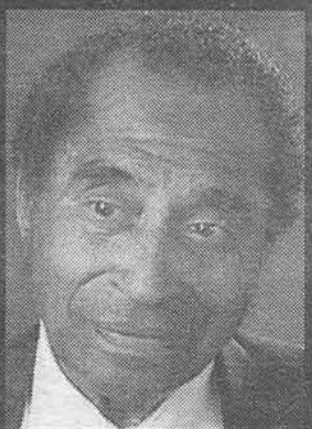


# Earl's World

by Earl Calloway

[ecalloway@chicagodefender.com](mailto:ecalloway@chicagodefender.com)



## Goodman, HistoryMakers celebrate Chuck Smith

by Earl Calloway

Staff Writer

Chuck Smith was a young aspiring Black actor when he first began his career with a small theatre group in the facilities of Michael Reese Hospital Complex.

Today, Smith is one of America's most significant theatrical author, director and producer.

Goodman Theatre's resident director and Artistic Collective member will be feted in a special evening celebration by Goodman Theatre and the HistoryMakers Monday at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Robin Robinson, anchorwoman of WFLD-TV/Ch. 32, will interview Smith about his experiences as a theater artist and his contributions to the diversifying Chicago theater, including the production he is scheduled to conduct this spring, Lynn Nottage's "Crumbs from the Table of Joy."

Goodman Theatre is cooperating with the HistoryMakers, an organization that had developed a historic account of cultural situation on oral history about ordinary people as well as famous individuals. Since it was established many African American histories have been recorded and filmed including such individuals as Harry Belafonte, and Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

During his progressive trend, Smith has performed with several theatrical companies. He established the Chicago Theatre Company and the Theodore Ward Playwright Competition; has done research on many projects; and guided

many aspiring young writers.

"I am so pleased to honor Chuck, an outstanding theater director who is one of my favorite collaborators," said Goodman's Artist Director Robert Falls. "He is a consummate artist who selflessly reaches into the community and serves as a mentor for emerging African American theater companies. He is a valuable asset to our theater."

In addition to serving as Goodman's resident director, he is an artist-in-residence at Columbia College Chicago and associate producer of Legacy Productions, a Chicago-based touring company. Goodman credits include the Chicago premieres of "The Story and Proof"; "Music and Spheres" and "The Gift Horse: James Baldwin's 'The Amen Corner,'" which transferred to Boston's Hunting Theatre where it won the Independent Reviewers of New England Award for best direction; "A Raisin in the Sun"; "The Graduate" at Timberlake Playhouse, "The Story" at Milwaukee Rep, "Blues For An Alabama Sky" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and "The Last Season" for the Robey Theatre Company in Los Angeles.

Smith is a 2003 inductee into the Chicago State University Gwendolyn Brooks Center's Literary Hall of Fame and a 2001 Chicago Tribune Chicagoan of the Year. He received the 1982 Paul Robeson Award, the 1997 award of merit presentation by the Black Theatre Alliance of Chicago, and is a board member of The League of Chicago Theatres and the African American Arts Alliance of Chicago.