

Play, Play on the Stage: Tell Me How Black Identity Is Performed

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Abstract

August Wilson's plays each covering a different decade represent the changing texture of black life and identity in multicultural America. Wilson's importance as a playwright stems from his own background as a black man born and raised in America, resenting the fact that the presentation of black identity has not been presented properly because the works written over the past century were penned by playwrights who have not experienced but observed the black past and culture. Wilson bringing onto American stage the typical characteristics of the lives of the poor, troubled and sometimes powerfully embittered blacks aimed to portray proper representations of black identity on stage. The major intention in this paper is to discuss how black identity is presented and performed on the stages of multicultural America by August Wilson and analyze the play, Fences in the frame of modernist approach by asking the question; play, play on the stage: tell me how black identity is performed?