

The Old Stock:
Report for Early Development Phase
December 2010

As noted in our application, the **Black History Theatre Project** has been actively pursuing funding from multiple sources for our revised version of theatrical play *The Old Stock* and its companion educational materials. Our THEN/HiER grant served as start-up cash for the early development stage of this project, mostly human resources compensation, including the following:

- Multiple meetings (some transcribed), negotiations, communications and strategy sessions with other potential funding sources, notably the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development; the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation; and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Through these activities we secured various donations (both cash and in-kind) to fund the later phases of the project, such as the staging and touring of the play itself and the production of a DVD version (funding confirmed from PEI Council of the Arts) for ongoing school/educational use.
- Applications prepared for potential funders, notably THEN and PEI Education and school partners, the City of Charlottetown, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada – plus a highly detailed budget of entire project prepared for the latter as part of application process.
- Discussions with Department of Education regarding their in-kind development of educational materials related to the play.
- Discussions of casting and other personnel recruitment, plus auditions, meetings and communications with prospective participants regarding same (various roles on and off stage have been filled as a result).
- Revisions and rewrites of the play itself.

Most of the early developmental work at this stage was conducted by Baglole, Irving and McQuaid, with the latter taking a larger share of the early-phase development, handling much of the transcription, composition and applications, plus assisting Irving with the rewrite. Show co-creator Parsons and DVD version developer Pollard also participated in some of the early meetings and discussions, and author Jim Hornby acted as a consultant.

The first performances of the play are scheduled for March 24, 25, and 26 at the Arts Guild in Charlottetown. The play will also be performed in a series of

Island schools and communities after the initial Charlottetown run, plus one public performance in Halifax.

We greatly appreciate THEN/HiER's financial assistance. Not only did the grant provide us with much-needed "seed" funding, but the prestige of your approval helped us secure necessary additional funding.



Leading cast: Anthony Migiro (Anansi), Nancy McLure (Kendi), Vanessa Dennis (Teresa) and Ben Rayner (David)