



STEVE MANHEIM / CHRONICLE

Deja Alexander, in yellow, performs a dress rehearsal Wednesday with members of the Oberlin College Theater cast of "for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf" at Hall Auditorium at Oberlin College. The show runs today through Sunday.

# 'Choreopoem' opens today in Oberlin

**Jodi Weinberger**

The Chronicle-Telegram

OBERLIN — A presentation of Ntozake Shange's play, "for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf" is at Hall Auditorium this week.

The show runs about 90 minutes with performances at 7:30 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the auditorium, 67 N. Main St.

Tickets are available through Oberlin's central ticket service in the lobby

of the auditorium. The ticket office is open noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or online at Oberlin.edu/artsguide. Tickets are \$8. Door sales begin one hour before the performance.

The play, called a "choreopoem" by director Caroline Jackson Smith, a professor of theater and Africana studies at the college, first premiered on Broadway in 1976.

The performance is a series of stories and poems about and performed by black women.

"(It features women) owning themselves and their own spirituality and their own sense of community," Jackson Smith said.

The play features student actors Deja Alexander, Chandler Browne, Zoë Davidson, Victoria Ellington, Amara Granderson, Kiela Nelson, Calypso Smith, Daniella Pruitt, Khalid Taylor and Andre Cardine.

"Although four long and complex decades have passed, there is still much to learn from, hold onto and treasure within 'for colored girls,'"

Jackson Smith said in a director's note. "In our so-called 'post-racial' era, the voices of Black women still are buried, misrepresented and silenced."

She calls the play a "celebration of rebirth and healing" that touches on themes of trauma, hard times and struggle within a framework that celebrates black women.

The play will use poetry, music and dance to tell the women's stories.

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