

The Houghton Festival Readings are named for **James Houghton**



James Houghton, the Richard Rodgers Director of the Drama Division at The Juilliard School from 2006 until his death in 2016. Under Mr. Houghton's leadership, the Division nurtured a strong ethos of the artist as citizen through community-wide meetings with artists, activists, and politicians. He instituted the creation of the Drama Division's Master of Fine Arts in the fall of 2012 and further integrated the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program within the Division. Mr. Houghton was also the Founding Artistic Director of Signature Theatre, dedicated to seasons supporting a playwright's body of work. In 2015, Mr. Houghton was honored with the TCG Visionary Leadership Award and the Obie Award for Sustained Achievement. He was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 2018.

Tony Kushner on James Houghton:

"He was smart and passionate. He built his singular legacy, founded on his devotion to playwrights' work and to playwrights themselves, with a uniquely sweet, generous spirit; with unflagging optimism; and with grace."

The Juilliard School Drama Division

Evan Yionoulis, Richard Rodgers Director

Richard Feldman, Associate Director

Katherine Hood, Managing Director

and its

Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program

Marsha Norman and **David Lindsay-Abaire**, Co-Directors

present

the second of two 2018

Houghton Festival Readings

The North Star

written by Donja R. Love

directed by Malika Oyetimein

**The Pershing Square Signature Center
Ford Foundation Studio Theatre**

December 8, 2018 at 7:00pm

December 9, 2018 at 2:30pm

The Houghton Festival Readings are named for Jim Houghton, the former Richard Rodgers Director of the Drama Division and founder of New York's Signature Theatre, who dedicated his professional life to supporting writers in developing a body of work.

These staged readings, written by our second-year playwright fellows, have an abbreviated 29-hour rehearsal process and are cast with a mix of members of the graduating acting class, Juilliard alumni, and guest artists.

Along with monthly Play Lab readings, quarterly PlayTime sessions, the September Playwrights Festival of workshop productions and end of the year scene showings, these opportunities for Drama Division actors and playwrights to work together on brand new work foster collaborative relationships that will extend beyond their time in the school.

About the Playwright

Donja R. Love is an Afro-Queer playwright, poet, and filmmaker from Philadelphia. He's the recipient of the 2018 Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award, the 2017 Princess Grace Playwriting Award. He's the Lark's 2016 Van Lier New Voices Playwriting Fellow, The Playwrights Realm's 2016/2017 Writing Fellow, and the 2011 Philadelphia Adult Grand Slam Poetry Champion. His work has been developed at Manhattan Theatre Club, Rising Circle Theatre, The Lark, and The Playwrights Realm. He's had production at Manhattan Theatre Club (*Sugar in Our Wounds*) and Atlantic Theater Company (*Fireflies*). He's the co-host of Off Book, a podcast on Black theatre; and he's the co-founder of The Each-Other Project, an organization that helps build community and provide visibility, through art and advocacy, for LGBTQ People of Color. Select stage plays include: *The Love* Plays* and *soft*.

Cast

Dohneata Maechi Aharanwa†
 André Anthony Bowden
 Emmanuel Lee Edward Colston II†
 Rashaad Toney Goins†
 Hassan Brandon Mendez Homer
 North Lorenzo Jackson
 Kiki Jayme Lawson

Stage Directions Hannah Rose Caton

† Drama Division Alumni

Staff for *The North Star*

Production Stage Manager Cristina Sison
 Stage Manager Hannah Nathan*

Literary Manager Adam Szymkowicz
 Program Coordinator Jenny Lord
 Production Activities Manager James Gregg
 Director, Professional Apprenticeship Program Helen Taynton

* Member, Professional Apprenticeship Program