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Contact: Cat Brooks 510-506-2341

cbrooks@bamdbcdc.com

LOWER BOTTOM PLAYAZ PRESENTS AUGUST WILSON'S KING HEDLEY II

Oakland's oldest Black theater presents a tale of Black struggle and survival

(Oakland, CA) - *King Hedley II* by August Wilson continues the Lower Bottom Playaz's (LBP) **26th Season: CHOICES**. Making her way through Wilson's Century Cycle for the second time, Dr. ayodele nzinga brings an American Tragedy to the stage in *King Hedley II*, a work of epic emotional and historic proportion that explodes across the stage.

After seven years in prison, the protagonist, King Hedley II, returns to his family and community, determined to take control of his life. However, his hopes conflict with the stories he has been telling himself as he insists on planting seeds where nothing can grow. Set against the backdrop of 1985 Pittsburgh during Reaganomics and the onset of the crack cocaine epidemic, the play begs the question: "If you take all of the options away from people, what option do people have but to figure out best they can how to survive?" The answer plays out in a myriad of ways as the characters in Hedley hustle the day, the system, and each other for some cash and a come-up, but not without consequence.

Dr. ayodele nzinga, LBP's founding artistic director and Oakland's Poet Laureate, is directing. She says, "King Hedley is an echo that reminds us of where we have been in our quest for even ground. In the rocky soil of this American sojourn, we have planted dreams and hoped for harvest. And she asks, "What's that come to?"

Also explored in Hedley are the hopes and dreams of mothers who plant seeds of legacy in their children, only to have the plants violently ripped up and discarded. What sacrifices do mothers make for their children? What burdens do mothers carry for their children? If a mother cannot control her child's destiny, is she still a mother?

Dr. Nzinga adds, "This is a tale of prophecy, fate & transformation in a time that calls for our very best to find the keys to the kingdom. King Hedley is looking for a way into a life where the wind can blow for him." Come and help us measure the cost.

More details are available on the [Lower Bottom Playaz](http://www.lowerbottomplayaz.com) site.

KING HEDLEY previews November 8, runs November 14-30th with performances Fridays at 7:00 pm, Saturdays at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased [here](http://www.lowerbottomplayaz.com). All performances are at BAM House (1540 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612). For more information, please visit <http://www.lowerbottomplayaz.com>. Reservations: 1-510 332-1319, leave a message.