

PLAYBILL



The Renaissance of Resilience



**Top
Tier!**

April 28, 2021 • 7:00pm EST



THE HOWARD
UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE ARTS
PRESENTS...

Renaissance of Resilience

the Class of 2021
Acting Showcase

The Colored Museum

Jaelon Love

An Octoroon

Ashara Crutchfield, Brittany Davis

Babes and Brides

Joshua "Levi" Starr

Apartment 3A

Llogan Peters

Sunset Baby

Travis Xavier Brown, Aryana Williams

Wine In the Wilderness

Di'Jhon Elexis McCoy

Danny & the Deep Blue Sea

DeAnte' Massenburg, Imani Nyame

BLKS

Ayanna Fowler

Fetch Clay, Make Man

Jaelon Love, Joshua "Levi" Starr

Fool For Love

Brittany Davis

Medea

Travis Xavier Brown, Ashara Crutchfield

Seven Guitars

Aryana Williams

Stop Kiss

Imani Nyame, Llogan Peters

Hello, Goodbye, Peace

Di'Jhon Elexis McCoy

Blues for Mister Charlie

Ayanna Fowler

Deserve You More (Song)

DeAnte' Massenburg

About the Showcase

The Renaissance of Resilience, presented by the Howard University Department of Theatre Arts' Senior Acting Class, is the culmination of four years of training, performance, and academic excellence. The showcase features sixteen selections of theatrical works that spotlight the proficiency, artistry, technique, and zeal of this talented ensemble of eleven actors.

Click through the artists' hyperlinked Instagram accounts and personal websites that further emphasize their multidisciplinary backgrounds and passion for the arts.

For more information about the Full Ensemble, please visit:

@howardacting21

Please be advised *The Renaissance of Resilience*
includes Mature Content such as:

Explicit Language
Mentions of Sexual Situations
Mentions of Violence

Top Tier

MEET THE ACTORS



Travis Xavier Brown  [@freegracetrizzy](https://www.instagram.com/freegracetrizzy)

is a graduating senior B.F.A. Acting major from Tampa, Florida. Actor and Hip Hop artist, he made his professional acting debut in *Superior Donuts* by Tracy Letts. In Howard University's Department of Theatre Arts, he has been cast in *Spell No.7* and *Urinetown: The Musical*. In the D.C. community his works include: *10 Seconds* with Imagination Stage and The Shakespeare Theatre Company's Virtual Gala. He is also a (MIO 2019) graduate of The British American Drama Academy (BADA). After graduation he

plans to attend The Academy for Classical Acting at the George Washington University as a part of their M.F.A. Acting class of 2022. Find him on www.TravisXavier.com.

“The purpose of the ART is to Praise..” – Trizzy.



Ashara Knyshele Crutchfield

 [@asharaknyshele](https://www.instagram.com/asharaknyshele)

is a graduating senior Acting major from Prince George's County, MD, freelance director, and performing artist. Her start at Howard began as a girl performing on Ira Aldridge stage in the Children Theatre Workshop. She was humbled to return as a student in 2016 entering the legacy of the Howard U Theatre Arts Department. Her credits include *Milk Like Sugar* as Annie, *Blood at the Root* as Stage Manager, and *Theory* with Mosaic Theatre Company as Assistant

Director. She is forever grateful for her undergraduate journey, and the woman and artist it has shaped her into. Her post-grad plans are still loading, but for now, she's left it all on the stage.



Brittany Antoinette Davis

 @brittanyadaviss

is a Senior BFA Acting major, Political Science minor from Brooklyn, New York. Her love of the arts began when she was a little girl, and it has led her all the way to Howard University. She has attended programs such as the British American Drama Academy (MIO 18) and Black Arts Institute (BAI 2019) with the Billie Holiday Theatre.

Brittany is an artist who is not only passionate about storytelling but highlighting the essence of humanity and

her people. Overall, she is thankful for the framework Howard has given her and she is excited to embark on her journey as a graduate.



Ayanna Lynise Fowler @Ayye_yanna

is a graduating Senior Acting major and English minor from Chicago, IL. She has more than enjoyed her years at Howard University, cherishing her time in Ira and ETS the most. Previously she has been an Advocacy Ensemble member in Arena Stage's *Voices of Now* and most recently she has been a co-writer and actor in Young Playwrights' Theatre's *Silence is Violence: The Future of the Field*. She thanks her professors and advisors for the knowledge they've bestowed upon her and the opportunities they have

provided her. In the years to come, Ayanna hopes to continue along this path of using both writing and acting in her career.



Jaelon Love @JaelonKennedy

is a Senior Acting major from Jackson, MS. Her journey at Howard and within Fine Arts has been nothing short of amazing. Making her debut on the Howard stage in Spring 2019, Miss Love is not only grateful, but excited to be performing again even if it's outside our norm. Outside of acting, she likes doing makeup and modeling within the DC community and on campus. Following Howard, she will be attending The East 15 Acting school at University of Essex, attaining her MFA in Acting. She is very excited to

be graduating and is very thankful for her professors and the opportunities they have provided. Find her on <https://lovejaelon99.wixsite.com/website-1>.



DeAnte' Massenburg @deantemass

is a Senior B.F.A. Acting major, Television/Film minor from Chesapeake, Virginia. He began his journey as a Musical Theatre major for his initial two years of college, and has now become a member of the 2021 Acting Cohort. Through his matriculation, he has collaborated with a variety of local artists and Howard students to create and produce projects. In February of 2019, he launched his own production company, Massenburg Masterpieces, where he has been since working to produce new narratives for

himself and other Black artists. He believes it is important for young creatives to be able to express themselves regardless of their given circumstances, so he plans to open up an avenue for the next generation of filmmakers. Especially black filmmakers.

Learn more about Massenburg Masterpieces on their Instagram: [@massmasterpieces](https://www.instagram.com/massmasterpieces) and website: www.massenburgmasterpieces.com.

Fun Fact! Top Tier produced their own showcase from the east to the west, and would like their student loans forgiven!



Di'Jhon Elexis McCoy @dijhonelexis

is a graduating senior, BFA Acting major from New Haven, CT. With little acting experience, she hopped into the big world to pursue her acting career with a clear goal in mind: to tell honest stories. Her love of comedy led her professional acting career to begin in Howard University's production of *Urinetown: The Musical* as Robby The Stockfish. Her taste for intense drama began when she performed during Howard Players' 8x10 Play Festival in the screenplay *Crunch* as Diana. Her fondest memory at

Howard includes being trained by Taraji P. Henson! She thanks her family, professors, friends and sisters for pushing her to be the best version of herself. Most importantly, she thanks the Most High for divinely guiding her path. D.E.M.

Find her on www.dijhonelexismccoy.com.



Imani Nyame  [@saynyame_](https://www.instagram.com/saynyame_)

is a graduating senior Acting major from East Orange, NJ and an all around artist. She loves filming, acting, writing, and directing. Coming from Illtown and being raised up by Howard, she hopes to spend her life building a career devoted to providing work and rich stories for people of color to explore themselves in.



Llogan Peters  [@lloganpaige](https://www.instagram.com/lloganpaige)

is a graduating senior B.F.A. Acting candidate at Howard University from Upper Marlboro, MD. She has worked with various student and local filmmakers, thespians, and emerging artists and can be recently seen in Theater Alliance's *A City in Transition: The Quadrant Series* in the filmed staged reading of *Child's Play* by Shalom Omo-Osagie. In her free time she enjoys playing the electric guitar, painting, photography, and watching films. She is very grateful for her time spent at Howard and the level of

attention and care provided by each of her professors to ensure she utilizes her full potential. She'd like to extend a thank you to each of her professors and her acting ensemble, and is excited to see what her future has in store! To keep up with her future projects visit her website at: www.lloganpaige.com.



Joshua "Levi" Starr  [@leviticusstarr](https://www.instagram.com/leviticusstarr)

is a senior Acting Major from Marietta, GA. He's been in past Fine Arts productions that include *Jonkonnu*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, the Dance Arts *Spring Dance Concert* and *Pippin*. Aside from performing, he also likes to create music, study photography, and audio engineering. Levi is thankful for this opportunity provided by Professor Bey. Find him on www.Joshuastarr.squarespace.com.



Aryana Williams  @empress.ary.

a Senior Theatre Arts Major from Los Angeles, CA, seeks to change the world through performance and arts advocacy. She has a history of Performative Arts, beginning with her classical training in her early teens and eventual attendance at Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts. Aryana followed her dreams onto Howard University's campus. She believed that she needed to be "educated and trained in her craft, while submerged in the excellence of people who

looked like her." Academically, Aryana always intends to excel and currently holds a 3.8 GPA at Howard University. Balancing her academics, student life, activities, and artistry, Aryana remains involved on campus in various organizations such as HU Elite, Howard Players, NCNW etc. She has been a part of various productions on campus, including *Milk Like Sugar* directed by Denise J. Hart, and many fashion shows. Aryana hopes to be a representative of excellence and be an example for the next generation that looks up to her. By putting the need for change ahead of her personal endeavors, she will do just that.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Faculty Directors	Kim James Bey Eric Ruffin
Stage Manager	Autumn Angelettie
Showcase Editor	DeAnte' Massenburg
Graphic Designers	Jaelon Love Aryana Williams

Special Thanks to Ms. Janet Johnson, Dean Lisa Farrington, Ms. Odessa Scott, Ms. Greta Hicks, Professor Douglas-Hendricks, & Chair Dr. Ofosuwa Abiola and the Department of Theatre Arts.