



Denver Center Theatre Company
1998 TONY AWARD® for Outstanding Regional Theatre
Donovan Marley, Artistic Director

April 26, 1999

Myla Lichtman-Fields
c/o Myla Productions
23 Lee
Irvine, CA 92620-6202

Dear Ms. Lichtman-Fields:

Thank you for the opportunity to read your new play, **WAGADU**. We kept it for so long because it received positive responses from several readers and was seriously considered as a finalist in the selection process for this year's US West TheatreFest. We have now made our selections and, although your play was not chosen, I wanted to let you know that we enjoyed reading it. We would be interested in seeing more of your work, as we have already begun reading for next year's festival, US West TheatreFest 2000.

Thanks again for your interest in the Denver Center Theatre Company.

Cordially,

Bruce K. Sevy
Associate Artistic Director, New Play Development
Denver Center Theatre Company
1050 13th Street
Denver, CO 80204

NORRIS COMMUNITY THEATRE'S

PLAY DISCOVERY PROJECT

PRESENTS

A STAGED READING OF THE NEW PLAY

“WAGADU”



(An African Mytho-Drama)

by

Myla Lichtman-Fields

Wednesday November 11

8:00 p.m.

cont'd

Myla was executive producer of the Theatre's Opening Festival and founded the Play Discovery Project in 1983. She was its director/producer for two seasons.

McKeiver Jones III (Bantu) - Born under the sign of the Ram on April Fool's Day, this foolish ram has been performing in Community Theatre in San Diego since 1978. McKeiver is a singer/actor who is equally adept at musical comedy or drama. As a member of both Screen Actors/Extras Guilds, he has been seen in numerous television shows and films. His local stage credits include: the roles of Cutler in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"; Nathan Detroit in "Guys and Dolls" and Blue Haven in "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men" among many others.

Meg Gilbert (Wagadu) - Meg is presently managing Director of The Victory Theatre in Burbank. Her costume designs have won critical acclaim both in the Victory Theatre productions and throughout L.A. theatre. Meg's background includes work as a vocal coach and professional actress and a wide range of experience in community and professional theatre. Meg and her husband Dave are both actively involved with The Palos Verdes Community Players. Meg has participated in the New Play Series since its inception, acting in a wide array of roles.

Barbara Jones (Older Woman) - Singer, actress, writer, dancer, Barbara most recently presented her singing talents on Cable Television. Currently she is a student with the American Center For Music Theatre Training at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, polishing up her theatrical talents. Performances have taken her coast to coast.

****CAST****

- Bantu.....McKeiver Jones III
- Bamako.....Damon Bryant
- Wagadu.....Meg Gilbert
- Older Woman.....Barbara Jones
- Old Gassire.....Gentle Culppepper
- Rafe/Chiefs.....Ron Flagg
- Narrator.....Michael Putnam

Actors will be playing more than one role.

- Technical Director.....Mark Petrak
- Program Design.....Johnna Jaramillo
- Costumes.....Joan Wong
- Props & Creative Consultant.....Mary Ellen Rourke
- Music by Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Myla Lichtman-Fields, Ph.D. (Playwright) - An award-winning playwright, Myla is also teaching at UC Irvine. She has also been on the faculty of UCLA. She holds a Ph.D. in Communications/Drama from USC. A former staff writer for Universal Studios, she has written free-lance for both TV and films. A former resident of PV, and charter member of the Norris Theatre Management Board,

Ron Flagg (Raphe/Chiefs)- Ron is a veteran entertainer of stage, film and television. His stage appearances include the musical "Roller Derby," "Heaven Can Wait," "Birth-right" (a musical that he co-wrote), and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." In film, "Irreconcilable Differences," "The Postman Always Rings Twice," "The Sword and the Sorcerer" and "Skatetown U.S.A." On television, "After Mash," "Cagney and Lacey," "Moonlighting," and "The Atlanta Child Murders." Ron is a graduate of Southern University in New Orleans with a B.A. in Sociology.

Damon Bryant (Bamako)- Damon recently received excellent critical notices for the leading role of "Bottom" in The San Diego Repertory's production of "Midsummer Night's Dream." Damon will be getting married the week following this reading.

Gentle Culpepper (Old Gassire)- In addition to his fine accomplishments as an actor, Gentle is an accomplished director and is presently rehearsing a production to open later this month.

Joan Wong (Costumes)- Ms. Wong comes to us from the field of dance with credits including costume design and execution for "The Match Girl," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Carnival of the Animals" for Stage Seven Dance Theatre and "Handel Variations" and "Amahl and the Night Visitors" among others for J's Company. Her theatre credits include "Guys and Dolls," "Harlem Harlem" and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom."

Please join us after tonight's reading
for some wine, cheese and conversation!

SCENE 4

The hut of the Mad Ones (same as II,ii)
Three months later.

ACT III

SCENE 1

Alongside a jungle river in the Congo.
Afternoon.

SCENE 2

A South African diamond mine.

The Play Discovery Project is a community outreach program of The Norris Theatre now in its fifth year of presenting new works by novice and established playwrights in free to the public performances.

Pamela Reis, Chair
Mimi Wilson
Michael Putnam

