

Concept Statement

For this production of Joe Turner's Come and Gone, the lighting will help illustrate how the world looks to African-Americans in the early 1900's as they attempt to find their place in a society that still rejects them by establishing a cold and dark world that promotes a sense of unknowing. Smoke from factories filling the morning air that diminishes the characters line of sight and gas lighting fixtures within the boarding house that leaves the corners of rooms masked in mystery will help further the idea of not knowing what's to come. When the play features the African traditions that influence all of these characters, the lighting will begin to breathe color and life into this cold, dark world. A color palette inspired by traditional African clothing will be composed of bright and saturated reds, yellows, and blues. These colors will be most notable during the ritualistic moments of the play, such as when the characters take part in the Juba and when Loomis begins to have visions.

The use of vivid colors will help inject the world of this play with life but also with hope that these characters can find a way to both embrace their past as well as look towards a brighter future. The journey of self-discovery resembles a long, winding road and as each character goes on this journey, the sunlight breaking through the trees will be their guiding light. The textures of leaves and branches will be in constant motion to illustrate a breeze that helps push the characters in the right direction. Fall colors of ambers, burnt oranges, and cherry reds will not only show a changing of seasons but also show a change within these characters as they have the chance to carve out a place for themselves in this world.