

# Ronald "Smokey" Stevens

**Creator, Co-Producer-Writer-Performer**

*"I JUST WANT TO TELL SOMEBODY"*



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## Introduction and Background

**R**onald “Smokey” Stevens, a recipient of The NAACP 11th Annual Theater Arts Award, a native of Washington D.C., began his professional training and career at The D.C. Black Repertory Company, where he studied and performed in repertory for six years. After his studies, he performed in “Showdown Times” on the National Black Touring Circuit. In New York, he appeared on Broadway in “Bubbling Brown Sugar,” “Inacent Black,” and “Dreamgirls.”



He toured with “One Mo Time,” “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” and his own Broadway production “Rollin’ on the T.O.B.A.,” a tribute to the last days of Black Vaudeville, a production he co-conceived, wrote, directed, choreographed, and starred. He also co-conceived the vaudeville musical, “Shoot Me While I’m Happy,” which ran at Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago. While in New York, he also produced “The Sho’ Nuff Variety Review” at The Village Gate, “The Rising Stars Cabaret,” and The Children’s Theater of Harlem. His film credits include “The Wiz,” as one of the Crows performing with Michael Jackson, “The Cotton Club,” and “Times Square.”

Ronald “Smokey” Stevens has performed with great legends, including tap master Charles Honi Coles, Lucille Ball, Cab Calloway, Ossie Davis, and Ruby Dee. He is the author of his first published book entitled “I Just Want to Tell Somebody: The Autobiography of Ronald Smokey Stevens.” He has turned his book into a one-person stage production of the same title, performed at The Woolly Mammoth Theater in Washington DC in February 2011. H is a graduate of The Community Film Workshop of Chicago, where he produced two short films. He also co-produced an exposé on “THE ARC: A Beacon of Light in Southeast Washington, DC” for DCTV. He is the recipient of the 2011 Heritage Project Grant sponsored by The DC Humanities Council, where he produced, wrote, and directed his first documentary entitled “PRESERVING LEDROIT PARK: A Historic Community in Washington, D.C.” He has recently published his second book entitled “The First 60 Years: The History of Afro-American Musical Theater and Entertainment from 1865-1930”. He recently completed his latest documentary entitled “America: An Immigration Nation.”