

Theatre UNO ONLINE AUDITIONS Fall 2020

Lisa B. Thompson's *Single Black Female* directed by Richon May
&
Eugene O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones* directed by Bill Ware

Prepare a Contemporary Monologue of 1 ½ to 2 minutes in length (*the same monologue can be used for BOTH shows*)

The Emperor Jones also **REQUIRES a choreographed movement audition**. The video of the audition choreography sequence can be found at: [this shared folder](#)

If you have questions about the choreography, contact Kalo: kgow@uno.edu

If you have questions about accessing the folder, contact Diane: dbaas@uno.edu

AUDITION INFORMATION REQUIRED:

Upload a digital headshot (or a headshot selfie) with YOUR NAME as the TITLE + Type, save & upload a Word/Text/PDF document with YOUR NAME as the TITLE answering the following questions - upload them to Flipgrid at: <https://flipgrid.com/93c579f5>

- 1) Your Name:
- 2) Cellphone #:
- 3) Email:
- 4) Are you a current UNO student? If yes, what year & program/major?
- 5) Are you currently 18 years old or older?
- 6) Are you auditioning for both shows? If no, then for which one?
- 7) Briefly describe your theatre, TV, film & other performance experience + relevant training

AUDITIONS:
Friday, 21 August
Zoom 4:00 – 5:00PM

The Zoom meeting address for **auditions** is:

<https://uno.zoom.us/j/98748774408?pwd=V0I5a2xJcnJuOGdZUS9nck9CbVJrdz09>

OR, due before 6:00PM on Friday, 21 August, you may submit a recorded audition as follows:

- 1) Slate (your name + cell #)
- 2) Title of play from which you have taken the monologue
- 3) Author of play
- 4) Character name
- 5) Perform the monologue
- 6) Perform the choreographed movement sequence
- 7) Save the recording(s) with YOUR NAME as the TITLE
- 8) Type, save & upload a Word/Text/PDF document with YOUR NAME as the TITLE answering the audition questionnaire (*see below*)
- 9) Upload to Flipgrid at: <https://flipgrid.com/93c579f5>

Directors will contact the actors being called back by 10:00PM on Friday, 21 August (*check both email & your cell!*)

Scenes are available on the OneDrive: [HERE](#) (*same drive as the audition choreography sequence*), but there might also be cold reads required.

**CALL BACKS:
Saturday, 22 August
Zoom 10:00AM – 1:00PM**

The Zoom meeting address for **call backs** is:

<https://uno.zoom.us/j/96523842376?pwd=RIErTTBvOVFKcWNldUlnS3ZrUHVJQT09>

CAST INFORMATION: *Single Black Female* by Lisa B. Thompson

Synopsis:

Single Black Female is a two-woman show with rapid-fire comic vignettes that explore the lives of thirty-something African American middleclass women as they search for love, clothes & dignity in a world that fails to recognize them amongst a parade of stereotypical images. SBF 1, an English literature professor, & SBF 2, a corporate lawyer, keep each other balanced as they face their fears of rejection, hopes for romance & reminisce about black girlhood wounds. While embodying a variety of characters, the girlfriends discuss the absurdities of interracial dating, the lure of recreational shopping & the merits of college reunions for bolstering one's self-esteem. After reviewing their escapades in past relationships & confessing their own mounting anxieties about commitment & the possibility of motherhood, the pair realize their best chance at love may be found closer than they ever imagined.

Cast Breakdown:

One of the following will be the thesis role for Danielle James

SBF 1 Female, Playable age range of 30s, Race/Ethnicity: Black, African, Caribbean, or African-American

A mildly androgynous literature professor with dreadlocks, a bookish, style & clothing accented with "Afrocentric" accessories. She wears Dansko clogs & eccentric eyeglasses.

SBF 2 will be the thesis role for Danielle James

She's an attorney who sports a flowing perm or hair weave & wears sexy business suits. SBF 1's best friend, confidante & alter ego.

CAST INFORMATION: *The Emperor Jones* by Eugene O'Neill

Synopsis:

The Emperor Jones is about an African-American, a Pullman porter who escapes to an island in the West Indies. In two years, Jones makes himself "Emperor" of the place. A native tried to shoot Jones, but the gun misfired; thereupon Jones announced that he was protected by a charm & that only silver bullets could harm him. When the play begins, he has been Emperor long enough to amass a fortune by imposing heavy taxes on the islanders & carrying on all sorts of large-scale graft. Rebellion is brewing. The islanders are whipping up their courage to the fighting point by calling on the local gods & demons of the forest. From the deep of the jungle, the steady beat of a big drum sounded by them is heard, increasing its tempo towards the end of the play & showing the rebels' presence dreaded by the Emperor. It is the equivalent of the heart-beat which assumes a higher & higher pitch; while coming closer it denotes the premonition of approaching punishment & the climactic recoil of internal guilt of the hero; he wanders & falters in the jungle, present throughout the play with its primeval terror & darkness. The play is virtually a monologue for its leading character, Jones, in a Shakespearean range from regal

power to the depths of terror & insanity, comparable to *Lear* or *Macbeth*. Scenes 2 to 7 are from the point of view of Jones, & no other character speaks. The first & last scenes are essentially a framing device with a character named Smithers, a white trader who appears to be part of illegal activities. In the first scene, Smithers is told about the rebellion by an old woman, & then has a lengthy conversation with Jones. In the last scene, Smithers converses with Lem, the leader of the rebellion. Smithers has mixed feelings about Jones, though he generally has more respect for Jones than for the rebels. During the final scene, Jones is killed by a silver bullet, which was the only way that the rebels believed Jones could be killed, & the way in which Jones planned to kill himself if he was captured.

Cast Breakdown:

Brutus Jones, Emperor *will be the thesis role for Justin Davis*

Henry Smithers, a Cockney Trader

A profoundly racist white Cockney trader who appears to be a friend to Jones, but looks upon him with disgust. Smithers warns Jones of the uprising, but is an evil character, who always sides with whoever has power. Will also be playing another non-speaking role or two.

An Old Native Woman

The old woman is only in the first scene, but plays a significant role in the narrative. Will also be playing a fear, slave, and other possible non-speaking parts.

Lem, a Native Chief

Was the leader before Jones' arrival, and is the leader of the insurrection which finally kills Jones. Will also be playing a fear, slave, and other possible non-speaking parts.

Soldiers, Adherents of Lem

The Little Formless Fears (6-8, M & F)

Non-speaking. Shapeless apparitions who appear at the edge of the forest as a precursor of what Jones will find in the forest. Will be cast in multiple roles.

Jeff

Non-speaking. The first man Jones killed, appears as an apparition. Will be cast in multiple roles.

The Convicts (3-4, M)

Non-speaking. The convicts are apparitions that make up a chain gang Jones escaped from. Will be cast in multiple roles.

The Prison Guard

Non-speaking. The second man Jones killed in order to escape the chain gang, appears as an apparition. Will be cast in multiple roles.

The Planters/Wives (4-5, M & F)

Non-speaking. These characters make up the group that attends the slave auction, all appear as apparitions. Will be cast in multiple roles.

The Auctioneer

The Slaves (4-5, M & F)

Non-speaking. The slaves appear as apparitions at the slave auction. Will be cast in multiple roles.

The Congo Witch-Doctor

The witch-doctor is a figment of the emperor's fevered imagination. He is an image of Africa, a spiritual shaman who wants to sacrifice Jones. Will need to dance and sing/chant.

The Crocodile God

Will need to dance or move well.

Kalo will be the dialect & movement coach for *The Emperor Jones*. There will be private coaching sessions in addition to rehearsals.

Stage Managers are wanted!

Contact the directors, Diane Baas, David Hoover or Kalo Gow