

**An Undeniable Bond: Sisterhood and the Edge of Solidarity in Dominique
Morisseau's *Mud Row* and *Confederates***

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Abstract

Sisterhood, in the history of feminist thoughts, has occupied a prominent position to evoke the spirit of power in unity. As a slogan or a rallying call, it represents an incontrovertible support system to shield against sexism and patriarchal violence. With interlocking systems of oppression structured along the axes of race, class and sexuality, black feminists furthermore adopt the idea that sisterhood not only refers to the collective attempt to overcome sexism and racism, but most significantly, contributes to a conceptual framework of black women's racial and gendered identity development. While this symbolic inclusion assumes a self-defined and collective standpoint for black women who are in the need to connect with a sense of similarity, it obscures how the institutional arrangements and policies that suppress the narrative of singularity. After all, blackness is not monolithic, and neither is black identity.

By recognizing the tremendous heterogeneity that operates within the boundaries of sisterhood, an internal inconsistency in ideology comes to the fore. Without hast generalization of black women's experiences, the idea of sisterhood as an expression of political solidarity moves beyond the shallow notion of shared victimization, and serves to galvanize change through differences. Predicated on this perspective, this article will take a step further to discuss how the different placement of black women in hierarchal power relations negotiates conflicts, and hence fosters solidarity based on mutual care and support. Instead of simply inserting a set of black women's experiences into existing theoretical models, I wish to provide a critical angle on interracial and intraracial sisterhood by comparing two dramatic works of Dominique Morisseau, *Mud Row* and *Confederates*. My purpose is not simply to problematize the dissociative echo chamber of feminist thoughts but to envision a potential sounding board that enables people to revisit the past while redefining the present struggles.

Keywords: sisterhood, black feminism, political solidarity, racism, African American theatre