

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

All inquires should be directed to [submit@nationalblacktheatre.org](mailto:submit@nationalblacktheatre.org)

## NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR: I AM SOUL – PLAYWRIGHT’S RESIDENCY

**March 31, 2014 (HARLEM, NY) - Dr. Barbara Ann Teer’s National Black Theatre [NBT]** is now accepting submissions for the **I AM SOUL – PLAYWRIGHT’S RESIDENCY [I AM SOUL]**. The deadline for submission is 11.59PM on Thursday, May 1, 2014.

**I AM SOUL** recognizes one black playwright annually whose work demonstrates exceptional artistic merit and excellence in the field. Alongside NBT’s Theatre Arts Director, **the selected playwright will develop a new play during a twelve (12) month residency**. The program will provide the playwright with a stipend [pending funding], administrative and dramaturgical support, in-house readings, one 29-hour workshop and a workshop production in NBT’s 2015-16 season. The 2014-15 **I AM SOUL** Resident Playwright is **Mfoniso Udofia**. With **I AM SOUL** NBT seeks to deepen the artistic relationship between black theatrical institutions and black playwrights, and to begin to re-establish black theatrical institutions as the foremost supporters and producers of new works created by black playwrights.

### **I AM SOUL – Important Dates:**

Applications must be received by:	May 1, 2014 at 11:59 pm
Finalists will be notified in:	May 26, 2014
Recipient will be notified in:	June 30, 2014
The residency year is:	September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015

Prospective applicants should go to the National Black Theatre’s website to learn more about the application process for this and other NBT programs: [www.nationalblacktheatre.org](http://www.nationalblacktheatre.org).

### **Who is Who:**

**Mfoniso Udofia (I AM SOUL – PLAYWRIGHT’S RESIDENCY)** is a New York based storyteller, actor, slam-poet and teaching artist. She attended Wellesley College for Political Science and obtained her MFA in Acting from San Francisco's Tony award winning, American Conservatory Theater. During this stay in the Bay Area, Udofia pioneered a youth initiative, The Nia Project, which provided artistic outlets for youth residing in Bayview/Huntspoint. Some of Ms. Udofia's plays include: The Grove, Sojourners, runboyrun, Lilyvine , hunger and Sherman: ablackcomedy. Ms. Udofia is a 2013 Sundance Theatre Lab Resident Playwright and is a Summer Yale Resident with the Page 73 development programs. She is Makehouse's Sponsored Artist and the Inaugural Playwright in Residence with the National Black Theatre. Ms. Udofia was a New Black Fest 2012 Writing Fellow and she served as a 2012-2013 Writing Fellow with both Playwrights Realm and Rising Circle's INKTank. She has also been a finalist for the 2013 Lark Playwrights' Week and has been a semifinalist for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. She received this distinction with her plays The Grove (2012) and Sojourners (2013). She has achieved semifinalist status for the Page 73 Playwrights Development Programs and was a finalist for the 2013 Many Voices Fellowship. Please follow her at [@mfudofia](https://twitter.com/mfudofia) and check out her site [www.mfonisoudofia.com](http://www.mfonisoudofia.com) for the latest news.

Founded by visionary Dr. Barbara Ann Teer in 1968, National Black Theatre (NBT) is a nationally recognized cultural and educational institution. Dr. Teer pioneered “the healing art of black theatre as an instrument for wholeness in urban communities where entrepreneurial artists of African descent live and work.” In 1983, Dr. Teer expanded the vision of NBT by purchasing a 64,000 square foot building on 125th and Fifth Avenue (renamed “National Black Theatre Way” by local law in 1994). This was the first revenue-generating black arts complex in the country, an innovative arrangement through which for-profit businesses who shared NBT’s spiritual and aesthetic values rented retail space to subsidize the arts. Out of her vision, NBT houses the largest collection of Nigerian new sacred art in the Western hemisphere and is considered the authentic representation of a model whose time has come. NBT is partially supported by grants from the City Council of New York, City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Columbia Service Society, Theatre Communications Group and Met-Life and private donations. Visit [www.nationalblacktheatre.org](http://www.nationalblacktheatre.org) or follow NBT on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NationalBlackTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/NationalBlackTheatre)) and Twitter/Instagram ([@NatBlackTheatre](https://twitter.com/NatBlackTheatre)).

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