

tree



ROOTS & BRANCHES FOUR SPECIAL SUNDAYS

A series of enrichment events in which special guests will discuss the play and issues addressed by the play after the Sunday matinees of *Tree*.

November 22, 2009

Topic: TREE: WHAT IS FAMILY?

Cast and Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA members **Chuma Gault** and **Jacqueline Wright**, reflect on what family means to their characters, Leo and Didi, and how they discovered their brother/sister relationship in the rehearsal process. The discussion will also explore one of the major themes in *Tree*, how learning more about your family and origins can challenge your comfortable definition of yourself, as well as your understanding of your parents and siblings, and open up new avenues for growth and change -- a fitting topic as we head into the holiday season.

MODERATOR: Joshua Wolf Coleman (EST-LA member)
PANELISTS: Jacqueline Wright (*Tree* cast and EST-LA member)
Chuma Gault (*Tree* cast and EST-LA member)

November /29, 2009

Topic: AMERICAN THEATRE: PRISM FOR RACIAL IDENTITY

Cast member **Sloan Robinson** and actress **Starletta DuPois** discuss racial themes in *Tree*, including responses to mixed-race romance on both sides of the racial divide. They'll also examine changing perspectives on race across the three generations in *Tree*, and the evolving history of African-American identities as seen through other landmark plays such as *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Fences*.

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MODERATOR: Joshua Wolf Coleman (EST-LA member)
SPECIAL GUESTS: Sloan Robinson (*Tree* cast member)
Starletta DuPois (Veteran African-American actress)

An award-winning, Tony-nominated actress, Ms. DuPois has worked extensively in theatre, film and TV. Her theatre credits include landmark productions of August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson* (directed by Lloyd Richards and opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Charles S. Dutton). Early in her career she appeared as Beneatha Younger in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin In The Sun*. She went on to play Ruth Younger opposite Danny Glover in the PBS, American Playhouse Production, and is now on her way to the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester to play Lena Younger, in the same play. Ms. DuPois is deeply committed to civic and philanthropic activity.

December 6, 2009

Topic: TREE: A CREATIVE COLLABORATION

Playwright **Julie Hébert** and Director **Jessica Kubzansky** discuss their working relationship on this world-premiere production. They will examine the progression of the show from script to opening night, from initial vision through casting, rehearsal, rewrites, adding design elements and, finally, watching the production through the eyes of the audience.

MODERATOR: Joshua Wolf Coleman (EST-LA member)
SPECIAL GUESTS: Julie Hébert (Writer of *Tree*, EST-LA Member)
Jessica Kubzansky (Director of *Tree*)

December 13, 2009

Topic: A FAMILY FAREWELL

A festive **Meet-The-Company reception**. Audience members are invited to enjoy Cajun music and light snacks with the cast, writer, director and other members of the creative team of *Tree* as we celebrate the production and bid a fond farewell to the *Tree* family.