

Spotlight on: T.J Pursley

“My name is TJ Pursley (he/him). I am an actor/singer born and raised in Orlando Florida.

I'm a Junior currently pursuing my BFA in Musical Theatre with a minor in dance here at Florida Atlantic University. Currently, I am working as the Dramaturg on our upcoming production of, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*. I also enjoy serving as the Vice President of FAU's Black Undergraduate Theatre Collective, where we dedicate our love and attention to uplifting minority voices in the arts.

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“I feel it’s my social responsibility to shine a light on areas that don’t get seen. My personal feeling is that it’s an artist’s responsibility to be engaged with the culture. And when the culture is going through turmoil, I think an artist can’t ignore that.”

-Lynn Nottage

Lynn Nottage is an American playwright who specializes in work surrounding the lives of marginalized people. Her plays give breathing space for her characters to find their voices, no matter how constricted their own circumstances may be.

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Lynn Nottage's *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* is a memory play that follows the story of Ernestine Crump and her family, who've just arrived in 1950 Brooklyn, NY fresh from Pensacola, FL. Her father, Godfrey, is still nearly paralyzed with grief after his wife's death and puts his faith in radio evangelist Father Divine. She and her sister, Ermina, seek their own peace and often escape their gloomy basement flat by diving into the cinema. Ernestine is influenced by her late mother's sister, Lily Ann Green, who bursts into their home wearing a suit as red as her communist politics and an unapologetic love of a good time.



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