



Lori Payne

CREATIVE SERVICES
WRITING/PRODUCTION/PERFORMANCE



(225) 773-7730
paylori@gmail.com
www.canefruit.net

ABOUT LORI PAYNE

Lori's experience encompasses writing, directing and acting. She is an artist who works to learn. Her purpose is to express as art the complex nature of humanity through the wit and eloquence of the common wo/man. Her written works include the stage plays *Catherine Street*, *Bling!*, *Sach'Elays*, and *Last Call at the Miracle Grill*, the one-act trilogy entitled *Ulterior Side Dishes*, and *Black Peet on the Eve of Emancipation*. New York productions of her plays include: *Bling!*, at the **Producers' Club** as a semi-finalist at the **Strawberry One-Act Festival**, and at **South Oxford Space**, produced by **The American Theatre of Harlem**; *Ulterior Side Dishes* at the **Nuyorican Poets Café**; and *Catherine Street* as part of **Manhattan Repertory Theatre's** Summerfest. *Ulterior Side Dishes* was produced as a radio drama by the **WBAI** producer and journalist, Dred Scott-Keyes.

Lori's directing credits include: *Mother Tongue Monologues*, produced by Black Women's Blueprint at Harlem's historic **National Black Theater**; *Stop the Bleeding* by Joseph Krawczyk at the venerated **American Theatre of Actors**; *Evening Gloves*, by Helen Hill; *Catherine Street*, by Lori Payne; *Family Matters* and *Soiled Wings* by Michael A. Jones; and *Black Peet On The Eve of Emancipation*, her original work commissioned by the **Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum**. New York acting credits include the role of Mummie in Nigel Barto's *Christmas Weekend*; Gabbi Foss, in *Bling!*, by Lori Payne; *SWAP*, at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, for which she received positive mention in **Time Out** magazine for her role as Tabitha; Gussie Lee in Anthony Harper's *Stolen Waters Are Sweet*; Lorraine Oraline Donna Jean Johnson Ponce, an original character she created for *La Reina's Barriolesque*; and Gullah Elder Storyteller with the **KowTeff African Dance Company** at the **Miller Theatre of Columbia University**. In 2003, she participated in the **University of New Orleans** production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* performing *My Angry Vagina*.



Lori Payne. Writer, Director, Performer. Influences include Gill-Scott Heron, Zora Neale Hurston, Lillian Hellman and Dr. Henry Miller

After earning a B.A. in Drama and Communications from the University of New Orleans, Lori wrote for local and regional publications, choosing to document stories that focused on the arts, activism, and local history. Her articles have appeared in *Where Y'at Magazine*, *Survival Digest Monthly*, where she also worked as arts editor, and *The Louisiana Weekly* in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2004, Lori moved to New York and began studying playwriting under the late Anthony 'Tee' Saralegui, author of the book *Writing One Play*. She gained further editorial and marketing experience while working as an editorial assistant at *The Village Voice*. In 2009, Ms. Payne served as Media Coordinator for the **Langston Hughes Cultural Enrichment Movement**, a community organization that promotes the works of Langston Hughes. She served as a member and Board Secretary of Uptown Playwrights from 2008 through 2012, an organization led by Dr. Henry Miller, author of the book *Theorizing Black Theatre: Art Versus Protest in Critical Writings, 1898-1965*.

Lori is currently developing her newest stage play, entitled *Thirst*. As a returning resident of Louisiana, she is a long distance member of New York theatre collectives **Polaris North** and **HP 21**.

WRITING PORTFOLIO

DRAMATIC WORKS

March 2012 *Thirst*

Six-Character full-length play currently in development at theatre collective Polaris North, New York, N.Y.

December 2010 *The Cost of Control*

Six-Character full-length play presented by Frank Silvera Writer's Workshop at Dwyer Cultural Center, New York, N.Y.

June 2010 *Black Peet On the Eve of Emancipation*

Three-character Commissioned play for Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum, Brooklyn, N.Y.

May 2009 *Layercake Maffia*

Two-Character short play presented at Outpost Café, Brooklyn, New York

August 2007 *Catherine Street*

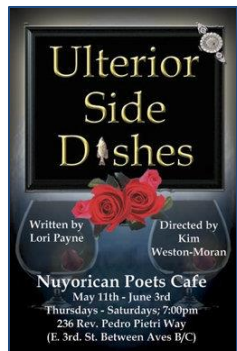
Three-Character full-length play presented at Manhattan Repertory Theatre, New York City.

October 2006 *Catherine Street*

Dramatic staged reading of full-length play Williamsburg Music Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.



The Cost of Control, by Lori Payne
Dwyer Cultural Center, New York, N.Y.



March, April, May-June 2006 *Ulterior Side Dishes*

Seven-Character trilogy of one-act comedies which underwent 12-show run at El Nuyorican Poets Café, dramatic staged reading at the Drama Bookshop, and a studio recording at WBAI studios. New York, N.Y.

August, September, November 2005 *Bling!*

Seven-Character one-act comedy hit which traveled from semi-finalist at the Riant Theater's Strawberry one-act festival to the American Theater of Harlem's SEASONS one-act festival then the holiday showcase 'A Family Affair' presented by the Riant Theater at the Producer's Club in November.

Ulterior Side Dishes
Written and Produced
by Lori Payne

FREELANCE WRITING

July 2009 Writer/Photojournalist, *Open PR*

January 2007 Staff Writer, *CastingNewYork.com*

On-line artist and actor resource for casting information, acting history, and industry news.

April 2003 *Critical Resistance South Takes a Hands-On Approach to Change*; 'Louisiana Weekly'; Contributing Writer.

March 2003 *Diamonds in the Field: Stitching History with Golden Thread*; 'Louisiana Weekly'; Contributing Writer

December 2002 *Adonis Rose: Capricorn Rising*; 'Louisiana Weekly'; Contributing Writer

February 2003 *Mardi Gras Under the Bridge: More than Just a Party*; 'Louisiana Weekly'; Contributing Writer.

May 2003 *Genealogy and the Search for a Black Past*; 'Louisiana Weekly'; Contributing Writer.

May 2002 *Go Git It: J. Pierre and Roux-based Reality*; 'SDM' Magazine; Staff Writer.

April 2002 *Apparatus in Sienna: The Photography of Clifton Faust*; 'SDM' Magazine; Staff Writer.

March 2002 *Progressive Council: Malik Rahim on His Race for City Councilman at Large*; 'SDM' Magazine; Staff Writer.

April 1999 *Village Voices*; 'Where Y'at' Magazine; Contributing Writer.

WORKS FOR HIRE

September 2007 ***The Scorpion Bottle***; Ghostwriter; Feature length screenplay. Production by NuMedia Productions.

March 2005 ***Love and Produce***; Independent comedic short screenplay.

MEDIA/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

May 2008 – Transcription Services, Essence Communications

October 2006 - January 2007 – Professional Developmental Literary Pathways, Inc.; Contracted copywriter. Exclusive subcontracted writer of corporate in-house and public advertising literature promoting literary and startup opportunities for schools, colleges, and professional theaters. New York City.

EDUCATION

November 2004 to November 2006 Private tutelage on the craft of playwriting from Anthony 'Tee' Saralegui, dramatist and author of the book, *Writing One Play*.

May 2003 University of New Orleans; B.A. in Drama and Communications; New Orleans, La.

EDUCATION University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana
B.A., Drama and Communications, 2003

SKILLS Writing, Organization, Administration, Marketing
SOFTWARE Microsoft Office Suite, Visio, Final Draft, Lexis-Nexis, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Acrobat Professional

PRODUCTION/ADMINISTRATION

February 2013 DIRECTOR, *Mother Tongue Monologues*, by Black Women's Blueprint
Langston Hughes Theater, **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**, New York, New York

- Managed and Directed production crew for Full-Length Production
- 14 performers, 4 dance groups
- Casting, Rehearsals
- Conceived and produced show aesthetic, including costumes, set and lighting design

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August 2011 DIRECTOR, *Stop the Bleeding*, by Joseph Krawczyk
American Theatre of Actors, New York, New York

- One Act Play
- Two Characters
- Hired production crew
- Conducted Auditions
- Scheduled and conducted rehearsals



Stop the Bleeding
American Theatre of Actors
Directed by Lori Payne

April 2011 ASSOCIATE, Red Harlem Readers (2011 Season)
Indian Café, New York, New York

- Community organization providing weekly concert readings in Manhattan neighborhood
- Talent recruitment and arts administration related to events
- Publicity and electronic marketing
- Event Host
- Calendar maintenance

Valley

June 2010 PRODUCTION/MEDIA COORDINATOR, Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Movement
New York, New York

- Community-based arts organization that celebrates, presents and preserves the works of Langston Hughes through community arts projects.

June 2010 WRITER/DIRECTOR, *Black Peet on the Eve of Emancipation*
Commissioned work for the **Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum**, Brooklyn, New York

- Original work based on research and historian interview
- Four Characters
- Site-specific production

- Costume development with designer

March 2010 DIRECTOR, *Soiled Wings* by Michael A. Jones
Sixty-Minute One-Act play

- Four characters
- Developed set and lighting as related to working space
- Scheduled rehearsals
- Casting
- Some budgetary negotiation
- Script and production development with playwright



The Jerry Awards
Red Harlem Readers
With 2011 Recipient Cedric Turner
and

February 2010 DIRECTOR, *Brooklyn Slam for Haiti*
Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn, New York

- Conceived and directed benefit performance that included singers, actors and musicians
- Conducted talent search and screened candidates based on performance concept
- Site visit and coordination with venue management
- Managed talent and production staff during show

June 2009 DIRECTOR, *Family Matters* by Michael A. Jones
Come Celebrate the Glory of Sugar Hill Festival, Harlem, New York

- One-Act Play
- Three characters
- Developed set and lighting as related to working space
- Scheduled and conducted rehearsals
- Conducted research based on story elements



Family Matters
Directed by Lori Payne

June 2009 DIRECTOR, *Boston Road* by Tee Saralegui
Staged Reading at **Roy Arias Studios**, New York, New York

- One-Act Play
- Four Characters
- Developed sound and lighting as related to working space
- Scheduled and conducted rehearsals



Catherine Street
Program art

August 2007 WRITER/DIRECTOR, *Catherine Street*
Manhattan Repertory Theatre, New York, New York

- Full-length original play
- Four Characters
- Conducted Auditions
- Scheduled and conducted rehearsals
- Developed set and lighting as related to working space
- Costume and character styling

June 2006 WRITER/PRODUCER, *Uterior Side Dishes*
Nuyorican Poets Café, New York, New York

- Trilogy of one-act plays
- Handled staffing, budget and media coordination for production

February 2006 DIRECTOR, *Evening Gloves* by Helen Hill
Producers Club, New York, New York



- Three-Character one-act play
- Handled casting, rehearsals and costumes

Evening Gloves
Directed by Lori Payne

AFFILIATIONS

HP21 -- Playwright Collective
New York, NY

Polaris North -- Theatre Collective
New York, NY

Langston Hughes Cultural Enrichment Movement
New York, NY

Black Women's Blueprint
New York, NY

Louisiana Film and Entertainment Association
Baton Rouge, LA

BeBop Theatre Collective
New York, NY

REFERENCES

Dr. Henry Miller -- Theatre Historian, Playwright, Author *Theorizing Black Theatre: Art Versus Protest in Critical Writings, 1898-1965*, Yonkers, NJ

Farah Tanis -- Executive Director, Black Women's Blueprint, Brooklyn, NY

Charles White -- Co-Founder, HP21, New York, NY

Byron Saunders -- Host, The BCS Experience, Former Executive Director, Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum, Brooklyn, NY

Shirley Brown-Alyene -- Museum Education Professional, Former Education Coordinator, Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum, Brooklyn, NY

Velvet Ross -- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Bronx Chapter, Bronx, NY

SaMi Chester -- BeBop Theatre Collective, New York, NY