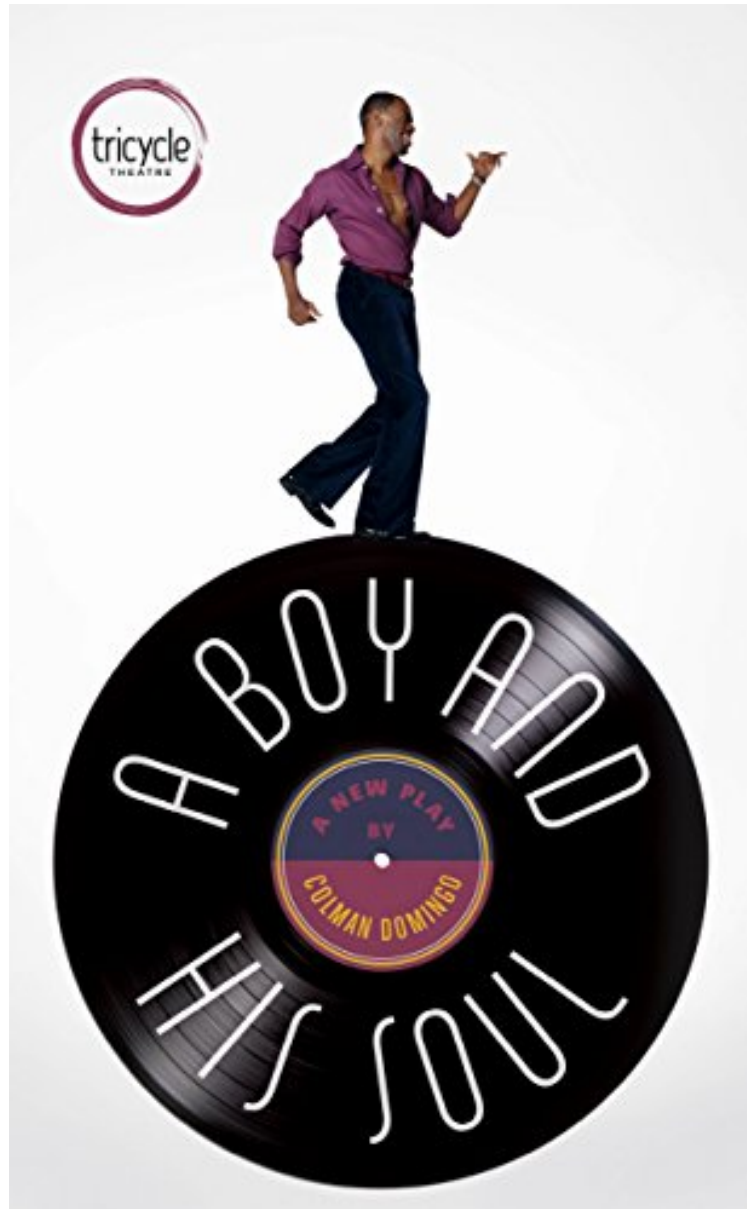


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A Boy and His Soul (Oberon Modern Plays)

Colman Domingo

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Colman Domingo : A Boy and His Soul (Oberon Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Boy and His Soul (Oberon Modern Plays):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 1-act monologue by Tony nominee Domingo weaves classic soul music recordings in script- Print edition needs some "punctuation"By Steve RammThis one-man, one-act play by Philadelphia-born Tony-nominated (for "the Scottsboro Boys") actor has been professionally staged around the world

and will have its Philly "main stage" premiere next month (May 2014) at the Philadelphia Theatre Company. I'm really looking forward to it and, in preparation, I got this newly published script. Though the play premiered at the Vineyard Theater in New York it is the Tricycle Theatre production in the UK that is the basis for this volume. "A Boy and His Soul" (ABAHS) is best described as "a monologue with recorded music", since it is just the actor - in this case, and in the Philly production, Domingo - on stage playing various characters, as needed, accompanied by a "soundtrack" of classic soul recordings. (At the beginning of the printed "script" Domingo has listed the requisite recordings. These classics (Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Teddy Pendergrass and Jeffrey Osborne - whose name is misspelled as Osbourne, because, I guess, the British always add the "u") fade in and out at the appropriate moments in the show. The reviews of the stage production have been great and I'm looking forward to seeing it on stage, but reading the print version can be a bit of a challenge. It's not the length of the text - it runs just 52 pages of dialogue - but the formatting of the printed volume. Yes, there are some grammatical errors (especially punctuation) but this is a "dialogue" play and so there is lots of "slang". But words are capitalized in mid-sentence that shouldn't be and quotation marks are often missing or inserted where they make no sense. I found myself having to "read aloud" at a slow pace (and even re-read full pages - to understand what was being said (and which character was saying it). The story revolves around Domingo and his family. He has a mother and a stepfather plus two siblings he interacts with (plus other relatives and some friends). He visits the family home in West Philly (now being sold) and finds the old vinyl record collection still there. This is the jumping off point for Domingo to tell us how music (not just "soul music" either) infiltrated his life. He reveals the moment that he revealed that he is gay and how his family responded. We never learn about his education or how he discovered that he wanted to be an actor. This short play is all about the music. So, yes, I'm impressed by his writing - and anxious to see him play the multiple "voices" on stage - but I felt that the print version could have used more of an "Editor's touch" to get the punctuation in a more reader-friendly form. Hence, the reduction of this volume by one star, to four stars. I hope you found this review both informative and helpful. Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic"

Where do you get SOUL? From watching your parents sell the house you grew up in? From discovering the family secret about your crazy cousin? Or from the childhood records found in your parents' basement? From Stevie, Aretha, Marvin, Chaka, Barry, Gladys and Colman. Propelled by the beat of classic soul, smooth R&B and disco, this is the soundtrack of a boy's coming of age in 70s and 80s Philadelphia. A Boy and His Soul was the recipient of the Lucille Lortel Award Best Solo Show, GLAAD Media Award Best Play On or Off Broadway and the ITBA Best Solo Show awards.

About the Author Colman Domingo is the author of Wild with Happy (Dramatists Play Service), A Boy and His Soul, Up Jumped Springtime, and The Brothers. The artistic work of Mr. Domingo has been honored with a Tony, Drama Desk and Drama League nomination. His work has won the OBIE, Lucille Lortel, GLAAD, Connecticut Critics Circle, Bay Area Theater Critics Circle and Internet Theater Bloggers Award. Colman has received fellowships and/or residencies from The Sundance Theater Lab, The People's Light and Theater Company, and the Banff Playwrights Colony. Mr. Domingo is currently under commission from The American Conservatory Theater. His plays have been produced at The Public Theater, The Vineyard Theater, Theatreworks, Philadelphia Theater Company, Baltimore Centerstage, The Tricycle Theater (London), Theater Rhinoceros and Thick Description Theater. Mr. Domingo as an actor has starred on Broadway in Passing Strange, Chicago, Well and The Scottsboro Boys and has worked in films such as Lee Daniel's The Butler, Lincoln, Red Hook Summer, Passing Strange, Miracle at St. Ana, King of the Bingo Game and Newlyweeds among others.