

**The African
Theatre of NYC
opened in 1821
and closed in
1824.**



**William A. Brown
founded the African
Theatre which employed
no less than 30 actors
evenly split between adult
males and females and
included two youth
actors.**



**The African Theatre
mounted at least ten
major productions during
its existence, including
summer productions,
with an emphasis on
Shakespearean
productions.**





**James Hewlett
was the
theatre's
leading actor.**



**Of all the African
Theatre players,
Ira Aldridge
achieved
international
fame.**



Brown addressed his playbills to “the Ladies and Gentlemen of Color,” but he did accommodate white patrons in a separate section of the theatre.



**Stephen Price, the
Park Theatre's
manager, was a
continuous nemesis
to the progress of the
African Theatre.**

In 1830, a New Orleans playhouse was opened and operated especially for the Negro population.





William Wells Brown, a fugitive slave, became a playwright writing about difficulties runaway slaves faced on their way to Canada and freedom.

Minstrelsy came into vogue as a unique form of American theatre that presented unflattering and clownish images of black people.

