

THE THEATRE NOW PLAYING

Octoberfest

Fifty years is a long time to do just about anything—but not if you keep finding joy and new things to discover in the doing. In 1970, the estimable director and producer Woodie King, Jr., founded the important New Federal Theatre—he named it after a branch of the WPA theatre program—and, since then, he has presented writers such as Ed Bullins and Ntozake Shange and featured performers as varied as Tonya Pinkins, Chadwick Boseman, LaTanya Richardson Jackson, Denzel Washington, and Petronia Paley. To commemorate King, now eighty-three, and his theatre’s staying power, the company presents a series of readings of rarely performed or forgotten Black plays, on Fridays Oct. 2-30, including Clare Coss’s “Dr. Dubois and Miss Ovington,” about the founders of the N.A.A.C.P. From the start, King’s theatre and his artists have shared an ethos: to promote and support that which makes theatre not only an art but an arena where one can see ethos at play.