

The Dream Keeper

The Dream Keeper

LHPAC Newsletter: Summer '08



Created by: Alisha Pillman & La-Keonna Wvrick (Langston Hughes SYEP Staff)

Introduction to Langston Hughes:

“Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center celebrates, nurtures, presents, and preserves African American performing arts and cultural legacies.”

-- LHPAC Mission Statement

Located in the Central District of Seattle, the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center (LHPAC) is a center for the youth of Seattle to have an opportunity to participate in art-based programs that will help them grow and develop in a close, nurturing environment. LHPAC was established in 1972. The original building was built in 1918. Over the past 36 years Seattle Parks and Recreation has used the facility to provide a wide variety of a cultural and artistic programming.

In 2001 the facility was redefined as the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. The program has been guided by a few principals:

- *A commitment to presenting dynamic art.*
- *A commitment to all audiences for quality, art and educational experiences regardless of race age or economic background.*
- *A commitment to providing an artistic home to African Americans and other cultural communities not typically served by region's major institution.*

The purpose of LHPAC is to allow Seattle's youth to learn new talents, develop the talents they already have, as well as grow as individuals. They do this while gaining personal skills and connecting with other youth, and gaining a cultural experience at the same time.

A special thanks to, the Langston Hughes staff:

Vivian Phillips -*executive manager*

Jackie Moscou -*artistic director*

Sandra Boas-Dupree -*administrative specialist*

Isiah Anderson, Jr. -*teen development leader*

Kristi Matsuda - *education coordinator*

Vela Smith – *education assistant*

Naho Shioyo – *production management*

Mark Smith-*technical director*

Mellissa Pakas –*custodian*

Tonieh Thompson –*administrative support*

Sandy Fukuhara – *events scheduler*

Phone Number: 206-684-4757

Address: 104 17th Ave. S, 98144

Hours: Monday-Friday; 9am – 5pm

Saturday & Sunday; **open for events only**

- Alisha Pillman (SYEP)



Table of Contents:

- Introduction to Langston Hughes:
--- Page 1
- Langston Hughes Summer Musical:
--- Page 2
- Poetry:
--- Page 3
- Horoscopes:
--- Page 4
- Seattle Youth Employment Program:
--- Page 5
- Art in the Park:
--- Page 5
- Dance This:
--- Page 6

Langston Hughes Summer Musical:



The Summer Musical is a yearly event at LHPAC. It has taken place every summer for 12 years, and is *highly* anticipated by the community, as well as the youth and staff participants.

This summer’s production will be a remake of the classic tale of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Re-scripted with a twist, *Snow White and the 7: Each One, Teach One* is unlike any other re-telling of *Snow White* you have ever seen before or will ever see in the future. I asked the director, Isiah Anderson, what ‘each one, teach one’ means.

“Each one, teach one,” he replied, “is based upon the principle of *Ubumtu*, which means, ‘I am because you are.’ It means that every one is responsible for each other.”

If you were to watch this group of teens rehearse, you would be *awed* by the energy and dedication they put forward each and everyday; the tender, loving care in every dance step, every line, every *gesture*. But even more than their dedication, what intrigues me most is their love and support for one another. They help and guide one another like a true

family. A lesson well-taught by their director, who is also the Teen Development leader, is that – like the characters they’ll portray – they are all for one and one for all. They are reminded of this frequently... often multiple times a day. This concept is very important to Isiah.

“The minute we let go of the concept of, ‘I am responsible for you and you for me’,” he continued, “it becomes a separate issue. Everyone separate and we become divided. Everyone starts looking out for what’s best for themselves and not what’s best for everybody.”

I asked why the show is entitled, *Snow White and the 7* instead of, *Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs*. He explained, “the first time I did this story, the kids were taller – too tall to play dwarves. Also, I had both male *and* female cast members, which didn’t comply with the traditional story – with male dwarves who were miners.

“This year it’s because my Seven is significant in showing completion to the audience. Seven is a number of completion – there’s seven days in a week.” Another important fact about *The Seven* is that they are each named after a principle of Kwanzaa: Umoja, Ujamaa, Ujima, Kuumba, Nia, Imani, and Kujichagulia.

In talking to Tyrone Crosby, the head choreographer for the musical, I asked him if he felt that it was important for these teens to participate in this musical. “It’s *very* important,” he stated. “It’s an anti-drug. It’s an anti-gang. It keeps them busy and helps them get in touch with who they are.” He also stated that he likes, “the fact I can inspire so many youth to do something positive through my passion, which is dance.” In the youth that have participated in the musical for multiple years, he said he’s noticed “a *major* growth in personality, self-esteem, and talent.” Isiah also stated



that he’s noticed a growth in the teens who have repeatedly participated in the musical and that, “they’re the first ones to show up about auditions and they always bring friends.”

-La-Keonna Wyrick
(SYEP)

Poetry:

**The Dream Keeper
by Langston Hughes**

Bring me all of your dreams,
you dreamers;
bring me all of your
heart's melodies,
that I may wrap them
in a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.

**The Lesson
by Maya Angelou**

I keep on dying again.
Veins collapse, opening like the
Small fists of sleeping
Children.
Memory of old tombs,
Rotting flesh and worms do
Not convince me against
The challenge. The years
And cold defeat live deep in
Lines along my face.
They dull my eyes, yet
I keep on dying,
Because I love to live.

**A Dream Deferred
by Langston Hughes**

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore--
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over--
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

**Touched by an Angel
by Maya Angelou**

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight

live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us free.

**And Tomorrow
by Tupac Shakur**

Today is filled with anger, fueled with hidden
hate.
Scared of being outcast, afraid of common fate.
Today is built on tragedies, which no one wants
to face.
Nightmares to humanity and morally disgraced.
Tonight is filled with rage, violence in the air.
Children bred with ruthlessness 'cause no one at
home cares.
Tonight I lay my head down but the pressure
never stops,
gnawing at my sanity; content when I'm
dropped.
But tomorrow I see change, a chance to build
anew,
built on spirit intent of heart and ideas based on
truth.
Tomorrow I wake with second wind and strong
because of pride,
to know I fought with all my heart to keep the
dream alive.

Horoscopes:

(July 2008)

Capricorn – This month you'll be eager to cook up plans with someone who holds an important key to your future. If you have been dating someone who has become your whole world, this coming month would be one of your best to take that big step.

Aquarius – Others may be heading out of town on holiday, but you will have things to do and many people to see. A vacation can wait, at last for now. Once you meet lingering deadlines, you'll feel as though a weight has been lifted off your chest, free and as light as a bird.

Pisces – You've been working hard on a number of fronts. Your home and family, money, career, and day-to-day projects have all needed a great deal of your attention lately. You may not have had much room in your schedule for a social life, but now your romantic life will bloom open quite beautifully. From the start of July, you'll want to set aside a little time to get out of the house. There's a big world out there, and it looks like you are about to discover more of it!

Aries – July will be a more productive month for you than June, so with such bright days due, choose not to take a vacation just yet. So much exciting career and home-related news is about to burst open that you'll need to be there to take full advantage.

Taurus – July has arrived, and for many, including you, it's a perfect month to travel. Mercury is no longer retrograde as it was in June, so you can say goodbye to the delays and postponements that might have plagued you then. This month you will have your choice of whether to go near or far, or to a domestic city or overseas, and be confident that no matter what your choice, your trip will turn out to be simply delicious.

Gemini – You've had some dramatic changes in your career in February and March, and as a result, you may now be working hard to stabilize your income. Over the past weeks, you may have interviewed for a new position. Or, you may have no money-generating options as you begin July, but hope to find ways to in coming weeks. No matter what your aim, July will offer you all the right options to make money.

Cancer – Reach out to life with both hands. It's birthday month, and a positive new moon will appear to help you make your wishes come true. The new moon will occur on July 2 and will help you materialize your greatest dreams. June was a month of fits and starts, but July will be strong and powerful for you.

Leo – July will be a quiet month, and this may be very welcome news. You need a month to catch your breath, especially since August will be the most important month of the year for Leo and the most vital and life changing since 1999.

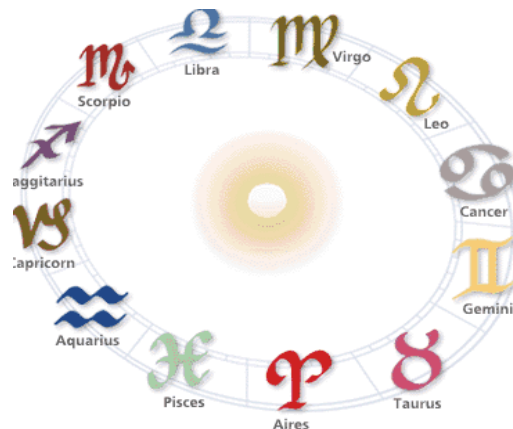
Virgo – Life continues to demand much from you, but this month a lighter breeze will blow through your window. July offers a brilliant contrast to the overcast days you've come through not long ago. Your thoughts will lighten beautifully in July, and despite decisions and adjustments that you've been asked to deal with lately, in July you will find spontaneous ways to relax and enjoy life.

Libra – Your career is due to make big headlines this month, dear Libra. Hopefully in June you took a vacation or at least enjoyed a slower pace, because this month you won't be able to slip out of town - too much will be happening at home base!

Scorpio – In just one month, two eclipses are due. These eclipses will be more important than most. In August your life could change dramatically, both in terms of your career and your living situation.

Sagittarius – In July, others may be away on vacation, but you'll be all business, showing others in no uncertain terms that you're on top of your game. Your career will take off like a rocket the moment the month begins. High-energy Mars will zoom through your tenth house of fame, honors, and professional status, giving your best opportunity you've seen in two years to be promoted to (or offered) a better position and to garner respect from VIPs and peers alike in your industry.

- Alisha Pillman (SYEP)



Seattle Youth Employment Program:

Seattle Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is a program designed to help the youth of Seattle grow, learn, and develop as individuals as well as young adults. Its aim is to give them the communication and interpersonal skills, as well as job training and work experience, that will assist them in achieving their goals, as well as set the foundation for the lives they'll lead and the men and women they'll become. At Langston however, the participants of SYEP will not only gain job training, work experience, and communication skills, but they will have the opportunity to learn and develop these skills in a warm, caring, and very family-like environment. Each of the teens is presented with tasks that will help them develop skills they already possess, learn new ones, and allow them to grow as a person. They gain new experiences, as well as build strong relationships with other teens and staff in the Langston Hughes family.

Introducing SYEP:

Vela Smith –SYEP Supervisor:



How many years have you worked with SYEP?

- 3 years.

How many years have you worked at Langston?

- 5 years.

What do you like most about working with SYEP?

- I really like to see young people gaining the tools to be able to express themselves creatively, while gaining entry level work experience. I love to see the growth in young people in their personal development. I love to see them leave feeling that they have something to offer.

What's your favorite part of working at Langston?

- I love being able to serve young people. I love the family environment. I love being able to hopefully offer young people what I was offered as a child going through the programs. I love seeing the programs grow and evolve over the years.

Lochelle “LoLo” Cox – SYEP:



Is this your first year working with SYEP?

- Yes.

Did you choose to work at Langston?

- Yes.

Why did you choose Langston?

- Because I thought it was the best place I could work. It was the most fitting for my personality.

What's your favorite part of working at Langston?

- Working with the kids.

Melinda “Penguin” Foster – SYEP



Is this your first year working with SYEP?

- Yes.

Did you choose to work at Langston?

- Yes.

Why did you choose Langston?

- Because I knew a supervisor here (Naho) and I liked all the people here and their attitudes and energy.

What's your favorite part of working at Langston?

- The people here. Seeing the people here and interacting with them.

- La-Keonna Wyrick (SYEP)

Art in the Park:



In this picture: Cierra Sonza (Leaders in Training) and Jelia & Tahj Farr

Art in the Park is a free, community art program offered in the park. There are two locations that Langston Hughes services: Judkins Park and Playfield and Edwin T. Pratt Park.

I asked Cierra Sonza (pictured above) how she liked working with the Art in the Park program. “I like it,” she replied. “It’s fun. My favorite part is the drawing and painting.” She also added with a smile that working with the kids is “fun, but sometimes tiring, because a lot of them are my family.”

Jelia Farr (also pictured above) said that she also likes the program. “It’s fun, ‘cause you get to meet new people and play a lot.”

The program is designed to allow youth in Seattle to get a chance to participant in activities that relate to art free of charge. The activities include: poetry, dance, painting, drawing, and drama. They’re also provided with a free lunch. The age group for the Art in the Park program ranges from five years old to eighteen years old, although the majority of the youth participants are between the ages of five and thirteen.

The program is currently open to all kids and teens, no registration required.

Hours: Monday-Friday; 11am – 4pm

If you have questions or are interested in this program, you can contact the Langston Hughes office.

Hours: Monday-Friday; 9am – 5pm

Phone Number: 206-684-4757

- La-Keonna Wyrick (SYEP)

Dance This:

Dance This brings together teen performers from diverse communities for collaboration and to share



cultures through the art of dance. Young dancers take you on a world tour of diverse dance styles with special past DANCE This

Company tributes including...

- Traditional African dances directed by Zimbabwean choreographer, **Lora Chiorah**, with guest artist **Etienne Cakpo**

- Asian cultural dances from India, China, the Philippines, Korea and Cambodia, directed by Seattle choreographer **Amy O’Neal**

- A showcase of European folk dances from Bulgaria, Ireland and Croatia, directed by Bulgarian choreographer, **Petur Iliev**

- A tap/Afro-Peruvian collaboration in partnership with The AFrican ConeXion Project, directed by Peruvian choreographer, **Luis Sandoval**

- Modern dance by guest artists from Creative Outlet Dance Theatre of Brooklyn, choreography by **Jamel Gaines**

- A special DANCE This Company Tribute, featuring contemporary choreography by **Daniel Cruz, Chris Daigre, Sonia Dawkins and Jamel Gaines**

Dance This 2008 is performing at the Paramount Theater Friday and Saturday, July 19th.

Friday, July 18th: (Youth Group matinee ONLY) 1:00PM (visit Paramount Website to make reservations)

Saturday, July 19th: 7:30PM

Tickets are \$23(plus tax) and can be purchased online at the Paramount website. www.theparamount.com

-La-Keonna Wyrick (SYEP)