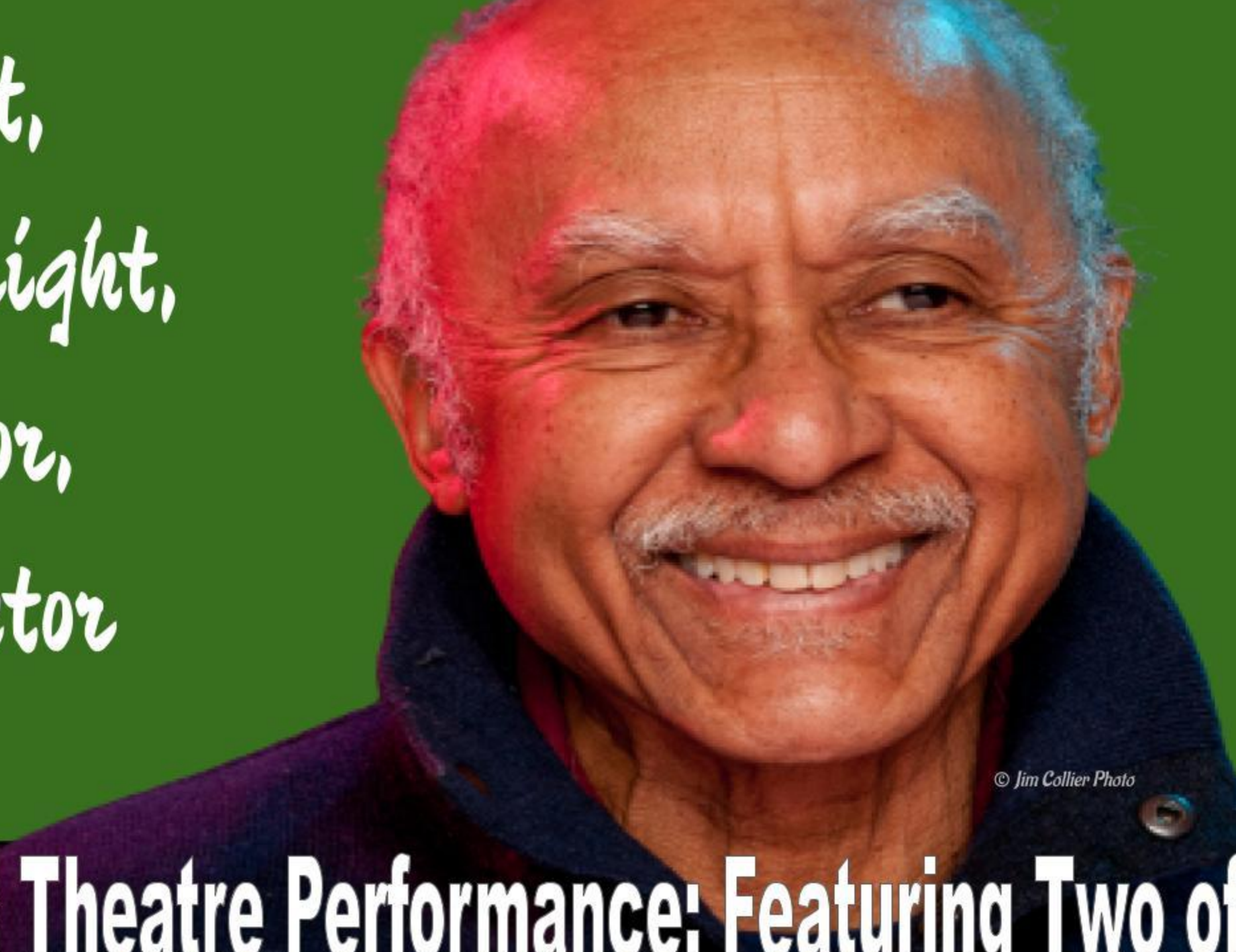


Proudly Presents

# An Evening With Roger Parris

Poet,  
Playwright,  
Actor,  
Director

Directed  
by  
Ajene D.  
Washington



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## A Reader's Theatre Performance: Featuring Two of his One-Act Plays

**“JUST DO NEXT SATURDAY”** *Written by Roger Parris & Martha J. Thomas*

&

**“WAITING FOR THE DAWN”** *Written by Roger Parris*

### ABOUT ROGER PARRIS

Playwright, Actor, Poet and Arts Educator with over forty years experience. Some have asked which one do you like doing the most - “Whichever one I’m doing at the moment” is always my reply. Love it all. During my pre-teen years, Rosetta Le Noire, acclaimed stage, movie, television actress and neighbor introduced me to the magical world of theater. She planted a creative seed in me that never ceases to grow.

As an actor, performed in “Amen Corner”, “Wine in the Wilderness” and “Nobody Knew Where They Was” to name a few. As a poet, my poetry has been published in six anthologies, most recently in ‘Revelry, The Literary Voice of the Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Association of Florida’, and in ‘Brilliant Flame: A Literary Tribute to Amiri Baraka’. As a Playwright, I’ve written twenty-five produced plays, was nominated three times for an AUDELCO Award, and received the AUDELCO Pioneer Award. Presently, I am a contributing writer for Gallery & Studio Arts Journal and am writing a new play, “I Can Feel The Moon”.

### “JUST DO NEXT SATURDAY”

Written by Roger Parris & Martha J. Thomas

**SYNOPSIS:** “It’s a Spring night in Harlem 1957, a Man and a Woman, both Lonely and Single, meet at a West Indian Dance and discover that despite their differences, they share a similar past, filled with joys and sorrows, and the love of calypso dancing together”

#### MARTHA J. THOMAS ( CO-PLAYWRIGHT “JUST DO NEXT SATURDAY” )

Martha J. Thomas was an accomplished playwright and member of the Dramatist Guild . Her plays focused on ordinary people, living their lives who continue to persevere through all the cracks and bumps along the way. Her most noted and acclaimed plays include “Winter View”, “Benefits”, “From Good Stock”, “Whatever gets you through,” and “Somebody’s Baby.” She co-authored, “Just Do Next Saturday,” and “Blues for Monica,” with the playwright Roger Parris. When she was alive she dedicated all of her productions to her mother, “Mama,” Wylene Cain-Whitehead – and we continue that tradition with his production of “Just Do Next Saturday”

#### MICHELE BALDWIN - (NARRATOR FOR BOTH ONE-ACTS)

M-asterful, disciplined award winning Artist and Storyteller  
I-nnovative visionary  
C-reator of multi content and platforms  
H-umble inspiring human  
E-mbodiment of love and light  
L-ife Learner

With great passion and love for the arts, find more about her: <https://www.flowcode.com/page/michelebaldwin/>

#### KIM YANCEY-MOORE - (RUTH BAINBRIDGE)

Kim Yancey-Moore (Ruth Bainbridge) A veteran of NYC stages, Kim was recently seen as Audrey in the Off-Broadway production of “According to the Chorus” at the 59 E. 59 St. Theatres. She will be heard as “Wanda” in the upcoming iHeart podcast series “Supreme”.

#### ROGER PARRIS- (FRED GOODWIN)

(See BIO Above)

### “WAITING FOR THE DAWN”

Written by Roger Parris

**“Friendships are Tested when an Aspiring Playwright casts two long-time friends in a Staged Production of his First Play, conflicts that could jeopardize the production of his play.”**

#### RALPH McCAIN - (JOHN O)

Ralph’s acting roles have included the role of Jim Bono in Fences, Gabe in Fences, Boyd Henry in “Sundown Names Night Gone Things”; the role of Sunday in New Federal Theater’s production of “The Most Dangerous Man In America”. Other stage credits include the portrayal of A. Phillip Randolph in the play “The Good Fights”; Elijah Muhammad in The H.A.D.L.E.Y Players production of “The Devil and Elijah Muhammad” (AUDELCO nominee Best Lead Actor); Rev. Charles Dupree in The Billie Holiday Theatre’s production of “The Right Reverend Dupree in Exile” (AUDELCO nominee Best Lead Actor); Sweets Crane in “No Place To Be Somebody”; Wining Boy in “The Piano Lesson” for The Tennessee Repertory Theatre and Black Spectrum Theatre; and Frank in “Flyin’ West”. Television credits include ‘East New York’, ‘And Just Like That’, ‘One Life To Live’, and ‘The Sopranos’. Independent films: ‘Flowers’, ‘un•bind’, and Xavier Mendosa’s ‘The Trail At Redemption Bar’.

#### BILAL WALKER (CLIFF)

Bilal Walker is an actor born and raised in New York City. Bilal has taken part in many productions off-broadway and at other venues, such as “A Raisin in the Sun”, “Othello”, and the One Minute Play Festival at the New Ohio Theater. He has also collaborated with PopUp Theatrics in multiple projects such as “Broken City: Wall Street, Inside and Liar”. He graduated from The City College of New York with a Bachelor’s in Theater. He also studied Shakespeare and other classical works at the London Academy and Music and Dramatic Arts, as well as Scene Study at the Actor’s Foundry in Vancouver with Matthew Harrison. Bilal is excited to be a part of this Reader’s Theatre production of “Waiting for the Dawn”.

#### JOYCE SYLVESTER (SUZANNE LAVELLE)

Joyce Sylvester is a multi-award winning alumnus of the prestigious Negro Ensemble Company. Actress, Playwright and Director, she has graced stages on and off Broadway from the East to the West Coast. Last seen in New Federal Theatre’s, Caribbean Classic “Two Can Play” by Trevor Rhone as Gloria. Other off-Broadway credits: Amiri Baraka’s “The Most Dangerous Man In America: WEB Dubois”, “Night of the Working Dead”, by Richard Wentz at New Perspectives Theatre/NY, Steve Carter’s “Pecong” as Persis, National Black Theatre. Regional Credits: Samm-Art William’s “The Dance On Widows Row”/National Black Theatre Festival, NC; and Jomandi Theatre, Atlanta, GA as Annie Talbot; the Judge in “The Trial Of One Short Sited Black Woman Vs. Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae” by Marcia Leslie at NUPAC, and played both the Lady in Green and Lady In Yellow in Ntozake Shange’s “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf” on tour. Roles originated: Candy in Judi Ann Mason’s “Livin’ Fat” at NEC and BHT; Billie Jean in Weldon Irvine’s, “Vampire and The Dentist”, Billie Holiday Theatre; Tracey-Ada in Ramona King’s, Steal Away/NFT, Clydie in Sandra Sharp’s “The Sistuh’s” and Marcus Hemphill’s Carmen Casteel in “Inacent Black” on and off Broadway starring Samuel L. Jackson, Melba Moore and Reginald Vel Johnson to name a few. Television and film Credits: ‘Ellen’, ‘The Right to Remain Silent’ as Officer Collins, starring Robert Loggia, Patrick Dempsey, LL Cool J, Christopher Lloyd and Lea Thompson; ‘For The Love Of Africa’, a Ted Lange Film along with other numerous independent films. Joyce has also been the recipient of the NAACP Theatre Award/CA, Audelco Award/NY, Dramalogue Critics Award/CA and holds the distinction of being the the 1st August Wilson Audelco Playwrights Award. Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow!

#### ERIC COLEMAN - (PHILLIP GRAHAME)

Eric Coleman is a veteran New York-born actor and director who has amassed numerous stage credits. As Actor, he has appeared notably in productions of “Ceremonies of Dark Old Men”, “Hamlet”, “Nat Turner”, “Uncle Vanya”, “Ira Aldridge”, “Malcolm X”, and “Othello” for such companies as the Original Negro Ensemble Company, the Riverside Shakespeare Company, The H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players, and UBU Repertory. He is winner of Best Actor Award at the New York Fringe Festival for Strindberg’s “Paria”. He has produced and or Direced over 90 staged readings of new and classical plays and was a Best Director AUDELCO Winner for “Satchel Paige ” and “Josh Gibson ” staged for Woodie King Jr’s New Federal Theatre. He is pleased to be collaborating once again on a play by Roger Parris.

## STAFF & CREW

#### AJENE D. WASHINGTON- (DIRECTOR, PLAYWRIGHT, ACTOR & SET DESIGNER)

Ajene D. Washington a native of Kansas City, Missouri has established himself as an important theatrical artist; he is an award-winning director, playwright and set designer. His world premiere production of “American Menu” won several AUDELCO awards, and he received the Best Director’s Award. The production later received an Off-Broadway production at the New Federal Theatre. He was nominated as Best Director for “The Old Settler”, which won AUDELCO’s Best Revival Award. Under his direction of Adam, Timothy Simonson received The Best Solo Actor Award from AUDELCO for his performance. Ajene is a founding member of the ‘We Owe Somebody Collective’ and director of their road production “Threads of Tradition”, which performed at several colleges throughout the United States.

As a playwright, Ajene’s plays have received readings and productions throughout the country. His plays, “And Five Were Not Men Yet” and “Flashing Back Before Me” received the Bronx Council on the Arts BRIO award in playwrighting. The Arkansas Repertory Theatre’s ‘Voices at the River’ national competition selected his play, “Almost September”, for their developmental series. His play “A Shadow in Time” was selected as one of the semi-finalists at the O’Neill Center. Woodie King’s Black Touring Circuit commissioned him to write the play “Chisholm, a Catalyst for Change”, which premiered at the Castillo Theatre. He was also commissioned by the Capital Repertory Theatre of Albany, New York to write the children’s play, “Around the World in 45 Minutes”, for their Star Summer Program.

As a set designer, Ajene has designed a number of sets, receiving a Lucille Lortel nomination for his set design of “American Menu”. He also won the AUDELCO award for Best Set Design for his set of “American King Umps”. Ajene received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech and Drama from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, and a Master’s Degree in Theatre Arts from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. He is a member of The Dramatist Guild, Screen Actor’s Guild, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Actor’s Equity and Stage Directors and Choreographer Society.

He has directed two short films, “A Homecoming” and “The Date”.

#### JANET MITCHELL - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Janet Mitchell’s work in the theater community spans four decades, she is an Actor, Producer, Director, and Playwright. Janet’s career in theater began at the age of fourteen when she joined the “Little Theater” at the famed Harlem YMCA, and she continues to work in the theater. At nineteen, Janet produced her first theater project, Gertrude Greenidge’s “The Gift from Saturday” with her parents, Clarence and Adrian Mitchell serving as her first Executive Producers. In 1986, Janet joined The Hadley Players where she appeared in several of their productions. At the Hadley Player, Janet served as a Board Member, Treasurer, Business Manager, and CEO. In 2014, Ms. Mitchell, founded, Mitchell Entertainment Group, LLC, a production company based in New York City. Under her leadership, Mitchell Entertainment Group has produced Marjorie Eliot’s “African Life on This American Soil”, “An Evening with Langston Hughes”, “We Love You Shirley”, a one woman play that celebrates the life of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, and “An Afternoon of Poetry and Jazz”. In addition, Ms. Mitchell is the Executive Producer and Creator of “Inspire!”, an interview format presentation focusing on African American Artist sharing their extraordinary journey in the arts. Some of Janet’s directing credits include, “An Evening With Langston Hughes, “Election 2020”, “I Remember Harlem When”, “Ain’t I A Woman, Black Women Speaking Truth To Power”, “Fire Can’t Kill A Soul”, and “Black Women In Motion”.

In 2017, Janet Mitchell founded AGM (Adrian Graham Mitchell) Theater Company with Ka’Ran Bridges. Our vision is to provide opportunities for women of color to develop professional experience in performance, writing, directing, and technical positions.

Janet is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College and holds a master’s in social work Degree from Yeshiva University.

#### KA’RAN BRIDGES - PRODUCER / FLYER & POSTCARD DESIGN

Ms. Bridges has been active in the Theatre Community for over 40 years. She is an Actress who has also donned the hats of Stage Manager/Lighting Designer/Costume Designer/ and Voice-over Artist, for numerous theatrical companies, both in and out of New York. She wrote, choreographed, and directed a Children’s Theatre Musical called “ROADS” for the Santa Barbara Children’s Theatre. Her most noted honors include the “First Place Award” in the California Regional Competition of the National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts (NASDA) for which she had the honor of studying with the late Dame Judith Anderson, and winning the 1995 AUDELCO Judy Dearing Costume Design Award for the AUDELCO nominated Play “In Pursuit of Justice.” She is a member of SAG-AFTRA and holds a B.A. and M.A. in Theatre from Lincoln University and the University of California, Santa Barbara, respectively. She studied Acting at Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York City with Alan Langdon, Jackie Brooks and Teri Hayden, and is a Founding Member of the AGM (Adrian Graham Mitchell) Theater Company.

#### CYNTHIA KITT - PRODUCTION MANAGER

Cynthia Kitt (Production Manager) is currently the Operations Manager for Woodie King, Jr.’s New Federal Theatre. She served as Company Manager and Associate Producer from 2019 – 2022 for The Negro Ensemble Company, Inc. Some of her credits while working with The Negro Ensemble Company, Inc. include - Producer, Lambs to Slaughter by Khalil Kain; Associate Producer for The NECCEP Emerging Playwrights Competition, The Making of Lambs to Slaughter by Khalil Kain, The Making of The Root Woman by Michael Bradford, NEC’s 10 Minute Play Competition, NEC’s 5 Minute Play Competition, NEC’s Poetry Slam, Grandma’s Quilt by Karen Brown, and a photograph: lovers in motion by Ntozake Shange. Cynthia joined AGM Theater Company as Production Manager in 2019 and has served as Associate Producer for Elizabeth Van Dyke’s Going to The River Women’s Writing Series, produced by Woodie King, Jr.’s New Federal Theatre.

#### LAWRENCE FLOYD - STAGE MANAGER

Lawrence Floyd (PSM) is an actor, writer, director, producer, and the Co-Founder of Genesis East and West, Inc. with Dr. Myrah Brown Green, a 501 (c) 3 that specializes in Theatre/Film and Television Development. Proud Member of Equity, SAG-AFTRA and a lifetime member of the Actors Studio.

#### DAVID WRIGHT- SOUND DESIGNER/TECHNICIAN

David D Wright (SOUND DESIGNER), has garnered 11 Vivian Robinson AUDELCO AWARDS in Sound Design and Musical Direction. He takes this opportunity to acknowledge this amazing group of Creators for their love and support, during this process. David, contributes his success to Oludumare, Gbogbo Egun and Gbogbo Orisa. He can be reached at [osunjumi@gmail.com](mailto:osunjumi@gmail.com) or 917.497.1505.

#### DIANA BRITO - POSTER DESIGN

Diana’s passion is being an artist and creator. Diana has been involved in the creative industry since 2013, Diana graduated from Lehman College with a Bachelor of Science in Art and a Minor in Theater. As a producer for WBN, her resume includes the production and management of The Band Room, A Colored Girl’s Quilt, and the Summer Reading Series at Lehman College. Her studies included digital work in Dramaturg, Costume Design, and Production management. – “Love The Art”.

#### KEITH A BROWN - PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Keith is an Actor and proud member of the AGM Theater Company Family.

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