

# GET READY FOR A LITTLE THEATRE

Live Theatre is special. You cannot pause, or rewind, or turn up the volume. Each time the actors get on the stage the performance is a little different.

- **Sit and listen**-You and your friends don't want to miss anything
- **Laugh and clap** (when appropriate)- Actors love to know you enjoyed the show.

*Trouble In Mind*, by Alice Childress production, was written and set in the 1950s.

The play is about a group of actors confronting questions of race power and more as they rehearse for a Broadway production. Despite being nearly 70 years old, themes in the play, are still relevant today.

*Trouble in Mind* was the first professionally produced play written by Alice Childress. Childress directed the first production of the play, which debuted on November 5, 1955, and ran for 91 performances.

Childress had a chance to take *Trouble in Mind* to Broadway, but the producers demanded too many changes that Childress felt would have compromised the play.



*Trouble in Mind* 1955

*Trouble in Mind* finally made its Broadway debut on November 18, 2021, at the American Airlines Theatre. The limited run closed on January 9, 2022, after 58 performances and 20 previews. The production was nominated for four Tony Awards.

# Alice Childress

Born: Oct. 12, 1916, Charleston, South Carolina

Died: Aug. 14, 1994, New York, N.Y. (aged 77)

As a child, Alice Childress improvised plays with friends and was a voracious reader.

At the age of 20 she became involved with the American Negro Theater in Harlem. Childress learned every aspect of the theatre, from set building to directing, acting, and writing, in her 11 years of involvement.

When Alice was a teenager, she saw a Shakespeare play, which sparked her interest in a theatre career.

Community Theatres is a great place to learn all about theatre. The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem has volunteers of all ages.

Alice Childress is also known for her young adult novels, among which are *Those Other People* (1989) and *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich* (1973).



## Awards

Off-Broadway Magazine (Trouble in Mind), 1956

ALA Best Young Adult Book of 1975 (for *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich*)

Lewis Carroll Shelf Award (for *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich*)

Jane Addams Children's Book Honor for a young adult novel (for *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich*)

Paul Robeson Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Performing Arts, 1980

Honorable Mention, Coretta Scott King Award, 1982  
*What a Girl*, 1985

Drama Desk Award – Harold S. Prince Lifetime Achievement Award, 2022 (posthumous)