

AGM THEATER COMPANY

Presents

Leaving Louis Armstrong

(A Staged Reading)

by Janice Jenkins

Directed by:

Eric Coleman

Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building

163 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

IMPORTANT
Valid I.D.
to Enter
Building

June 26 / 27 / 28 2026

Friday Saturday Sunday
7:00p 7:00p 3:00p

TICKETS \$25 for ALL

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT BOX OFFICE
Or on [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com)

SYNOPSIS

"Set in December 1963 at the lowest point of his 40-year career, the story follows Louis Armstrong as he contends with musical, personal, and marital problems that threaten to tear his world apart".

A MUST SEE!!

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Janice Jenkins is an actress, playwright, and native New Yorker. She was formerly the Artistic Director of The H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players

She has received two AUDELCO Awards: Best One Person Performance for "In Pursuit of Justice" by Wendy Jones, directed by Bruce Edwin Jenkins, and Best Lead Actress for "A Bolt From The Blue" written and directed by Gertrude Jeannette.

Since 2016, Janice has embarked on the new challenge of writing for the stage. She is currently finishing her first full-length play as a member of the Advanced Playwriting Class of the New Federal Theatre in New York City.

During a dinner break while working as an usher at the Longacre Theater, God let her hear Louis Armstrong playing the trumpet and children welcoming him home. "Leaving Louis Armstrong" is the result of seven years of work to finish a play about him.

Janice would like to thank AGM Theater Company for the opportunity to have her play read as well as the actors, director and technicians for bringing it to life.

FEATURING

DAVID D. WRIGHT - (LOUIS ARMSTRONG)

David D. Wright, is an 11 time recipient of Vivian Robinson's AUDELCO AWARDS for Excellence in Sound Design. He has received three National Federation Community Broadcaster Awards, a Golden Reel, Silver Reel, and Special Merit Awards for radio drama production, Two Off BROADWAY AWARDS at the Berkshires and Off Broadway for Sound Design. David is ecstatic to be among these AGM Creatives. He thanks Olodumare, Gbogbo Egun, and Gbogbo Orisha for his success.

JANICE JENKINS - (LUCILLE ARMSTRONG)

(SEE PLAYWRIGHT BIO ABOVE)

RASHAAN WILLERFORDE - (JAMES "TRUMMY" YOUNG)

Rashaan B. Willerforde comes to us from New York City where he has done numerous plays on off Broadway and off off Broadway. He did "You Shouldn't Have Told," where he played the part of Jojo and which ran at Playwrights Horizons; and was written by Anne Thomas Scretching. He was also part of the first all black play "The Colored Museum" by George C. Wolfe at his college, Marymount Manhattan College.

Mr. Willerforde is also an author and dedicates his performance to his family.

BILAL WALKER - (RICHARD HALL)

Bilal Walker is an actor from New York City. Bilal has been a part of many productions and projects over the years, ranging from short films to classical plays to interactive theater. Graduating with a Bachelor's of Arts in Theatre, Bilal continued to hone his craft in spaces such New Federal Theater, The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, and The Actor's Foundry in Vancouver, BC.

ANITA WEBB - (BERNICE)

Anita is delighted to be in this production and to be working with AGM Theater Company. Performance credits include Shirley Chisholm in "Mothers of the Movement"; "The Talking Books Series of Theatrical Staged Readings of works by Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou; Essi Harris in "The Flute"; Ruby Simms in "Mississippi Summer"; Mrs. Burden in "The Garden Party"; Auntie Jewel in "Portraits and Chandeliers"; Rose Marie McCoy - "The Lady at Leon's", a one-woman tribute. She sang in the chorus at Lincoln Center in Jonathan Dove's "Search for Spring" and Toshi and Beatrice Reagon's "Parable of the Sower". She has her song lyrics "One Sky We All Fall Under" published in the Lincoln Center/New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Anthem to US lyric book. She is also a playwright, singer, songwriter, guitarist, music producer. Anita studied theater with The National Black Theater, and music at Santa Ana College.

ERIC COLEMAN - (DIRECTOR & NARRATOR)

Eric Coleman is a veteran New York-born Actor and Director with numerous theater credits.

His Directing credits include "The Meeting", "With Grits and Gravy", "Killing of Sam Cooke", "Purple Hearts", "3 On the Fringe", and J.e. Franklin's "Freedom Summer". He has produced and/or directed more than 90 staged readings of new and classical plays, three of which went on to successful full runs. He was the 2008 AUDELCO Award winner as Best Director for two plays on Negro League baseball—"Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson", produced by Woodie King, Jr.'s New Federal Theater. A retrospective of his career was recently archived into the Hatch-Billops collection.

His many acting credits include the title roles in Nat Turner, Ira Aldridge, Hamlet, and Othello for such theater companies as the original Negro Co., Riverside Shakespeare, and UBU Rep. In 1999 he was the winner of the New York Fringe Festival Best Actor Award for Strindberg's PARRA.

He is pleased to once again be working with AGM Theater Company again. (colemanactor19@gmail.com)

STAFF & CREW

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 Greenridge'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.

MICHELE BALDWIN - (SOCIAL MEDIA/MARKETING MANAGER)

Michele Baldwin - Human, woman and masterful interdisciplinary artist, is a seasoned veteran of the entertainment field. She is grateful to live the life of an artist and has recently returned her focus primarily to her love of acting. Michele has worn numerous other hats in the business; theatre, film, Tv and the internet as a content creator, producer, writer and director.

She is also a talented projection designer and technical design director/consultant, who has provided services for several well-known theatre companies.

As a lifelong learner, she thrives to conquer new things daily, and has been blessed to grace numerous NYC theatres in lead and supporting roles, including Cherry Lane, MST, Second Stage Theatre, 59E59 and EST, to name a few. Michele recently performed at Penn Live Arts in the classic Day of Absence play with the Negro Ensemble Company. Member: SAG-AFTRA, NYWIFT, The Off Broadway Alliance, TRU, Women in Media, Women in Entertainment, Women Independent Producers, Women of Color Unite, IFP, Flobel.org, Newark Arts & Media Business Hub and Frank Silvera's Writers Workshop. She has served as judge for the NJ Thespians Contest. Michele is grateful to be working with AGM Theater Company! www.MicheleBaldwin.com

DAVID D. WRIGHT - (SOUND DESIGN)

(See Cast Bio - Louis Armstrong)

NATHAN PRINCE - (SOUND TECH)

I, Nathan Prince, have worked the sound for Director Eric Coleman on several occasions. Prior to that, I was (and still am) a digital sound guy. Eric has recommended me for your current upcoming workshop production. I taught for more than two decades. Children loved everything I did, however, what they loved most was when I put on theatrical productions. After retiring from teaching, I went back to my first love: creating sounds from a digital perspective. I am glad to be back to working on various theater productions, and look forward to many opportunities working with your company.

LUCY MONGES - (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT)

Lucy Monges has been discovering the world of Theater and loving it. Lucy's is now a proud member of the AGM Theater Company Family and we love having her. Lucy is also a World Traveller and loves to go on Cruises! She Loves Music and Loves to Dance!! But most importantly, she loves spending time with her Family - her daughter, her grandson, and all of Loved Ones.

AGM Theater Company continues to honor the memory of our Treasured Production Manager
Cynthia Kitt whose light will shine forever in our hearts.

Rest in Power Our Dear Beautiful Sister Kitt.

With Eternal Love,

Janet and Ka'Ran

and

The Entire AGM Theater Company Family

"Please Support AGM Theater Company by Making A Donation"