

GORDON PARKS
(Artist Statement)

GORDON PARKS has always cherished a love for the theater and the performing arts for as long as he can remember. His first theatrical experience was in a High School production of the play "Our Town". Since that moment, performing has become a part of his life. Since his first initiation as an actor, he has developed his craft as a director, writer, and workshop instructor. He has come to realize that his goal as a performer is touch someone emotionally and to make them feel something during a performance. He believes that every theatrical experience should stimulate the heart, mind, and spirit. His intent is to use the stage as an arena to entertain, educate, and inspire while providing insight about the human condition and the human-race.

During a pilgrimage to Senegal, West Africa, Gordon was introduced to the African culture of storytelling while visiting some of the villages. He loved that the stories expressed morals, principles and values. He was so impressed that he decided to include storytelling as part of his repertoire. Before leaving Senegal, Gordon feels fortunate that he received his African Tribal name during a naming ceremony. The elders agreed that his name should be "Soorah", which means "One who reaches out to the universe" and his tribal name to be Samekeh. He enjoys telling stories in the tradition of the African Ancestors for the young and the young at heart. He is also a lifetime member of the Griots Circle of Maryland

Gordon has performed in many local productions which include "Where the Sidewalk Cracks", "Of Mice and Men", "Westside Story", "Video", "Zooman and the Sign".and "The Clock". Off-Broadway performances include "None to Call Him Father", and "Blues for Mr. Charlie". Directorial credits consist of, "Red Tape", "That Serious He Man Ball", "When the Past Comes Back", and "Man On A Mountain". He has written several plays which have been produced locally.