

Audition for Gem of the Ocean
by August Wilson
Tufts Department of Drama and Dance Fall Show
Directed by Monica White Ndounou

Synopsis

Gem of the Ocean marks the beginning of August Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, a decade-by-decade, ten-play chronicle dramatizing the African-American experience in the twentieth century. Set in 1904 at 1839 Wylie Avenue in Pittsburgh's Hill District, Aunt Ester—the drama's 285-year-old fiery matriarch, welcomes into her home Solly Two Kings, who was born into slavery and scouted for the Union Army, and Citizen Barlow, a young man from Alabama searching for a new life and redemption. Aunt Ester guides him on a soaring, lyrical journey of spiritual awakening to the City of Bones in the midst of political turmoil on the streets of Pittsburgh.

Cast Breakdown

Aunt Ester Tyler (F): a very old, yet vital spiritual advisor for the community

Citizen Barlow (M): a young man from Alabama who is in spiritual turmoil

Solly Two Kings (M): suitor to Aunt Ester, former Underground Railroad conductor

"Black" Mary Wilkes (F): Aunt Ester's protégé and housekeeper

Caesar Wilkes (M): Black Mary's brother and locale constable

Eli (M): Aunt Ester's gatekeeper and longtime friend of Solly

Rutherford Selig (M): a traveling peddler who is a frequent visitor of the house

Supporting Ensemble: assorted roles to support the cast

Audition Information

Auditions will be held on **Thursday, September 8, 7:00pm-11:00pm** and **Friday, September 9, 4:00pm-6:00pm, 7:00pm-10:00pm** in the Aidekman 75. Sign up for a 10-minute audition slot on the callboard located in the lobby of the Aidekman Arts Center.

Please prepare EITHER two contrasting 1-2 minute monologues, OR a 1-2 minute monologue and a 1-2 minute poem or spoken word piece. If you wish, you may also provide a dance piece (please provide your own music).

Callbacks will be held on **Saturday, September 10, 12:00pm-2:00pm, 3:00pm-6:00pm** in Aidekman 75.

Please arrive ten minutes early to fill out your audition form!

Rehearsals

Below is a typical rehearsal schedule week:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6:30p-10:30p	7:00p-11:00p	6:30p-10:30p	6:30p-10:30p		1:00p-5:00p

Students may earn credit for involvement in this production.

Tech and Performance

Load-in will take place on **Friday, October 21** and tech will be **October 22-26** (your weekend must be kept open). Performances will be **October 27-29, November 3-5 at 8:00pm** in the Balch Arena Theater.

Please refer to the master calendar located on the Aidekman Callboard for a complete overview of dates. If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact our stage manager, Rachel Canowitz, at rachel.canowitz@tufts.edu

<i>Monica White Ndounou</i>	<i>Jenny Herron</i>	<i>Irina Yakubovskaya</i>	<i>Jessica Howard</i>	<i>Rachel Canowitz</i>
Director	Graduate Assistant	Graduate Assistant	Dramaturg	Stage Manager