



# Artistic Composition

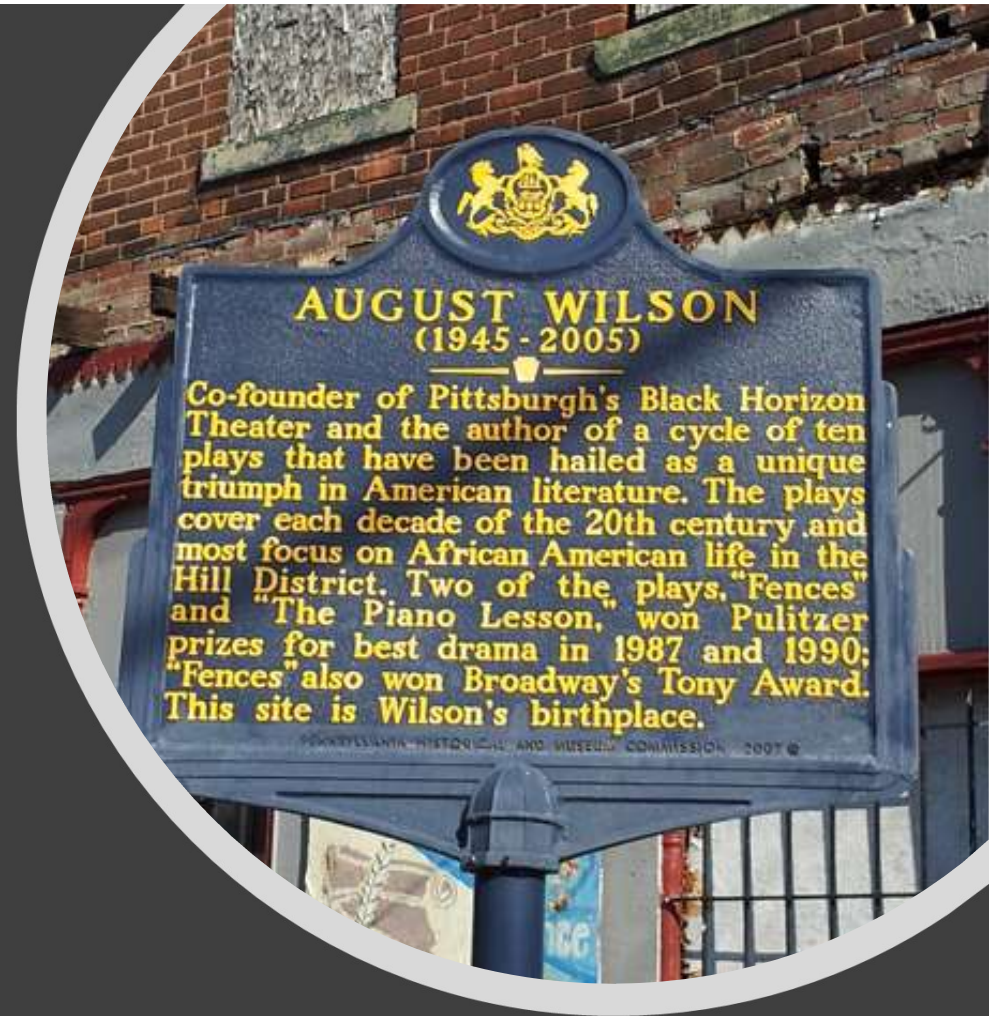
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# Genre

The genre that fascinates me the most is Feminist Theatre, because there are not enough women who are given the opportunity to write and produce realistic global stories like Child Marriages, Female Genital Mutilation and Access to Education. The one that might alarm me the most is Naturalism Theatre that entails creating real sets and plots, for example if a play required a scene where meat or food was involved the director would provide real meat and real fruits oppose to fake ones. The one that talks to me the most is realism, where the stories are based on family dysfunction, societal issues and racism.

# Genre

The genre that I chose is realism and the play I chose was August Wilson "The Piano Lesson" and it was published in 1990. The dramatic play is based on a dysfunctional family in 1936 Pittsburgh. The concept of the play is about the ancestral legacy of the family heirloom a piano that has African symbols that represent the family history during slavery.



# CHARACTERS

- Doaker Charles
  - Berniece and Boy Willie uncle
  - The owner of the house where the play is taking place
  - A railroad worker and the family historian.
- Boy Willie
  - Berniece boisterous brother, who is the antagonist that came from Mississippi with the hope of convincing her to sell the family heirloom the piano so that he could purchase the land that his ancestors work on as slaves.
- Lymon
  - Boy Willie's longtime friend, and water-melon seller, who supported Willie in his quest to buy the land. Lymon was also a fleeing felon, who wanted a new beginning in the north. He liked Berniece and tried to seduce her.

# CHARACTERS

- Berniece
  - Sister of Boy Willie, protagonist of the drama, and who accuses her brother of being an accomplice to her husband death, considers him a loudmouth and foolish in his quest to sell the family heirloom.
- Maretha
  - Berniece daughter, niece of Willie boy, who also secretly listens to some of the arguments between her mother and uncle about the piano.
- Avery Brown
  - A pastor, who like Berniece and wants berniece to sell him the piano, work as an elevator man, and his happy that he left rural South for better job opportunities. The pastor who Berniece ask to do an exorcism to chase the ghost of Sutter's.
- Wining Boy
  - Doaker's brother, a former recording star who love to gamble, schemes and loves to talk about his past escapades, very comical and was the peace-maker between the brother and sister conflict.
- Grace
  - A young woman whom Willie and Lymon each liked.

# PLOT PART 1

“The Piano Lesson” is based in a house owned by a retired rail-road worker named Doaker Charles in 1936 Pittsburgh. In the house, there is a piano that has significant meaning to the occupants of the house. Berniece’s brother came to visit with the intention of trying to convince her to sell the family heirloom, the “piano”. Berniece and the rest of the family members disagreed with Boy Willie’s quest to sell the family heirloom. The male relatives of the Charles family sat around the kitchen to recall all of the past events that happened in their individual lives. For instance, Wining Boy recalled that he heard that Boy Willie, his friend Lymon and Berniece’s husband Crawley stole some wood. The wood came from some whites and that event led into the murder of Berniece’s husband, her brother and his friend went to Parchman prison for stealing.





## PLOT PART 2

The men spoke about the harshness of working on the prison farm and the songs that they sang in order to get through the day. Doaker was the family historian who told the other family members about the piano's "blood stain" legacy. Berniece was the protector of the family's legacy, and truly believed that the ghost named Sutter inhibited her family home. Berniece was perplexed by why her brother wanted to sell their only family heirloom that connected the Charles family to their ancestor's history. For some reason or another, Boy Willie believed that the sale of the piano would erase the suffering and harsh treatment that his ancestors endured while working on the Sutter plantation as slaves.

## PLOT PART 3

Berniece asked her friend Avery to come and bless the home and he did. During the exorcism, Avery wanted to bless the piano, but Boy Willie resisted and that angered Berniece so much that she got her gun. Even though Boy Willie knew the history of the piano, he still insisted again that this was his only chance to gain some economic empowerment if he sold the piano. Berniece had her own “spiritual awakening” moment when Sutter the ghost reappeared and begun wrestling with her brother. Berniece knew what she had to do to save her brother from the Sutter ghost, and went over to the piano and began playing and saying “I want you to help me” several times and the ghost left. After that eventful night, Berniece and her brother Boy Willie reconciled their family conflict about the piano. This drama, “The Piano Lesson” has realistic life lessons to be learnt about the disempowerment of the African American community through economic and social service policies.





Can you pinpoint your ancestors here?



LYNCHING IN AMERICA:  
CONFRONTING THE LEGACY  
OF RACIAL TERROR

Anyone of these men could have become a victim of lynching.

<https://lynchinginamerica.eji.org/report/>