

# DeKalb resident's well-known musical direction shines in 'Fences'

By Paula Neal  
Neighbor Staff Writer

The works of playwright August Wilson have special significance to North Druid Hills resident Dwight Andrews for a few reasons.

Besides his intrinsic respect for Wilson's talents, which include "Fences," running at the Alliance Theatre through February, those works have been instrumental in Andrews' national success in musical direction. Director Lloyd Richards has hired him for the production of all four Wilson plays.

Andrews attended seminary at Yale with full intentions of becoming a minister, but a consistent demand for his musical talents has presently forced these goals into the background, he said.

In the early '70s, after graduating from the University of Michigan in performance, he found his musical talents helpful in working his way through seminary school.

He was able to realize his ministerial ambitions during this same period, through services from 1975-1988 as the associate chaplain at Yale.

The saxophone and clarinet player worked with the Repertory Theatre, the professional theater of Yale's drama school, and in 1988 was named its musical director.

His association with Lloyd Richards began through this position.

"It's simply been a matter of being in the right place at the right time," Andrews said.

Since then he's worked steadily, travelling the country doing Wilson's plays. He just returned from Los Angeles, where "Fences" is running at The Doolittle Theater until spring, when the whole performance will migrate east to Broadway. It's gotten good reviews in Hollywood, Andrews said.

He and his wife of about two years moved to Atlanta to join Emory University's Music Department. He's been with the university around two years now, and the experience is rewarding as he's able to teach and compose as well as stay involved with hands-on artistic endeavors, he said.

The artist said he does miss ministering and would like to find an appropriate position within the next few years or so. He says he doesn't have time for hobbies.

"Luckily, I truly love what I do, and consider it both work and play," Andrews said. "I don't really have any hobbies — maybe in the next few years I'll find time for some!"