldon Epps became the first artistic director of color at a major Southern California theater. In a tenure that would last 20 years, the period under Epps direction would result in the theater becoming well known for its emphasis on diverse content and casting, new musicals, and growth in the areas of education and new play development.

Before beginning his tenure at The Playhouse in 1997, he served as Associate Artistic Director of the Old Globe Theatre for four years. He was also a co-founder of the off-Broadway theatre, The Production Company. Mr. Epps has directed both plays and musicals at many of the country's major theatres including the Roundabout, Manhattan Theatre Club, the Guthrie, Playwrights Horizons, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage, and the Goodman Theatre. He conceived the highly acclaimed musicals Play On! and Blues In the Night, which both received Tony Award nominations. He directed productions of both of those shows on Broadway, in London, and at theatres around the world.

Mr. Epps has also had a busy career as a television director, helming episodes of shows such as "Frasier," "Friends," "Everybody Loves Raymond," "Girlfriends" and many others. For more than a decade, he served as a member of the Executive Board of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Mr. Epps received the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for his efforts and accomplishments at The Pasadena Playhouse. Under his leadership, The Playhouse has earned distinction for productions of artistic excellence.

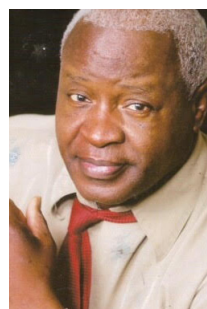


TIM DANG
Mr. Tim Dang - Artistic Director Emeritus, East West Players

Tim recently stepped down as producing artistic director of East West Players (EWP), the longest running professional theatre of color in the United States and the largest creator of Asian Pacific American work for the live stage. Through his 23 years of leadership, East West Players moved from a 99-seat black box space in the Silverlake area to the professionally equipped 240-seat David Henry Hwang Theater located in Little Tokyo Los Angeles in 1998.

Tim has been challenging the American theatre (with the 51% Preparedness Plan for the American Theatre) to implement policy within each theatre's strategic plan setting goals for more equity, diversity and inclusion in their artistic programming. In 2015, the Society of Directors and Choreographers recognized Tim with the Zelda Fichandler Award for transforming the regional theatre arts landscape through theatre. Tim is Co-Chair on the LA County Board of Supervisors Advisory Committee on Cultural Equity and Inclusion and will continue to initiate and innovate diversity and inclusion across the American theatre. In January 2017, he will be an adjunct professor in theatre at the University of Southern California.

ESSENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS



ART EVANS
Art Evans was born in Berkeley, California. Art's acting career, spanning over 50 years, started with Frank Silvera's, Theatre of Being in Los Angeles. He originated the role of David, in James Baldwin's, The Amen Corner which premiered on Broadway in 1965.

His first acting performance was in the film Claudine in 1974. Playing many instruments came in handy when playing Blind Lemon Jefferson in the movie Leadbelly (1976).

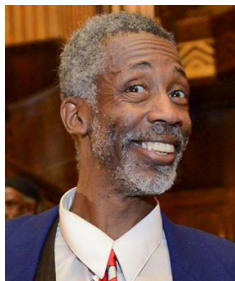
Evans is best recognized for Oscar nominated, A Soldier's Story as Wilkie and is popularly known

ESSENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

for role, Leslie Barnes in Die Hard 2 (1990). Other film credits include: Big Time (1977), National Lampoon's Class Reunion (1982), Into the Night (1985), Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling (1986), Native Son (1986), School Daze (1988), Tales from the Hood (1995) and Metro (1997). Television appearances include: M*A*S*H, Hill Street Blues, A Different World, Walker Texas Ranger, Monk, The X-Files, Family Matters, and recently he made a guest appearance on "Last Man Standing".

Art is currently in the ensemble cast of BET's "Beauty and the Baller." Mr. Evans has received several awards including 2 NAACP AWARDS, Best Supporting Actor, "The Spirit Award" and "Mentor for Success", from the Celestial Awards Gala.

He supports Sickle Cell awareness, and is a mentor to youth, with Richard Lawson's WACO Theatre.



CHESTER WHITMORE

Chester Whitmore - A unique dancer, composer, comedian, actor, choreographer, stuntman and band leader, who combines his talents to create surprising performances.

He has taught at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Academy as well as lecturing at the renowned Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., among others across the US, UK and So. America. Mr. Whitmore also has his own well-reputed dance companies, The Black Ballet Jazz Company, and The Central Avenue Dance Review, both specializing in Afro-American Vernacular Dance. Mr. Whitmore is an outstanding teacher & Entertainer, whose knowledge, historical content and media clips upward of over 4,000, as early as the late 1930's, of tap and Vernacular Jazz is endless. He is also a Grand Master of Hapkido and Japanese Karate.

Mr. Whitmore is President of Vernacular Arts International, Inc, a 501(C)(3) organization whose mission is education through entertainment. He is actively involved in projects reaching young people through Los Angeles Cultural Affairs events as performer or as teacher for the Parks and Recreation Division, African Marketplace, UCLA, LACC and in schools and universities throughout the U.S., as well as other charitable organizations supporting community and cultural affairs.

Ms. Miller, the Queen of Swing, officially dubbed Mr. Whitmore, the Lord of the Swing.



WENDY RAQUEL ROBINSON

Actor, Producer, Director, Entrepreneur

One of the most talented, beautiful, professional actors in the entertainment industry, Wendy Raquel Robinson is a Best Actress NAACP Image Award recipient, known for

her groundbreaking roles as ambitious leading women on television. She is also a successful business owner for twenty years at Amazing Grace Conservatory, a theatrical training institute for young people, in Los Angeles, California. A cum laude graduate of Howard University, Robinson's artistic background in acting, directing, writing, and choreographing displays her passion for performing arts. She continues to strive for excellence in her career as an artist, scholar, and mentor.

Robinson is well-known as "Tasha Mack," the feisty, sexy, single mom-manager of a professional football player for nine seasons on the CW and BET's "The Game"; and as the "no-nonsense diva principal, 'Regina Grier' on the "The Steve Harvey Show" for six years. She secured a role making her the first African American actor to portray Disney's, iconic villain, Cruella DeVill, for the Disney Channel's, "Descendants," directed by the Emmy Award-winning director and choreographer Kenny Ortega ("High School Musical). The movie was ranked the #1 cable TV movie of 2015 and #1 cable telecast among kids and tweens.

Currently, Robinson has a recurring role on ABC's fresh, new comedy, "Mayor" which premiered on Monday, October 2, 2017 and co-stars in Columbia Pictures feature film, "Flatliners," starring Kiefer Sutherland, Ellen Page and Nina Dobrev, set for release this fall.

With Robinson's incandescent personality and upbeat spirit she has been the recipient of various awards for her acting and has received many accolades for her work with young people and her outstanding entrepreneurship, from various dignitaries. Robinson continues to reveal the myriad of talents she possesses, through hosting appearances and as a distinguished keynote speaker to various audiences that range from women empowerment symposiums to inspiring young people.

Wendy is no doubt, a force to be reckoned with and is ready to take on any challenge. The sky is the limit and the boundaries are infinite for Wendy Raquel Robinson.

THE C. BERNARD JACKSON LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENTS

BILINGUAL FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS

BFA was founded in 1973 by two stellar personalities in the world of theater: Mexican-American actress Carmen Zapata, Cuban-born actress, playwright, and director Margarita Galban.

BFA has acquired a reputation for producing and presenting the highest quality Hispanic theater to the people of Los Angeles and California. BFA's Spanish-language productions instill cultural pride to Spanish-speaking audiences, and serve as an introduction to the rich and eloquent history of the diverse Hispanic culture to English-speaking audiences.

The Bilingual Foundation of the Arts (BFA) has a 42-year history of commitment to all people in the greater Los Angeles area, presenting the finest Hispanic literary culture for both Spanish- and English-speaking audiences.

BFA produces four mainstage plays each year. Productions are held at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, the Ford Amphitheatre or the Ricardo Montalban Theatre.



MARGARITA GALBAN

Co-founder and Artistic Director of the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, Margarita Galban's artistic vision comes to life through BFA.

Born in Cuba, Ms. Galban migrated to Mexico at a young age with

the aim of working in theatre arts. Once in Mexico, she soon became a critically acclaimed member of the Teatro Popular de Mexico.

Since then, she has developed her craft beautifully as a director, playwright, and actress. Ms. Galban has adapted multiple Hispanic theatrical masterpieces, bringing them to life for BFA's audiences.

Her many successes have not gone by unnoticed, as she has won several national and international awards for BFA's highly acclaimed productions. Ms. Galban was Knighted by King Juan Carlos of Spain where the honor of Cross from the Order of Queen Isabella the Catholic was bestowed upon her in recognition for her contributions to the promotion and development of the Hispanic American Culture in the United States.

LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE

Desiring to build a repertoire company that would perform her own unique, risk-taking, experimental works, as well as the works of legendary pioneers in African-American dance, Lula established the Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Theatre, later renamed to its current name, Lula Washington Dance Theatre.

Since its early beginnings, the Company has secured works by Donald McKayle, Katherine Dunham, Donald Byrd, Rennie Harris, Christopher Huggins, Raymond Johnson, Raymond Sawyer, Louis Johnson, Rudy Perez, L. Martina Young, and many others.

Lula established provides low cost and free dance classes to neighborhood children through an after-school program called "I Do Dance, Not Drugs!" Since then, the School has taught dance to over 45,000 inner-city students.



LULA WASHINGTON

Lula Washington is Founder and Artistic Director of the Lula Washington Dance Theatre (LWDT).

Lula founded the Company in 1980 with her husband Erwin Washington to provide a creative

outlet for minority dance artists in the inner city. Lula is admired as a teacher, leader, dancer and choreographer with a very unique style and approach to dance. Stylistically, Lula fuses African and Afro-Haitian dance. She also incorporates the dance styles of gospel church, classical ballet, modern, street, theatrical and hip hop, while drawing from various ideas and issues. Her works have been praised by critics for their strong political and social commentary, as well as their avant-garde composition and their roots in African-American culture. Her company travels throughout the world.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HERB J. WESSON, JR., LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
10TH COUNCIL DISTRICT
PRESIDENT OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

MARK RIDLEY THOMAS, LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR
SECOND DISTRICT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, CHAIRMAN

THE C. BERNARD JACKSON LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENTS

EAST WEST PLAYERS

Founded in 1965, East West Players is the nation's longest-running professional theater of color and the largest producing organization of Asian American artistic work.

East West Players has been hailed as the nation's leading Asian American theater troupe for our award-winning productions that blend Eastern and Western movement, costumes, language, and music. EWP has premiered more than 100 plays and musicals about the Asian Pacific American experience and has held more than 1,000 readings and workshops. Building bridges between East and West, their audiences are 56% Asians and 44% non-Asian attendance. East West Players was founded by nine Asian-American artists (Mako, Rae Creevey, Beulah Quo, Soon-Tek Oh, James Hong, Pat Li, June Kim, Guy Lee, and Yet Lock) seeking opportunities to take on roles beyond the stereotypical parts they were being offered in Hollywood. EWP is committed to advocating for more diverse representations of the Asian-American experience on TV and across all media.

In 1998, former, EWP Artistic Director Tim Dang led the company's move from a 99-seat Equity Waiver "black box" theatre into a new 240-seat venue at an Actors Equity Association contract level. EWP's mainstage is the David Henry Hwang Theater, housed within the

historic Union Center for the Arts in downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo district, where it serves more than 10,000 people each year. EWP alumni include Mako, B.D. Wong, David Henry Hwang, John Cho and Nobu McCarthy among many others. East West Players has also had the opportunity to work with many respected artists such as actors Danny Glover, Tsai Chin, Lauren Tom, and Nancy Kwan; directors Lisa Peterson and Oskar Eustis; musician Dan Kuramoto; and instructors Calvin Remsberg and Fran Bennett.



SNEHAL DESAI

Snehal Desai, Artistic Director for East West Players (EWP), the nation's longest-running professional theatre of color in the country and the largest producing organization of Asian American artistic work for the stage.

Desai has a national reputation in the theatre world as a fierce proponent of diversity, multi-culturalism and new Asian American artistic work. Desai has developed over two hundred new plays, the vast majority by artists of color, allowing him to hone an artistic style and voice that is focused on diversity, inclusion, community building, and social justice. Desai believes, "We must keep working to provide artists of color the opportunities and visibility they deserve."

SPECIAL GUEST: ERNIE HUDSON



Ernie Hudson is one of the most sought-after actors of our time with an impressive list of credits and awards whose body of work has diverse range.

His many achievements are inspiring from serving in the Marine Corp to becoming the resident playwright at Concept East, the oldest black theatre company in the U.S, established the Actors' Ensemble Theatre, graduating from the Yale School of Drama. He was cast in "Space Hunters," then joined Bill Murray, Dan Akroyd and Harold Ramis in the 1984 feature film "Ghostbusters," gaining overnight fame and being critically lauded in diverse features such as the mentally challenged 'Solomon' in "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle"

to 'Munro' in "Congo" and 'Police Sgt. Albrecht' in the award-winning film, "The Crow." On the small screen, Hudson's wide range is most varied in memorable roles like 'Warden Leo Glynn' on HBO's lauded series "Oz." He currently co-stars in Netflix's sophomore series "Grace & Frankie" opposite Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda and can be seen this fall in a starring role on "Graves" (EPIX) cast opposite Nick Nolte and Sela Ward. In 2017 Ernie will be in FOX's new police drama A.P.B premiering February 6th.

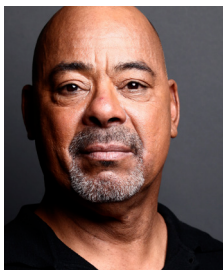
The father of four strapping boys, Hudson divides his time between homes in Minneapolis and Los Angeles and giving back to the community whenever possible.

He is a beloved star in film, television and stage who always delivers.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



BARBARA ROBERTS



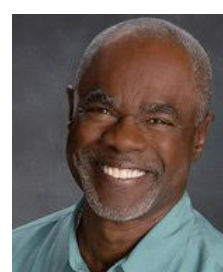
BEN GUILLORY



CHARMAINE JEFFERSON



DAN BERKOWITZ



GLYNN TURMAN



IONA MORRIS



JESSE DIZON



MARILYN TOKUDA



STEVEN LEE MORRIS



SUZANNA GUZMAN



SY RICHARDSON



TONY NICHOLAS

BARBARA ROBERTS - She has an MFA in Acting from Cal Institute of the Arts. An elected official of Actors Equity Association, Barbara serves as a National Councilor, Western Region Board member and Second Vice Chairperson of the National Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. Barbara is a SAG-AFTRA Delegate and Member of their Equal Ethnic Employment Opportunity

BEN GUILLORY - Veteran African-American actor and theatre producer and director of both the stage and screen, he was raised in San Francisco, California. Guillory co-founded the Robey Theatre Company in honor of pioneering actor, public speaker, and opera singer 'Paul Robeson.

CHARMAINE JEFFERSON - Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Commission, Principal, Kélan Resources; Executive Consultant to the Tom & Ethel Bradley Foundation; Chairman, Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission; Trustee, California Institute of the Arts. Co-Chair, PBS SoCal's African American Community Council; Member, L. A. County Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative Advisory Committee.

GLYNN TURMAN - An actor since the tender age of 11, this Emmy Award Winner began his career on Broadway in the play 'A Reason in the Sun' opposite Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee. He has starred in hundreds of films, plays and television productions for nearly 60 years. Glynn is not only an actor but is a Director, Producer, Writer, Philanthropist and a Real Cowboy.

IONA MORRIS - Poet, actress, director, writer. Iona's directed many solo shows, including: Jenifer Lewis, Blair Underwood, Penny Johnson Jerald, Kim Wayans, and Tammi Mac. Other directing credits: 21-person musical "SHEBA" (Los Angeles, The New York Musical Theater Festival) and "RAY" at the Pasadena Playhouse, among many others. Currently, she is the Dialogue Coach on the hit comedy BLACKish.

JESSE DIXON - He has been an actor, director, writer and motion picture producer for over 45 years. This year he starred with Paul Sorvino, Eric Roberts and Mischa Barton. Mr. Dixon is a Network TV Writer and Executive Producer of Motion Pictures of Asian / Taino Indian heritage. Jesse was a member of the Writer's Guild of America, Latino Committee responsible for setting up Latino TV projects with ABC, NBC and CBS early in his writing career.

MARILYN TOKUDA - Actress and Arts Professional, Marilyn retired from East West Players (EWP) in 2016 where she worked as the organization's first Arts Education Director for fourteen years overlooking all artistic educational programming. When she first came to Los Angeles, she auditioned and was cast in Inner City Cultural Center's Maggie D' Mouse Meets De Dirty Rat Fink. It was during this time she met C. Bernard Jackson who was the first person she met who truly embraced and practiced diversity and inclusion.

STEVEN LEIGH MORRIS - Executive Director of LA STAGE Alliance, he was the Theater Editor and Critic-at-Large at LA Weekly. The recipient of the National Entertainment Journalism Awards' Print Critic of the Year, he has chaired and served on the Pulitzer Prize jury for Drama, written for a range of publications, including the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and American Theatre Magazine. Steven is also a published and produced (in L.A. and Off-Broadway) playwright.

SUZANNA GUZMÁN - An East Los Angeles native who is a mezzo soprano, she has appeared as a principal soloist with orchestras and opera houses around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera, Dallas Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Opera de Genève and San Diego Opera, to name a few. Among her many honors, she received a Grammy in 2006.

SY RICHARDSON - A native of Chicago and proud Christian, Sy has appeared in over 100 movies and TV shows all over the world. Sy taught drama and cold reading for SAG Conservatory and Towne Street Theater. He is a former SAG Board of Directors and also wrote the original screenplay Posse and has self-published 8 books.

TONY NICHOLAS - The son of Fayard Nicholas of the legendary Nicholas Brothers, Tony continues to keep the legacy alive of his Dad and Uncle through their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

THE 2017 ICCC AWARDS

C. BERNARD JACKSON LEGACY AWARD

We present this award to those individuals who, using the performing (dance, music, theater), visual, media, literary and spoken word and other creative art forms, have, over a lifetime and through their organization, made a significant contribution through their creative self expression and communication, to enhance the quality of life of people in neighborhoods and communities. We recognize their commitment. They have left their footprints in the snow. This is a path others will follow in their quest to serve and uplift others. This is their legacy.

ELAINE GAYLE KASHIKI - JOSIE DOTSON AWARD

We present the Kashiki-Dotson Award to recognize those we may have forgotten to thank or fully acknowledge for their contributions made behind the scenes in support of artistic productions, organization, administration, public relations, design, management and all of the crafts related to theater, dance, music, writing, film, television and other mediums. They have quietly made their mark and have left an indelible impression upon an organization. We remember Elaine and Josie as we honor those who continue to contribute late into the night to keep the lights on for others. To the administrators, our often unsung and unseen heroes and sheroes in the arts.

INNER CITY ESSENCE AWARD... The ICE Award

We present this award to those among us who carry the essence of Inner City Cultural Center. They continue to make an impact in their day-to-day life and the lives of others. They carry an unselfish dedication and support the on-going vision of Inner City for themselves and others in the work they do. The Inner City Cultural Center is embedded in their hearts. They have taken the message of diversity, artistic freedom and the support of the arts and their fellow artists to the next logical level to affect the space around them. They are the essence of Inner City. They are cool. They are ICE Award winners.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD

The Special Recognition Diversity & Inclusion Award is presented to an individual and/or organization that has demonstrated leadership in their creative, production and administrative capacity to provide an inclusive and culturally diverse tapestry for others to participate in and experience. Whether it is in the stage, screen or television industry, these individuals and/or organizations have set their visionary and moral compass to explore dynamic presentations that are as diverse and inclusive as the world in which we live and which cultivate our interest. They have through their artistic excellence, integrity and professionalism.

LAICCC 2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE C. BERNARD JACKSON LEGACY AWARD

LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE , Lula & Erwin Washington
EAST WEST PLAYERS , Snehai Desai
BILINGUAL FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS, Margarita Galban

THE ELAINE GAYLE KASHIKI-JOSIE DOTSON AWARD

LOS ANGELES WOMEN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL, Adilah Barnes
TOWNE STREET THEATRE, Nancy Cheryl Davis Bellamy, Nathaniel Bellamy
and Nancy Renee

INNER CITY ESSENCE AWARD

CHESTER WHITMORE, Choreographer
ART EVANS, Actor/Director
WENDY RAQUEL ROBINSON, Actress, Director, Producer
Founder, Amazing Grace Conservatory

SPECIAL RECOGNITION DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARDS

SHELDON EPPS, Artistic Director, Emeritus- Pasadena Playhouse
MICHAEL ALEXANDER, Executive Director, Emeritus – Grand Performances
TIM DANG, Executive Director, Emeritus – East West Players
ACTOR'S EQUITY ASSOCIATION
Western Regional Vice President, Doug Carfrae, and Western Regional Director,
Gail E. Gabler
Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights
C. Bernard Jackson Playwrights
USC SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS
Velina Hasu Houston



THE TALENT

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



NINA WOMACK

Award-winning actress, filmmaker & event producer, Nina Womack is the founder of Transmedia 360°, a multimedia and branding agency. She has an extensive background in theater, film, festival and event production as well as marketing. A native of South L.A., Nina began her career in entertainment as a young, gifted actress and print model at age 5. As a child, she trained and performed on stage at Inner City Cultural Center, Chip Fields Repertory Company, modeled in department store catalogues and landed several roles on network TV. Nina later obtained her Theater Arts degree with honors from Los Angeles City College Theater Academy and currently directs and produces stage plays, music videos, documentaries, commercials and events as well as acting. She is honored to be a part of the ICCA Awards show onstage and behind.



MATILDA HAYWOOD

Matilda Haywood is a Music Director, Composer and Arranger from Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is an award-winning music director, actress, educator, vocalist, pianist, organist, singer/songwriter, composer, saxist, clarinetist, historian and martial artist. Haywood has worked with such legends as Dizzy Gillespie and Winston Marsalis with her theatre and film credits also including: NARAS Grammy Youth Concert Series Los Angeles, Principal Actor/Singer/Pianist, "Satchmo, America's Musical Legacy," Principal Actress/Singer "Class Act" w/Kid 'N Play; "Road to Redemption", Whoopi Goldberg's Sister Act II, Director Iris Stevenson & David Foster, famed music producer. Ms. Haywood currently performs, records, writes & directs chorales in Los Angeles.



KIKO ELLSWORTH

Kiko Ellsworth is an Emmy Award Winning film and television actor best known for his portrayal of Jamal Woods in Port Charles and as the Jamaican bad guy in Bad Boys II. He is also an author and teacher currently fulfilling his divine mission to bring back the respect, protection & honor to all females and children through entertainment & education. His recent best selling book *Survive 2 Thrive* & his female empowerment program *The ZenPowerment Way* is a testament of how graceful, beautiful & powerful he truly sees all women and the essential leadership roles they play in healing our planet quickly and safely. It is his deepest devotion to use the power entertainment to disseminate truth, justice and righteousness for all of life. (His book can be found at <https://HerThriveBook.com> and program at <http://TheZenPowermentWay.com>)



RAJA MICHAEL

Raja Michael is a Los Angeles based Stand-Up Comedian, Story Teller, Podcaster and Comedic Actor. She was born in Queens, NY, and grew up in Brooklyn and New Jersey. Raja spent most of her adult life as a social service worker helping with victims of domestic violence and in homeless services, as well as overseas as an NGO worker. Spending so much time in places that were filled with sadness, Raja quickly learned the value of laughter. Being naturally funny Raja would make her co-workers and clients laugh. As a comic and storyteller, Raja likes to be silly as well as share ideas of deep value. She jokes about politics, world news, her life as a first generation American born to blue collar immigrant parents, and what it means to be a woman in the modern world.



SYLVAN DE LA CRUZ

Vocal Jazz Artist, Sylvan De La Cruz is a vibrant, gifted singer and composer from Los Angeles. His musical style is heavily influenced by legends such as; the Gershwins, Cole Porter, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and Frank Sinatra. Sylvan's natural talents are inherited from his father who was an exceptional musician from Mexico. A self-taught late bloomer, Sylvan began writing jazz-based and pop-standard show tunes in 2013 for a nightclub show he produced called, *The Hollywood Cabaret*. From romantic ballads to up tempo songs about big city life in L.A., De La Cruz shines with his unique ability to keep the genre of traditional vocal jazz music and cabaret-style show tunes alive at venues throughout the Los Angeles area. His upcoming EP entitled, "Hot and Dry" will be debuted on Sylvan's own music label, *The Hollywood Cabaret Music* in January of 2018.

THE TALENT



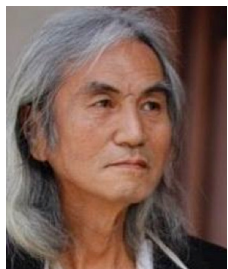
NICHOLAS ANTHONY JONES

Nicholas Anthony “Nic” Jones is the great-grandson of Fayard Nicholas of the most legendary Nicholas Brothers Tap Dance duo. Since the age of 2, his Mom Cathie Nicholas has taught him to dance and to continue to honor the legacy of her Grandfather and Granduncle, Fayard and Harold Nicholas. Nic and his older sister Naomi, perform often as the “Nicholas Kids”. Their live performances include the St. Louis Tap Festival, Nicholas Brothers Tribute in Glendale, CA, Debbie Allen’s annual Hot Chocolate Nutcracker, The B.E.T. Awards, Dave Scott’s Hip Hop Intensives, and the Los Angeles Tap Festivals. Nicholas and Naomi have received their formal training at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles.



STEVEN CHANG

Steve Chang is a comedian who has been performing for a long time.



EDWING SANKEY

Asian-American composer and performer, Edwing Sankey is accomplished on the guitar, zither, harp, and synthesizer. Known for his musical evolution within the African-American Jazz and Blues culture, Edwing has played with a plethora of noted musicians such as Jimmy Witherspoon and Organist Jimmy Smith. Sankey has acted as musical director for, or worked with many such as Mother Tynetta, Minister Louis Farrakhan, and the Million Man March in Washington D.C.



JAHSHA

Inner City Cultural Center Alumni, JAHSHA is internationally known throughout Japan, Philippines, Korea and the US. She has toured throughout the Far East and Europe as well as having performed for the Prime Minister of Japan and Africa and at embassy parties representing America throughout the world. She sings in 4 different languages with a 4 ½ octave range. Her powerful voice and exotic glamour combine with love and warmth that create a true heart-felt deliverance of the music. Subarashi!



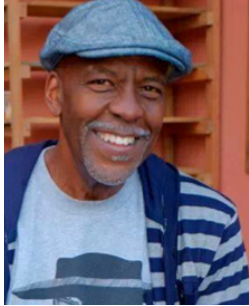
GIA SCOTT-HERON

Daughter of legendary poet Gil Scott-Heron, Gia Scott-Heron, is affectionately known as Miss Gia. Scott-Heron is a singer, rapper, poetess and event hostess. She has been featured in the Los Angeles Times among other publications and various radio stations. Her most recently released project is entitled “The Difference”, and is available for purchase on CdBaby.com and iTunes.



TALYA FERRO & JOHN RODBY

Talya Ferro has performed her one woman show in the major venues of every continent on the globe and is proud of several command performances, as well as numerous international television shows, including Barbara Walters, Sabado Gigante, and 38 performances on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. She played Margarita, a Shark in the film Westside Story and is remembered in other classic films such as “Sparkle” and “Let’s Do It Again”, in which she co-starred with Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby. Her original hit rendition of the song “Wave” written expressly for her by Antonio Carlos Jobim is now a genuine classic standard. www.talyaferro.com. Emmy Award winner John Rodby has worked extensively in film and television as a composer, keyboardist and arranger.



DERF REKLAW

Derf Reklaw, one of the original members of The Pharoahs, is a musician, composer, choreographer, lecturer, vocalist, inventor and an artist in residence at several educational institutions including UCLA, Santa Monica College, LA Conservatory and View Park Academy. His career has enabled him to play to with artists like Herbie Hancock, Aretha Franklin, Eddie Harris, Minnie Ripperton, Ahmad Jamal, Sting and Lionel Hampton.



ROBERT GEE

Robert Gee was discovered by the Living Legend Patti LaBelle back in Philly and went on to become the Amateur Night Winner at the world famous Apollo Theater! One of the first people to showcase his stellar talents was the late great C. Bernard Jackson at the Inner City Cultural Center in a musical review called “METRORAIL” at the Ivar Theater. A Critically acclaimed actor he also executive produced, co-produced, wrote, co-wrote, performed and arranged all the vocals on his critically acclaimed debut CD titled “All My Love”! Robert Gee is an emerging artist whose time has come!



Fernando Pullum is an educator and professional musician. Fernando has been recognized by many organizations and individuals throughout his tenure, including Oprah, VH-1, the John Lennon Foundation and the State of California as its teacher of the year. He has performed and recorded with many industry greats, such as Stevie Wonder, Ella Fitzgerald, Jackson Browne, Etta James, Alicia Keys, Eddie Murphy, Fishbone and more. Over the years, Fernando’s students have performed for many dignitaries, including President Ford and Prince Charles. The students have performed with Jackson Browne, Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Lionel Hampton, Wynton Marsalis, Al Jarreau, Crosby, Stills, Nash, and many other incredible musicians. They have opened the Playboy Jazz Festival four times and traveled to Cuba, Brazil, Spain, and New York.



BRENDA LEE EAGER

Beyond her original songs recorded by Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles and Prince, Brenda has a heart and voice as big as the world - having performed with the most important artists in American music history: Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Donny Hathaway, Roberta Flack, Graham Nash and the inimitable Ray Charles. Brenda started her singing career like so many other greats: in church. Having established a secure partnership between her music and her spiritual path, she moved to Chicago landing the coveted female lead with Jerry Butler’s group (Motown), and was later co-featured with Jerry in his famous Billboard “Certified Gold” hits: “Ain’t Understanding Mellow” and “(They Long To Be) Close To You.”

THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



MESSAGE FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR, **ERNEST DILLIHAY**

2017 CBJ LAICCC 50TH ANNIVERSARY

THE END

The past is prologue. The Beginning of this 3-year/3-phased series of 50th anniversary celebrations acknowledging milestones in the history of the Inner City Cultural Center (ICCC) began in 2015, with a stopover in 2016. Now, at “The End” of the 3/3 process, we celebrate and acknowledge the 1967 inaugural season which took place 50 years ago. This past is prologue to a new beginning and a new chapter in the annals of the Center’s history.

The Center foreshadowed events to come. Its 1967 inaugural season, a season of multi-cultural diversity and inclusion that launched a thousand careers, began an unheralded cultural and historical legacy in the city of Los Angeles, if not the nation. Talents from all ethnicities gathered to create art, write and present classical and professional productions, and witnessed the dedication of the Langston Hughes Memorial Library. Fundraisers by Hollywood royalty such as the wife of the late Gregory Peck, Ms. Veronique Peck, were held to support the Center and its library. C. Bernard Jackson, the ICCC co-founder, artistic and executive director, envisioned the Hughes Library as a place for an “... increased collection of documents and artifacts by and about the cultural and artistic life of the Afro-American, Asian-American, American-Indian and Spanish-speaking Americans...”. The Inner City Touring Company, traveling around to the surrounding communities could, “... demonstrate some of the works created by minority authors, playwrights and composers.” This was to be a cultural oasis in the urban cultural core of the inner city.

Even before multi-culturalism was a word in the English lexicon, its original genesis was the Inner City Cultural Center. Thus, the “O.G.,” i.e. the “original genesis” of the multi-cultural arts movement - full of diversity and inclusion - was the Inner City Cultural Center. This is the cultural and historical legacy that we will honor and preserve.

We acknowledge the inaugural season and present the Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center Legacy and Diversity & Inclusion Awards, i.e. the LAICCC D&I Awards, to artists and cultural workers who have embraced the work of diversity and inclusion in their respective stage, screen or television careers.

Additionally, to honor and preserve the legacy of the Inner City Cultural Center and C. Bernard Jackson, the ICCC co-founder, artistic and executive director, we announce our plans to design and build the LAICCC C. Bernard Jackson Memorial Library (LAICCC CBJML). The LAICCC CBJML, will fulfill the original genesis of the 1967 inaugural season and library dedication, but now it will honor the man and his mission. As Mr. Jackson said, “Art may be the only tool we have left to save ourselves from destruction.” So, help us build The LAICCC C. Bernard Jackson Memorial Library and the vision of the society we imagine in our mind’s eye, a better world supporting the people’s art and cultural history with the LAICCC, C. Bernard Jackson Memorial Library. The End? We doubt it. We have arrived full cycle as the past is, indeed, prologue.

Thank you,

Ernest Dillihay

LOS ANGELES INNER CITY CULTURAL CENTER

50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE



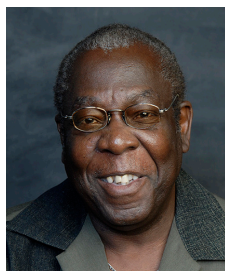
DR. SANDI SHEFFEY
CHAIR



JAMES BRONSON
SECRETARY



ERNEST DILLIHAY
TREASURER



JAMES BURKS



CARMEN
HAYWARD-STETSON



RON BREWINGTON



BIKBAYE INEJNEMA



ROSA MARIA MARQUEZ

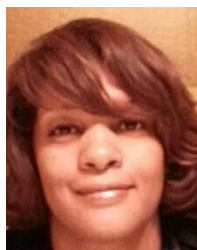
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COLETTE TOOMER-CRUZ



SYDNEY CHANDLER



ALISON DIAZ

SPONSORS



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COLETTE TOOMER-CRUZ

JAMES BRONSON

RON BREWINGTON

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 have helped make Inner City Cultural Center
 the artistic hub that has cultivated so many
 artists of color. None of this would have been
 possible without co-founder and visionary
 C. Bernard Jackson who truly understood and
 embraced diversity, who opened the doors to
 all artists, no matter what race. He left us
 much too soon but his legacy lives on

BRAVO to C. Bernard Jackson award
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 ongoing artistic leadership and paving the
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The Friends of the Vision Theatre look forward to taking up the mantle established by C. Bernard Jackson and so many ICCC Alumni that have been part of our mission thus far as we anticipate a grand re-opening in 2019 following a \$32 million dollar restoration and construction of the New Historic Vision Theatre.

James V. Burks, Director

If you or other individuals or groups are interested in being part of the Vision Theatre Coalition, have them contact us at (323) 290-2386 or go to www.TheVisionTheater.org

