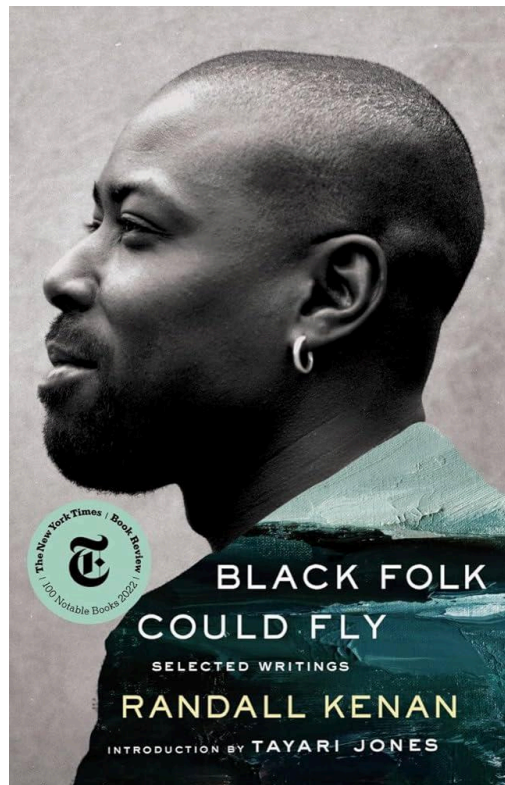


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORDTheatre® Presents

“Black Folk Could Fly”



In Partnership with the Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center

A literary & musical event celebrating the legacy of the late author, Randall Kenan

Saturday, March 9th, 2024, 7:30-9pm

At the Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center

3351 W 43rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90008

Leimert Park, Crenshaw District

Los Angeles, CA – WORDTheatre®, the celebrated literary non-profit arts organization renowned for its remarkable performances by actors from film, TV, and theater, pays homage to the late, great, Southern author, Randall Kenan, in collaboration with musicians from the **Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing quality performing arts instruction to underserved youth.

The program will introduce audiences to the posthumous collection of Kenan’s essays, titled **“Black Folk Could Fly,”** which the New York Times described as “[providing] rare insight into Kenan’s life and mind, while retaining the humor, humanity and elegant power for which he is loved.” An impressive array of actors and musicians will take to the stage to give voice and expression to Kenan’s musings on his childhood, family, and folklore. The event will feature four actors,* among them: **Tracie Thoms** (*Rent*), **Dohn Norwood** (*Hell on Wheels*), **CG** (*The Bear*), and **Eugene Byrd** (*8 Mile*).

About WORDTheatre

WORDTheatre produces unique theatrical events that engage, entertain, and inform. We work with the finest actors, musicians, and authors in the U.S. and the U.K. to bring beautifully crafted stories to life. In **WORDTheatre's** bespoke **Author/Actor events**, the actors step into the world of the story, live in the characters’ skins, feel their hidden yearnings and traumas, and transport audiences to a place of deep empathy. Our original themed events weave together fiction, poetry, memoir, history, music, and dance in large scale productions such as ***In the Cosmos, Mysteries of the Mind, Parenthood, Dreams, A Tribute to Langston Hughes,*** and ***Witness: The John Edgar Wideman Experience.*** We have worked with hundreds of actors, including Ed Harris, Jeff Goldblum, Alfre Woodard, Lily Tomlin, Bill Pullman, Alfred Molina, Brian Cox, Sterling K. Brown, Amanda Seyfried, and Sharon Stone. WORDTheatre is on a mission to make the world a better place – one story at a time.

About Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center

The Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center is a nonprofit organization which provides performing arts instruction to underprivileged youth and helps them build self-esteem, develop civic responsibility, and achieve academic success. Teachers at the Pullum Community Art Center provide a program filled with structure and well-planned curriculum to serve all students with a desire to learn and grow their talent.

For further press information and interview requests, please contact:

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scout@wordtheatre.org; (520) 305-2938

For full event listings and to reserve tickets:

Visit the WORDTheatre website at www.WORDTheatre.org/events

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Talent Bios

RANDALL GARRETT KENAN (award-winning author)



Randall Kenan is a renowned American author and professor. He is the author of eight books with his last book, *There's a Man Going 'Round Taking Names*, being left unfinished at the time of his death. His second book *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead* was celebrated as a revival of Southern literature and was nominated for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award for Fiction as well as being named a *New York Times* Notable Book. Randall Kenan's last book to be published is titled *Black Folk Could Fly: Selected Writings* and is a collection of short stories that are a mix of fiction and nonfiction. Kenan's awards include the Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Award, the Sherwood Anderson Award, the John Dos Passos Prize, and the Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

TRACIE THOMS (Emmy-nominated actress)



Tracie Thoms is a renowned actress in both film and television as well as theatre. She has appeared in a number of celebrated tv shows and films, including *The Shield*, *Law and Order*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Rent*, and *Annie*. Her stage credits include *Drowning Crow*, *Rent*, *Falsettos*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*. She has appeared in the documentary *Good Hair* as well as the Marvel New Media and SiriusXM podcast titled *Marvel's Wastelanders: Hawkeye* in the role of Kate Bishop. In 2016 Thoms was nominated for an Emmy Award in the Outstanding Actress In A Short Form Comedy Or Drama Series category for "*Send Me: An Original Web Series.*"

DOHN NORWOOD (actor and producer)



Dohn Norwood is a prominent actor and producer whose first major film appearance was in *Bruce Almighty*. He started his acting career after producing and starring in a one man show in West Africa which received rave reviews from numerous foreign critics. From there he has been in shows like *Castle*, *ER*, *Entourage*, *Bones*, *Bosch*, *Magnum P.I.*, and *The Closer*. His film credits include *Mini's First Time*, *What Still Remains*, and *John Henry*. Since 2017 he has starred in the hit television show *The Sinner*. Dohn also donates his time to philanthropic charities, he is the Vice President of The T.Y.M.E. Foundation/Boys to Men Enrichment Program centered in South Los Angeles which focuses on teaching young men in South Los Angeles leadership skills and community service.

CG (actor and writer)



CG is a rising star in the industry having most recently been praised for their performance in the hit Emmy and Golden Globe winning show *The Bear*. In 2021 they were cast in the popular show *Queer As Folk*, playing one of the main characters named Shar. They are also known for other projects such as *Pearl Motel* and *The Folly of Paris*.

EUGENE BYRD (actor and producer)



Eugene Byrd is an actor and producer with over 80 film and television credits. He is known for his roles in the Oscar nominated film *8 Mile* playing the character of Wink, and his role on the Emmy-nominated show *Bones* playing the role of Dr. Clark Edison. He has made appearances on shows like *Beverly Hills, 90210*, *American Horror Story: Asylum*, and *Arrow*. In addition to on-camera roles he has also done voiceover work, lending his talents to video games like *Battlefield Hardline*, *Gears of War*, *Call of Duty: Finest Hour*, and most recently in 2022 *Saints Row*, voicing the character of Eli.