

October 23, 1991

For Crossroads Theatre:

Letter To The Future:

It is with great love and respect that I write this letter to the future for all the people of color in the world.

I must admit that I have a special affinity for people of African descent. It is with gratitude and humility that I speak to all human beings of African descent born in America.

As I prepare this letter for the people living in the year 2000, I wonder if we ever transformed what I call the 3/5ths of a man discourse. I wonder if we ever transformed the “poor lowly downtrodden, pitiful, sad, oppressed, underprivileged” and culturally deprived discourse. I wonder if we have evolved into a higher human being than those Black people living on earth in 1991. I wonder if you have been able to rise above and beyond distrust, fear, resentment and resignation.

My message to you today centers around the possibility that you have evolved into human beings with great dignity, respect and love. I pray that you are the ones who bring grace, beauty, joy and laughter into the world. Through your song we have learned to celebrate the joy and oneness of humanity... Through your dance, we have learned the grace and light of god. I pray that you have built strong African American Institutions that give praise and honor to your ancestors.

We made great sacrifices so that you could take your rightful place on the planet and become the cultural leaders who come from Africa to America from America to the Sun back to the place we all originated from, a place behind the sun where we were all one.

I want you to know that in the end, we are all connected. Seated inside the heart of each and every one of us is a being, a Self, a fire, a flame, a god. We should by now have learned to honor and worship the Self because god lives within each of us as us.

Our Theatres must reflect this truth. They must first and foremost teach people what it means to be human, teach people how to love themselves, how to honor themselves. We must learn what is right action, why it is so important to do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

Remember the National Black Theatre of Harlem. We were committed to your transformation. We were committed to raising the race. Our plays were an acknowledgement of our humanity. Our Institution was a permanent space of grace. We wanted to give you an alternative learning

environment where people could come and learn who they were, but by now, I hope you already know this. I hope that you are whole, complete and full of joy.

If you are still doing Theatre, I hope that it is 4 dimensional and that high technology is being used for the sole purpose of transformation.

Can you at last see yourselves as Spiritual beings with spiritual experiences. We are the natural “spirit” people and we come from a “spirit” culture. Our art forms must be fed by our intuition and spirit. Have we written a new mythology, a new folklore? Do we still remember the slave stories? Are we still the inventors of the phenomenon of “Soul”?

Although we came to the new world in Slave ships, by now I am sure we are leading the world in a righteous direction. We are the power source, the energy machines need to keep Soul alive in the world.

Please remember us with fondness and send us your blessings often because prayer is the only true power to transform...

Lovingly,

Barbara Ann Teer

Founder and Chief Executive Officer

National Black Theatre, Inc. in Harlem

The Real Estate Developer of the NATIONAL BLACK INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION THROUGH THEATRE ARTS.

I have two children, Michael and Sade Lythcott. They may still be around.