

UCSD's Floyd Gaffney directs "For Colored Girls" at Lyceum Theatre through May 5

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UCSD'S FLOYD GAFFNEY DIRECTS "FOR COLORED GIRLS," AT LYCEUM

Under the direction of Floyd Gaffney, playwright Ntozake Shange's poem play, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is ENUF" has been teamed with "Comments: The Black Man's Answer" by playwright Abiodun Oyewole--for a point/counterpoint examination of black relationships.

The production will continue at the Lyceum Theatre through May 5. Performance dates are April 25-28 and May 2-5. Tickets are available at the Lyceum Box Office (235-8025).

Shange's play was produced in New York City, and made its way from the New Federal Theatre off-off-Broadway, to the Public Theatre off-Broadway, to the Booth Theatre on Broadway--to rave reviews and an Obie Award in 1977.

"For Colored Girls" is a series of seven poems told by seven women exploring their feelings and their lives--especially what their experiences had been in relationships with men.

"Comments" explores the black man's answer to relationships gone bad, survival between the sexes, and love. Playwright Oyewole felt black men "got a bad deal" from Shange's play, and wrote "Comments" to attempt to deal with the material in a positive way.

Gaffney is a professor of theatre at the University of California, San Diego and the director of UCSD's Contemporary Black Arts Program. His recent projects include August Wilson's "Fences" and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," and "Black Nativity," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Boseman and Lena," and "Williams and Walker."

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