

## August Wilson Play Jitney Script

### Strap In, Buttercups, You're About to Catch a Jitney Ride You Won't Forget!

Ever feel like life's a bit of a bumpy road, with unexpected detours and a cast of characters that could make a soap opera blush? Well, buckle up because August Wilson's **"Jitney"** is here to pick you up and take you on a journey that's as heartwarming as it is hilarious, and as profound as it is pure gold. Seriously, if you haven't dipped your toes into this theatrical gem, or if it's been a while since you've hopped aboard, get ready to be charmed, challenged, and utterly captivated.

Let's talk about the setting. We're talking about the Hill District of Pittsburgh in the 1970s, and oh boy, does Wilson paint a picture! This isn't just a backdrop; it's practically a character in itself. Imagine a world humming with the rhythm of a bustling taxi company, a place where dreams are hatched over worn-out steering wheels and secrets are spilled between fares. It's a place so vividly imagined, you can practically smell the exhaust fumes and hear the chatter of the drivers as they navigate life's winding streets. It's a magical, almost gritty wonderland that pulls you right in.

But what truly makes **"Jitney"** sing is its emotional depth. These characters aren't just names on a page; they're living, breathing souls wrestling with love, loss, ambition, and regret. You'll find yourself rooting for them, laughing with them, and maybe even shedding a tear or two. From the gruff but wise boss, Becker, to the young hothead, Youngblood, each driver has a story that resonates. It's like a really good group chat, but with more existential angst and a whole lot more style. And the beauty of it? It speaks to everyone. Whether you're navigating the choppy waters of your teenage years, trying to figure out your next career move, or just looking for a good story, the

struggles and triumphs of these men are undeniably universal.

This play is a masterclass in storytelling, proving that sometimes, the most extraordinary journeys happen in the most ordinary of places. It's a powerful reminder of the bonds we forge, the mistakes we make, and the enduring hope that keeps us going, no matter what. It's funny, it's heartbreaking, it's thought-provoking, and it's an absolute must-read for anyone who believes in the power of human connection.

### **Why you should dive in (or dive back in!):**

**Imaginative Setting:** Get ready for a vibrant, sensory immersion into 1970s Pittsburgh's Hill District.

**Emotional Rollercoaster:** Prepare for characters that will tug at your heartstrings and make you feel deeply.

**Universal Appeal:** Whether you're young, old, a student, or just a curious soul, this story will resonate with you.

**Witty Dialogue:** Wilson's writing is sharp, clever, and utterly captivating.

**A Timeless Classic:** This isn't just a play; it's a piece of cultural history that continues to inspire and move audiences.

Seriously, if you're looking for a book that will spark conversation, ignite your imagination, and leave you feeling a little more connected to the world around you, then grab a copy of **August Wilson's "Jitney."** It's more than just a script; it's an invitation to experience a magical journey that's both deeply personal and wonderfully universal. It's a story that deserves to be read, discussed, and cherished for generations to come.

**My heartfelt recommendation?** Don't walk, \*run\* to get your hands on this book! **"Jitney"** is a testament to the enduring power of the human spirit, a beautiful tapestry of life's ups and downs woven with August Wilson's unparalleled genius. It's a timeless classic that will undoubtedly capture your heart and leave an indelible mark on your soul. Prepare to be educated, entertained, and deeply moved. You won't regret this ride!

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*Yvonne Shafer Helen Manfull William B. Worthen Dan Flynn Ishmael Reed*

includes lee breuer christopher durang richard foreman maria irene fornes charles  
fuller john guare joan holden david henry hwang david mamet emily mann richard  
nelson marsha norman david rabe wallace shawn stephen sondheim megan terry luis  
valdez michael weller august wilson and lanford wilson

collects a selection of the many interviews wilson gave from 1984 to 2004 in the  
interviews the playwright covers at length and in detail his plays and his background  
he comments as well on such subjects as the differences between african americans  
and whites his call for more black theater companies and his belief that african  
americans made a mistake in assimilating themselves into the white mainstream he  
also talks about his major influences what he calls his four b s the blues writers james  
baldwin and amiri baraka and painter romare bearden wilson also discusses his writing  
process and his multiple collaborations with director lloyd richards publisher  
description

the masterful the wall street journal invaluable los angeles times first authoritative  
biography of august wilson the most important and successful american playwriting of  
the late 20th century by a theater critic who knew him august wilson wrote a series of  
ten plays celebrating african american life in the 20th century one play for each decade

no other american playwright has completed such an ambitious oeuvre two of the plays became successful films fences starring denzel washington and viola davis and ma rainey s black bottom starring viola davis and chadwick boseman fences and the piano lesson won the pulitzer prize for drama fences won the tony award for best play and years after wilson s death in 2005 jitney earned a tony award for best revival of a play through his brilliant use of vernacular speech wilson developed unforgettable characters who epitomized the trials and triumphs of the african american experience he said that he didn t research his plays but wrote them from the blood s memory a sense of racial history that he believed african americans shared author and theater critic patti hartigan traced his ancestry back to slavery and his plays echo with uncanny similarities to the history of his ancestors she interviewed wilson many times before his death and traces his life from his childhood in pittsburgh where nine of the plays take place to broadway she also interviewed scores of friends theater colleagues and family members and conducted extensive research to tell the absorbing richly detailed chicago tribune story of a writer who left an indelible imprint on american theater and opened the door for future playwrights of color

playwright august wilson is best known for his american century cycle a sequence of ten plays including the pulitzer prize winning fences and the piano lesson that chronicle the lives of black americans in each decade of the twentieth century but behind the celebrated plays stands a complex man shaped by his hometown s vibrant black culture in august wilson s american century life as art laurence a glasco one of the foremost historians of black life in pittsburgh draws on wilson s early poetry archival material and original interviews with family members neighbors and friends to show how the city and its residents shaped the playwright and his work wilson s overlapping identities as an outsider warrior race man and poet helped him persevere in the face of setbacks weave real life observations with his poetry to craft memorable dialogue and compelling characters and portray the realities of race in america in ways that have resonated with theatergoers and readers ever since glasco uncovers the story of how the people and places of pittsburgh remained with wilson after he left his hometown shining through in a body of work that brought the struggles and triumphs of the black experience to a wide audience and changed american theater for the better

contributors to this collection of 15 essays are academics in english theater and african american studies they focus on the second half of wilson s century cycle of plays examining each play within the larger context of the cycle and highlighting themes within and across particular plays some topics discussed include business in the street in jitney and gem of the ocean contesting black male responsibilities in jitney the holyistic blues of seven guitars violence as history lesson in seven guitars and king hedley ii and ritual death and wilson s female christ the book offers an index of plays critics and theorists but not a subject index nadel is chair of american literature and culture at the university of kentucky

understanding plays as texts for performance offers seventeen plays with critical commentaries that span the range of western writing for the theatre from the greeks to the post moderns this book introduces readers to dramatic writing as pre texts for theatrical performance written not only to be read but also to be performed by actors before audiences

provides information on the work of a black american playwright best known for his play ma rainey s black bottom offers plot summaries and critical overviews of six plays written between 1984 and 1996 and contains a chronology an overview of his life and career and a list of productions and credits also includes an annotated bibliography of wilson s dramatic publications as well as articles and interviews about him and an annotated secondary bibliography annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

minnesota is known for its harsh winters nice people and very large mosquitoes but the state has also been a breeding ground for talent as dan flynn makes clear in this fascinating collection of thumbnail biographies

this gathering of ishmael reed s essays book reviews and editorials brings us into the ring of debate where reed boxes his best match against american culture the champion of controversy challenges the arts as he see them both from the inside and from his armchair and theater seat he makes clear his highly publicized views on steven spielberg and the color purple and offers a fascinating critique of george orwell s 1984 as well as a new look at playwright august wilson reed moves in on the very premises

of popular opinion to discuss society as he knows it the state of black literature illiteracy black identity and the media cultural pluralism and the modern political system provocative often outrageous always thoughtful reed s essays demand our attention and even his arch detractors take up his challenge conceding that his is a voice that must be heard assaulting the social political and artistic ills of our times this is ishmael reed at his best

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