



***Jeffrey Wright and Mos lead the company of John Guare's new historical epic of 1800s New Orleans***

**BY MICHAEL SOMMERS  
NEWJERSEYNEWSROOM.COM  
BROADWAY REVIEW**

"A Free Man of Color" is a mad, glorious mess of circa 1804 world history, quasi-Restoration comedy and conflicting racial issues created with wild ambition and intermittent flashes of brilliance by one of our best playwrights, John Guare, the maker of "Six Degrees of Separation" and "The House of Blue Leaves."

Bowing on Thursday in Lincoln Center Theater's no-expense-spared premiere at the Vivian Beaumont Theater, "A Free Man of Color" is a panoramic study of the forces that reshaped 1800s New Orleans, initially a racially progressive city of Spanish-French origin, into what would become the epicenter of American slavery.

The play also involves a naughty sex comedy that rampages in the forefront of all this intricate history.

Sound like a challenging show to see? It is. Imagine Tom Stoppard drunk and you've got some notion of the attempted intellectual scope and theatrical legerdemain of Guare's epic, which demands much from its viewers.



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