



Honoring
Norm Lewis & Joshua Henry

Raising funds to support **BAC** / BROADWAY
ADVOCACY COALITION



A Word from the BAC Team

Since our first Broadway VS honoring the incredible legacies of André de Shields and Lillias White, we knew we needed to bring back this special event. Unfortunately, it is still too rare in the theater industry for the real honoring and celebration of the ways that Black artists have and continue to have an indelible and vital mark on Broadway. As we looked to this year's event, we wanted to choose two Black men who have been leaders and role models for so many other Black men as they have forged their own paths. Norm Lewis and Joshua Henry have shattered glass ceilings so that those coming up in this industry can forge their own paths with a bit more of their fullness in tow. Their leadership in this community is vital.

As we honor them tonight, we hope to also make space for so many other Black men who have fought on stage and off stage to build the kind of industry we all know is possible. Thank you for joining us as we raise funds to support Broadway Advocacy Coalition's continued work to build a more equitable industry and city.

The Program

Pre-Show Hosted by
BAC Co-Founder Amber Iman

Norm Lewis Welcome

Joshua Henry Welcome

Broadway VS Begins

Break

Broadway VS Continues

After Party Commences with DJ Duggs

A Timeline of Black Men on Broadway



1898

Trip to Coontown becomes first show on Broadway written, directed, and performed by Black folk starring Bob Cole & Billy Johnson

1907

Ernest Hogan Produces and Stars in *The Oyster Man*. This show was the first play on Broadway known to both be produced by and star a Black American

1925

Garland Anderson's play *Appearances*, the first full-length drama written by a Black American to be produced on Broadway, opens

1954

Harry Belafonte becomes first Black man to win a tony for John Murray Anderson's *Almanac*

1963

Norm Lewis Was Born

1903

Dahomey Written by Cook & Shipp starring Bert Williams and Geroge Walker became the first Black musical on Broadway

1921

Eubie Blake & Noble Sissle forgo blackface in *Shuffle Along*, changing the way Black narratives are told

1943

Paul Robeson stars in *Othello*, 1943 Longest running Shakespeare show in history

1959

Lloyd Richards became the first Black man to stage a play on Broadway with *Raisin In The Sun*

1969

James Earl Jones Makes Tony History for his leading turn in *The Great White Hope*, James Earl Jones was awarded Best Actor in a Play at the Tony Awards, the first African-American winner in any play category

1984

August Wilson makes his Broadway debut as a playwright with *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*

1996

After *Jelly's Last Jam* Director George C. Wolfe asked the prodigious, young artist Savion Glover what he wanted to do on Broadway next and he responded, "I want to Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk." The story brought the Black experience in America to vivid life onstage, from the days of slavery to the advent of hip-hop. The production won five Tony Awards

1975

Geoffrey Holder makes history, becoming the first Black director to win a tony for best director of a musical. He also won a Tony for costume design. Both for *The Wiz*

1993

Norm Lewis makes his Broadway debut in *The Who's Tommy*

2008

Joshua Henry makes his Broadway Debut

Citation:

[1]<https://myvisme.co/view/q6xr17o9-black-american-theatre-a-timeline> [2]<https://blackworkbroadway.com/A-Raisin-in-the-Sun-1959> [3]<https://playbill.com/article/pivotal-moments-in-broadways-black-history-com-342101> [4]<https://www.broadway.com/buzz/194844/celebrating-black-history-month-broadway-milestones-you-ought-to-know/> [5]<https://myvisme.co/view/q6xr17o9-black-american-theatre-a-timeline> [6]<https://blackworkbroadway.com/A-Raisin-in-the-Sun-1959> [7]<https://playbill.com/article/pivotal-moments-in-broadways-black-history-com-342101> [PHOTO] Production still from *Jelly's Last Jam*, 1992

Joshua Henry

Joshua Henry can currently be seen starring opposite Jason Momoa in *See* Season 1 and 2 for Apple TV. Most recently, Joshua appeared on Broadway as "Dr. Pomatter" in *Waitress*. Prior to *Waitress*, Joshua astounded audiences in *The Wrong Man* at MCC Theatre. Joshua starred on Broadway as the iconic "Billy Bigelow" in the revival of *Carousel* for which he received a coveted Tony and Grammy nomination. Before headlining in *Carousel*, Joshua starred as "Aaron Burr" in the cultural phenomenon, *Hamilton*, in Los Angeles. Joshua has also starred on Broadway as "Noble Sissle" in George C. Wolfe's Tony-nominated musical *Shuffle Along*. Joshua was Tony-nominated for his star turn as 'Flick' in the musical *Violet*.

He received Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Drama League Award nominations for his thrilling, show-stopping performance. He was previously nominated for a Tony Award for his leading role in Susan Stroman's *The Scottsboro Boys*. Other Broadway credits include leading roles in *Porgy & Bess* and Green Day's *American Idiot*. FILM: *Tick, Tick...Boom* (Netflix/ Imagine Entertainment). He recently released his debut EP called *Guarantee* available on all music platforms.





Norm Lewis

Emmy, Grammy, Tony, and SAG Award nominee, Norm Lewis, recently starred in Spike Lee's critically acclaimed, "Da 5 Bloods," and in the groundbreaking FX series, *Pose*. Additionally, Mr. Lewis can be seen starring in ABC's newest series, *Women of the Movement*, and off-screen, his voice can be heard in the latest season of Apple TV's animated series, *Central Park*. He was also seen as 'Caiaphas' in the award-winning NBC television special, "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert!," alongside John Legend, Sara Bareilles, and Alice Cooper.

Mr. Lewis returned to Broadway in the Fall of 2021, starring in *Chicken and Biscuits* at the Circle In The Square Theatre. He previously appeared in the Broadway revival of *Once on This Island* and as Sweeney Todd in the Off-Broadway production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* at the Barrow Street Theatre, receiving the AUDELCO Award for his performance. In May of 2014, he made history as *The Phantom of the Opera*'s first African American Phantom on Broadway.

He has been seen on PBS in the Live From Lincoln Center productions of *Showboat* with Vanessa Williams, *Norm Lewis: Who Am I?*, *New Year's Eve: A Gershwin Celebration* with Diane Reeves, as well as *American Voices* with Renée Fleming and the PBS Specials *First You Dream – The Music of Kander & Ebb* and *Ella Wishes You A Swingin' Christmas*. He can be seen recurring in the VH1 series, *Daytime Divas*, also alongside Vanessa Williams. His additional television credits include *Dr. Riverdale*, *Law & Order*, *Dr. Death*, *Mrs. America*, *Better Things*, *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Bull*, *Chicago Med*, *Gotham*, *The Blacklist*, and *Blue Bloods*, as well as in his recurring role as Senator Edison Davis on the hit drama *Scandal*.

Mr. Lewis is a proud founding member of Black Theatre United, an organization which stands together to help protect Black people, Black talent and Black lives of all shapes and orientations in theatre and communities across the country. He received Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle award nominations for his performance as Porgy in the Broadway production of *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess*. Other Broadway credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *Amour*, *The Wild Party*, *Side Show*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Who's Tommy*. In London's West End he has appeared as Javert in *Les Misérables* and *Les Misérables: The 25th Anniversary Concert*, which aired on PBS.

Off-Broadway Mr. Lewis has performed in *Dessa Rose* (Drama Desk nomination, AUDELCO Award), Shakespeare in the Park's *The Tempest*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Drama League nomination), *Captains Courageous*, and *A New Brain*. His regional credits include Porgy in *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (A.R.T.), *Ragtime*, *Dreamgirls* (with Jennifer Holliday), *First You Dream*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *The Fantasticks*.

His additional film credits include *Christmas In Tune* (starring opposite Reba McEntire), *Magnum Opus*, *Winter's Tale*, *Sex and the City 2*, *Confidences*, and *Preaching to the Choir*.



About BAC

The Broadway Advocacy Coalition is a Tony Award winning arts-based advocacy nonprofit dedicated to building the capacity of individuals, organizations, and communities to dismantle the systems that perpetuate racism through the power of storytelling and the leadership of people directly affected. Founded in 2016 by several members of the Broadway community as a direct response to the nation's pandemic of racism and police brutality, the Broadway Advocacy Coalition has since grown into a multidisciplinary organization uniting artists, experts, students, and community advocates to create lasting impact and collaborations on systemic racism and criminal justice reform.

Via its partnership with the Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School, BAC has created a groundbreaking course at the Law School and collaborated with public institutions across New York City including the New York City Council and the Brooklyn District Attorney's office. Last

year, the organization was named to Variety's 2020 "Broadway To Watch" list. Other past collaborations include the Gasping for Justice campaign featuring Jesse Williams, Fiona Apple and Alec Baldwin and the 24 Hour Plays "Viral Monologues" featuring DeRay Mckesson, Lynn Nottage and Aja Naomi King.

BAC was founded by Jackie Bell, Amber Iman, Cameron J Ross, Britton Smith, Adrienne Warren & Christian Dante White

*To donate to support Broadway Advocacy Coalition's work visit: **BroadwayVs.com** or **text GIVE to 347-657-6024***



Black Broadway Men Creed

We stand on the shoulders of Kings. We are confident, strong and resilient. We bring the heat and stop the show.

At times we feel like we're the only one Truth be told, we are one of many hurting, hiding, but still smiling.

It's time for us to come together
to inspire, motivate and educate
to unify, to heal,
to find our strength through knowledge by supporting each other
and others who are in need.

To show the world we can continue creating a legacy of greatness
so others behind us can do the same.

No matter if you are on stage or off, we are all connected because
"every Black man in theatre is a Black Broadway man."

We are
Black Broadway Men

Declaration created by the organization Black Broadway Men



*“Every Black man
in theatre is a Black
Broadway Man.”*

—Black Men on Broadway Motto



Spotlight

Unstoppable, Resilient, Swaggy

Three men in our community on what it means to
embody their identities as Black men

“ We aren’t monolithic! We come in a plethora of shades, sizes, and experience. Yet we all have one thing in common: we understand, at our very core, what an honor and privilege it is to be Black men, ain’t nothing like it.

Meet Ellis Dawson

A multi-hyphenated artist. Dawson’s story telling knows no bounds, be it on stage in shows like *Aladdin* or *Hamilton*, behind the camera lens through portraits portraying the beauty of Black life, or in his words/ direction of the webseries “For the Boys”. His entire MO is to show the multitudes, nuances, and complexities of the Black experience!





“ I imagine a future where Black men embrace each other with no fear or judgment knowing and remembering that outside of the help from Black women, we are the only ones who will be able to protect us. There’s no need to compete. There’s no space for hate. Only love.

Meet Jhardon Dishon Milton

He is Houston TX's very own Shipley's Glazed Donuts and Chunky's Hot Chicken. If he were on the menu, that's what you'd order. Milton is an actor, singer, and dancer currently in *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* on Broadway. He watched his oldest brother play trumpet and march in his High School and HBCU band, admiring how everybody knew and loved him. That's when he knew then that he wanted to change the lives of the people around him the way his brother did.

“ My very existence is a WIN after the struggle and fight that my ancestors have been through and accomplished When I wake up in the morning, I look myself in the mirror and say, I love you and you are enough.

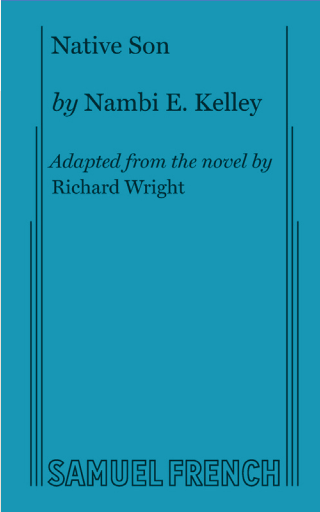
Meet Rodrick Covington

Rodrick is an actor/producer and business owner of a wellness studio in union square that is dedicated to creating transformation starting from the inside out focusing on the mind, body, and spirit. He was last seen in the TONY award winning Grammy nominated revival of *Once on this Island*. He was also in *The Lion King* on Broadway. He is currently producing and starring in a new Broadway show called *Goddess* where they will have their out of town run at Berkeley Rep this fall. He is also currently on the producing Democratic National Committee for the LGBTQ Leadership Council Gala.





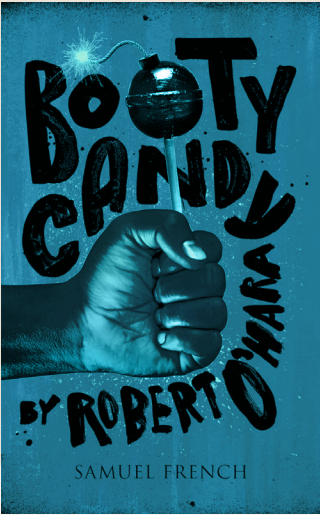
Work On Stage By Black Folk For Black Men



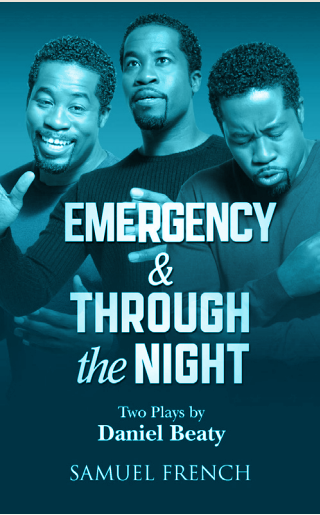
Native Son by Nambi E. Kelley,
Richard Wright



A Strange Loop by
Michael R. Jackson



Bootycandy by Robert
O'Hara (US/UK)

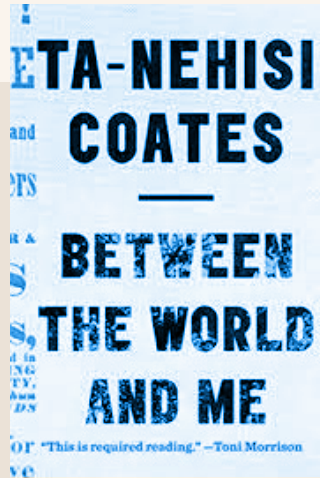


Emergency by
Daniel Beaty

Essential Reads Highlighting Black Manhood:



The Fire Next Time
by James Baldwin



Between the World and Me
by Ta-Nehisi Coates



A Year Without You (2018)
by Julian J. Walker

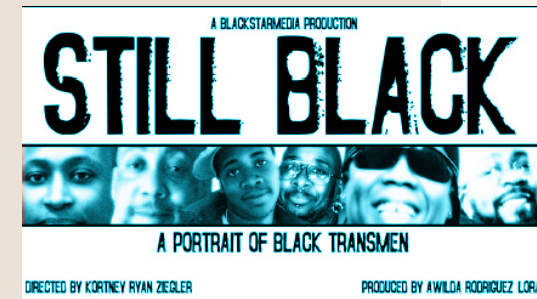


The Will to Change
by bell hooks

Essential Movies, Documentaries, and Series Highlighting Black Manhood:



Atlanta



Still Black: A portrait of Black Transmen



For the Boys



Moonlight



Organization Spotlight: Black Broadway Men

BLACK BROADWAY MEN (also known as BBM) is a Non-Profit brotherhood service organization that utilizes social and educational opportunities to strengthen the bond of healing and unity for ALL Black men in both the Broadway and theatre community.

PURPOSE: BLACK BROADWAY MEN is the exclusive safe space for Black men in theatre to find the common thread of multi-generational education and brotherhood. This organization is the platform that will allow each of us to have connecting educational conversations on mental health and wellness, discuss financial literacy toward smart investing ventures and many more topics while exposing the honest truth on how to become a true trailblazer for those coming along the same road after.



FOUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Anthony Wayne (Founder), James T. Lane, Terence Archie, Ahmad Simmons, Sir Brock Warren & Isaiah Josiah

This invitation is open to ALL Black men (and those who identify as such) on Broadway and beyond who are actors, singers, dancers, directors, writers, lighting designers, costume designers, set designers, makeup artist, producers, choreographers, musicians in the pit and crew members in theatre either in front or behind the stage.

Our motto is "EVERY BLACK MAN IN THEATRE IS A BLACK BROADWAY MAN" because we believe the situations we go through as Black men in the Broadway community are not just limited to our experience; they are commonly universal.

BROADWAY VS

Featuring

Norm Lewis and Joshua Henry

Hosted by

Amber Iman

Produced by

Broadway Advocacy Coalition

Executive Produced by

Dria Brown, Zhailon Levingston, Christian Dante White and Robb Nanus

Associated Produced by

Emily Goes, Leandra Ellis-Gaston, & Destinee Rea

Marketing Direction by

Felicia Fitzpatrick

Music Supervision by

Sean Mayes

Stage Managed by

Caren Celine Morris

Assistant Stage Managed by

Siobhan Petersen

Production Assistants

Holli Conway

Adriana Guerrero

Alyssa Shorte

Hair and Make Up by

Earon Neely

Sound Engineering by

DJ Potts

Social Media Execution by

Sophia Pesetti

Graphic Design by

Fred Sands IV

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the Shubert Organization



As well as the generosity of

NV Events



And

John Gore Organization, Jessica Sporn, Junkyard Dog Productions and Ken Davenport

Special Thanks To:

Our Community Partners:

Broadway Black, Black Theater Coalition, Black Theater United, Broadway for Racial Justice, Black Broadway Men

And

Cody Renard Richard, Carolyn Tharp, Eleni Gianulis, Allison Gutstein, Pamela Babb, Skai Huie and the team at Donorly, Rachel Zeidman, Jeremy Katz, Joseph Abate, Audra McDonald, Colman Domingo, Vanessa Williams, and especially to Bob Wankel, Andrew White, Erin DePalma, Austin Kunis, and the entire team at the Shubert Organization

BROADWAY VS

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