



A Raisin in the Sun

By Lorraine Hansberry

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This groundbreaking play starred Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeill, Ruby Dee and Diana Sands in the Broadway production which opened in 1959. Set on Chicago's South Side, the plot revolves around the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis and matriarch Lena, called Mama. When her deceased husband's insurance money comes through, Mama dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in Chicago. Walter Lee, a chauffeur, has other plans, however: buying a liquor store and being his own man. Beneatha dreams of medical school.

The tensions and prejudice they face form this seminal American drama. Sacrifice, trust and love among the Younger family and their heroic struggle to retain dignity in a harsh and changing world is a searing and timeless document of hope and inspiration. Winner of the NY Drama Critic's Award as Best Play of the Year, it has been hailed as a "pivotal play in the history of the American Black theatre." by *Newsweek* and "a milestone in the American Theatre." by *Ebony*.

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A Raisin in the Sun By Lorraine Hansberry Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"A beautiful, lovable play. It is affectionately human, funny and touching. . . . A work of theatrical magic in which the usual barrier between audience and stage disappears."

John Chapman, *New York News*

"An honest, intelligible, and moving experience."

Walter Kerr, *New York Herald Tribune*

"Miss Hansberry has etched her characters with understanding, and told her story with dramatic impact. She has a keen sense of humor, an ear for accurate speech and compassion for people."

Robert Coleman, *New York Mirror*

"A Raisin in the Sun has vigor as well as veracity."

Brooks Atkinson, *New York Times*

"It is honest drama, catching up real people. . . . It will make you proud of human beings."

Frank Aston, *New York World-Telegram & Sun*

"A wonderfully emotional evening."

John McClain, *New York Journal American*

From the Inside Flap

When it was first produced in 1959, *A Raisin in the Sun* was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for that season and hailed as a watershed in American drama. A pioneering work by an African-American playwright, the play was a radically new representation of black life. "A play that changed American theater forever."--The New York Times.

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joan Henderson:

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