

# Blue

By Charles Randolph-Wright  
Music by Nona Hendryx  
Lyrics by Nona Hendryx &  
Charles Randolph-Wright  
Directed by Kenny Leon

April 13 - May 16

*Be more playful!*

Produced with support from:



**Geva**  
Theatre  
Center



**JPMorganChase**



Mox of Eastman Place



**TIME WARNER**  
CABLE



The Rochester Group

UNIVERSITY OF  
**ROCHESTER**  
MEDICAL CENTER

*Singing the blues...*



*Sapphire  
has it all*

**FORSYTHE**

JEWELERS • SINCE 1927  
*Trusted For Three Generations*



***Jewelry Repair ❖ Watch Repair  
Custom Designs***

66 Monroe Ave., 586-5954

Mon.-Sat. 10-5:30, Thurs. 'til 8

*"On the historic Erie Canal,  
next to Talbots"*

[www.forsythejewelers.com](http://www.forsythejewelers.com)



**Greentree**

Capital Management, L.L.C.

805 CrossKeys Office Park, Fairport  
585 425-5100

- We GUIDE client assets through
- Insight
  - Experience
  - Perspective
  - Knowledge
  - Integrity

Serving: Individuals • IRAs • Endowments  
Trusts • Pensions & Profit sharing plans

Peter J. Gaess, Founder  
TC Lewis, CFA

A fee-based registered Investment Advisor

The hardest part was getting them  
all to sit still for this picture.



Meet Honda's very rambunctious family of vehicles. With matchless style, functionality, comfort and value in every car and truck, the 2004 Honda line is definitely ready to roll. Choose from the unparalleled Accord, the carefree Civic, the ultra-efficient Insight or the sport-tuned S2000 roadster. If adventure is more your game, then why not try the outdoorsy CR-V, the "not your mother's minivan" Odyssey, the adventurous Element or our lavishly rugged SUV, the Honda Pilot. Come in and take a test-drive today. They're just itching to get out on the open road.



**HONDA**

**Ontario**  
**HONDA**

2311-2337 Rochester Rd  
Canandaigua • 585 396-3000  
[www.ontariohonda.com](http://www.ontariohonda.com)

Accord EX V-6 Sedan, S2000, Odyssey EX, CR-V 4WD EX, Civic Hybrid, Insight, Element EX and Pilot EX models shown.  
©2003 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.



**Geva**  
Theatre  
Center

*Acting Artistic Directors*<sup>1</sup>  
**MARGE BETLEY**  
**SKIP GREER**

*Managing Director*  
**JOHN QUINLIVAN**

*Executive Director*  
**NAN HILDEBRANDT**

presents

# **BLUE**

By **CHARLES RANDOLPH-WRIGHT**

*Music by* **NONA HENDRYX**

*Lyrics by* **NONA HENDRYX and CHARLES RANDOLPH-WRIGHT**

*Directed by* **KENNY LEON**

*Scenic Design*  
**MARJORIE BRADLEY KELLOGG**

*Costume Design*  
**SUSAN E. MICKEY**

*Lighting Design*  
**TOM STURGE**

*Sound Design*  
**MARC GWINN**

*Music Director*  
**DWIGHT DOUGLAS ANDREWS**

*Assistant Lighting Director*  
**ETHAN KAPLAN**

*Stage Manager*  
**JOEL MARKUS**

*Assistant Stage Manager*  
**KIRSTEN BRANNEN**

*Apprentice Stage Manager*  
**HEPSEY SHIPMAN**

*Casting*  
**RICH COLE**

Originally produced in New York City in 2001 by Roundabout Theatre Company;  
Todd Haines, Artistic Director.

Originally commissioned by Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.;  
Molly Smith, Artistic Director; Stephen Richard, Executive Director.

---

*Co-Produced by*  
**Eastman Kodak Company**  
**JPMorgan Chase Bank**  
**Max of Eastman Place**  
**The Rochester Group**  
**Time Warner Cable**  
**University of Rochester Medical Center**

---

<sup>1</sup>Mark Cuddy is on sabbatical during the 2003-2004 Season.

**CAST**  
(in speaking order)

Reuben Clark .....	Yusef Miller
Peggy Clark .....	Denise Burse
Young Reuben/ Baby Blue .....	Darnell Smith, Jr.
Blue Williams .....	Kevyn Morrow
Samuel Clark III .....	Rashad J. Anthony
LaTonya Dinkins .....	Tinashe Kajese
Samuel Clark, Jr. ....	Peter Jay Fernandez
Tillie Clark .....	Brenda Thomas

**SETTING**

Kent, South Carolina – A fictional small town in the Northern part of the state.

**TIME**

Act I: 1978

Act II: Fifteen years later

Epilogue: Three years later

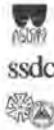
There will be one 20-minute intermission.

Herbal cigarettes are used in this production.

The actors and stage managers in this performance are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc. an independent national labor union.

The Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Designers in LORT Theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE



Special thanks to Geva Theatre Center's official airline,  
American Airlines "Get a Great Low Fare. And a Lot More Airline"

Please note that the taking of photographs or use of recording devices during the performance is not permitted. Cell phones and all other electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the theatre.



Geva Theatre Center is a not-for-profit cultural organization supported in part with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. Geva is also supported by public funds from Monroe County and the City of Rochester. Geva Theatre Center and this event are also made possible with private funds from The Shubert Foundation, Inc.



This theatre operates under agreements between the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), a consortium of regional theatres throughout the nation; Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States; and the Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

Geva Theatre Center is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for non-profit, professional theatres.

Funding for sign language interpreted events is provided, in part, by a grant from Theatre Development Fund's TAP Plus program in cooperation with the New York State Council on the Arts.

"FIRE" (Ralph Middlebrooks, James L. Williams, Marshall Jones, Leroy Bonner, Clarence Satchell, Willie Beck, Marvin R. Pierce) ©1974 Rick's Music, Inc.

(BMI) All Rights Administered By Rightsong Music Inc. (BMI) All Rights Reserved, Used By Permission

# Who is Blue?

by Jean Gordon Ryon

Although *Blue* is not a musical, music plays a leading role in the play. When *Blue* opened at the Roundabout in New York City, people started to come into Tower Records asking for albums by Blue Williams, only to be disappointed to learn that there is no such person. He only exists in the play, and all his music was co-written by Nona Hendryx and Charles Randolph-Wright.

"I wanted music to be a character in the play," says author Charles Randolph-Wright. Each song is from a different period of Blue's career, and took on the identity of the time frame in which it would have been written. Each song's lyrics also reflect something that is happening in the play, and thus become part of the telling of the story, not just background.

Who influenced the creation of Blue?

"I thought of Blue as Miles Davis colliding with Frank Sinatra," says Charles Randolph-Wright. "They are both the kind of artist that Blue is. They both had careers that covered many periods and styles of music. Frank Sinatra crossed every musical barrier and transcended color and background. If he were alive today, he'd be doing Hip Hop. Miles Davis was an artist who was constantly reinventing himself. His *Kind of Blue* is my favorite album."



Kevyn Morrow as Blue Williams.  
(Photo by Sandy Underwood)

Blue Williams' career spans four decades, and includes 10 albums. One of the author's biggest tasks was creating those 10 albums, each of which would reflect a different era in history, a different style in music and a different emotional message within the play. The story moves through time, from the '70s to the '90s. For the character of Blue, "each song is a different search, a new view." He is a musician who has traveled, who has experimented with many different styles and cultures. Some of his albums reflect trips to Brazil and to Nepal.

Although Davis and Sinatra were the principal inspirations for the character of Blue, each song is reminiscent of other singers in particular eras. "New York Nights" for example, is "the Stevie Wonder song from the '70s." "Angels" owes something to Bruce Hornsby, and "The Beat" predates the Indian elements in Sting's last two albums. "Out of the Blue" is "very Luther [Vandross]" says Randolph-Wright, and the last song, "No Matter What," is "very contemporary and sounds a lot like what Luther is doing now."

**Miles Davis** (1926 to 1991) was a major contributor to six decades of jazz innovation: the bebop of the 1940s; the "cool" style the 1950s; and the "fusion" or "electric jazz" of the 1960s. He was a leader in the combination of jazz with others styles such as rock, funk and hip-hop, constantly pushing the form of jazz into surprising new directions.

**Representative albums:**

- Birth of the Cool* (1949)
- Miles Ahead* (1957)
- Kind of Blue* (1959)
- Sketches of Spain* (1960)
- Miles Smiles* (1966)
- Nefertiti* (1967)
- Bitches Brew* (1969)
- Jack Johnson* (1970)
- Star People* (1982)
- Decoy* (1983)
- Tutu* (1986)
- Doo-Bop* (1992)

Copenhagen, 1964.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAN PERSSON



Newport Jazz Festival, 1990.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HERB SNITZER

## The Artistic Company

### **RASHAD J. ANTHONY** (*Samuel Clark III*)

This is Mr. Anthony's Geva Theatre Center debut. His New York City credits include *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* (Mike Mulligan) with TheatreWorks/USA. In May 2003, Mr. Anthony graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts,



where he was seen in *Streamers* (Roger) and *Seven Guitars* (Floyd). He is making his regional theatre debut in *Blue*.

**DENISE BURSE** (*Peggy Clark*) is appearing at Geva for the first time. In New York City,



she has appeared in *An American Daughter* for Lincoln Center Theater at Cort Theatre, *Harriet's Return* at Cherry Lane Theatre, *Robert Johnson Tricked the Devil* at New Federal Theatre, *Hundred Penny Box* at New

Ensemble Studio Theatre and *Hannah Davis* with Negro Ensemble Company. Regional Credits include *Fences* with True Colors Theatre Company and *Flyin' West* at The Kennedy Center. Film and television credits include *Funny Valentines*, *On the One*, "Law & Order," "The Sopranos," "One Life to Live," "The Guiding Light," "100 Centre Street," "Law & Order: SVU" and "Third Watch." Ms. Burse, a native Atlantan, holds a BA from Spelman College and an MA from Clark Atlanta University. She has received a Theatre World Award and an AUDELCO Award, both for best actress. She gives all Honor and Glory to the Most High God.

**PETER JAY FERNANDEZ** (*Samuel Clark, Jr.*) appeared at Geva in *Thunder Knocking on the Door* (Marvell Thunder). Broadway credits include *Henry IV*, *Jelly's Last Jam* and



*The Merchant of Venice*. Off-Broadway, he appeared in *Thunder Knocking on the Door* (AUDELCO Award) at Minetta Lane Theatre; *Julius Caesar*, *Henry VIII*, *As You Like It*, *Spell #7* and *The Winter's Tale* with The

Public; *Once Around the City* at Second Stage Theatre; *Phaedra in Delirium* with Classic Stage Company; *Tooth of Crime* at La MaMa; *Bliss* at Rattlestick Theatre; and *Split Second* at Theatre Four. Among his regional credits are *Gem of the Ocean* (BTAA nomination) at the Goodman Theatre, *Golden Boy* at Long Wharf Theatre, *Flyin' West* at Alliance Theatre Company, *The Colored Museum* at Hartford Stage Company, *Indians* at McCarter Theatre Center, *Three Sisters* at Milwaukee Repertory Theater and *Ring 'Round The Moon* at Arena Stage. Film and television include *Funny Valentines*, *On The One*, *The Prosecutors*, "Law & Order," "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Hack," "Cosby," "New York Undercover," "Superboy" and many more. Mr. Fernandez is married to actress Denise Burse.

**TINASHE KAJESE** (*LaTonya Dinkins*) This is Ms. Kajese's first appearance at Geva. Off-



Broadway, she was seen in *Richard III* (Lady Ann) at The American Theatre for Actors and *Macbeth* at The Classical Theatre of Harlem. Her regional credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Shakes-

peare Festival of St. Louis and *Blood on the Cat's Neck* with Hangar Theatre. She also appeared in *The Colored Museum*, *Come Down Burning* and *Long Time Since Yesterday* at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she received her BFA in



*This is the kind of advice you won't  
get from Sage Rutty*

When it comes to developing a financial strategy, the last thing you want is a cookie-cutter solution. As Rochester's oldest investment and financial planning firm, Sage Rutty is dedicated to the local community and to providing convenient access to a growing and innovative array of investments and advisory services. Our financial consultants have access to in-house CFPs, CPAs, attorneys and insurance specialists who work to create a customized financial plan for you.

Discover how Sage Rutty can help you develop a financial strategy of your own. And we'll leave the cookie cutters at home. That's a promise.

**SageRutty**  
And Company, Inc.

**custom financial solutions**

1621 Jefferson Road, Rochester NY 14623 • 585.232.3760 • [www.sagerutty.com](http://www.sagerutty.com)