



**For Immediate Release**

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**BENNETT COLLEGE PRESENTS THE FIRST ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF “AMPLIFY BLACK VOICES  
FESTIVAL OF GREATER GREENSBORO”**

**Greensboro, N.C.** – This March marks the beginning of Amplify Black Voices Festival of Greater Greensboro created by the Greater Greensboro Theater Consortium.

The month-long festival will consist of four plays concentrating on black stories and experiences in America. Each play will take place at a different university in the Greensboro area featuring cast and crew members from the various universities and surrounding communities.

The official kick-off event will be held at Bennett College’s Global Learning Center on March 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The event will feature live performances and serve as an opportunity for representatives from all seven universities, as well as the Greensboro community, to come together and celebrate. After the event, each week in April will feature a different show:

*Mend A City: The Movement*, written by Vanecia Boone, Tabia Mawusi, and Philip J. Lightfoot and directed by Vanecia Boone, will be presented at Bennett College’s Little Theatre April 8-10, 2022.

*Periphery*, written by Ed Simpson and directed by Doug Brown and Ken Elston, will play at High Point University’s Pauline Theatre April 11-13, 2022.

*Nick and the Prizefighter*, written by Kamilah Bush and directed by Natalie Sowell, is presented by UNC-Greensboro at the Triad Stage in Downtown Greensboro April 22-24, 2022.

The final show of the festival will be August Wilson’s *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* directed by Miller Lucky Jr. at North Carolina A&T’s Paul Robeson Theatre April 28-May 1, 2022.

Playwright Kamilah Bush recently spoke about her experience writing *Nick and the Prizefighter*. “Having spent almost a decade of my life in Greensboro,” Bush said, “living and learning in that vibrant artist community, I know that my voice and perspective have been shaped by the Piedmont region.”

### **About the Greater Greensboro Theater Consortium**

In June of 2021, Bennett College received a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts to benefit a theater festival that highlights the black experience. Seeking to reach a greater audience, Bennett reached out to surrounding Greensboro. As a result, the Greater Greensboro Theater Consortium was founded and is comprised of Tennille Foust and Anne Hayes, co-chairs (Bennett College), Lauren Kearns and David McGraw (Elon University), Ashley Hyers (Greensboro College), Beth Ritson (Guilford College), Doug Brown (High Point University), Gregory Horton (North Carolina A&T State University), and Natalie Sowell (the University of North Carolina at Greensboro). Since then, all representatives have worked with students and community members to bring this project together. The consortium states: “What makes our collaboration unique is that all departments have signature strengths, and we will draw from those strengths for our productions. Through this process, we also model for our students what it means to join in a movement that is bigger than one person, that is bigger than one college; the movement requires all of us coming together and bringing our talents to educate and promote racial equity and awareness.”

For more information on the festival, check out the official website or Instagram page | <https://www.gsotheaterconsortium.com> or @Amplifyblackvoicesgso on Instagram

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