Theater Emory announces professional auditions for *Les Blancs*

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

*Les Blancs*

Best American play of 1970, *Les Blancs* prophetically confronts the hope and tragedy of Africa in revolution. The setting is a white Christian mission in a colony about to explode. The time is that hour of reckoning when no one the guilty nor the innocent can evade the consequences of white colonialism and imperatives of black liberation. Tshembe Matoseh, the English educated son of a chief, has come home to bury his father. He finds his teenage brother a near alcoholic and his older brother a priest and traitor to his people. Forswearing politics and wanting only to return to his wife and child in England, Tshembe is drawn into the conflict symbolized by a woman dancer, the powerful Spirit of Africa who pursues him. (Directed by Lydia Fort)

**WHEN**

- Auditions will be submitted by video with the deadline August 30 at 5 p.m., no in-person auditions.
- Callbacks, if needed, by zoom appointment with the director September 5 & 6
- Rehearsals start on October 13, 2020 and the production completes recording on October 31 with performances available on a password protected site online running Nov. 6-13, 2020.

**PREPARATION**

- Script available in advance by request to theauditions@gmail.com
- Sides available online here: [www.theater.emory.edu/home/auditions/professionals.html](http://www.theater.emory.edu/home/auditions/professionals.html)

**SUBMITTING VIDEOS**

- Actors will create a profile through the free site Audition Revolution, add their resume and head shot there, sign-up information is provided on our website [www.theater.emory.edu/home/auditions/professionals.html](http://www.theater.emory.edu/home/auditions/professionals.html)
- Our director will use this database to access actor files. Equity actors are welcome to submit their headshot and resume directly to theauditions@gmail.com to follow Equity guidelines, however Audition Revolution is a free site and connects you to the wider Atlanta theater community.
- Actors will then select at least one of the audition sides provided on our website for video recording, sides are available online here: [www.theater.emory.edu/home/auditions/professionals.html](http://www.theater.emory.edu/home/auditions/professionals.html)
- There will be no in-person audition appointments, all auditions will be submitted by video.
- Please make these videos available to us by utilizing a private YouTube or Vimeo or similar site. Send the instructions needed to access your videos.
- Videos will be provided to the director for casting.
- Email video submission to theauditions@gmail.com and indicate that you have completed your online profile with Audition Revolution or Equity actors can email their headshot and resume with their video submission.
FURTHER INFORMATION

- Fall 2020 all projects will be entirely online and remote, the performance will be recorded and streamed at a later date.
- Performers of all ethnic and racial backgrounds are encouraged to attend.
- Actors are paid for rehearsal and performance.
- Theater Emory operates under a SPT contract with Actors Equity Association.
- Audition notices for this production are also posted in “Casting Call” on the AEA website www.actorsequity.org and locally on the website www.atlantaperforms.biz. (Also referenced on Theater Emory’s social media accounts.)

Character Breakdown/Descriptions
The company will include student actors to be cast at later auditions. The roles available to students include ERIC, AFRICAN VILLAGERS (AND WARRIORS) and the AFRICAN CHILD.

Les Blancs Cast Breakdown

THE WOMAN African descent, female, dancer. The Woman: The abstract, non-speaking representation of the growing conflict in Africa and the growing conflict within the heart of the main protagonist, Tshembe. She appears only to Tshembe as a decorated spear-bearing warrior; dancing rhythmically to war drums.

TSHEMBE MATOSEH African descent, male. The protagonist. He is the son of a Kwi chief and is returning to attend his father’s funeral who had died before he could arrive. He is returning from England where he immigrated and gained a formal English education. He is married to an English woman and they have had a child together. The conflict in Africa will not let him go and he is inevitably dragged into the mounting revolution.

ABIOSEH MATOSEH African descent, male. Tshembe’s brother. He has fully embraced the culture of the west as he is training to be an ordained Catholic priest. He hopes that taking on this lifestyle will allow him to share in the power held by the white settlers. He is a symbol of full assimilation as he has denounced his heritage to the point of betraying his own people.

MADAME NEILSEN Caucasian, female, elder. A sharp and intelligent older woman and the wife of Reverend Neilsen who started the Mission 40 years prior when they were in their late 20s. Many of the members of the Kwi tribe look up to her as a mother figure, including Tshembe and his brothers. She is outraged by the encroaching colonial military and pushes Tshembe into joining the revolution.

ERIC African descent, male. The teenage, biracial brother of Tshembe and Abioseh, the result of their mother’s rape by Major Rice. He is a rash young
man with an affinity for alcohol. He is caught between his two older brothers who argue over who shall take responsibility for him.

**DR. MARTA GOITERLING**
Caucasian, female. A young doctor who is passionate about her job. She is the newest member of the Mission and has only been there seven years. She has an outspoken pride for the creative thriftiness of the Mission Hospital, which Dr. DeKoven considers to be a naïve obliviousness of the discrimination against the African natives as a white hospital only 75 miles away is top of the line.

**CHARLIE MORRIS**
Caucasian, male. A middle-aged journalist from America there to report on the growing conflict. He is very idealistic and as such, he is very naïve to the growing conflict between the African natives and the English settlers. He carries himself with an air of enlightened superiority while also being very willing to help.

**NGAGO**
African descent, male. A charismatic war leader

**DR. WILLY DEKOVEN**
Caucasian, male, elder. A doctor who has been part of the mission for twelve years. He carries himself with a lofty air as he is hyper-aware of how terrible the situation is and has essentially numbed himself to it. Though he is prone to drinking, he is one of the wisest characters in the play. He shows himself to be very brave and compassionate while also seeming like he has given up.

**MAJOR GEORGE RICE**
Caucasian, male. He is a leader of the colonial military forces. He represents both the oppressive colonial regime and is a symbol for blatant racism as he is always using racial slurs. He honestly and openly refers to the whites as superior to the Africans and treats them like idiot children.

**PETER**
African descent, male. The middle-aged cousin of Tshembe and his brothers, a servant at the Mission, and a member of the resistance

**AFRICAN CHILD**

**PRISONER**

**AFRICAN VILLAGERS (AND WARRIORS) (5 actors listed in script)**

**SOLDIERS (2 actors listed in script)**