



DIRECTED BY **RUBEN SANTIAGO-HUDSON**

MARK**TAPER**FORUM | **NOV 22-DEC 29** | THE MUSIC CENTER

**CENTER
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GROUP**



AUGUST WILSON'S JITNEY



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“THERE’S NO IDEA IN THE WORLD THAT IS NOT CONTAINED BY BLACK LIFE. I COULD WRITE FOREVER ABOUT THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA.” —August Wilson

August Wilson’s *Jitney* transports us to the world of Becker’s Car Service in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is 1977 in the city’s Hill District, and taxi companies refuse to serve this predominantly black neighborhood. The residents are forced to rely on unlicensed cabs, or jitneys. The jitney drivers at Becker’s take calls from a pay phone and use their own cars as taxis to provide affordable transportation for the community. As drivers in the station come and go, they joke, argue, and reveal their dreams, hopes, and challenges to each other. Meanwhile their boss, Becker, is about to see his son, Booster, for the first time in 20 years. Booster has been released from prison and is returning home looking for a second

chance. We also meet Youngblood and Rena, a young couple struggling to create a better life who don’t always agree on how to make that happen. When real estate investors threaten to board up the business, the citizens of the Hill District must decide whether to stand by and allow this to happen or to stand up for themselves and their community.

August Wilson is considered the most accomplished black playwright in the United States. *Jitney* is one of his 10 plays—one for each decade of the 20th century—that explore the complexity of the African American experience. This collection of works became known as *The American Century Cycle*.



Student flyer written by Lynn Clark.

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