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# The Colored Museum



## Synopsis

The Colored Museum has electrified, discomforted, and delighted audiences of all colors, redefining our ideas of what it means to be black in contemporary America. Its eleven "exhibits" undermine black stereotypes old and new, and return to the facts of what being black means. " Mr. Wolfe is the kind of satirist who takes no prisoners. The shackles of the past have been defied by Mr. Wolfe's fearless humor, and it's a most liberating revolt!" - Frank Rich, The New York Times; "Brings forth a bold new voice that is bound to shake up blacks and whites with separate-but-equal impartiality. True satire." - Jack Kroll, Newsweek.

## Book Information

Paperback: 62 pages

Publisher: Grove Press; 1st edition (May 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802130488

ISBN-13: 978-0802130488

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #88,103 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #212 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > United States](#) #17664 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > United States](#)

## Customer Reviews

I was fortunate enough to see "The Colored Museum" when it was off Broadway in 1987. It's amazing, though some might find it insensitive, especially the skit ("exhibit") called "Git on Board" which is a satire of a transAtlantic slave voyage. Other highlights include "The Hairpiece" which has two wigs, a straight one & a "nappy" one, trying to convince a woman to wear one of them. The best piece in the whole collection is a satire of Lorraine Hansberry's "Raisin in the Sun" (& the overacted movie version of the play starring Danny Glover) called "The Last Mama on the Couch" play. If anyone has a tape of the PBS presentation of "The Colored Museum," I would appreciate being able to get a copy of it because mine got cut off.

George C. Wolfe's play details the African-American experience, shocking the reader more and more. This shock is meant to portray the outrage and sheer madness that the situation of blacks in

America provokes. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, sometimes electrifying and political, this play is a masterwork that attacks various issues in African-American life.

I loved this play. I've checked every year since 1991 on PBS, during Black History month. It hasn't been shown again? I would love to get a copy on VHS or DVD; contact me at [disney3dee@yahoo.com](mailto:disney3dee@yahoo.com). I want to share it with my children.

The creative and imaginative pen of Geroge C. Wolfe "paints" a canvas of honesty through humor and reflection. How often do we get to laugh at ourselves while educating yourself and others? I have used *The Colored Museum* in teaching literature to my urban students and it provided a vehicle that allowed them to express a deeper understanding of themselves. Very seldom does that happen.

I can certainly understand with a cast of only 5 for a myriad of roles and the visual delight of a live performance could make for a memorable night of theater. But "If it's not on the page, it's not on the stage" as the old saying goes. The text however is redundant and derivative. Genet's *"The Blacks"*, Shange's *"For Colored Girls..."* plays with similar themes and in a similar presentation style are earlier and far superior works!

I actually saw this script come to life as I read it. I would love to play a role in this production one day! The talking wig heads were hilarious

It's a very interesting book. It contains different vignettes that give an interesting imagery of what's occurring in the play.

My High School students will be performing this in March! Excellent choice!

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