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## Theatre Class Production to Examine 1980s Black America Stereotypes

Winthrop University

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# Theatre Class Production to Examine 1980s Black America Stereotypes

## Quick Facts

- George C. Wolfe's controversial play "The Colored Museum" is a series of 11 vignettes.
- The play will run April 13-15 at 8 p.m. in Winthrop's Rutledge Gallery.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop students will explore art as social commentary with the production of George C. Wolfe's "**The Colored Museum**," a series of 11 vignettes that will run April 13-15 in the Winthrop University **Rutledge Gallery** at 8 p.m. nightly. Wolfe's controversial play offers a funny, complex, thoughtful journey through 1980s Black America stereotypes.

During the spring 2009 semester, 22 Winthrop students have worked on the play in a class called "**Art as Social Commentary**." Under the leadership of **Department of Theatre Professor Annie-Laurie Wheat**, the class has explored satire as a means of communication. The diverse group of students -- who come from all over campus and represent numerous majors — have collaborated to share their passion for "**The Colored Museum**." The vignettes are student-directed, student-performed and student-designed.

The students have created many colorful characters who all share a message about the African-American experience, from the snap queen Miss Roj to the sweet and sassy wigs Lawanda and Janine, Aunt Ethel and her down-home cookin' show, a soldier with a secret and Topsy Washington, who dances to the music of her own madness.

The class will perform "**The Colored Museum**" on Tuesday, April 7, at Clinton Junior College before the play's April 13-15 run at Winthrop. Admission is free; donations are encouraged. Seating is limited.

For more information, contact **Wheat** at 803/323-2397.

[\[Back to Previous Page\]](#)

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