Directing *The Colored Museum* will serve as my Senior Honors Thesis for completing my University Honors Degree in May. In preparation for directing this show, I spent the Fall 2014 semester researching the play and facts for all references. The show runs 24-25 April 2015 in Simpkins Theatre; the 24 April performance will be presented as part of the Dealing With Difference Institute with a talk-back afterward.

*The Colored Museum* tells the story of the African-American experience in the USA from slavery up until now through eleven exhibits that explore the different facets of African American life. Through parody and satire, this play examines stereotypes and definitions of what it means to be black in America as well as the struggle to find identity within a culture that has not had its beauty/worth/potential fully acknowledged.

The most important aspect of this play is, even though its main subject is the black experience in America, it tackles issues everyone can relate to, including finding identity, living up to societal standards, and carrying on with the baggage of one’s past. When there is a problem within society, the best way to begin to find a solution is to identify the problem and talk about it. Theatre – and all art – is a response to the world around it, whether put bluntly or in metaphor. Even though this play was written in 1985, its message still rings true today: your past, no matter how ugly, will always be part of who you are.