

**Biography (USA)**  
**Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith**

Actors Equity Association – Screen Actors Guild  
**NEW YORK DRAMA CRITICS AWARD NOMINEE**

**THEATER**

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DRAMATIC BROADWAY

“Merchant of Venice” Prince of Morocco / Lincoln Center Repertoire Company  
“A Streetcar Named Desire” Street Singer / Director: Ellis Rabb

PRE-BROADWAY

“The Starting Five” Jimmy Clark / Universal Pictures Production

OFF-BROADWAY

“Contributions” \* Travis & Eugene Love / Director: Moses Gunn  
“Clara’s Ol’ Man” Jack  
“Three Stories High” Tod

STOCK

“Dutchman” Clay

MUSICAL OFF-BROADWAY

“The Me Nobody Knows” Clorox Johnson  
“A Matter of Time” Paul

DINNER THEATRE

“Pippin” Leading Player  
An Evening Dinner Theatre, Elmsford New York  
“Pippin” Northstage Dinner Theatre, Glen Cove, L.I. (N.Y.)

STOCK

“Stop The World I Want To Get Off” Little Chap  
Barat Theatre, Lake Forest, Ill.  
“Lyrics Of Sunshine And Shadows” Paul Lawrence Dunbar  
Produced & Directed by Oscar Brown Jr.  
“Louisiana Purchase” Abner / Goodspeed Opera House, Connecticut

*\* Nominated for “Most Promising New Off-Broadway Actor” by the New York Drama Critics*

PRODUCTIONS

Program Co-ordinator American Folk Theatre Productions, New York City  
Oscar Brown Jr. Productions, New York City & Chicago

**TELEVISION / FILM**

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COMMERCIALS

Nationwide	7 Up cola drinks	
	Papermate Pens	2 presentations
	Bounty Towels	3 presentations
	Revlon Cosmetics	
New York City	Chemical Bank	
	Pippin Musical	

PROGRAMS – TELEVISION

“Faith For Today” Sammy  
“Somerset” Businessman

INDUSTRIAL FILMS

Governmental

ARMY & MILITARY TRAINING FILMS

## RECORDINGS

Narrator for Buick and Ford Motor Companies  
Poetry Readings for Scott Forseman and Company  
Boy Scouts of America-National Radio Campaign

## INDUSTRIAL SHOW LISTINGS

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Company		No. of presentations
Schitz Beer		
Buick	Narrator	6 Times
Ford	"	4 "
Pontiac		2 "
Trans World Airlines		
Detroit Heavy Equipment		2 "
Sears Roebuck Company		4 "
Fashion Industries Showing		
Western Electric	Narrator	4 "
New York Telephone	"	4 "
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.	"	

## FASHION

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Mia Grau Production Co. of New York Director / Choreographer / Production Co-ordinator

"International Garment Workers Union Fashion Show"	Lincoln Center, Avery Fisher Hall, New York City
"New Man Clothes"	
French Clothes Line Fashion Show	Regine's of New York City Circle in the Square Theatre,
N.Y.C.	
"National Knitwear Association Fashion Show	Waldorf Astoria Hotel, N.Y.C., Grand Ballroom

## MODELLING

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### RUNWAY AND PHOTOGRAPHIC

Roberto de Camerino  
Fur Fashions Industry  
Burlington Mills  
Sears Roebuck Company

## DANCE

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Fred Benjamin Dance	Soloist
Rondo Dance Company	Soloist, Choreographer
Katherine Dunham	Soloist

## TEACHING

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### JAZZ AND MODERN CLASSES

Joseph Holmes School of Dances, Chicago, Ill.  
Chicago Dance Center, Chicago, Ill.  
Elizabeth Rockwell School of Dance, Bedford, N.Y.  
Fred Benjamin Dance Center, N.Y.C.  
University of Connecticut, USA  
Master Class Seminars, Caribbean Islands & USA  
Barbados Dance Theatre, Trinidad, Monserrat, St. Lucia

## **Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith**

### **BIOGRAPHY - USA & Europe (Abbreviated Version)**

Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith, co-founder/producer/director/publisher/curator/moderator of **Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre**, Berlin/Germany (1980), **Black International Cinema Berlin** (1986), **THE COLLEGIUM - Forum & Television Program Berlin** and other cities (1995), **“Footprints in the Sand?” Exhibition Berlin** (2000) and **Cultural Zephyr e.V.** (1990).

*“Only when lions have historians will hunters cease being heroes.” - African Proverb*

Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre was founded 1980 in Berlin/Germany by Donald Muldrow Griffith and Gayle McKinney together with Lynnda Curry, Ricky Powell and Detlef Bäcker, four American artists and a German colleague, who met in Berlin during 1979 at Theater des Westens and decided to undertake intercultural, interdisciplinary and international productions in dance, theatre, television, workshops, film/video festivals, artistic exhibitions and publications.

As co-founder and director, Donald Muldrow Griffith developed an idea for the artistic, educational and socially critical undertakings of Fountainhead Tanz Théâtre. In search for a name and philosophy for the group, he read an article in the International Herald Tribune regarding the Pompidou Museum, where the director referred to France as returning to "a source of creativity", a "fountainhead of art" after the dispersal of many art works by the National Socialists during World War II. The return of the works of art and new artistry afterwards, was a source of national honor. The museum was to restore France as an origin of fresh national artistic direction. This approach coincided with Donald Muldrow Griffith's ideas and directions. After discussions with his colleagues regarding his suggested title, the name Fountainhead was decided upon.

Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre is a production, performing, distribution and educational unit. The organization engages people from various national, cultural, ethnic, socio-economic, gender and sexual identities as well as religious backgrounds, and works in a variety of artistic and cultural disciplines, with the goal of creating, experiencing and communicating intercultural exchange within its projects and to the world community.

Besides a variety of activities in the fields of dance, theatre, music, film/video, publication and television, the production, direction and realization of the annual intercultural, interdisciplinary film/video festival Black International Cinema Berlin, the television program THE COLLEGIUM – Forum & Television Program Berlin, broadcast several times a week at Alex – Offener Kanal Berlin (Open Channel Berlin) as well as in Magdeburg, Wolfsburg, Dessau and Portland/Oregon, USA, belong to the focal point of work by Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre. In addition Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre produces, under the artistic direction of Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith, the yearly presented visual documentation “Footprints in the Sand?” Exhibition, in association with international artists.

In 1990 Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre established Cultural Zephyr e.V. as a not for profit organization, which administers the cultural and artistic undertakings of Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre.

The philosophical premise upon which these organizations are based is:

Increasing international and intercultural understanding and cooperation between individuals and groups in support of democratic procedures and the elimination of

violence, religious, ethnic and gender persecution, youth exploitation, homophobia and racial hatred through the process of art, education, culture and dialogue.

Professor Donald Muldrow Griffith completed his studies in Psychology and Pedagogics at the University of Loyola, Chicago Illinois, U.S.A.

After considerable time as a practicing Group Therapist, Elementary School Teacher and Probation Officer for Juvenile Offenders, he began his training in fine arts, acting, voice and expression. He studied voice with Martha Larrimore, Ballet with Edward Parish and acting with Everett Clark. Donald M. Griffith also studied other dance techniques, including Modern Dance, African Dance and Jazz Dance, with Fred Benjamin, Paul Sanasardo, the Alvin Ailey School, the Martha Graham School and the Clark Center.

His stage, choreographic and production career began in the U.S.A. as an actor, singer, dancer, fashion model and choreographer and he performed featured roles in musicals, theater, television commercials and film productions.

Prof. Griffith played the starring roles in the Broadway Musicals "Pippin," "Stop The World, I Want To Get Off," "Lyrics Of Sunshine And Shadows," where he, under the direction of Oscar Brown Jr., portrayed the poet, Paul Lawrence Dunbar. He also appeared in the off-Broadway musical "A Matter of Time" directed by Tod Jackson. He was nominated "Most Promising New Off Broadway Actor," by the New York Drama Critics for his featured roles in "Contributions," a three act drama in which Donald Muldrow Griffith appeared in two of the three segments.

Prof. Griffith also appeared in "A Streetcar Named Desire", with the Katherine Dunham Dance Company and in the musical "The Me Nobody Knows", portrayed the role of Sammy in the television soap opera "One Life to Lead" and has been featured in many television commercials.

He also staged fashion shows for major clothing manufacturers and fashion houses at venues such as, Lincoln Center, Waldorf Astoria, Regines and other New York City locales.

Prof. Griffith narrated industrial shows in the USA for a number of years for clients such as Ford Motor Company, Buick, Metropolitan Life Insurance, Western Electric, Trans World Airlines, Detroit Diesel and other major companies in the USA.

He appeared in Musical Revues and performed with the Katherine Dunham Company, Oscar Brown Jr. Productions, Philip Cohran & The Artistic Heritage Ensemble, the Phyllis Sabold Dancers, the Rondo Dance Theater and the Fred Benjamin Dance Company. In addition, he managed the careers of artists, such as Oscar Brown Jr., in Chicago, Illinois and New York City.

Prof. Griffith's quest for further creative and educational opportunities was enhanced by an invitation to Berlin/Germany for performing, teaching and choreographing at Theater des Westens. As a result, Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre was established in Berlin/Germany by Donald Muldrow Griffith, Gayle McKinney, Lynnda Curry, Ricky Powell and Detlef Bäcker and has become a source of creative and educational endeavors in Berlin, elsewhere in Europe and the U.S.A.

Prof. Griffith's direction and choreography of "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf" was awarded "Special Judge's Award" for Choreography and Music in the European-wide Tournament of Plays by the U.S. Army.

As a result of their educational and artistic backgrounds in the U.S.A./Europe and after an international university search, he and Prof. Gayle McKinney Griffith were selected and invited to Indiana University South Bend, U.S.A., to establish a dance theater department, where their professorships were bestowed upon them.

Prof. Griffith's talent, creativity and experience as a singer, actor, dancer, narrator, writer, producer, director and choreographer are characteristic of Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre's undertakings and productions today.

In his capacity as festival producer/director and film and publication distributor, Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith was invited to the IV. Cultural Mercado Festival in Salvador/Bahia, Brazil (December 2002) and to the Global Cinema and Urban Entertainment Conference in Los Angeles/California, U.S.A. (August 2003), to serve as a panelist.

An arrangement has led to a distribution agreement between Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre Distribution and Arsenal - Institut für Film und Videokunst e.V., Berlin/Germany (Arsenal - Institute for Film and Video Art), for selected participating films from the annual intercultural Black International Cinema Berlin.

An invitation from the Aspen Cultural Diplomacy Forum U.S.A., provided an opportunity for Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith to attend a conference in Paris France, November 13-15, 2008, in which he served as a presenter and panelist during the seminars "Music as Cultural Diplomacy" and "New Technologies in Arts and Culture - Preservation and Presentation".

Again in 2011, Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith was invited by the Aspen Institute to moderate a panel discussion, regarding story telling at the Royal Opera House Muscat, Oman, Nov. 28-30, 2011. A documentary montage of photography, film and music was produced by Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre under the production and direction of Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith, based upon this invitational experience.

Conceptualized, written and directed by Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith, Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre produced a film portrait of Roswitha Günther, founder and director of Pfeiffers Ballhaus, who for over 20 years produced Pfeiffers Ballhaus at the Berlin citizen television station Alex - Open Channel Berlin. The film premiered during the XXVIII. Black International Cinema Berlin 2013 presentations.

In 2013, Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre was invited for the fourth time by the Commissioner for Integration of the district Tempelhof-Schöneberg, Berlin, Gabriele Gün Tank, to participate in the presentation of the project "CrossKultur 2013", a series of productions from the district office of Tempelhof-Schöneberg. Prof. Muldrow Griffith produced, directed and presented the program "A COMPLEXION CHANGE - Transnational & Intercultural Diplomacy - THE FUTURE IS NOW", a theatre journey in Hebrew, German, English and Arabic, based upon the artistry of Amir Kaufmann, presented through spoken word, film, photography and music. In addition to the presentation of a children's workshop and seminar, the production occurred on December 6, 2013 at the cinema of the Rathaus Schöneberg (city hall), Berlin and was dedicated to the beautiful shining star of humankind, Nelson Mandela.

In honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and in appreciation of the 50th anniversary of his Berlin visit, the XXIX. 2014 Black International Cinema Berlin presented a film collage, entitled "A Day in the Life...? And a child will lead the way...", produced, directed and choreographed by Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith.

In 2013 and 2014, Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith has been nominated for the German Prize for Civic Engagement. The German Prize for Civic Engagement aims at strengthening the recognition of citizen engagement in Germany, as well as increasing its visibility.

Historical documents from Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre, Black International Cinema Berlin, THE COLLEGIUM - Forum & Television Program Berlin and "Footprints in the Sand? Exhibition (1980-2019), are archived in the Library of the Deutsche Kinemathek -

Museum für Film und Fernsehen, Berlin/Germany (German Cinema - Museum for Film and Television).

On October 1, 2014, Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith was awarded the Integration Prize 2014 from the Berlin district Tempelhof-Schöneberg. The award ceremony was presented in the Golden Hall of Rathaus Schöneberg. The Integration Prize aims at honoring special contributions by citizens or institutions of the district, who are contributing in an outstanding manner towards the integration of people with various national, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds residing in Tempelhof-Schöneberg, Berlin/Germany.

THE COLLEGIUM - Forum & Television Program Berlin was nominated for the Alternativer Medienpreis 2015 (Alternative Media Award) with the production "HAPPY Berlin" THE COLLEGIUM Television Dancers / Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre / February 2014.

As part of the "Active for Democracy and Tolerance 2016" competition, THE COLLEGIUM - Forum & Television Program Berlin was ranked as an exemplary project and honored with an award by the Advisory Council of the Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz (Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance) during their meeting on November 21st, 2016.

Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre/Black International Cinema Berlin/THE COLLEGIUM - Forum & Television Program Berlin, has been acknowledged by the EFFE International Jury as one of Europe's finest festivals and honored by receiving the EFFE Label 2015-2016, 2017-2018 and 2019-2021 (Europe for Festivals/Festivals for Europe).

Contact and additional Information:  
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#### **MOTTOS**

"I may not make it if I try, but I damn sure won't if I don't..." - Oscar Brown Jr.

"Mankind will either find a way or make one." - C.P. Snow

"Whatever you do..., be cool!" - Joseph Louis Turner

"Yes, I can...!" - Sammy Davis Jr.

"Yes, We can...!" - Barack Hussein Obama

"Yes, we can and Yes, we better...!" - Barack Hussein Obama and Donald Muldrow Griffith