

Lee Roy Brown Giles (1936- 2010) was born in Wichita, Kansas. At an early age, he moved with his family to the Bronx in New York, where he spent his formative years. A lifelong lover of learning, Lee Roy avidly pursued an education. He attended Food Trades High School, followed by Bronx Community College. Later, he earned his B.S. in Social Science at Fordham University, his M.S. in Special Education at Adelphi University, and a Professional Diploma in Reading at Adelphi University. At one point, he took graduate level courses in theatre at Hunter College, where his instructors included Harold Clurman and Lloyd Richards.

His love of theatre led him into the profession, where he proved himself a multitalented actor. His numerous credits include working with the New Federal Theatre, the Billie Holiday Theatre, and the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, to name a few. He spent two years with the Free Southern Theatre, touring the South. He played the role of Sweets Crane in the Broadway production of *No Place to Be Somebody* prior to joining that play's first national tour. His work in films includes recent roles in *Sweet Home Alabama*, *Boycott* and *Three Can Play That Game*. A member of Actors Equity Association, the Screen Actors Guild, the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, and the American Guild of Variety Artists, he worked across a broad spectrum of the field.

Lee Roy managed to combine his theatre career with a career in teaching. He taught in special education at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn and in home instruction for the New York City Board of Education. When he retired from teaching in New York, he joined his wife, Freda Scott Giles, as a full-time resident of Athens, Georgia. As a substitute teacher for the Athens Clarke County schools, he became an encouraging and supportive presence in local education.

The Encouragement Award was established to reflect Lee Roy's passion for education and for helping young people. Each year at least two students in African American Studies will receive cash grants to use toward their educational expenses. This is the first endowment dedicated to the Institute for African American Studies.

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Lee Roy B. Giles
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