

# The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God

By Djanet Sears

Directed by Imani Bibuld and Achille Ricca

General Interest Meetings

Monday January 28th, during X blocking in the Film Lecture Hall

Thursday January 31st, after X-Block in in 171

Audition Workshop: **Monday February 11th 2:30-4:00**

Audition Workshop: **Thursday February 14th 3:30 to 5**

Auditions: February 25-26th

Callbacks: February 27th (3:00PM to 6:00PM)

\*It is **not** mandatory to attend the general interest meetings or audition workshops in order to audition, they will simply give you a better understanding of the process

Questions? Email the directors at [adventuresdirectors19@gmail.com](mailto:adventuresdirectors19@gmail.com)

*All auditioners must fill out the information form at [Adventures Information Form](#)*

<https://goo.gl/forms/KXj9YeAxKEIp14Ku2>

Hello auditioner!

Thank you for your interest in the *Adventures* process. We are incredibly excited to see your audition. Please read this packet carefully, as it will help you to understand what we are looking for during your audition and explain what you need to prepare. You will need to fill out and sign the forms included in the packet and hand it to the stage manager at the time of your audition. You also must fill out all the information at the link above before you sign up for an audition slot.

If you have any questions about the show, the audition process, or anything else, please don't hesitate to email us at [adventuresdirectors19@gmail.com](mailto:adventuresdirectors19@gmail.com).

Hope to see you there!

Imani and Achille

### Before You Audition:

● **Read the Play** - All actors are strongly encouraged to read *Adventures* prior to auditioning. This will allow you to make more informed choices in your audition as well as understand the context of your monologue.

● **Practice your Monologue** - You should know the ins and outs of your monologue by the time you audition. Practice it as much as you can and learn the meaning behind the text. Try to get as much feedback as possible- a great way to get feedback on monologues will be the audition workshop on February 11 or February 14. At the workshop, we will provide you valuable feedback on your audition as well as give you tips on how to enter and present yourself at an audition. See Mr. Brown if you would like to work with him on your audition, or feel free to email him at:

[adam\\_brown@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:adam_brown@newton.k12.ma.us).

● **Sign Up for your Audition** - Make sure to sign up for an audition slot on the callboard

outside of room 171 and fill out the online form <https://goo.gl/forms/KXj9YeAxKElpl4Ku2>

## Auditions and Callbacks:

Each auditioner is required to memorize one of the provided monologues from the show. During your audition, you may be given some feedback and asked to perform one of the monologues again. Be prepared to be asked to read another monologue from the packet. We won't expect it to be memorized but look it over beforehand to have a small understanding of the objectives and context. Above all, relax and have fun in your audition.

For callbacks, you will read a variety of slides (snip-it scenes) with other auditioners. You will also be required to learn a brief choreography combination so come prepared and in comfortable clothing. The cast list will be up after callbacks.

## What We Are Looking For:

We are looking for actors with good fundamentals- vocal energy, diction and diligence. We want to see actors who can show us honesty and intention behind every line and action they perform. We want actors to make and commit to bold and informed physical, vocal and emotional choices. Don't be afraid to take risks and go outside of your comfort zone! In the monologue that you choose, we are looking for actors who can balance dramatic and comedic timing. **Overall, we want to see actors who think outside the box and care about this show.**

## Synopsis

*Adventures* centers around Rainey-Baldwin Johnson, a doctor reconciling the death of her daughter, which she failed to diagnose. The prologue enacts the death of Janie, Rainey and Michael's daughter, and the fight leading to their divorce. We then jump to present day, as Rainey's sickly father, Abendigo, plans a heist of a Sambo-like garden gnome with his senior band of thieves, Ivy, Darese, Girlene, and Bert. As they set off, Michael and Rainey discuss the finalization of their divorce, and their opposing viewpoints on God. Michael then tells Rainey to ask her father about his visit with a doctor. As the senior band of thieves returns from a successful heist, Rainey and Michael

drop by for an impromptu visit. As the seniors scramble to get their stories straight, they ask Rainey to get a drink. As she looks, she stumbles upon 357 “liberated” artifacts and confronts the seniors. Abendigo gets worked up, and falls over. Abendigo and Rainey talk in the hospital about his heart condition, and he says he wants to die by Negro Creek. At home, they struggle with Abendigo’s readiness for death- he orders a coffin to the house and asks Rainey to prepare his body herself. Michael and Rainey are persuaded to join Abendigo’s last ride. Abendigo, Rainey, Michael, and the thieves successfully pull off the museum heist, and soon after, Abendigo dies and is added to the living creek. Rainey and Michael get back together.

## Character Descriptions

**Lorraine (Rainey) Baldwin-Johnson**- Female 40’s. former doctor, daughter of Abendigo, soon to be ex wife of Michael. In mourning, intelligent, skeptical, introspective, opinionated, adrift, searching for meaning, somewhat selfish.

**Michael Baldwin**- Male, 40’s. Local pastor, soon to be ex husband of Rainey. Confident, grounded, intelligent, deeply values history, assertive, caring, loyal.

**Abendigo Johnson**- Male, 71. Retired judge, resolute, opinionated, convicted, philosophical, stubborn, natural leader, genuine, determined, blunt, somewhat selfish.

**Ivy**- Female, 70’s A member of Abendigo’s entourage, former sister-in-law, and love interest of Abendigo. Devoted, caring, independent, and headstrong.

**Darese**- Female, 70’s. A member of Abendigo’s entourage. Wisecracking, caring, frugal.

**Girlene**- Female, 70’s. A member of Abendigo’s entourage. Witty, nurturing

**Bert**- Male, 70’s. A member of Abendigo’s entourage. Bumbling, forgetful, headstrong, loyal.

**Doctor Radcliffe**- Any gender, 30’s. Good bedside manner, caretaker of Abendigo.

**Delivery Man**- Any gender, 30’s. Straightforward.

**Guard**- Any gender, 30’s. Forgiving, naive.

**Chorus-** Group of 10 people. Each member of the chorus represents an ancestor who, in part creates the living landscape of Negro Creek.

## Monologues

**Abendigo:** There was a clerk, John Sheppard. When I was still practising, we had a deal that if a black defendant came into the custody of the court, he would call me in to do pro bono work, instead of dumping him into the lap of the already overburdened legal aid system. I became a judge. Twenty years, Rainey, twenty years. John Sheppard and I had become good friends. We ate together, drank together, and my last day on the bench, on my last day, he says to me, we'll miss you, he says, the legal system will really miss you. You're not like other blacks. You're a very special Black. This is what he tells me. And I realized.... My friend John Sheppard helped me to realize that after all those years of trying, of setting an example, of trying to make them understand that we are as good and as bad as everyone else, I realized that all of it was for nothing. I was an anomaly to him. A freak. A talking monkey. A black man, different from the rest. I am no different from the rest. Just my circumstances.

**Michael:** “This kind of thing never happens here.” That's what they think. That's what we think. “Everything Is fine here in this country.” We’ve grown so comfortable that we believe racism, no, white supremacy is a phenomenon that only happens south of the border. Well folks, we live in the South of the North. That they could do this to God's house... and we will not take those hideous and repugnant words down. We will not whitewash the truth of our nation. We will leave this desecration in place as a reminder. Because this is all about our attempts

to upturn the Holland Township council decision to change the name of Negro Creek Road, you know that. This is our home. And these threats... this racial intimidation will not deter us in the least from our cause. We are a steadfast people. It is this characteristic in us that has helped us survive the most severe and vicious of atrocities. Our forebears survived so that we may breathe the air we breathe at this very moment. They can try to put fear in us. They can even burn us down. But we will continue to fight for our right to take up space on this earth. See you at the march tomorrow.

**Rainey:** So I've got a tree growing inside me. And I can't take the iron pills I need. Any doctor worth her salt knows that the intentional and compulsive consumption of non food substances is eradicated with a forceful regimen of iron. But I can't hold something that heavy inside me-falls through the holes in my belly when I swallow, and when it stays down it bungs me up so bad I have to sit on a toilet for days, and I don't like to sit down on toilets, since Janie. Could you just see her face if I told her I was now eating ashes from cigarettes, not that I smoke them or anything, it's just, well, I don't know why, and it's got to be Export A, and I don't know why Export A. I'm just praying.... Funny, I'm praying a lot lately. I don't know why I do that either. I don't even know that I'm praying. Praying for one more Aspirin before my guts fold into my spine, or I'm praying to reach the toilet, in my house, before I weep all over the floor. I'm not praying to God though. God, the Father. No father of mine would allow Janie...

**Ivy:** I've hated you more than I've loved you, Ben. I hated you when I heard you'd married Rainey's mother. I hated you even more when you asked me to raise another woman's child. And I hated you worse when you married my own sister. But I hate you more than ever, wanting to kiss me now. My hate kept me together. I could do something with that hate. I could spend my time caught up in my own evil thoughts. Hate has been my companion. Please don't take it away from me. Don't leave me longing for you as you're leaving me for the last time.

## Audition Card

Please detach and bring this with you on the day of your audition. Additionally, you must fill out all the information at the following link before you sign up for an audition slot.

<https://goo.gl/forms/KXj9YeAxKElpl4Ku2>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ HR: \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly list any past theater experience (onstage or offstage). Feel free to attach a résumé.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What special skills or talents do you have? (Please mention any musical/dance experience)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Would you be willing to... (these will not affect casting, they just give us a sense of your limits)

Kiss another actor on stage? Yes No



Cut your hair? Yes No

Dye your hair? Yes No

Enact an attempted suicide? Yes No

Why do you want to be a part of *The Adventures of A Black Girl In Search of God*?

---

---

---

---

---

---

Are you willing to accept all roles? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ If no, which role(s) would you not accept?

---

---

---

---

---

---

If you could know the absolute and total truth to one question, what question would you ask?

---

---

---

---

---

Which fictional place would you most like to go to?

---

---

---

---

---

Is there anything else you'd like us to know? Comments? Concerns? Compliments?

---

---

---

---

---