

Ms. Cleage is the author of the best-selling book "Mad at Miles: A Blackwoman's Guide to Truth." Her latest book of essays, "Deals With the Devil - And Other Reasons to Riot" recently was published by Ballantine.

The classically trained actress **Olivia Cole** (Miss Leah) is perhaps best known for her Emmy Award-winning role as Matilda, wife of Ben Vereen's "Chicken George" in the landmark mini-series, "Roots." She also has appeared on television in "L.A. Law," "Murder, She Wrote," "A Man Called Hawk," and "Women of Brewster Place." Films include "Coming Home," "Big Shots" and "Fly Away Home." As a stage actress, she has appeared at the Yale Repertory Theatre, New York Shakespeare Festival, Repertory Company of Lincoln Center, Arena Stage and Circle in the Square.

Trazana Beverley (Sophie) won a Tony Award for her portrayal of "the Lady in Red," in FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE / WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF. Credits also include MACBETH (as Lady Macbeth), FENCES, BOESMAN AND LENA and BEFORE IT HITS HOME. She recently completed directing the play ROSA and also is the author of her one-woman show, THE SPIRIT MOVES.

Denise Burse-Mickelbury recently was in the New York production of ROBERT JOHNSON: TRICK THE DEVIL. At Crossroads, she was seen in Leslie Lee's RABBIT FOOT (1989). Recent television credits include "Tribeca," "Law and Order," and the PBS special, "Simple Justice," about late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Erika L. Heard (Minnie) worked with Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company and on Broadway in THE SONG OF JACOB ZULU. She won the American College Theatre Festival National Competition as Ruth Younger in A RAISIN IN THE SUN.

Herman LeVern Jones (Wil) has spent 20 years in African American theatre as a director, producer, performer and teacher. He was associate producer of the National Black Touring Circuit and artistic director of the Kean-Brown Theatre in Plainfield.

Count Stovall (Frank) most recently performed at Crossroads in THE TALENTED TENTH (1992). Also at Crossroads, he reprised his Broadway role of "Gabe Gabriel" in NO PLACE TO BE SOMEBODY. Off-Broadway credits include SPELL # 7, SPLIT SECOND and TELLTALE HEARTS. Stovall is known to daytime serial fans as the paraplegic counselor Hank Chambers on "The Doctors; as Detective Roy Franklin on "As the World Turns" and as Dr. Cal Cummings on "All My Children."

Ricardo Khan's directing credits include BETSEY BROWN, BLACK EAGLES at Crossroads, the Ford's Theatre and Manhattan Theatre Club; THE LATE GREAT LADIES OF BLUES AND JAZZ, TO GLEAM IT AROUND..., and BLACK ORPHEUS. He holds an MFA in acting and directing from the Mason Gross School of the Arts. He has