

Author's Note:

The Grass Widow's Son examines the dirt of war and how the heaviness of bondage of any type is the same to all men; it examines hope that surpasses understanding... It's about what happens when life grabs you mid-breath and takes you places you don't want to go. How hard will you fight to keep believing... to keep hoping no matter how crazy it makes you look? The play is about finding a way to break free and finding a way to get the dirt off...

Thank you to the DC Black Theatre Festival
Glenn Alan, Cody Jones, the actors,
with very special thanks to Reneé Charlow



The Grass Widow's Son

written by Robin Byrd

*In
the midst
of war,
the greatest battle...
is not letting go...*

**Thursday, June 28, 2012
7:00 pm**

**DC Black Theatre Festival
New Works Reading Series**

**The Blackburn Center
Howard University
2400 Sixth Street NW
Washington, DC**

THE GRASS WIDOW'S SON

by Robin Byrd

In the midst of war, the greatest battle is...not letting go... So it is with Achilles, son to his father's mistress, warrior in a battle he did not choose. From the battlefield, he can see the mountain where he has been told his mother's grave lies -- the grave his heart tells him does not exist. His is a journey from the valley to the mountaintop with only hope as a lamp through the darkness. His hope...to find her alive at the top of that mountain...

CHARACTERS

Aeacides [ee-as-i-deez]/**Achilles**: Soldier. Male. 15. Black hair.

Jeshua [je-shoo'-a]: The grass widow. Mulatto. Female. 30.

Achilles-2: Jeshua's imaginary son. White. Male. 15. Blonde hair.

Maria (Maw Ria): Jeshua's slave. Full-blood (Shawnee). Female. 59. Born 1803.

Ada (Luada): Maria's daughter. Mixed-blood (Huron, Shawnee, and African). Midwife. Female. 37. Born 1825.

Cassius [kash-uh s]: Jeshua's lover. White. Male. 45. Soldier.

Mekoche [mě kō chee]: Spirit of Shawnee Chief Black Hoof. Died 1831. Born 1722. Male. 109. Ageless.

Captain Aeacus [ee-a-kus]: Confederate Army Captain. Male. 32.

Doc: Captured Runaway Slave. Male. 25.

Men: Indians, Soldiers, and Slaves. Male. 13 – 60. Three or more.

THE ACTORS:

Yoni Gray as Aeacides/Achilles

Holly McNamee as Jeshua

Terrie Edwards as Maw Ria

Linda Elliott as Ada

David Berkenbilt as Cassius

William Shipman as Mekoche

Stephen Green as Captain Aeacus

Matt Holbert as Doc

Mohammed as Narrator

Some characters read by narrator.