

Black Theatre and Dance Program



Mission and Goals: The Black Theatre and Dance Program (BTDP) is an integral part of the Wayne State University Department of Theatre & Dance. The BTDP endeavors to engage with the community about the black experience through the presentation of new and established theatrical productions, complemented by social and cultural outreach programming.

We aspire to:

- increase public awareness of the significant contributions of the Black experience within the world of theatre and dance.
- create an on-going dialogue with our community as it pertains to the black experience in theatre and dance.
- entertain and educate the community by offering theatrical works that bring awareness to issues that affect the Black Community.
- develop future Black theatre and dance artists and scholars
- provide community outreach opportunities for the greater Detroit Area and beyond

How do we define "Black"?

- *Exploring Africa and the Diaspora through the lens of the African American experience.*



'To Sangana' – Touring Company

The **To Sangana** touring company would like to bring to you our production entitled **"Journey"**.

To Sangana means 'All

coming together' and our production is a visually stunning experience featuring music, dance, and vocals, driven by a pulsating rhythmic percussion. The company will perform Central African, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Beat, Hip Hop, and Modern dance, along with music, spoken word, drumming, song, and topped off by a Shekere Suite. This presentation will require audience participation, as they will learn vocal call and responses, and hand clapping rhythms based on the drummer's demonstration. "**Journey**" will give your students the opportunity to see the connection of Hip Hop and Afro-beat dance forms in relationship to traditional African dance, which is the foundation of these forms. The performance will end with a question and answer session.

You also have the option of ordering a package that includes Master classes in African dance, drumming, and/or Modern dance.



Freedom Players – Touring Company

In our efforts to reflect the times of our ever changing socio-political climate, **Freedom Players** is committed to performing works centered on illuminating social justice themes. Our productions and

outreach programs strive to use the performing arts as bridge between communities. We encourage the students in Detroit Public Schools and Detroit Metro Community to utilize performance as a means for open conversations about race and privilege.

For the 2018-19 school year, the **Freedom Players** will be touring a devised theatre and dance performance piece called "**I AM...**" The fight for liberation is never easy. As 14 young Detroit based artists meet and interact, challenges arise as they realize their birth was political. These artists explore how they can survive and thrive in a place where everything seems to be set up against them? As clashes build, their journey leads them on a path of discovery and renewal.

Why is there a need for a minor in Black Theatre and Dance?

How will it help me in the future?

The world we live in is no longer monolithic, so it's imperative that everyone broadens their understanding of the Black/African American cultural contributions to theatre and dance. In this time, it's important that we seek to understand more than just White/Eurocentric culture. Our Black Theatre and Dance minor educates all of our students about the history of African diaspora in relation to on theatre and dance. By expanding our programs within the department, we promote a more integrated approach to the diversity of culture within theatre and

dance. This will allow our students to be more versatile, professionally competitive, culturally empathetic, and more aware of our every growing diverse society.

Booking Information

Tour dates: Spring 2019

Time of Day: Flexible

Tour rates: \$400 non-school; \$300 schools; \$150 Title I schools

For distances requiring travel greater than 30 miles, please inquire about mileage and gas fee.

Touring Show Booking Request Form:

<https://forms.wayne.edu/59d3912f04d98>