

Free play this weekend in Cleveland titled 'Incognegro' and starring former Cuyahoga County commissioner

Written by Kathy

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Pictured are playwright Eric Schmiidl (wearing eye glasss), actor Peter Lawson Jones, a former Cuyahoga County commissioner (wearing red tie and light grey suit), and actor Jack Schmitt (wearing red tie and dark grey suit)

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By Editor-in-Chief Kathy Wray Coleman, a-24-year journalist who trained at the Call and Post Newspaper in Cleveland, Ohio for 17 years, and who interviewed now President Barack Obama one-on-one when he was campaigning for president. As to the Obama interview, [CLICK HERE TO READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE AT CLEVELAND URBAN NEWS.COM, OHIO'S LEADER IN BLACK DIGITAL NEWS](#)

(Note: A former biology teacher and longtime Cleveland activist, Coleman is the most read reporter in Ohio on Google Plus with some 3.2 million views).

CLEVELAND URBAN NEWS.COM, CLEVELAND, Ohio- The Cleveland Treatment Center will present the production 'Incognegro: An Unsung Hero,' a free and open-to-the-public play directed by Eric Schmiedl with show times on Friday, Nov 25, 2016 at 7 pm and Saturday, Nov 26 at 2 pm and 7 pm at the Saint Ignatius High School Breen Center for the Performing Arts, 2008 West 30th Street in Cleveland.

The free community event, held during the Thanksgiving weekend, is made possible by a grant from the Cuyahoga County Arts and Culture, the county's publicly funded arts and culture venue.

The play is adapted from Ralph Ellison's classic 1953 novel by Matt Johnson about an

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unnamed African -American's search for self, *and is loosely based on the life and career of native Georgian and former NAACP head Walter Frances White, who was born in 1893 and led the NAACP for a quarter of a century as its chief secretary.*

White, dubbed Incognegro in the play, was "light-skinned" and an investigative journalist who covered lynchings and other violence in the deep south in the 1930s that usually went unreported.

The term "incognegro" is a play on the word "incognito" and "was coined to describe a Black person trying to maintain a low profile, or who is racially ambiguous."

Former Cuyhoga County commissioner Peter Lawson Jones is among the starring cast members and plays dual role's Incognegro's editor and a 'Field-negro,' with Incognegro played by Jack Schmitt, a young up and coming local theatre actor.

The Cleveland Treatment Center is a medically assisted opiate-heroin based and methadone treatment facility. Its goal, in part, is to provide state -of-the-art and cost effective treatment for residents of Northeast Ohio, which includes Cleveland.

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Led by executive director L.C. Collins, the Cleveland Treatment Center has a history of using arts and culture to reach out into the community, according Schmiedl, a reputable playwright and native Clevelander whose plays for adults and children have been produced at the Cleveland Playhouse, the Denver Center Theatre Company, Cleveland Public Theatre, Karamu House, the Oregon Children's Theatre, and elsewhere in the United States.

Two of the cast members have successfully graduated from the treatment center, Pierre Betts, the production manager for the play, told Cleveland Urban News.Com in an interview last week. (www.clevelandurbannews.com) / (www.kathywraycolemanonlinenewsblog.com).
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