

PRESS KIT

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

BY LORRAINE HANSBERRY

JHS PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

Jacksonville High School · Jacksonville, Arkansas

November 14 & 15, 2026 · JHS Auditorium

IN THIS KIT

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MEDIA CONTACT: FRED OWENS · FOWENS@JNPSD.ORG

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MEDIA ADVISORY · FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JHS Performing Arts Company Presents A Raisin in the Sun

LORRAINE HANSBERRY'S AMERICAN CLASSIC COMES TO THE JACKSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STAGE

WHO

The **JHS Performing Arts Company** of Jacksonville High School (Jacksonville/North Pulaski School District), directed by JHS Theatre Director **Fred Owens**. The cast of ten JHS students and community members is led by Amari Beckton as Walter Lee Younger, Akaylah Jones as Lena "Mama" Younger, Kamara Hardfield as Ruth Younger, and Brooklyn Hatter as Beneatha Younger.

WHAT

A full production of ***A Raisin in the Sun*** by Lorraine Hansberry, the landmark 1959 drama about a Black family on Chicago's South Side whose dreams collide when a life insurance check arrives. Presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

WHEN

Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 3:00 PM
Running time: approximately 2½ hours, including a 15-minute intermission.

WHERE

Jacksonville High School Auditorium
1300 West Main Street, Jacksonville, Arkansas

WHY

When it opened on Broadway in 1959, *A Raisin in the Sun* made Lorraine Hansberry the first Black woman to have a play produced on Broadway. More than sixty years later, its story of family, dignity, and the courage to hold on to a dream still speaks to audiences. This production gives Jacksonville students the chance to take on one of the most important plays in American theatre and share it with their community.

TICKETS

Students $10 · Adults $15. Available online through Hometown Ticketing:
events.hometownticketing.com/boxoffice/jacksonville

MEDIA

Members of the media are welcome to attend. Interviews with the director and cast and rehearsal photo opportunities are available by request.

Media Contact: Fred Owens, Theatre Director, Jacksonville High School
fowens@jnpsd.org · 1300 West Main, Jacksonville, AR

Content note: This production portrays the racial attitudes, discrimination, and social conditions of its historical period and contains language that may be offensive to contemporary audiences.

PRODUCTION FACT SHEET

A Raisin in the Sun

BY LORRAINE HANSBERRY · DIRECTED BY FRED OWENS

SYNOPSIS

In 1950s Chicago, the Younger family shares a cramped South Side apartment and a long list of dreams. When a $10,000 life insurance check arrives after the death of the family's father, each member sees a different future in it. Mama hopes to buy a house with room for her family to grow. Her son, Walter Lee, a chauffeur tired of serving others, wants to invest in a business and finally become his own man. His wife, Ruth, longs for stability for their son, Travis, while Walter's sister, Beneatha, dreams of becoming a doctor as she explores her identity and African heritage. When Mama buys a home in an all-white neighborhood, the family must face pressure to stay away, heartbreak, and a choice about what matters most: money, pride, or one another.

AT A GLANCE

Playwright	Lorraine Hansberry
Director	Fred Owens, JHS Theatre Director
Assistant Director	Ms. Harper
Stage Management	Alexa Holbrook (Stage Manager); Azyiah Perkins and Audrey Bailey (Assistant Stage Managers)
Cast	10 performers
Crew & production team	19 students in leadership, design, and production roles, plus Mr. Owens' 7th period Technical Theatre class as production assistants
Producing organization	JHS Performing Arts Company, Jacksonville High School (JNPSD)
Licensing	Presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals
Public performances	Sat., Nov. 14, 7:30 PM · Sun., Nov. 15, 3:00 PM · JHS Auditorium

WHAT MAKES THIS PRODUCTION UNIQUE

- **Students and community on stage together.** The cast pairs JHS students with community members, including Akaylah Jones, a former JHS English teacher, as Mama.
- **A true company model.** Students fill professional production roles, from company manager and stage managers to a student dramaturg and the set, lighting, costume, sound, makeup, and props designers. Several cast members also lead offstage: Braylon Allen is Company Manager and Lighting Designer, and Brayden Phillips designed the set.
- **Bringing the play to the community.** Cast members previewed a scene for the JNPSD Board of Education, and the production includes performances for JHS students, Jacksonville Middle School, and invited schools from across Arkansas.
- **History in the classroom and on stage.** Student research on 1950s Chicago and the play's history helps the cast tell the Younger family's story with authenticity.

CAST ANNOUNCEMENT

Meet the Younger Family

THE JHS PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE CAST OF LORRAINE HANSBERRY'S A RAISIN IN THE SUN

Walter Lee Younger	Amari Beckton
Lena Younger (Mama)	Akaylah Jones
Ruth Younger	Kamara Hardfield
Beneatha Younger	Brooklyn Hatter
Travis Younger	Andre McClure
Joseph Asagai	Wesley Jacobs
George Murchison	Brayden Phillips
Karl Lindner	Braylon Allen
Bobo	Jaylon Williams
Mrs. Johnson	Arrianne Bly-Brown

Directed by Fred Owens, JHS Theatre Director



CREW & PRODUCTION TEAM

Behind the Scenes

THE STUDENTS WHO BRING THE YOUNGER FAMILY'S WORLD TO LIFE

Director	Fred Owens, JHS Theatre Director
Assistant Director	Ms. Harper
LEADERSHIP	
Company Manager	Braylon Allen
Assistant Company Manager	Amari Beckton
Secretary	Serenity Engram
Community Engagement Coordinator	Mya Allen
Thespian Coordinator	Kelsey Johnson
Dramaturg	Grayson Thomas
STAGE MANAGEMENT	
Stage Manager	Alexa Holbrook
Assistant Stage Managers	Azyiah Perkins, Audrey Bailey
DESIGN & PRODUCTION	
Master Carpenter	Hunter Wilson
Set Designer	Brayden Phillips
Assistant Set Designer	Serif Rockins
Costume Designer	Kelsey Johnson
Assistant Costume Designer	Beautiful Johson
Lighting Designer	Braylon Allen
Assistant Lighting Designers	Arryn Reddix, Garret Stephenson
Sound Designer	Alexis Shalter
Assistant Sound Designer	Beautiful Johson
Makeup Designer	Chloe Anderson
Makeup Assistant	Kelsey Johnson
Props Master	Emily Vorisek
Props Assistant	Daliyah Cribbs
PRODUCTION SUPPORT	
Production Assistants	Mr. Owens' 7th Period Technical Theatre

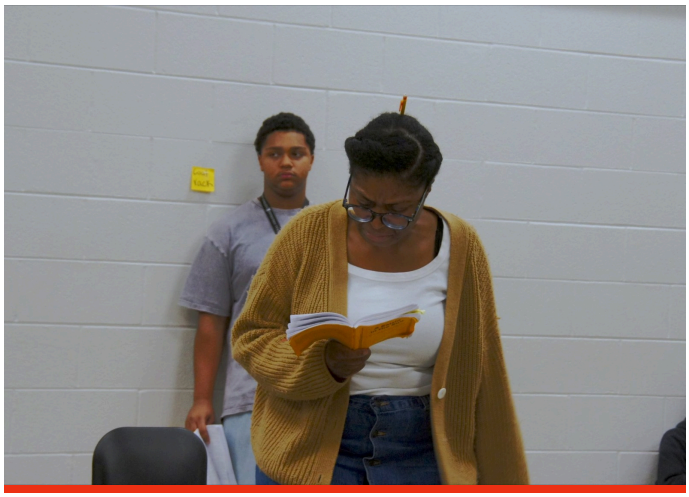
REHEARSAL PHOTOS

In Rehearsal

HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Cast members work through the script together on the set of the Younger family apartment.



An emotional moment in rehearsal as the cast works through a scene, scripts in hand.



A cast member rehearses one of the play's most intense scenes.



Running lines from the Concord Theatricals acting edition of A Raisin in the Sun.

Photos: JHS Performing Arts Company. Please credit "JHS Performing Arts Company" when publishing.

OFFICIAL FLYER



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RAISIN IN THE SUN

NOVEMBER 14 · 7:30 PM
NOVEMBER 15 · 3:00 PM

STUDENTS $10 · ADULTS $15

SCAN FOR TICKETS

BY LORRAINE HANSBERRY