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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "10/29/1990 - Perkins Guest Lecturer" (1990). *Press Releases*. 1070.

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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90-614

October 29, 1990

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PERKINS GUEST LECTURER

CHARLESTON, IL.--Kathy Perkins, a successful lighting designer and scholar in Afro-American Drama and Women's Studies, will be a guest lecturer at Eastern Illinois University Friday, Nov. 2.

Perkins, who has designed lighting for numerous recording artists, including Roberta Flack and Cab Calloway, and for Broadway and off-Broadway theatre productions, will make three presentations on Nov. 2, which are open to the public.

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She will speak on "Cultural Diversity" at 10 a.m.; "Black Women Playwrights Before 1950" at 11 a.m.; and "Involvement in the Fine Arts" at 1 p.m. All presentations will be in the Fine Arts Theatre in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. She will also have a special session with fine arts majors and staff.

Her visit is sponsored by Eastern's Afro-American Studies, College of Fine Arts, Office of Faculty Development, Theatre Department and Women's Studies Council.

"Professor Perkins' visit is timely considering that Eastern is in the process of introducing a new core general education program, with many of the courses stressing cultural diversity. Her book, "Black Women Playwrights" may also be used in the new curriculum," said E.T. Guidotti, chair of the Theatre Arts Department.

Currently Assistant Professor of Lighting in the Department of Theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana campus, Perkins has a long list of credits in the lighting design field, having worked with major theatre companies in St. Louis, New York and California. In 1989, she received the "Best Lighting Designer" award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

She has contributed research about Eulalie Spence and Gertrude McBrown for a recently published book entitled "Notable Black American Women."

She is curator/co-exhibition designer for "ONSTAGE: A Century of Theatre Designs by African-American Artists," which will be on display during 1991 at The California Afro-American Museum at the University of California at Los Angeles.



Kathy Perkins