Seven Guitars

By Angela Ash



August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* kicks off the 2015-2016 season at the Actors Theatre of Louisville with a bang!

Many theater-goers in the area will recall that Actors Theatre first showcased Wilson's work back in 2001, which has led to *Seven Guitars* being the sixth installment to be shown in the Century Play series, which includes ten in all... each one written about a different decade of the 20th

century.

Directed by Colman Domingo, this performance takes its audience on a musically-infused ride, highlighting the events in the life of a Blues musician that is struggling to reclaim his life after imprisonment on inflated charges. Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton, surrounded by neighbors and friends, dreams of a better life as they all share their fears, hopes and dreams.

The cast includes: Joniece Abbott-Pratt, Joaquina Kalukango, Forrest McClendon, J. Alphonse Nicholson, Harold Surratt, Sharon Washington and Bowman Wright.

Nicholson (Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton) and Abbott-Pratt (Vera Doston) spin their tale of love and loss with brilliant charisma... drawing the audience in with the sheer force of their emotions. Nicholson's voice is absolutely captivating during his acappella rendition of "The Lord's Prayer".

While this play really tugs at deep emotions, McClendon (Canewell) provides the light-hearted, often comedic inspiration that beautifully balances out this touching production.

"Seven Guitars" runs through September 20th. Tickets are available online or by calling the Actors Theatre box office at (502) 584-1205.