



Talvin Wilks: Who gets to define black theater?

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Read Talvin Wilks' thoughtful reflection about the history of black theater in America:

The Tradition of Defining a Tradition

[which kicked off a week of blog posts about theater & communities of color on n HowlRound](#), a journal of the Theater Commons.

Wilks offers an overview of the people, organizations and ideas behind a vital American tradition that is worth celebrating even as it is debated and analyzed. A conversation well worth having.

Excerpt:

"...who gets to define black theater?"

The definition lies in the recognition and understanding of a broad and illustrious history and not in one single answer. It is a history that should be studied and known because it reflects and coincides with the challenges of race and identity in America, a microcosm of the larger scale social debate and contemplation. ... If nothing else, what is remarkable is that these contemplations and queries document a wonderful tradition of discourse that stands as a vibrant reflection of the resilience of the African American artist in the American theater.

<http://classic.howlround.com/the-tradition-of-defining-a-tradition/>