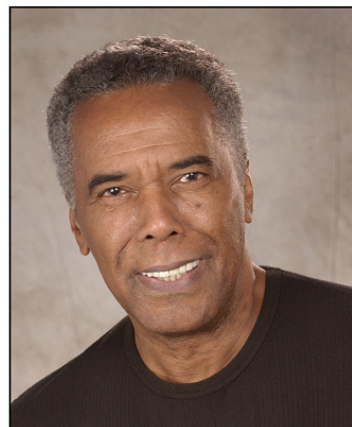


ROBERT HOOKS

Curriculum Vitae



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ROBERT HOOKS

Performing Credits

STAGE (There is much more. These are highpoints)

BROADWAY

A Raisin In the Sun ('60) by Lorraine Hansberry (& National Tour)
A Taste of Honey ('61) by Shelah Delaney (& National Tour)
Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright ('62) by Peter Fiebleinan
Arturo Ui ('63) by Bertolt Brecht
Ballad for Bimshire ('63) Loften Mitchell / Irving Burgie
The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore ('63) by Tennessee Williams
Where's Daddy ('66) by William Inge
Hallelujah, Baby (68) by Comden, Green & Stein

OFF-BROADWAY

Dutchman" ('64) by Leroi Jones
The Blacks" ('62-63) by Jean Genet
Happy Ending & Day of Absence" ('65) by Douglas Turner. Ward
Narrator: the *Airborne Symphony* (Oct 13-17, 1966" **Leonard Bernstein** conducting the **New York Philharmonic Orchestra** at Lincoln Center
Henry V (title role) Joe Papp, New York Shakespeare Festival ('67)
Ceremonies in Dark Old Men ('75) (Ivar Theatre, Los Angeles)
A Soldier's Play by Charles Fuller (Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles-'82)

FILM

Jackson Five in Africa (2009) Narrator
Posse ('93)
Passenger 57 ('92)
Star Trek III: The Search for Spock ('84)
Fast-Walking ('82)
Hollow Image ('79)
Airport '77 ('77)
Aaron Loves Angela ('75)
Trouble Man ('72) (*Title Role; Marvin Gaye theme song*)
Two for the Money ('72)
Last of the Mobile Hot Shots ('70) (Tennessee Williams aka **The Seven Descents of Myrtle**)
Hurry Sundown ('67)
Sweet Love, Bitter ('67)

AS HIMSELF

American Masters-PBS: The Negro Ensemble Company - August 18th, 2004
(see http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/negro_ensemble_co.html, in)
Independent Lens: Adjust Your Color: The Truth of Petey Greene (2009)
Adjust Your Color: The Truth of Petey Greene (2008)
TV in Black: The First Fifty Years (2004)
75th Academy Awards (2002) (Filmed Interview Re: Sidney Poitier's Lifetime Achievement Award)
Essence Magazine (Weekly Talk Show) CO-HOST with Editor Susan Taylor

AS HIMSELF (cont'd)

Passion and Memory ('86)
Ossie and Ruby! ('81)
Black Journal (Guest Host '74-'76)
The David Frost Show ('69)
The 22nd Annual Tony Awards ('68) and as Performer
The Mike Douglas Show ('68)
Like It Is (Mid-Late 60's) Host – NYC Talk Show

TELEVISION

Reed Between the Lines (2011)
Dragnet (2003)
Seventeen Again (2000)
The Hoop Life ('99)
Clueless ('99)
Free of Eden ('99) (MOW)
Glory & Honor ('98) (MOW)
The Parent 'Hood ('97)
Diagnosis Murder ('96)
Fled ('96) MOW
Seinfeld (2 episodes, 94-'95)
Abandoned and Deceived ('95) (MOW)
M.A.N.T.I.S. (3 episodes, 94-95)
Murder, She Wrote (2 episodes, '86-'95)
Family Matters (1 episode, '94)
The Sinbad Show (1 episode, '93)
The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (1 episode, '93)
L.A. Law (2 episodes, '93)
Out All Night (1 episode, '93)
The Royal Family (1 episode, '91)
The Flash (1 episode, '90)
Heat Wave ('90)
A Different World (1 episode, '89)
Hotel ('83-'88)
Supercarrier (1 episode, '88)
J.J. Starbuck (1 episode, '87)
21 Jump Street (1 episode, '87)
Head of the Class (1 episode, '87)
227 (1 episode, '86)
D.C. Cops ('86) (TV)
T.J. Hooker (2 episodes, '83-'85)
The Execution ('85)
V (1 episode, '85)
The Hero ('85)
Dynasty (3 episodes, '84)
Hardcastle and McCormick (1 episode, '83)
Hart to Hart (1 episode, '83)
Feel the Heat ('83) TV series
The Devlin Connection (1 episode, '82)

SOUNDTRACKS (performer)

Ballad for Bimshire
Hallelujah Baby
The 22nd Annual Tony Awards ('68) (performer: Smile, Smile)

Sister, Sister ('82)
WKRP in Cincinnati (1 episode, '82)
Cassie & Co. (1 episode, '82)
Quincy M.E. (1 episode, '82)
The Sophisticated Gents (Miniseries) ('81)
Madame X ('81) (TV)
The Oklahoma City Dolls ('81)
The White Shadow (2 episodes, '80)
The Facts of Life (1 episode, '80)
Trapper John, M.D. (1 episode, '80)
Backstairs at the White House (Miniseries) ('79)
The Eddie Capra Mysteries ('78)
To Kill a Cop ('78)
The Courage and the Passion ('78)
A Woman Called Moses ('78)
Just an Old Sweet Song ('76)
The Killer Who Wouldn't Die ('76)
Petrocelli (1 episode, '75)
Police Story (1 episode, '75)
Ceremonies in Dark Old Men ('75) (Special)
Police Story: '75
The F.B.I. (2 episodes, '69-'74)
The Streets of San Francisco (1 episode, '74)
Marcus Welby, M.D. (1 episode, '73)
Trapped ('73)
The Rookies (1 episode, '73)
Crosscurrent ('71)
The Man and the City (1 episode, '71)
Vanished ('71)
The Bold Ones: The New Doctors (1 episode, '70)
Carter's Army ('70)
N.Y.P.D.(1ST Black series lead in a drama)
(49 episodes, '67-'69)
Mannix (1 episode, '69)
Then Came Bronson (1 episode, '69)
Preview Tonight (1 episode, '66)
Profiles in Courage (MOW) Frederick Douglass ('65)
East Side/West Side ('63)

Arts Institution Founder/Producer

- June 1962 to Jan. 1964** **The Group Theatre Workshop (GTW)** Community-based arts organization for underprivileged teenagers. A tuition-free theatre arts group made up of 35 underprivileged youth from the streets of Manhattan, it eventually became the inspiration for the training arm of the Negro Ensemble Company. High percentage of participants went on to rewarding careers in the entertainment industry.
- March 1965 to Present** Founded **The Negro Ensemble Company** with Douglas Turner Ward and Gerald Krone. As its Producer Robert made many controversial decisions, starting with locating the NEC at the East Village's St. Marks Theatre rather than uptown. The NEC's first production – **Song of the Lusitanian Bogey** - a vitriolic anti-colonialism piece, was by German/Swiss playwright Peter Weiss. Its original productions (see "Major Awards" page 7) and nurturing of (predominantly) black playwrights over the course of four decades created a body of performance literature which provides the backbone of the Black theatrical canon in America. The company was dubbed "A National Treasure" by a top New York drama critic. (Mr. Hooks is currently on the t Board of Directors of The New NEC.)
- 1969-1972** **The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (BAAL)**, chartered by the State of New York and created to bring together Black artists and scholars from all over the world. Mr. Hooks was an original Board Member, along with scholar and author Eric Lincoln, President; Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist John O. Killens, Professor and Author Alvin F. Poussaint, and artist Charles White. Additional members included: Alvin Ailey, Margaret Walker, James Baldwin, Imamu Baraka, Romare Bearden, Harry Belafonte, Lerone Bennett, Arna W. Bontemps, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee Davis, Katherine Dunham, Duke Ellington, Alex Haley, Chester Himes, Lena Horne, Jacob Lawrence, Henry Lewis, Paule Marshall, Donald McKayle, Arthur Mitchell, Frederick O'Neal, Gordon Parks, Sidney Poitier, Benjamin Quarles, Lloyd Richards and Nina Simone.
- Dec. 1970 to June 1977** **The D.C. Black Repertory Company:** Compelled by the DC Riots to create an arts institution that could help to heal the wounds left by the unrest, Robert moved back home to Washington and – with seed money from The Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation – founded a professional performance company which (as with the NEC) also incorporated a tuition-free training arm for actors, dancers, writers and directors.

Organizations Co-Created and/or Chaired By

1973 U.S. House of Representatives' Select Subcommittee on Education

Testified as part of a panel (alongside Sidney Poitier, Maya Angelou, Terry Carter, Brock Peters and Bernie Casey) in support of bills to extend the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act.

1974 First American Congress of Theatre" (FACT)

Invited by Alexander H. Cohen, Chairman of the National Academy of the Living Theatre Foundation to join an ad hoc steering committee “organized to diagnose the problems facing the theatre and suggest remedies. The first convening sessions were held on the campus of Princeton University on June 2nd 1974. In addition to professional theatre directors, representatives of government, foundations, arts councils and corporations who had demonstrated concern for the welfare of the American Theatre, were present to observe the proceedings.

1979 The Media Forum

Focused on such issues as employment, media ownership, and elimination of stereotypes, the group's primary strategy was to hold a series of public meetings with leaders from government and industry. Created by actors Robert Hooks, Brock Peters, Denise Nicholas and producer Charles Floyd Johnson

1983 National Alliance for Black Advancement in Communications (NABAC)

Founder and Chairman ,with Brock Peters, Alex Haley, Sidney Poitier, Shirley Chisholm, Muhammad Ali, Don Cornelius, Dr. Nathan Hare, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee and others. A viewer-advocacy organization in the tradition of Ralph Nader's consumer advocacy program, it addressed the need for heightened Black participation in the entertainment industry by encouraging hiring in creative and technical decision-making, to establish parity and balance in the portrayal of Black people in media.

1988 The Bay Area Multicultural Arts Initiative

Invited to be on the board and to advise in the selection of grant recipients. An initiative funded by monies from a unique coalition composed of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the San Francisco Foundation, and Grants for the Arts of San Francisco.

1992 Arts In Action

Co-Founder with writer Lonne Elder, III. A Film and Television Training Center established in South Central Los Angeles to guide individuals who wanted to begin careers in film production. It formulated a strategy for securing entry-level jobs suited to their interests i.e.: Career Development Workshops, Pre-Production and Production for Film and Television, Creative Problem-Solving in Production Management, Directing for Stage and Screen, and the function of Assistant Director, Script Supervisor, Technicians, Wardrobe, Make-Up etc.

1993 Black Media and Entertainment Group

Founder with Sr. Advisor and former CEO/Chairman of Morgan Stanley, John Mack; actor Beverly Todd; music executive Larkin Arnold; sculptor Artis Lane and others. This was a coalition of artists and industry business professionals established to advocate for fairness in the entertainment industry for minority artists (both fledgling and established).

1994 Negro Ensemble Company of Los Angeles (NEC-LA)

Founder/Executive Director with former members of New York's NEC: Denise Nicholas, Denzel Washington, Laurence Fishburne, Richard Roundtree, Samuel L. Jackson, and Hooks' contemporary, James Earl Jones as Board Members. An innovative multi-ethnic cultural project seeking to duplicate the sense of acting-community and professional talent-growing of its parent organization, ultimately it had to bow to the dominant culture of Los Angeles as being incompatible to nurture within the context of theatre.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

- 1959/60** Weeks after moving to New York, Robert begins working as an IBM operator for a 10th Avenue sweat shop. He begins attending union meetings at co-worker and **activist Mary Kochiyama's** Harlem apartment. It turns out that she is better known – infamous really (and active to this day) - as Yuri Kochiyama...a close confidant of **Malcolm X**. She introduces Robert to Malcolm.
- 1960** Joins **The Negro Actor's Guild**, an organization advocating fair and equal employment for black performers on Broadway.
- 1960** **Borough President Percy Sutton** utilizes Robert as an **arts advisor** organizing celebrity fundraising events in his political campaigns.
- 1961** Robert organizes boycotts of Broadway shows found to be unfair to black artists. While performing in David Merrick's **A Taste of Honey**, he pickets Merrick's **Subways Are for Sleeping**, a musical that portrayed the New York subways with *no* any Black dancers or singers (anticipating Woody Allen's Manhattan, no doubt). Merrick liked Robert, had been mentoring him as a producer, and got a good natured kick out of the irony.
- Early-Mid 60's** Is a mainstay at celebrity fundraisers and strategy meetings in service to NAACP, CORE, SCLC and SNCC, Movement, etc. Did whatever they needed. Often arriving with his *Raisin* ... compatriots (Lonne Elder, Douglas Turner Ward, Diana Sands and Ed Hall) these activities usually take place at the homes of Jimmy Baldwin, Harry Belafonte and other celebrities (TBA).
- 1963** Lobbied the Manhattan community of Chelsea to support creating an arts workshop for underprivileged youth. Founded his first tuition-free theatre group **The Group Theatre Workshop** in his 28th Street livingroom.
- 08/ 63** Two weeks before The March on Washington For Jobs and Freedom, meets with **Martin Luther King, Jr.** and his wife Coretta after they attend Genet's **The Blacks**. Robert expresses his guilt about neglecting The Cause by pursuing a career in theatre. King shapes Robert's future when he counsels him:
"Just as we exert ourselves in waging a civil rights revolution, so are you waging a cultural revolution. Never doubt that what you are doing with your plays on that stage is just as important as what we are doing when we demonstrate on the streets of America. Your positive and entertaining messages through live theatre are a vital part of educating people in our communities. Black theatre is right there with The Cause. You need not feel frustrated at all, young man. You are the struggle, same as we are."
- 1967** Joined **Congressman Adam Clayton Powell's** campaign to fight being unseated in Congress due to misuse of campaign funds (an effort which was (correctly, in Robert's view) temporarily unsuccessful).
- May 17th 1970**
For the annual Negro Ensemble Company benefit – held at **The Winter Garden Theatre**, Robert recruited a bevy of stars including Lena Horne, Shirley MacLaine, Nancy Wilson, Godfrey Cambridge, Melba Moore, Rosalind Cash...and Barbra Streisand who participates in the planning stages and co-hosts with Robert.
- 1971** After the successful inaugural season of **The DC Black Rep**, Robert is introduced to **Jack Valenti** by Jack Leider, President of Warner Brothers Television. Valenti hosts a huge gala reception for Robert at the downtown MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America) headquarters. Administration (**Nixon**) officials, local political and civic leaders attended. Jack became a powerful ally of Robert's efforts.

1971–77 Joins with **Mayor Walter Washington, DC Representative Walter Fauntroy and Congressman Parren Mitchell of Maryland** as an advisor in the fight for "**Home Rule**" for the District of Columbia.

Works with black power leaders **H. Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael** and various civil rights entities.

1978 Co-creates black advocacy committees, most prominently **The Media Forum** (which often uses the donated main stage of **The Marke Taper** Forum on Monday nights), focused on challenging the entertainment industry to tell more balanced stories and to level their lopsided playing field by hiring more minority actors, writers and producers.

1980 **Robert, Sidney Poitier, Maya Angelou, Brock Peters and Cicely Tyson**, journey to Washington, DC to **testify before Congress** on the state of blacks in the entertainment industry.

PRODUCER

1963
to
1977

- Produced and directed a one-night showcase of Gwendolyn Brook's *We Real Cool* and Douglas Turner Ward's new *Happy Endings* at The Cherry Lane Theatre utilizing the kids from The Group Theatre Workshop. Somehow the reviewer from the New York Post showed up, leading to...
- Producing a two year professional engagement of *Day of Absence* and *Happy Endings* at The St. Marks Playhouse.
- Directs and Co-Produces – with Joe Papp – a professional version of "We Real Cool" that tours with the New York Shakespeare Festival's production of Henry V (in which Robert is playing the title role, the first Black actor to do so.)
- Produces *Walk Together Children* by Vinnie Burrows at The Greenwich Mews Theatre.
- Produced over 50 productions of both Negro Ensemble Company and the D.C. Black Repertory Company (including workshop, experimental and professional productions).

June 1975 Produced and Directed, *The Blacks* by Jean Genet, at the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC.

Jan. 1981 For PBS-Los Angeles, Co-Produces *Voices of Our People*, a compilation of poetry featuring top performers from The Media Forum (Denise Nicholas, Brock Peters, Charles F. Johnson, Janet MacLachlan, Tracy Lyles and Robert). Wins national acclaim AND receives **eleven local Emmy Awards**.

May 1982 Co-produced - with Los Angeles' Mark Taper Forum - *A Soldier's Play* in association with The NEC. He also performs, alongside Academy Award Nominee Adolph Caesar and Denzel Washington.

**Feb-March
1985**

Produces *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* – featuring Billy Dee Williams – at Hollywood's Ivar Theatre.

AWARDS / HONORS

Personal Awards

- **National Black Theatre Festival, The History Maker Award**
- **Black Theatre Alliance Awards – Lifetime Achievement Award** (2007)
- **Honored by The Black Academy of Arts and Letters** (2006 – Dallas)
- Inducted into the **Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame**
- **NAACP Image Award for Lifetime Achievement**
- **AUDELCO Pioneer Award**
- **Emmy Award:** Producing and Acting for PBS special *Voices of Our People*
- **Tony Nomination:** Lead Role in a Musical, *Hallelujah, Baby*
- **New York Drama Critics Award: A Raisin in the Sun**
- **World Annual Award: Where's Daddy?**

Major Awards: The Negro Ensemble Company

Pulitzer Prize for Drama

1982 – *A Soldier's Play*

Tony Awards

1969 – Special Achievement

1973 – *The River Niger*

Obie Awards

1968 – Citation for Excellence

1971 – *Dream on Monkey Mountain*

1973 – *The River Niger*

1974 – *The Great McDaddy*

1975 – *The First Breeze of Summer*

1977 – *Eden*

1979 – *Nevis Mountain Dew*

1980 – *Lagrima del Diablo*

1981 – *Zooman and the Sign*

1981 – Sustained Achievement

1982 – *A Soldier's Play*

Vernon Rice Drama Desk Award

1968 – Negro Ensemble Company

1969 – *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*

1972 – *Sty of the Blind Pig*

1973 – *The River Niger*

Dramatists Guild Award

1976 – *The First Breeze of Summer*

1982 – *A Soldier's Play*

New York Drama Critics' Circle Award

1982 – *A Soldier's Play*

American Theatre Wing Award

1983 – Negro Ensemble Company

Clarence Derwent Award

1976 – *The First Breeze of Summer*

1982 – *A Soldier's Play*

Audelco Award

1977 – *Eden*

1980 – *Home*

Margo Jones Award

1975 – *The First Breeze of Summer*

Outer Critics Circle Award

1980 – *Home*

1982 – *A Soldier's Play*

Eudora Welty Television Award

1978 – *First Breeze of Summer*

James A. Vaughn Award for

Excellence in American Theatre

1980 – Negro Ensemble Company

Premio Roma Award

1969 – *Song of the Lusitanian Bogey*

Theatre Club Award

1982 – *A Soldier's Play*

Brandeis Univ. Creative Award

1970 – Negro Ensemble Company

New York State Arts Council Award

1976 – Negro Ensemble Company

Bronze Medallion of New York City

1977 – Negro Ensemble Company

New England Theatre Conference

Special Award

1981 – Negro Ensemble Company

Citations of Excellence from the cities of:

Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Hartford, Los Angeles,

New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

Selected Speaking Engagements

- Spotlight Series: County of Los Angeles Public Library
West Hollywood California

November 2015

- Inner City Cultural Center 50th Anniversary
Panel on Diversity in the Entertainment Industry

October 2015

- National Black Theatre Festival, Winston-Salem, NC
Also given History Maker Award

August 2015

- Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Albany, Georgia
Overcoming Black Males's Reluctance to Pursue Preventive Health Care

2012

- Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP
15th Annual Theatre Awards, Honoring the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC)
Featured Speaker / Honoree

2005

- New Federal Theatre, New York
Featured Speaker: *Spirit of Black Theatre*

2005

- Civil Rights Memorial Commission, Albany, Georgia
Martin Luther King Celebration

2002

- Bowie State University, Bowie, Maryland
 - Commencement Speaker: *What Lies Ahead*
 - Awarded Honorary *Doctor of Humane Letters Degree*

2001

- Springfield College, Los Angeles campus
Commencement Speaker: *Looking Ahead*

2000

- Martin Luther King Day gala - Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles
 - Master of Ceremonies
 - Profiled and introduced President Bill Clinton

1998

- Clark College Theatre Department, Atlanta, Georgia
The Black Artist

1993

- 100 Black Men, Albany, Georgia
Conference Speaker: *Accomplishing Your Goals*

1991

- NAACP, Los Angeles. Annual Gala
Hollywood and Black Artists

1989

- National Urban League Dinner, Los Angeles
Theatre in the Community

1986

- Congressional Hearing Testimony Speech, Washington, D.C.
Black Under-Representation in America's Media

1983

- National Black Media Coalition, Los Angeles 1983
Communication and the Black Image
- City Council Assembly, Washington, D.C. 1975
On the State of Black Theatre in America
- Howard University, Washington, D.C. 1973
Keynote Speaker, Commencement
- New York University, Theatre Department 1970
The Significance of the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC)
- Arena Stage Theatre Seminar, Washington, D.C. 1971
Black Theatre in the Nation's Capitol
- The Harlem Cultural Coalition, New York 1969
Actors and Politics
- Hudson Guild, New York 1969
Teenagers and Cultural Activities
- Chelsea Civil Rights Council, New York 1968
Theatre in America for Minorities

** *This is a partial list of speaking engagements. Also not noted above are his many Master of Ceremonies appearances*

Talk Show Host & Interviewer
On-Air Host/ Interviewer / Entertainment & Culture Critic
WABC-TV, KNBC, Essence Cable TV and Inglewood City Cable

THE URBAN ROUNDTABLE – Host/Interviewer 2002- Present

The City of Inglewood California asked Mr. Hooks to host its cable TV talk show, a venture which he, additionally, co-produces. The show serves as a platform for political candidates and civic officials, a venue for political activism and awareness, features interviews with Hollywood film and TV personalities, and highlights current local media and literature.

ESSENCE TELEVISION - Co-Host - New York (mid-90's)

Robert co-hosted Essence Magazine's successful maiden voyage into television alongside Essence's editor Susan Taylor, **This innovative talk show guested many industry celebrities and business honchos, politicians and sports figures.** The show lasted **for three** seasons and led to current ventures such as The Essence Music Awards.

KNBC-4 LOS ANGELES - Theatre and Drama Critic: (late 80's - two seasons)

In-studio commentary and critiques on the latest theatre offerings and openings in the Los Angeles area. Bantering with the local evening new anchors.

THE EVERYWHERE SHOW / KNBC - Host: Los Angeles (early 80's)

Co-host of this local weekly talk show which originated from a variety of Southland events and locations, interviewing a wide spectrum of guests that included actors, authors, sports figures, civic-leaders and every day folk from those areas. (Co-host: with newscaster Luticia Ponce.)

LIKE IT IS / WABC - Host: New York City (1968-71)

A weekly show in which he interviewed city and state politicians, celebrities from stage, film, sports and the music world, all anxious to be booked this popular show. (Eventually leaving the show because of feature film work, Hooks was replaced by new young upstart i Geraldo Rivera, who was subsequently succeeded by veteran host Gil Noble. To this day, *Like It Is*, originated by Robert Hooks, remains the longest running, and one of the most popular, talk shows in television history.)