



Photo of Raquel Jennings and Arica Jackson by André Chung.

Going to see *Grace*

Ford's Theatre: Sensory-Friendly Performance Pre-Visit Story

Ford's Theatre



Photo of Ford's Theatre ©Maxwell MacKenzie.

The new musical, *Grace*, is currently being performed at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Grace



Photo of Arica Jackson, Raquel Jennings and Nova Y. Payton by André Chung.

The musical *Grace*, tells the story about a day in the life of the Minton family who gather to mourn the loss of Gran'Me, the female leader of the family, and deal with the future of their family restaurant in a changing Philadelphia, PA, neighborhood.

This musical tells a story with actors talking, dancing and singing on the stage.

Stage



Scenic design by Jason Ardizzone-West. Photo by André Chung.

The story takes place at the Minton family's restaurant, Minton's Place. On stage we see the courtyard outside the restaurant, with a big mural depicting the Minton family and other African-American leaders in food and restaurants in Philadelphia, PA.

Inspired by Real People



Photo of Arica Jackson, Nova Y. Payton, Raquel Jennings, Solomon Parker III and Rayshun LaMarr by André Chung.

The play was inspired by real people who lived in Philadelphia and established successful catering and restaurant businesses. The people in the mural on the stage represent these important people. Their last names are Bogle, Augustin, Prosser, Dorsey, Jones and Minton.

Music



Photo by Gary Erskine.

There is a band playing music just below the stage.
They sit in what is called an orchestra pit during the show.
The music can be both loud and soft at times.
The actors will sing songs with the music.

Repast and Grief



Photo of Jarran Muse and Virginia Ann Woodruff by André Chung.

A repast is when people gather and share a meal together to remember someone who has died. Family, friends and people from the community all come to the repast.

Each member of the family has a different way of expressing how they feel. People may be sad, angry, scared or determined to be happy in spite of the loss. All of these feelings are valid and part of grief. Sometimes a person can feel different feelings at the same time.

Food



Photo by André Chung.

The Mintons share recipes and foods that are special to them as a family to comfort each other during this time of loss.

Black-eyed peas are a dish with a long history in African-American culture. The Mintons have passed down a recipe for black-eyed peas from generation to generation and everyone has changed the recipe just a little bit, to make it their own.

Most of the food on stage is pretend to help tell the story.

Gentrification



Photo of the cast by André Chung.

Gentrification is a process in which middle-class or wealthy people renovate and rebuild homes and businesses in a poorer neighborhood. This often results in an increase in property values and the displacement of earlier, usually poorer residents.

Minton's Place is in a neighborhood that is being gentrified. Even though the restaurant has been there for a long time, the neighborhood is changing and residents are finding it very expensive to stay. The Mintons are in danger of losing their restaurant.

The Mintons cannot imagine losing the restaurant.

Family



Photo of the cast by André Chung.

The Mintons are a big family. They use different names to show love and respect. They use “Gran’Me” to address the woman who leads the family.

Even though the Mintons have their differences, they love, respect and support each other.

GOING TO SEE *GRACE* – CREDITS

All stage photos are from the Ford's Theatre production of *Grace*.

The pre-visit materials were developed by:

Ford's Theatre Access Committee

Designer: Gary Erskine

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