

## August Wilson's "Pittsburgh Cycle"

Title	Setting	Year the play takes place	Year play premiered in New York	Synopsis	Major Honors and Nominations
<i>Gem of the Ocean</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1904	2004	Solly Two Kings, a former slave and Underground Railroad operator, and Citizen Barlow, a young Southern man looking for a new life, seek sanctuary at 1839 Wylie Avenue, a house belonging to Aunt Ester, the 287-year-old matriarch of August Wilson's world.	Tony Award Nomination
<i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1911	1988	Seth and Bertha Holly's boarding house is a temporary haven for African Americans moving to the North. Some are trying to find a new life, or, in the case of Harold Loomis, in search of family members lost under the oppression of sharecropping and chain gangs.	New York Drama Critics Circle Award; Tony Award Nomination; Drama Desk Award Nomination
<i>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom</i>	Chicago	1927	1984	While the white agent and studio boss wait for blues star Ma Rainey to show up for her recording date, the four black musicians in her band rehearse, bicker, tell stories and dream.	New York Drama Critics Circle Award; Whiting Writers Award; Tony Award Nomination; Drama Desk Award Nomination
<i>The Piano Lesson</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1936	1990	The most precious possession of the Charles family is an upright piano. When they were slaves, a Charles child was traded for it and the child's father carved his grief on it in scenes of family history. Years later, his descendants reclaimed the piano. Now it is the focal point in a struggle between their descendants over how to use this painful legacy.	Pulitzer Prize; New York Drama Critics Circle Award; Drama Desk Award; Pulitzer Prize Nomination; Tony Award Nomination

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<i>Seven Guitars</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1948	1996	Floyd Barton is a natural musician who dreams of the big time. But as the play begins, his wife and friends mourn his death and explore his story. This is the only August Wilson play told in flashback form.	New York Drama Critics Circle Award; Pulitzer Prize Nomination; Tony Award Nomination; Drama Desk Award Nomination
<i>Fences</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1957-58 and 1963	1987	The most popular play of the cycle, and a moneymaker on Broadway, is often compared with Eugene O'Neill's "Death of a Salesman." Troy Maxson was a Negro League baseball star who spent many years in jail; now he's a trash collector fighting for blacks to be allowed to drive as well as haul.	Pulitzer Prize; Tony Award; New York Drama Critics Circle Awards; Drama Desk Award
<i>Two Trains Running</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1969	1992	In the aftermath of the riots following the assassination of Martin Luther King and in the heyday of black power, a boastful young man named Sterling arrives at Memphis' diner to learn his way around the Hill, the community struggles against urban renewal, and individual citizens fight for what is rightly theirs.	New York Drama Critics Circle Award; American Theatre Critics Outstanding Plays Award; Pulitzer Prize Nomination; Tony Award Nomination
<i>Jitney</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1977	Original, 1982; Rewritten, 2000	Out of a jitney station in the Hill, Becker and four other men hustle to make a living. In between calls, they gossip and bicker with each other.	Great Britain's Olivier Award; New York Drama Critics Circle Award; Drama Desk Award Nomination
<i>King Hedley II</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1985	2001	Hedley, who was named King by his father, the strange West Indian in "Seven Guitars," is a tragic figure of great stature. In this darkest Wilson play, Hedley struggles to earn respect.	Pulitzer Prize Nomination; Tony Award Nomination

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<i>Radio Golf</i>	Pittsburgh: The Hill District	1997	2005	In this first play set among the black bourgeoisie, Harmond Wilks is running for mayor and planning a bold redevelopment deal for the Hill District. At particular issue is 1839 Wylie, the old house that was once Aunt Ester's, as well as the relationships among race, class, and cultural identity.	New York Drama Critics Circle Award; Tony Award Nomination; Drama Desk Award Nomination
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