

CHARLES RANDOLPH-WRIGHT

CHARLES RANDOLPH-WRIGHT has built a dynamic and diversified career in directing, writing, and producing for theatre, television, and film. He directed the smash hit *MOTOWN THE MUSICAL* (Broadway, the National tour, and London), and currently is directing the world premiere of *ORFEUS: A HOUSE MUSIC OPERA* at the Young Vic in London. His play *BLUE* opens in May at the Apollo Theatre (starring legends Leslie Uggams and Lynn Whitfield and directed by another legend, Phylicia Rashad.) And in July, he directs *AMERICAN PROPHET: FREDERICK DOUGLASS IN HIS OWN WORDS* (which he co-wrote with Grammy winner Marcus Hummon) at Arena Stage in D.C.

Charles' directorial film debut *PREACHING TO THE CHOIR* swept the feature film prizes at the American Black Film Festival, and was featured in numerous festivals (including the Pan African Film Fest, Cannes, and London). His screenplay credits include *THE EMMETT TILL STORY* for Showtime, *FOOL'S HILL* for Walt Disney Pictures, *SHADES OF GREY* for HBO, *LEGACY* for Victory Entertainment, *WHITE COUSINS* for Producers Entertainment Group, and *HOMEWORK* (with Kim Coles) for 20th Century Fox. He also co-wrote the screenplay *WHITE CHOCOLATE* (with John Leguizamo). He was the co-producer of the *ANGELA DAVIS* story for Castle Rock Entertainment, and developed the short film *FAMILY TREE* for Disney. Charles is an Executive Producer of the film *MAURICE HINES: BRING THEM BACK*, which won the Grand Jury Prize of the NY Documentary Film Festival.

For television, Charles directed episodes of the series *GREENLEAF* (OWN, Netflix), *KATY KEENE* (CW), *STEP UP HIGHWATER* (YouTube Red), *LINCOLN HEIGHTS* and *SOUTH OF NOWHERE*. Charles directed and co-produced Bebe Winans' special *AMERICA AMERICA* (BET), directed Patina Miller in her concert *LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER*, and co-produced *AN EVENING WITH BERRY GORDY* (PBS). He was producer and writer of the critically acclaimed Showtime series *LINC'S*. His musical staging has been seen on a variety of programs, including *THE GOLDEN GIRLS*. Charles has directed many videos and commercials, including the award winning European "Freestyle" campaign for Nike.

For theatre, Charles directed the world premiere of the Broadway bound musical *BORN FOR THIS* (Alliance Theatre, Arena Stage, Cutler Majestic Theatre), which he co-wrote with gospel icon Bebe Winans, the Pulitzer prize winning play *RUINED* and the record breaking musical *SOPHISTICATED LADIES* (starring Maurice Hines), at Arena Stage, the 75th anniversary tour of the opera *PORGY AND BESS*, Brian Stokes Mitchell in his solo show *LOVE/LIFE* at Lincoln Center, Daniel Beaty's *THROUGH THE NIGHT* at the Union Square Theatre and the Geffen Theatre, the world premiere of *AKEELAH AND THE BEE* for the 50th anniversary season of the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, the hit revival of *GUYS AND DOLLS* (also starring Maurice Hines) which was selected by the Loesser estate to become a national tour celebrating the musical's 50th anniversary, *THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG* (in Portuguese) in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brasil, and *BLOOD KNOT* at ACT in San Francisco (featuring music by Tracy Chapman).

Charles directed the world premieres of *TOUGH TITTY* by Oni Faida Lampley at the Williamstown

Theatre Festival and SENOR DISCRETION HIMSELF, (the last musical written by Frank Loesser, based on a story by Budd Schulberg, and co-written with Culture Clash). Charles also directed and co-wrote THE DIVA IS DISMISSED (starring Jenifer Lewis) at the NYSF Public Theater and the Hudson Theatre (LA), ME AND MRS. JONES (a musical which starred Lou Rawls, and featured the classic R&B music of the Sound of Philadelphia) at the Prince Music Theatre, and HOMEWORK (starring Kim Coles) in NYC, Crossroads (NJ), and LA. He also directed ANTHEMS and OAK AND IVY at Arena Stage; TARTUFFE, INSURRECTION: HOLDING HISTORY, and BLITHE SPIRIT at ACT, HUNDREDS OF SISTERS at New York Theatre Workshop, and CABARET VERBOTEN at the Mark Taper Forum (with Bebe Neuwirth and Roger Rees).

Charles wrote the play BLUE, starring Phylicia Rashad, which broke box office records at Arena Stage (where Charles is an inaugural resident playwright in their American Voices New Play Institute). BLUE has had many productions throughout the United States, including the Roundabout Theatre and the Pasadena Playhouse (which starred Ms. Rashad, Diahann Carroll, and Clifton Davis). Charles also wrote CUTTIN' UP (based upon the best selling book by Craig Marberry), THE NIGHT IS A CHILD (starring JoBeth Williams), LOVE IN AFGHANISTAN, and co-wrote JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS starring Bea Arthur, which toured internationally, including a Tony nominated run on Broadway.

Charles has directed numerous benefit performances, including HAIR ... FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, the 20th anniversary show at the United Nations, which was the first event of its kind for children with AIDS, and MUSIC AND REMEMBRANCE (starring Leontyne Price, Itzhak Perlman, and James Galway) at Carnegie Hall. His productions have received numerous awards, including NAACP Image, Bay Area Critics, Drama-logic, LA Weekly Theatre, Helen Hayes, Ovation, and Audelco as well as Grammy and Tony nominations. Charles was awarded grants from the Theatre Communications Group, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the NEA, the Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award, and also is the recipient of the S.C. Medal of Honor in the Arts, the Creative Spirit Award from the New Professional Theatre, The Pasadena Playhouse Theatrical Diversity Award, an honorary MFA from ACT, and the Paul Robeson Award from Actors' Equity.

As a performer, Charles' credits include Broadway (the original cast of DREAMGIRLS), television (HILL STREET BLUES, MELROSE PLACE, FALCON CREST), music (a disco group which will remain nameless that nonetheless garnered three gold records), film, numerous shows in theatre, and countless television commercials.

A native of York, South Carolina, Charles is an honor graduate of Duke University where he was an A.B. Duke Scholar and recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Roundabout Theatre, and is a founding member of the Wright Family Foundation of South Carolina. Charles' website is www.Randolph-Wright.com.