

# The Purple Flower and Other Plays

by Dawn Thornton | Feb 20, 2015 | The Reviews | 0 comments

The Purple Flower and Other Plays

Written by various playwrights

Directed by James Vesce

Anne R. Belk Theater – Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts

February 20 – February 22

Racially charged and emotionally laden with words that would make anyone cringe, “The Purple Flower and Other Plays” presented by UNC-Charlotte’s Department of Theatre was something to witness. This presentation of four shorts and a few vignettes in between, takes a look at anywhere and nowhere, Us and White Devils, a misplaced pimp and a prostitute, the perished and the living, and a gang against gays.

Written by various black playwrights spanning from the 1920’s to the late 1970’s, each short delves into the idea of racism, crime, and the unjust treatment and even emasculation of black men. Since each performance is strictly for adults, f-bombs and n-words are tossed around like hot potatoes and one must have ultra thick skin to sit still amidst it all and not get burned. The underlying idea throughout each act is clear, the state of the black race as presented, is in need of an overhaul because black lives do matter.

The jazz ensemble hidden behind a sheer black screen was undoubtedly the most amazing feature of the night. I easily felt that I stepped inside a juke joint from decades past. Coupled with the spoken word artist, the dancers perched high on scaffolds and animated tappers moving up and down the aisles, you hardly miss the nonexistent set that simply changed props occasionally. The small space that actually seemed to be strategically positioned onstage was just intimate enough for the audience to get up close and personal with the performers and invest themselves in

the affected lives, if only for a few minutes.

The cast did a phenomenal job in bringing to life what were forgotten but important pieces of another generation. Kudos to the department for pushing the envelope and making a few people uncomfortably entertained.

For more information visit [UNC Charlotte's College of Arts & Architecture](#).

## The Reviews

Dance Theatre of Harlem is back and better

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Wicked

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The Hip Hop Nutcracker

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A Soulful Noel delivered a musical evening

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The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical

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Ragtime is at the right time

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The Sound of Music

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Beauty and the Beast

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Motown is THE musical

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Annie the musical

## Artsy Extras

nuVoices is back!

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Teri Hansen of The Sound of Music

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Annie's Garrett Deagon Loves Alter Ego Role

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A Woman of No Importance

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Moving Poets 6/15 in Motion

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Moving Poets: 6/15 Explores Humanity and Nature

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