

Conversations with August Wilson (Literary Conversations)

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In little more than twenty years, playwright August Wilson (1945-2005) completed a ten-play cycle depicting African American life in the twentieth century, with each play taking place in a different decade. Two of the plays-*Fences* (1987) and *The Piano Lesson* (1990)-were awarded the Pulitzer Prize, and seven of them received the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for best American play. Wilson was indisputably the most significant American playwright to emerge since Edward Albee.

Conversations with August Wilson collects a selection of the many interviews Wilson gave from 1984 to 2004. In the interviews, the playwright covers at length and in detail his plays and his background. He comments as well on such subjects as the differences between African Americans and whites, his call for more black theater companies, and his belief that African Americans made a mistake in assimilating themselves into the white mainstream. He also talks about his major influences, what he calls his "four B's"-the blues, writers James Baldwin and Amiri Baraka, and painter Romare Bearden. Wilson also discusses his writing process and his multiple collaborations with director Lloyd Richards.

Throughout, Wilson is candid, expansive, and provocative, displaying in these exchanges his willingness to confront controversial topics just as he did in his plays.

Jackson R. Bryer is professor emeritus of English at the University of Maryland. Mary C. Hartig teaches English at Montgomery College and is the coeditor, with Jackson R. Bryer, of *Facts on File Companion to American Drama*.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher
These interviews with the late Pulitzer Prize-winner

* Gather one of the first collections of interviews with the playwright of The Piano Lesson, Seven Guitars, Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning Fences.

* Span 1984 to 2004, covering his early successes as well as the conclusion of his ten-play cycle

About the Author
Jackson Bryer is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Maryland. Mary Hartig teaches English at Montgomery College and is editor of several literary publications

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Stewart:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a publication your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand than other is high. In your case who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this specific Conversations with August Wilson (Literary Conversations) book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

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