

The Harlem Doll Palace

Written by Alva Rogers
Directed by Ash Winkfield

CAST: Mecca Akbar, Thalia David, Charlotte Lily Gaspard, Marcella Renee Murray, Ash Winkfield, Alva Rogers
Music, Lyrics and Scoring: Bruce Monroe, **Sound Design:** Dave Pascal, **Stage Manager:** Destynie Julien, **Production Assistant:** William PK Carter



Welcome to Aunt Len's Doll and Toy Museum! Behind the pink door of a three-story Harlem brownstone lies a world created by Lennon Holder Hoyte - affectionately known as Aunt Len. The dolls from her collection seek to keep Aunt Len, their beloved museum founder, alive before the outside world can invoke its realities of life, ashes, and dust. As Harlem deteriorates around her beloved doll museum, the dolls recreate their journeys to the museum to keep Aunt Len's memory alive. Enter the world of the Harlem Doll Palace. Remember, an appointment is necessary for admission.

November 2, 2024
6:00pm

Puppetry at the Carriage House

Director's Note:

This production challenges the bounds of both theater and puppetry. Converting a play for people into a play for puppets is no small feat. Kudos and gratitude to the cast for the immeasurable amount of work they have put into understanding and breathing life into the complex layers of The Harlem Doll Palace. I am very fortunate to have the trust and support of Alva in bringing her vision to fruition. Many thanks to the many hands that have built the many different puppets of this show. The diversity of the puppets is akin to the diversity of the many dolls housed in Aunt Len's Museum; and the diversity of their experiences speak to the expanse of human experiences that we all face. This piece is 30 years in the making. Welcome the Harlem Doll Palace.

Playwright's Note:

In resuscitating Aunt Len's museum's legacy, The Harlem Doll Palace foregrounds a woman-identified perspective. It challenges societal norms by acknowledging the scholarly significance of women's creative endeavors and home-based work. Hoyte's invaluable work is resurrected through this project, highlighting her dedication to transforming her museum from a perceived novelty to a seminal institution. While The Harlem Doll Palace is a tribute to Lenon Holder Hoyte, The production delves into diverse historical contexts, including the complex experiences of Colored and Caucasian females in the Antebellum South.

Puppet Builders: Amanda Card - shadow puppets, William PK Carter – butterfly puppets, Rosa Elling – Army talking doll, Dorothy James – Ninon, brown nurse doll, Grace Kelly doll, Sono Kuwayama – Hannah, Early, Sarah, Topsy Turvy, Holly Laws – Aunt Len Doll, Rowan Magee – Ninon doll, Brown Nurse doll, Grace Kelly doll, Brenna Ross – crochet gobo, Leah Levine - Missus Mask

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See the show at dixon place:



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