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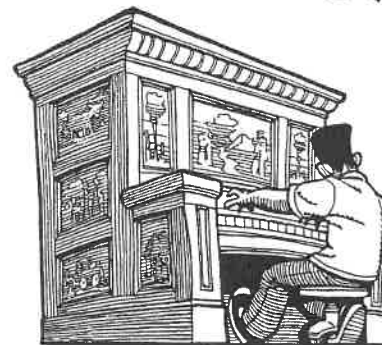
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# THE PIANO LESSON

## BY AUGUST WILSON



## Cast

**Doaker  
Boy Willie  
Lymon  
Berniece  
Maretha  
Avery  
Wining Boy  
Grace**

**Early Crosson  
Lance Spencer  
David Dear  
Myrna J. Key  
DeeJahnè Turner-Williams  
Carl T. Rainey  
Gary Clark-Pinkney  
Alonda R. Lee**

**Directed by  
Alan Marshall Brown**

**Assistant Director  
Early Crosson**

**Scenic Design  
Judith D. Cullen**

**Costume Design  
Lee Ann Hittenberger**

**Lighting Design  
Mark Thomason**

**Stage Manager  
Terry Carlson**

## THE PIANO LESSON

is sponsored by  
**The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation**  
and  
**The Junior League of Tacoma**

*Special Thanks to:*

The Tacoma Actors Guild, Alex Lewington, First United Methodist Church, Betty Cullen, Mary Lynn and Marcus & Laurie Walker

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

## Early Crosson, *Doaker*

Having recently re-dedicated his life to Christ, Early now finds himself returning to the stage of TLT. His previous roles at TLT have included Cal in *Little Foxes*, Donald in *You Can't Take it With You*, Hoke in *Driving Miss Daisy*, The Reverend in *Good Times*, Bobo in *A Raisin in the Sun* and Luke in *Amen Corner*. Early has twice been the recipient of a Best Actor award for his work in these productions.

## Lance Spencer, *Boy Willie*

This is Lance Spencer's first play at TLT. He has performed in various productions in Northern California including roles in *Raisin in the Sun*, *The Diviners*, *Moon for the Misbegotten* and as a member of "The Magic Bus Improvisational Comedy Troupe."

## David Dear, *Lymon*

David is excited to return to TLT's mainstage, reunited with cast members of *Raisin* and as a willing tool of Alan Brown's. He has also appeared in TLT's *Glass Menagerie*, and four seasons of the Pierce County Playwrights Festival. Will he ever stop trying to impress his wife?!

## Myrna J. Key, *Berniece*

After a five-year absence, Myrna is back in her first major role since "Ruth" in TLT's production of *Raisin in the Sun*. She is excited to perform on stage for her daughter for the first time! (Hey, Nia!) TLT, I love you. It's great to be back and to work with you again.

## DeeJahnè Turner-Williams, *Maretha*

DeeJahnè is a student at Grant Elementary for the Expressive Arts. This is her first stage production. She is enrolled in drama class this year.

## Carl T. Rainey, *Avery*

Carl went to junior high and high school in the Tacoma area, and started acting in school and church. He played Pearlle in *Pearlie Victorious* at St. John's Baptist Church, and Joseph in *Joseph the Committed* with In-Time Productions. In college he was in the King Players acting group in Atlanta, Georgia. Carl is now working with young people at the Boys and Girls Club and as the Youth Director for Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church of Tacoma.

## Gary Clark-Pinkney, *Wining Boy*

Gary is glad to be back at TLT. You might remember him from *The Wiz* (1991), *The Good Times are Killing Me* (1993) and *I'm Not Rappaport* (1995), just to name a few. He says, "What a reunion working with this cast again. Thanks Jill!"

## Alonda R. Lee, *Grace*

The Piano Lesson is Alonda's third play. She was Sister Boxer in *Amen Corner* and played several characters in *Black, White and in Color*. Alonda is the mother of a 10-year-old daughter, Takayla. Besides acting, she enjoys reading, cooking and spending time with friends and family.

## Introduction to *The Piano Lesson*

It is 1936, and Boy Willie wants to sell an old piano that has been in his family for generations, to buy some land. But he shares ownership of the piano with his sister, Berniece, and she rejects the idea of selling a family heirloom that is covered with detailed carvings illustrating the family's rise from slavery. This Pulitzer Prize winning drama has been hailed as the best work by one of America's greatest living playwrights.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

### Scenic Painting

Kim Izenman (Scenic Artist), Robbie Lapin

### Scenic Construction

Ryan Coleman, Matt Osier, Sarah Holt

### Properties

Tracy Berryman, with thanks to Kim Izenman, Chris Berryman and Erin O'Donnell

### Sound FX

Ryan Coleman, Karl Yerkes

### Piano Creation

Judith Cullen, Ryan Coleman, Rollin Thomas, with special thanks to First United Methodist Church

### Light Hang & Focus

Matt Osier, Alan Brown, Sam & Joe Izenman

### Light Board Operator

Josh Dumont

### Consultants

Music - Deneen Grant, Combat - John Munn

### House Manager

Loren Osier

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Listen . . . a song will rise from an old piano tonight. It's played by the children of slaves, calling out for kin that have been scattered to the wind. The tune is the blues: it falls hard on the heart with verses of fire, blood, and grief. But hook on to the harmony - those chords will pull the children back home again.

### Alan Marshall Brown, *Director*

Alan directed of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Amen Corner*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Black and White in Color* at TLT, and *Ned of the Northwest* for the Pierce County Playwrights Festival. He appeared as the "who" in last season's whodunit at TLT, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

### Terry Carlson, *Stage Manager*

Terry has stage managed at the Pierce County Playwrights Festival, Burien Little Theater & Olympia Little Theatre. She is very happy to be working at TLT with such a great cast.

### Lee Ann Hittenberger, *Costume Designer*

Lee Ann has designed for Village Theater, Civic Light Opera, Coeur d'Alene Summer Theater and most recently for TLT's production of *Arsenic & Old Lace*. Lee Ann intimately understands the needs of the actor, having been one herself since the age of 11. A costume helps develop the character, expresses vulnerability and even

influences posture. It is a team effort with actor, designers and director to come to the look you see tonight. Many thanks to the creative team here at TLT.

### Judith C. Cullen, *Scenic Designer*

This is Judy's twenty-first scenic design for Tacoma Little Theatre. She has also been on staff at TLT since 1993 and is currently Producing Artistic Director. "*The miracles we perform could never be credited to one person's efforts, alone.*" Special thanks to Mom, Maura, and Brandon whose love and support makes it all worth doing.

### Mark Thomason, *Lighting Designer*

Recently returned to the Northwest, Mark earned his B.A. in Technical Theatre from Bradley University in Peoria, IL. He is the resident Lighting Designer at the Admiral Theatre in Bremerton, and works in entertainment lighting design throughout the Puget Sound area. This is his second production at TLT - Mark enjoyed designing for *Oliver!* so much he decided to come back for more.

# TLT - A HISTORY

## IN POSTERS

Take a walk back in time and as you stroll around our Lobby Gallery, and revisit some of the great productions from TLT's past.

Since its formation in 1918, Tacoma Little Theatre has staged over 500 shows. The posters mounted around the Lobby Gallery represent some of the memorable productions from the past 30 years.

Also take a moment to enjoy the original art works by legendary cartoonist and illustrator, Rick Geary, which illustrate our posters this season. We can't wait to see what he'll come up with for NEXT season . . .

# TLC for TLT

Tracy Berryman  
Betty Cullen  
Judy Cullen  
Maura Cullen  
Mark Hockman  
Inga Holmquist  
Robbie Lapin  
Naarah McDonald-  
Kelley  
Loren Osier  
Walt Parrish  
Becca Rex  
Clare Schamel

These volunteers have provided food breaks for the cast and crew during the technical rehearsals for this production.  
- Thank you!

If you would like to be a TLC for TLT participant for our next production, call Loren Osier at 253-272-2281 x 12

## CORPORATE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS / ARTSFUND

### Endowments

Endowments achieve donors' objectives in perpetuity and can be created through current or testamentary gifts of cash, securities or other appreciated property. Contact the CCA/ArtsFund office to explore creating a permanent fund to sustain area arts organizations.

#### D.E. "Ned" Skinner Endowment Fund

Established in 1988 in memory of the noted civic leader and arts patron Ned Skinner. Through 2001, CCA has made over \$871,500 in grants to small and midsize arts groups from this \$2.1 million fund.

#### The Ackerley Excellence Fund

In 1997, Barry & Ginger Ackerley established this fund with a personal gift of \$1 million. Earnings from the fund reward excellence among CCA beneficiaries, most recently to Tacoma Youth Symphony.

#### The Kreielsheimer Fund

Established in 2000, by a \$1 million endowment gift from the Kreielsheimer Foundation, the Kreielsheimer Fund will provide grants in support of CCA/ArtsFund sustaining beneficiaries. The first grants from fund earnings were made in 2001.

#### Classical KING-FM 98.1

In 1994, Priscilla Bullitt Collins and Harriet Stimson Bullitt gave CCA one-third ownership of Classical KING-FM 98.1. CCA distributes its share of dividends to music groups, totaling over \$1,000,000 to date.

#### Guendolen Carkeek Plestcheeff Decorative and Design Arts Fund

In 1996, Corporate Council received more than \$600,000 from the estate of Guendolen Carkeek Plestcheeff. Corporate Council makes grants from this fund for programming in the design and decorative arts.

#### Stabilization Fund

Corporate Council received surplus funds from Seattle's National Arts Stabilization program to provide stabilization-related technical assistance to arts groups.

#### Jean T. Fukuda Memorial Fund

The Fukuda family and the Emeritus Corporation established this fund in memory of Ms. Fukuda's love of the performing arts. Earnings support CCA's performing arts beneficiaries.

Corporate Council for the Arts/ArtsFund is the largest single source of operating funds for non-profit arts groups in the Puget Sound region. These, and many other donors know that one annual gift to CCA/ArtsFund is the most efficient way to fund more than 65 arts groups. In addition to its annual campaign, CCA/ArtsFund has an endowment of more than \$6 million. Please lend your support. To find out more, please contact the CCA/ArtsFund office or visit our websites.

\* Diane Sigel-Steinman, Duffie Bag Inc

2001 Pierce County Committee Chair, Corporate Council for the Arts

\* Peter F. Donnelly

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Corporate Council for the Arts/ArtsFund

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Fax 206-281-9175 Email \* info@artsfund.org

Websites www.cca-artsfund.org www.artsfund.org



ARTSFUND



## CORPORATE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS / ARTSFUND

\* Some people dance. Some people sing. Some people act. \*  
(Luckily, others simply give.)

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Many of these donors and hundreds more supported CCA's King County campaign. Gift totals include in-kind donations.

## New Individual Donors (Since September, 2001)

TLT extends a heartfelt thanks to all those whose donations have helped bring high quality live theatre to our stage this year!

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New this season are TLT's Giving Circles, established to recognize our Season Ticket donors and honor them with a very special "Thank you!"

If your name is missing, or you would like to be listed differently, please contact Inga at 253-272-2281 x17

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Waymon Cowans & Joanne Linn-Cowans  
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Dolly Crosta  
Alice Cummings  
Rosalie D'Alessandro  
Barbara & Herb Davenport  
Larry & Bobbee Davidson  
Isabel DeGraw  
Margaret Denn  
Herman & Dorothy Diers  
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Phyllis K. Erickson  
Gene & Phyllis Ernst  
Fay Fineman  
Betty Fisher  
Ardythe Fleener  
John Fleming  
Mary Fore  
Delveda L. Fortier  
Jerry & Jean Marie Foss  
Roberta "Bobi" Foster  
Betty Frey  
Janet Frieling  
Laura Gardner  
Glen & Phyllis Garrett  
Peter Gaunce  
Charles & Eleanor Gleiser  
Jack & Sylvia Grah  
Suzanne Greiwe  
Carolyn Grimm  
Ron & Rose Haave  
Trista Hagen  
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Jackie & Carl Heitstuman  
Gloria Herbert  
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Clarence & Jeannette Nelson  
Mary Oakes  
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John Perry  
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Gary Phillips  
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Diane Anderson  
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F. Jeanne Baird  
Betty Baldwin  
Virginia Ball  
Tom & Tama Banning  
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Kathryn Beall  
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Holly Beckstead  
Vance Beckwith  
Lawrence Belsvik  
Liz Bentler  
Paula Bessette  
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Benji Bryan Bittle  
Lynn Black  
Susan & Walter Black  
Joyce Blank  
Bruce & Mary Bleckert  
Frances Blewer  
Dolores Bloch & Marjorie Tierman  
Dianne Boerger  
Ruth Bonar  
John Boughal

## Educational Opportunities at TLT!!

Call Judy Cullen at 253-272-2281 x11 for details.

### The Performance Garage

Ages 15 and up - \$5 to join, then just \$1 per session!  
Mondays, 7 - 9:00 in the Theatre Lobby.  
Through Feb. 25, learn: **Improvisational Techniques for Actors**, Mar. 4 - Apr. 8, learn: **Scene Study Using the Meisner Method.**

Master Class

### "Shakespearean Acting"

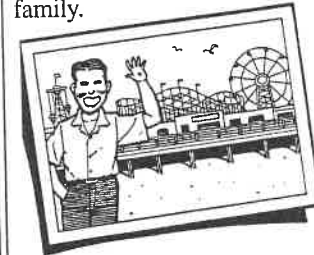
In cooperation with The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, TLT is delighted to offer this intensive, one-day Master Class with instructor, Rick Miller, Shakespearean scholar and creator of "MacHomer." Just \$30 per person!

### Young Performer's Institute

TLT opened the "Young Performers Institute" in January, to phenomenal response! This after-school program offers youngsters ages 9 - 14 the opportunity to learn acting skills, gain confidence and have FUN in the process! We are now accepting registrations for next module "Monologues" which will run Feb. 25-Apr. 1. Classes are Mondays, 4 - 6:00p.m. in the Theatre Lobby. Registration for the six-week module is \$40 per student - OR - register two at the same time for just \$60 - half-off the second registration!

### Coming to TLT April 5 - 27: Brighton Beach Memoirs

The beloved first part of Neil Simon's semi autobiographical trilogy invites us to share a few days in the life of Brooklyn teenager Eugene Jerome and his colorful family.



Brighton Beach Memoirs captures all the ironic, touching, heart wrenching and hilarious drama of everyday family life. Call the Box Office at (253) 272-2281 for ticket info. or order online: [www.tacomalittletheatre.com](http://www.tacomalittletheatre.com)