

“Giving Voice”

Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson chronicled the history of Black America in such works as “Fences” and “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom”. Sadly he died when he was only 60 years old. But his legacy lives on, not only in his plays, but in the “August Wilson Monologue Competition”. Each year thousands of young aspiring actors across the U.S. pick a piece from one of his plays and compete in their local area. When the winnowing process is over the top 20 will go on to New York City for the finals.

In these down times, why not treat yourself to the upbeat tale of these remarkable young people whose talents, dedication to their craft and views of life belie their tender years. And at the end of the film you will see a performance which took top honors. To describe it as gripping hardly does justice to what you will see on stage. It is a shame that August Wilson could not have been there himself that night.

(Netflix)

If you are among the few who have not seen “The Queen’s Gambit”, then it is time to join the adoring crowd. Who would believe that chess could be so exciting? And the performance by Anya Talor-Joy as chess prodigy Beth Harmon is nothing short of (pick the superlative adjective of choice).

(Netflix)