

# Amen Circle, a five-mile area that's being gentrified

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Hill also struck a partnership with Winston-Salem University's Theatre Department in Winston-Salem, NC, a *historically black university*. The University provides a platform to *beta test* Hill's play writings. "They review my work in class, discuss it and provide me with feedback. They [the University] already signed on for 3-4 stage plays in 2019!" Hill exclaimed. It's pretty remarkable for Hill and the students. The students are learning how to review theatrical productions, and they have the honor to use Hill's work as their case studies and sometimes as their senior projects.

All of the plays written by Hill occur in the *Amen Circle*, a five-mile area that's being gentrified. The Circle has a deep ethnic history, rich with old churches. Families from generation-to-generation attend these historically African-American churches and have deep ties to the institutions, independent of the changing neighborhoods.

*The Villager* is pleased to announce exclusively, a new dimension to Hill's artistry. Beginning in early 2019, Hill and her team will begin a Podcast with actors performing her



No Ordinary Days Play at Boyd Vance Theatre. Photo by Robert Hill.

plays. This will be in an episodic format with full readings on each airing, consisting of original plays all written by Hill, who continues to build, trail-blaze and expand. Today we salute Austin's own Jeanette W. Hill. See her work on the *2018 East Austin Studio Tour* November 10&11 and November 17&18 at the African American Cultural Heritage Facility at 2pm each day!

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