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PHOTO BY OWEN WALZ

Victor Mack is the playwright and poet August Wilson in the Portland Playhouse production of 'How I Learned What I Learned,' Wilson's provocative autobiographical solo show about race, culture, oppression, hierarchy and power.

'How I Learned What I Learned'

August Wilson's solo show on race, power and more

August Wilson is a national treasure. The Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright produced a series of 10 plays that serve as defining snapshots of African-American life during the 20th century.

Before that, though, Wilson identified as a poet. How he viewed the world and vice versa,

was explored through his "How I Learned What I Learned," an autobiographical one-man show that is essentially a memoir.

In this format, Wilson is talking directly to the audience about critical issues of race and culture that remain relevant today.

Portland Playhouse, the di-

verse theater group which turned an old church at 602 N.E. Prescott St. into a theater venue, has produced the show for a production that opened last week and continues through Oct. 23.

Co-conceived by Todd Kreidler and unveiled on the East Coast, this is the first perfor-

mance of 'How I Learned What I Learned' with an African-American director, Kevin Jones of Portland, and star, Victor Mack, also of Portland.

"It's a must-see for anyone who's a fan of August Wilson," Portland Playhouse artistic director

Brian Weaver says. "He draws us in with humor and lyrical sto-

rytelling, and then calls us to action to make a more just world and be a better version of ourselves."

Performance times are Wednesday through Friday at 7:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets and more information, call the box office at 503-488-5822 or visit portlandplayhouse.org.