

celebrate black history month with young audiences of houston

THEATRE & STORYTELLING PERFORMANCES

1. **The Gri Gri Tree** | African Storytelling | [JAWAD](#) & [Manning Mpinduzi-Mott](#) | Grades Prek-5 | 34m

The Gri Gri Tree is a dilemma tale, a story in which the audience provides the ending. Manning Mpinduzi-Mott tells the tale of 3 brothers who encounter a magical hunter and learn that a grigri can be many things, good and bad. Brother Jawad and his gourd banjo create a magical land and give voice to the grigri man. Together, these two griots take you on a journey through long ago African jungles where magic is the norm and only those who listen to the story can say what happens next.

Asynchronous (Pre-recorded): \$200 | Live Performance: \$600 (45m)

2. **The Griot Speaks** | African Storytelling | [Manning Mpinduzi-Mott](#) | Grades K-12 | 45m

The Griot Speaks is a collection of ancient African tales presented in the interactive fashion of long-ago African griots. Drumming and audience participation turn lessons on history and culture into fun excursions where audience members get caught up in the tale.

Live Performance (45m): \$450

3. **Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry** | [The Ensemble Theatre](#) | Grades 4-8 | 45m

Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And, too, it is Cassie's story - Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.

Asynchronous (Pre-recorded): \$150 | Live Performance: \$900

4. **Uncle Remus' Br'er Rabbit** | [The Ensemble Theatre](#) | Grades PreK-5 | 40m

A fun-packed combination of African-American folklore and American popular culture, Br'er Rabbit is family entertainment that focuses on the Golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Asynchronous (Pre-recorded): \$150 | Live Performance: \$900

5. **I, Barbara Jordan** | [The Ensemble Theatre](#) | Grades 4-12 | 45m
I, Barbara Jordan celebrates the remarkable life and career of the eminent Texas orator, legislator, and teacher. Barbara Jordan's journey is traced from her childhood in Houston's Fifth Ward neighborhood through her election to the United States' Congress. I, Barbara Jordan introduces students to the legendary Texas politician who was a model for the power of perseverance. 45 mins performance & 15 mins Q&A
Live Performance (45m): \$900

6. **ABIYOYO** | [Twanda's Theatre on Wheels](#) | Grades PreK-5 | 20m
Join Ms. Twanda as we compare and contrast African customs and traditions through this interactive performance. Audiences will dramatize a folktale story about a boy who plays the ukulele, a dad and his magic wand, and a hungry giant named Abiyoyo.
Asynchronous (Pre-recorded): \$150 | Live Performance (45m): \$300

7. **Sister Rosa Parks, The Bus Stops Here** | Theatre | [Jean Donatto](#) | Grades 3-12 | 45m
Actress/storyteller Jean Donatto takes a balanced look at the turbulent civil rights era in the late 1950s Montgomery, Alabama. As Rosa Parks, Jean will describe the "incident" that aroused people of all races to begin the struggle for fair and equal treatment and inform your students about the social climate preceding, during, and following it.
Live Virtual (non-in person) Performance (45m): \$375

8. **Bessie Smith** | Theatre | [Jean Donatto](#) | Grades 7-12 | 45m
Acclaimed actress Jean Donatto portrays Miss Bessie Smith "holding court" with students. Miss Smith presents living conditions in the cities where she traveled and performed during her rise to stardom. The focus of this presentation is the 1923-1925 period, considered to be the beginning and apex of Smith's career as a recording artist.
Live Virtual (non-in person) Performance (45m): \$375

9. **Outspoken Bean Redefines Poetry** | [Outspoken Bean](#) | Grades 3-12 | 45m
Internationally recognized performance poet Outspoken Bean redefines literacy for students through the art of spoken word/slam poetry while educating them on social and cultural issues. For the past several years, Bean has been performing poetry competitively across the country and in Texas
Live Performance (45m): \$450

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

10. **King Rhythm** | [Voices from the Past](#) | Grades 1-5 | 45m

Join soprano/storyteller Hope Shiver and percussionist David Keepman on a fantastic ride through African American history via popular musical styles. Selected audience members will join in the fun, donning costumes and pantomime, becoming loveable characters Bluesy, Jazzy, and others. The program features lots of audience participation and is a year-round hit!

Live Performance (45m): \$335

11. **Sojourner!** | [Voices from the Past](#) | Grades 5-12 | 45m

Hope Shiver illustrates through story and song the life of famous abolitionist Sojourner Truth. Her sensitive portrayal, often using Sojourner's own songs and speeches to bring the story to life, inspires students to learn how laws are made and to explore the plight of slaves in the North while clapping and chanting to the familiar spirituals of the time. Performance topics include the abolitionist movement, the women's movement, the Civil War, and President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Live Performance (45m): \$335

12. **"Git" On Board! The Life of Harriet Tubman** | [Voices from the Past](#) | Grades K-12 | 45m

Take a musical ride on the Underground Railroad to meet the heroic Harriet Tubman, and learn of her early experiences as a slave. Discover how Tubman led fellow freedom-seeking slaves to hiding places on their way to safety in the North. Hope Shiver interweaves Tubman's poignant story with spirituals and work songs, allowing students to discover the lyrics of such songs as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Git on Board," which often contained hidden messages for slaves preparing to escape to freedom. David Keepman provides musical accompaniment as students chant, clap, cheer, and rejoice in experiencing the famous railroad.

Live Performance (45m): \$335

13. **Kings and Queens of Jazz** | [Jazz Houston](#) | Grades 3-12 | 45m

These concerts for Young People will take you on a musical journey of some of Jazz's most iconic figures: Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Count Basie. Hear the stories and anecdotes from their colorful lives, their individual impacts on Jazz, and enjoy the timeless sounds that made each of them American Jazz treasures. Each of these concerts can be extended to 90 minutes and feature each artist individually.

Live Performance (45m): \$950

DANCE PERFORMANCES

14. **Dance performances with Dance Afrikana** | [Dance Afrikana](#) | K-12 | 45m
[Dancing through Diaspora](#)

This program will explore the African Diaspora and the influence of Africa throughout the Americas. It will begin with a dance that features traditional African dances from South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, and Nigeria. It will then travel throughout various places throughout the Diaspora including the United States, Brazil, and Trinidad featuring tap dance, Hip Hop, Samba, and Soca, respectively.

[Dancing through the Harlem Renaissance](#)

This program is designed to teach students about the Harlem Renaissance, a very important Arts movement for African Americans and the United States as a whole. It will feature jazz and tap dancing as well as stories about and the writings of some of the era's most important artists including Langston Hughes, Josephine Baker, and Zora Neale Hurston. It will also include audience participation.

[Carnival Traditions in the Diaspora](#)

This program will explore Carnival's importance to the cultures of Africa, Louisiana, Brazil, and Trinidad. Students will learn about the African masquerade as well as its influence on the Diaspora. It will feature an opening of traditional African masquerades, followed by a jazz New Orleans Mardi Gras piece, Brazilian Samba piece, and Caribbean carnival dance. Students will also learn how to Samba dance.

[Moving through African American History](#)

This program will take students on a journey through African American history, performed through dance. It will begin with a traditional African dance and go on to explore the African American historical and contemporary experience through African American dance styles.

[Live Performance \(45m\): \\$800 \(each\)](#)

WORKSHOPS

15. **Harlem Renaissance Painters** | [Judy Malone-Stein](#) | Grades 3-12 | 45m
"Harlem was in Vogue" (1919 - 1929) wrote Langston Hughes. Poets, novelists, dramatists and musicians were joined by painters and sculptors in an outpouring that established Harlem as the International capital of Black Culture. From that movement, Harlem's writers gained recognition but the visual artists remain virtually unknown. This can be done with any age group and can be offered as a one class retrospective of the three primary artists or a residency that studies the details of each artist full bodies of work as they were developed and influenced by the Harlem era and the period of history. This is a hands-on classroom workshop.

[In-Person, Pre-Recorded, or Live \(virtual\) Workshop \(45m\): \\$115](#)