

**DR. BARBARA ANN TEER'S
NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE
THEATRE ARTS PROGRAM**

**2020 - 2022 I AM SOUL - PLAYWRIGHT RESIDENCY
FOR BLACK PLAYWRIGHTS**



I Am Soul
PLAYWRIGHT RESIDENCY
APPLICATION DEADLINE
MAY 1 by 11:59 pm

DR. BARBARA ANN TEER'S NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE
2031 5TH AVE
NEW YORK, NY 10035
212-722-3800
WWW.NATIONALBLACKTHEATRE.ORG

2020 - 2022 I AM SOUL - PLAYWRIGHT RESIDENCY

National Black Theatre (NBT), the nation's first revenue-generating Black arts complex, was founded in 1968 by the late visionary artist and entrepreneur Dr. Barbara Ann Teer. Since its inception, NBT has been at the forefront of a broader movement of engaging the arts for social change, economic growth and transformation in innovative ways that build community. NBT is a leading institution engaged in intentional creative place-making by leveraging the power of theater arts with Black culture and creativity. Throughout its rich history, NBT has maintained a strong commitment to creating a space in which new and underrepresented voices can be brought to the forefront to provide unique and diverse perspectives on the myriad critical issues of equity and social justice that affect our nation today. During the last 52 years, NBT has produced over 300 original works, toured globally & launched international extensions, like the National Black Theatre of Sweden.

I AM SOUL - Playwright Residency, Launched in 2012, is the only program in the country that is dedicated to Black playwrights, whose work demonstrates exceptional artistic merit and excellence in the theatrical field, with a commitment to production. Coined as a dream MFA program this residency also seeks to unleash the soul of a playwright so that they can develop, hone and explore new ways of artistic expression in a safe, supported and transformative environment. Alongside NBT's Artistic Director, the selected playwright (s) will develop a new play during the eighteen (18) month residency. This process culminates with a Workshop Production in NBT's following season.

With I AM SOUL, NBT seeks to deepen the artistic relationship between Black theatrical institutions and Black playwrights in order to re-establish Black theatrical institutions as the foremost supporters and producers of new works created by Black playwrights.

PREVIOUS/CURRENT I AM SOUL - PLAYWRIGHTS :

2013-2015: Mfoniso Udofia

2014-2016: Aurin Squire

2015-2017: Dennis A. Allen II & Nambi E. Kelley

2016-2018: Angelica Chéri & Derek McPatter

2017 - 2019: Eric Micha Holmes & Lee Edward Colston II 2018

- 2020: Tracey Conyer Lee & Darrel Holmes

2019 -2021: Oya Mae Duchess-Davis & Tylie Shider

RESIDENCY COMPONENTS:

The *I AM SOUL - PLAYWRIGHT RESIDENCY* recognizes up to two Black playwrights annually. The chosen playwright(s) work must demonstrate exceptional artistic merit and excellence in the field.

The selected playwright will receive:

- A minimum stipend of \$5000;
- Administrative support: Access to office space, and printing;
- Artistic support: Dramaturgy, in-house readings, two 29-hour workshop, and access to in-house resource library;
- A workshop production in the 2021-2022 season for six public performances;
- Two Complimentary tickets to National Black Theatre productions, as well as additional professional development opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY, CONDITIONS, & REQUIREMENTS:

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- Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.
- For applicants to be eligible no more than two professional productions under an union agreement may be done at the time of submitting your application and/or during the residency. These are defined as productions for which the author and primary artists (actors, directors, and creative collaborators) were compensated and received at least three public performances. Ten-minute or one-act plays and university, college, secondary school, amateur, and Equity showcase/waiver productions are not considered full productions.
- The I AM SOUL - PLAYWRIGHT RESIDENCY is available to Black playwrights, 21 years of age or older, who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States.
- Students in K-12 educational programs or enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree programs for playwriting are not eligible.
- The resident playwright commits to spending the 18-month residency period by actively participating in the National Black Theatre community.
- The resident playwright commits to completing one full-length work, which will receive a 90 min workshop production produced by the National Black Theatre in the 2021-2022 season. If the new full length work exceeds 90 minutes in a workshop production form, NBT commits to producing a 90 min workshop production and then sharing the rest as a stage reading as part of the 6 public performances.
- The residency period begins September 1, 2020 and ends March 31, 2022. All residency requirements must be met during that time.
- The selected playwright is required to serve on the Selection Committee for the 2021- 2023 I AM SOUL - PLAYWRIGHTS RESIDENCY.
- Applicants have to commit to being present and actively participating during the rehearsal process of all workshop opportunities.
- Playwrights may not receive more than one residency at NBT through this program.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Applications are screened for eligibility by the National Black Theatre and evaluated by a selection committee of professional theater artists within the field who select the five to seven finalists. From that group the committee selects finalists that National Black Theatre's Chief Executive Officer and Artistic Director will evaluate. The selected finalists receive a scheduled interview. Selection is based on artistic potential, commitment and originality. The selection process is guided by the National Black Theatre's mission statement:

Core Mission:

1. To produce transformational theater that helps to shift the inaccuracy around African Americans' cultural identity by telling authentic stories of Black lifestyle;
2. To use theater arts as a means to educate, enrich, entertain, empower & inform the national conscience around current social issues impacting our communities;

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3. To provide a safe space for artists of color to articulate the complexity, beauty & artistic excellence intrinsic in how we experience the world in the domain of acting, directing, producing, designing, play writing and entrepreneurial autonomy.

Guiding Principles:

HOME: The commitment to creating a destination dedicated to Black artists where they have a sense of being and belonging. For people of African descent, having an artistic home helps heal the wounds of historical displacement and forced migration that Black people have suffered in America ever since the establishment of slavery. "Welcome To Your Home Away From Home" -Dr. Teer

BRAVE AND SACRED: The establishment of a brave and sacred space connected to indigenous practices to welcome Black artists, activists, and NGOs within the field to exercise creative autonomy in taking risks to connect, support, train, and incubate artists.

BLACK LIBERATION: The unapologetic and intersectional love, celebration, preservation, cultivation, illumination, generation, and transcontinental connectivity of the African Diaspora.

HUMAN TRANSFORMATION: The act of creating and elevating the belief and practice that exposure to an intentional environment that celebrates and reveals the truth of the Black cultural experience and aligns it with our shared humanity promotes the purpose of liberation from systematic oppression for all people.

INTEGRITY: The incontestable practice of remaining mission-centered and engaging with others from an authentic space of honesty, love, and respect.

TO APPLY:

Using the subject line I AM SOUL - PLAYWRIGHT'S RESIDENCY, send an email to submit@nationalblacktheatre.org with a single PDF document, containing the following elements in sequence:

1. **AN APPLICATION COVER SHEET** with the following information presented in clear format:

NAME
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS
HOME PHONE, OTHER PHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS
PLAY TITLE
PLAY SYNOPSIS

If you are represented by an agent at that time of applying please make us aware and let us know who that agency is.

2. **A WRITING SAMPLE:** One full-length play that is at least 50 pages in length and has been written only by the applicant (no co-written submissions will be accepted). **Please identify 20 pages that you would like for the panelists to read. Please note that the panelists are only required to read these pages.** The submitted script must be a complete draft that represents your best playwriting. **The submitted play should not have the playwrights name attached to it as the committee reads the plays as a blind submission.**
3. **Answer these following questions:**
 - a. What inspires you and your work? [250 word max]

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- b. How important is collaboration within your process? [250 word max]
 - c. Why are you interested in doing this residency now? Incorporate three goals you wish to obtain after going through a process like this. [500 word max]
4. **A PLAYWRITING RESUME** [listing all readings, productions, awards, commissions, etc.]
5. If Playwright is chosen as a finalist they will be asked to submit a one page single spaced proposal outlining ideas, story and/or subject matter they would want to focus their residency on creating. **This must be a NEW play.**
6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Each application needs to submit a letter of recommendation from an industry professional that can speak to your work ethic, creativity, and character. In addition to this each applicant to provide 2 -3 referees that the selection committee can call if the applicant is advanced to becoming a finalist. The one page letter of recommendation need to be submitted with the application.

Name the application packet file with your last name followed by soulapp [Example: application packet sent by Jane Smith = Smithsoulapp.pdf]

Email your application packet by **May 1, 2020 at 11:59 pm.**

No late applications will be accepted.

Receipt of application materials will be confirmed via email.

DEADLINE & IMPORTANT DATES:

Applications must be received by:	May 1, 2020 at 11:59 pm
Finalists will be notified on:	June 5, 2019
Recipient(s) will be notified on:	July 10, 2019
Residency term:	September 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

QUESTIONS:

Contact: Program Coordinator : Belynda Hardin
submit@nationalblacktheatre.org
CC: Belynda@nationalblacktheatre.org