

THE USC SCHOOL OF THEATRE  
presents

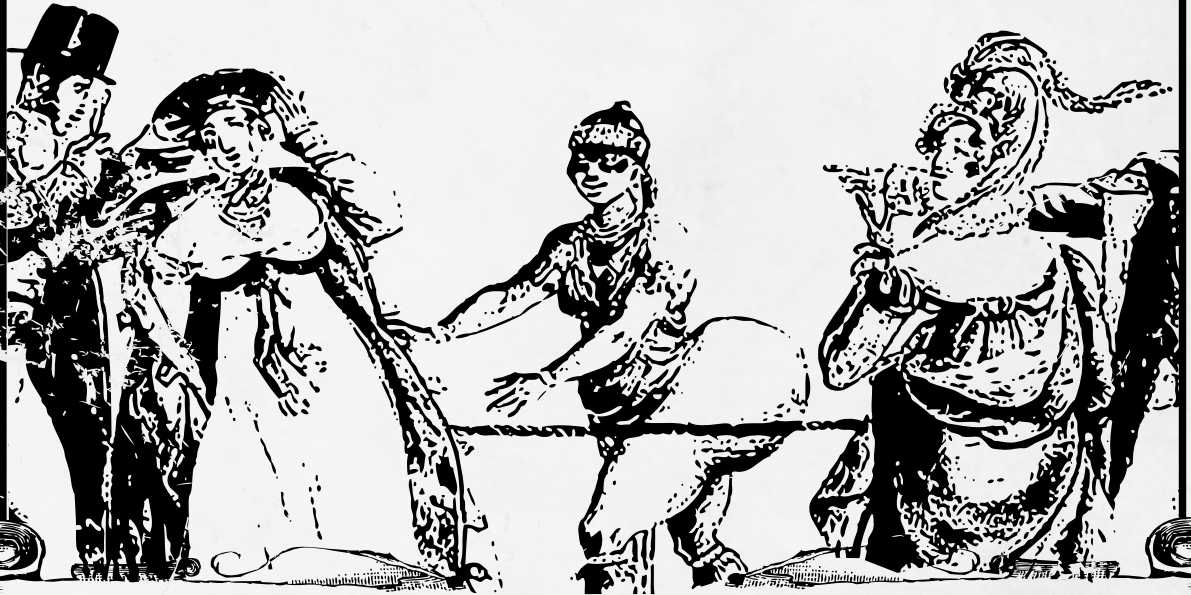
THE MOST WONDERFUL  
PHENOMENON OF NATURE

# VENUS

BY SUZAN-LORI PARKS

DIRECTED BY

ANITA DASHIELL-SPARKS



OCTOBER 7-10, 2010  
BING THEATRE

# FALL 2010 SCHEDULE

## RABBIT HOLE

By David Lindsay-Abaire  
Directed by Robert Bailey  
Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 / Scene Dock Theatre

## DRACULA

By Mac Wellman  
Directed by Paul Backer  
Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 / McClintock Theatre

## VENUS

By Suzan-Lori Parks  
Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks  
Oct. 7 – 10 / Bing Theatre

## BE AGGRESSIVE

By Annie Weisman  
Directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera  
Oct. 14 – 17 / Scene Dock Theatre

## IS HE DEAD?

By Mark Twain  
Adapted by David Ives  
Directed by Michael Keenan  
Oct. 21 – 24 / McClintock Theatre

## THE COLORED MUSEUM

By George C. Wolfe  
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel  
Oct. 28 – 31 / Scene Dock Theatre

## TOO CLEVER BY HALF

By Alexander Ostrovsky  
Directed by Brian Parsons  
Nov. 4 – 7 / Bing Theatre

## CABARET

Music by John Kander  
Lyrics by Fred Ebb  
Book by Joe Masteroff  
Directed by L. Zane  
Nov. 18 – 21 / Scene Dock Theatre

Fall Dance Concert:  
**AROUND THE WORLD  
IN 80 MINUTES\***  
Directed by Rafael Garcia  
Dec. 2 & 3 / Bing Theatre



## Ticket Information

### SHOWTIMES

(except where noted otherwise)  
Thursday & Friday at 7pm • Saturday at 2:30 & 8pm • Sunday at 2:30pm  
\*Thursday & Friday at 7pm

### TICKET PRICES

General Admission \$10 • Seniors or USC Faculty/Staff with ID \$8 • USC Students with ID \$5



For tickets and information: [www.usc.edu/spectrum](http://www.usc.edu/spectrum) • [arts@usc.edu](mailto:arts@usc.edu) • 213-740-2167

**THE USC SCHOOL OF THEATRE**

presents

# V E N U S

By Suzan-Lori Parks

with

Kyle Gundlach • Lisa Hori-Garcia • Arthur Keng • Shirley Norman

Joe Orrach • Pete Ploszek • Curtis Scott • Evan Lewis Smith

Lindsay Weisberg • Kate Williams • David Zurak

SCENIC DESIGN  
Kate Thomas

COSTUME DESIGN  
Ellen Choi

LIGHTING DESIGN  
Erin Anderson

SOUND DESIGN  
Drew Yerys

STAGE MANAGER  
Kelly Ridder

DIRECTED BY  
Anita Dashiell-Sparks

**October 7 – 10, 2010**

**Bing Theatre**

Produced by special arrangement with Theatre Communications Group.

**The USC School of Theatre dedicates this production to the late  
Suzanne Grossmann (1937 – 2010), wife of former Dean Robert Scales.**

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(In Order of Speaking)

The Negro Resurrectionist .....	Curtis Scott
The Man, Chorus .....	David Zurak
The Mother Showman, Chorus.....	Kate Williams
The Grade School Chum, Chorus .....	Kyle Gundlach
The Man's Brother, Chorus .....	Arthur Keng
The Young Man, Chorus .....	Evan Lewis Smith
The Father, Chorus .....	Pete Ploszek
The Mother, Chorus .....	Lisa Hori-Garcia
The Bride to Be, Chorus .....	Lindsay Weisberg
The Baron Docteur .....	Joe Orrach
The Girl, The Venus Hottentot.....	Shirley Norman

### **TIME**

1810.

### **PLACE**

South Africa; England; later Paris, France.

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

### **WARNING**

Please be advised that this production contains mature language, nudity, adult themes, sexual content and the smoking of herbal cigarettes and tobacco products. Tobacco is known to the state of California to cause cancer.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Dramaturgical Consultant.....	Anthony Sparks
Researcher, Assistant Dramaturg .....	Sandra Stanton
Vocal Coach .....	Natsuko Ohama
Projection Design .....	Tom Ontiveros
Fight Choreography .....	Edgar Landa
Choreography .....	Raquel Horsford Best
Scenic Artist .....	Vika Teplinskaya
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Karina Kletscher
Assistant Scenic Design .....	Ashley Koenig
Assistant Costume Design.....	Hannah Kim
Properties Assistant .....	Kelly Ridder
Crew .....	Rebecca Esquivel Narumi Nakayama Samantha Perez Sarah Marie Powell Molly Sharpe Lindsay Strongin Jude Wei Charles Weinberg Glenn Young

## **DIRECTOR'S BIO**

Anita Dashiell-Sparks has performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, regional theatres, including the Mark Taper Forum, and television/film, and holds an M.F.A. from NYU. She has received grants for her theatre-based community work and is the founder/director of Building Bridges. She has taught and directed for arts organizations including Voices of Our Children at The Los Angeles Cathedral and collaborated on *Acts of Love* at the Geffen Playhouse. She recently performed in *SICK* at the LATC. Anita is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Practice at USC and directed last season's *The Bluest Eye* (recognized with a 2010 NAACP Theatre Award) and *Intimate Apparel* (Fall 2009). Life: married to television writer/producer Anthony Sparks, mother to a beautiful 5-year-old daughter and energetic twin sons.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

*A play is a blueprint of an event: a way of creating and rewriting history through the medium of literature. Since history is a recorded or remembered event, theatre, for me, is the perfect place to "make" history – that is so much of African American history has been unrecorded, dismembered, washed out, one of my tasks as a playwright is to – through literature and the special strange relationship between theatre and real life – locate the ancestral burial ground, dig for bones, find bones, hear the bones sing, write it down.*

– Suzan-Lori Parks

As we began the journey of this play, these words from the playwright helped us to understand the historical, cultural, sociological, anthropological and medical contexts through which to approach and share this story with the audience – the story of Saartjie Bartman, a South African Woman, who was exhibited in a cage throughout Europe because she possessed a different physical shape and form. Her difference or "otherness" became the source of great fascination of explorers, natural scientists and anatomists who wanted to discover the missing link in the Great Chain of Being. As the dawn of science was searching for how to classify and organize nature, a hierarchy of living things unfolded to include their function or status within that society. This classification and dissection of one's body leads us to the following questions: How is one's body objectified and separated from our humanity? And how is one's humanity or life valued, celebrated or exploited through the outside gaze of the observer?

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Professor Lanita Jacobs, Ph.D; Professor Francille Rusan Wilson, Ph.D; Stephanie Shroyer.

## **DEAN**

Madeline Puzo

## **ASSOCIATE DEANS**

Professor Sharon Marie Carnicke  
Professor Velina Hasu Houston (Director Of Dramatic Writing)  
Associate Professor Of Theatre Practice Jack Rowe (Artistic Director)

## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**

Margo Apostolos (Director Of Dance)  
Meiling Cheng (Director Of Critical Studies)  
Don Llewellyn (Director Of Scenic Design)  
Oliver Mayer

## **ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**

Luis Alfaro  
Angus Fletcher  
Christina Haatainen-Jones (Director Of Design)  
Tom Ontiveros  
Sibyl Wickersheimer

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Andrei Belgrader  
Charlotte Cornwell  
Natsuko Ohama  
Brian Parsons (Director Of Undergraduate Acting)  
Andrew J. Robinson (Director Of MFA in Acting)

## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**

Paul Backer (Director Of Undergraduate Voice and Movement)  
Brent Blair (Director Of MA in Applied Theatre Arts)  
David Bridel (Associate Director Of MFA in Acting)  
Joseph Hacker  
Duncan Mahoney  
Stephanie Shroyer  
Eric Trules  
L. Zane

## **ASSISTANT PROFESSORS OF THEATRE PRACTICE**

Elsbeth M. Collins  
Anita Dashiell-Sparks  
Mary-Joan Negro

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Terry Gordon, Alexander Greschenko, Takeshi Hamagaki, Elizabeth Hogan, Paula Holt,  
Takeshi Kata, Michael Keenan, Mary K Klinger, Shishir Kurup, Edgar Landa, Rachael Lawrence,  
Joey Letteri, Vicki Lewis, Victoria Looseleaf, Helene Lorenz, Kevin McCorkle, Gates McFadden,  
Babette Markus, Loral Meade, Randy Mell, Jon Monastero, Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine,  
Jacqueline Pavlich, Leah Piehl, Debra Piver, Valerie Rachelle, Jon Lawrence Rivera,  
John Rubinstein, Mady Schutzman, Doug Tompos, Matt Walker, Julie Welch, Kenji Yamaguchi

Courtesy Joint Appointments: Thomas G. Cummings, Larry E. Greiner (Emeritus), Bruce Smith

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\* on leave of absence

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The USC School of Theatre would like to recognize the tremendous generosity of the following individuals and organizations whose cumulative giving has exceeded \$1 million. Their foresight and commitment to the arts and higher education have helped transform the School into a leader in theatre education:

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We are grateful to those who have given wisdom, talent, time and financial resources to the benefit of the School's Annual Fund, the Robert Redford Award for Engaged Artists and the School's other scholarship funds. The following members have made pledges of \$1,000 or more over the past year:

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## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Director Of Production: Elsbeth M. Collins  
Technical Director: Duncan Mahoney  
Assistant Technical Directors: Michael Etzrodt, Michael Wiskow  
Theatre Manager: CB Borger  
Assistant Theatre Managers: Fionnegan Justus Murphy, Christopher Paci  
Costume Shop Manager: Howard Schmitt  
Costume Technicians: Susan Hubler, Charlotte Stratton  
Properties Supervisor: Shannon Dedman

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Information Technology Manager: Prakash Shirke  
Internship & Visiting Artist Coordinator: Meghan Laughlin

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Admissions Counselor: Phyllis Lemons  
Scheduler: Helga Matthews  
Graduate Program Coordinator: Guadalupe Chavez  
Administrative Coordinator: Nathan Morrison

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