

Director's Note

This Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play encompasses the 1950's and a black family's efforts to put down roots in the slag-slippery hills of a middle urban industrial city: in *Fences*, August Wilson tells the story of four generations of Black Americans and how they have passed on a legacy of morals, mores, attitudes, and patterns through stories told with and without music.

About the Author

August Wilson (1945 -), born in Pittsburgh, PA, dropped out of school in the ninth grade after a teacher accused him of plagiarism because his work was considered too good for a black student. He continued his education independently through extensive reading in the local library and through neighborhood experiences. His plays often deal with the conflict between African Americans who accept main stream American culture and those who want to embrace their African heritage. Wilson won a Pulitzer Prize in 1987 for his play *Fences* (1985). In 1990, Wilson won a second Pulitzer Prize for *The Piano Lesson* (1987). Wilson's other major plays include *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and *Seven Guitars*.

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the sincere work and dedication that Peter DeBono and Dan Beck at Monterey Peninsula College have shown in establishing this link between MPC and the African American Theater Arts Troupe. Their vision and commitment in creating greater diversity upon the theatrical stages on the Monterey Peninsula is profound

—Don Williams, director, *FENCES*

Major Sponsors

Monterey Peninsula College Drama Dept.,
University of California, Santa Cruz: Theatre Arts Dept.,
Arts Division, African American Resource Center,
Office of Student Affairs, Alumni Association,
Committee in Ethnic Programming,
Stevenson College and EOP Office.

Smoking is NOT permitted in the Theater.

NO refreshments, recordings devices or
flash photography is permitted in the Auditorium.
Late seating is at the discretion of the House Manager

FENCES

By August Wilson

Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

Troy Maxon Aaron Woods

Jim Bono Allen Burnett

Rose Nandi Ellis

Jujana Williams

Lyons Rameen Gasary

Gabriel Jeree Brown Jr.

Cory Corey Saucier

Raynell Brittany Williams

Bracely Williams

Synopsis of Scenes

Setting: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Act I

Scene One 1957, Friday night, payday

Scene Two The following morning

Scene Three Four hours later

Scene Four Friday, two weeks later

There will be a 15 minute intermission

Refreshments are available in the lobby. Please recycle.

Act II

Scene One The following morning

Scene Two Six months later, afternoon

Scene Three Three days later, evening

Scene Four Two months later

Presented by special arrangement

with Samuel French, Inc.

Scenic Construction and Painting Dan Beck,

John Brady, Nick Campbell,

Patrick McEvoy, Steve Retsky

MPC House Crew William Cates, Lynn Perry

Sky Rappoport, Judy Souza

MPC Theatre Manager Andrew Craig

UCSC Technical Director Brandon Roberts

UCSC Master Electrician Eric Mack

"I don't know the key to success but the key to failure
is trying to please everyone" —Bill Cosby, *Ebony*, June 1977

About the Cast & Crew

Aaron Woods (Troy) is a man of many skills, from bee-keeping to semiconductor manufacturing, the roles he has played in life have been broad. No less for the role of Troy Maxon. Originally from Cupertino, CA, Aaron has participated in several performances at Cabrillo College and The Santa Cruz Actor's Theatre as well as hosted the political talk show 'Community Perspectives' on Santa Cruz's own Public Access TV. Aaron is most thankful to God, his mother, Don Williams and the *African American Theater Arts Troupe* (AATAT) for the opportunity to play such a multi-layered character as Troy Maxon. Aaron's future goal is to write, direct, and act for feature films.

Nandi Ellis (Rose) is originally from Oakland. She is a Community Studies Major who is also studying Theatre Arts. This is her fourth year being a part of the AATAT. She has performed in *Once in a Lifetime* and *Tambourines to Glory*. She has also been a part of Rainbow Theater co-directing this year's production *For Colored Girls Who have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf*.

Jujana S. Williams (Rose) is in her second year at UC Santa Cruz. It has been a privilege for her to work with Don Williams this year. Since the beginning of the Quarter she has been in two plays: *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf* performed by the Rainbow Theater Troupe and *Fences* performed by the AATAT. Working with the two different casts has been a great experience and a lot of fun for her.