2018/19 SEASON

FIRST SEASON PRODUCTION

SCHOOL GIRLS
Or, the African Mean Girls Play
By Jocelyn Bioh
Directed by Rebecca Taichman
Sep 2–30, 2018

SECOND SEASON PRODUCTION

QUACK
By Eliza Clark
Directed by Neel Keller
World Premiere
Oct 21 – Nov 18, 2018

THIRD SEASON PRODUCTION

BLOCK PARTY
Celebrating Los Angeles Theatre
Mar 7 – Apr 28, 2019

THEATRE OF NOTE
FOR THE LOVE OF
(or, the roller derby play)
By Gina Femia
Directed and Choreographed by Rhonda Kohl
Mar 7–17, 2019

SKYLIGHT THEATRE COMPANY
ROTTERDAM
By Jon Brittain
Directed by Michael A. Shepperd
Mar 28 – Apr 7, 2019

ANTAEUS THEATRE COMPANY
NATIVE SON
By Nambi E. Kelley
Based on the Novel by Richard Wright
Directed by Andi Chapman
Apr 18–28, 2019

FOURTH SEASON PRODUCTION

DANA H.
By Lucas Hnath
Adapted from Interviews with Dana Higginbotham
Conducted by Steve Cosson
Directed by Les Waters
World Premiere
May 26 – Jun 23, 2019
Presents the note production of

For The Love Of
(Or, the roller derby play)

Written by
Gina Femia

With (in alphabetical order)

Diaz de los Muertos...............................CRYSTAL DIAZ
Michelle...............................................ELINOR GUNN
Squeaky Mouse.....................................LIESEL HANSON
Trauma Queen......................................FAITH IMAFIDON
Jammy From The Block.............................CINDY LIN
Frida Call-It-Low.....................................NADIA MARINA
Hot Flash..............................................LYNN ODELL
Andrea the Vagiant.................................ALINA PHELAN
Joy Ride................................................BRIANA PRICE
Ruth Bader Getsit.....................................NICOLE GABRIELLA SCIPIONE
Anna-Stacia...........................................YOLANDA SNOWBALL
Prosecute-Her......................................JENNY SOO
Maid of Metal........................................NANCY STONE
Lizzie Lightning.....................................TANIA VERAFIELD

Scenic Design
Eli Smith

Costume Design
Vicki Conrad

Lighting Design
Rose Malone

Sound Design
Gilly Moon

Directed & Choreographed by
Rhonda Kohl

For The Love Of will be performed with an intermission.

MARCH 7–17, 2019 KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

For The Love Of was developed with support from Max and Marj Green, with generous funding also provided by Jim and Mike Binkiewicz, and additional support provided by Kiki and David Gindler. Block Party is also made possible in part by a Culver City Performing Arts Grant with support from Sony Pictures Entertainment.
WHO'S WHO

CRISTAL DIAZ (Diaz de los Muertos). A NOTE member since 2011. Crystal served on the Artistic & Management Committee and is currently the Membership Chair. Productions at Theatre of NOTE include: Cleo, Theo & Wu, For The Love Of (or, the roller derby play). Hot Cat. Niagara Falls, Shoe Story, Figure 8, and Skeleton Stories. She is a member of Theatre Movement Bazaar, an associate member of Sacred Fools, and has performed in New York, Chicago, London, and Edinburgh. She is a native New Yorker and a trained ballet/falcono dancer. Special thanks to husband, Alexios DeLaRosa, Ziggy & Penny, and all of the strong women who hold her up.

ELOIS GUNN (Michelle) is delighted to be cast alongside such talented actors in this honest, heartfelt play. Notable performances in Seattle: US premiere of Sugar Daddies, written and directed by Sir Alan Ayckbourn; Olivia in Twelfth Night and Cordelia in King Lear with Seattle Shakespeare Company; and the fall, Kyrta in a successful run of Skylight at ACT Theatre. In L.A., she is a proud company member of Theatre of NOTE. For The Love Of will mark Elora's Kirk Douglas Theatre debut. Many thanks to Center Theatre Group for this opportunity. She hopes you continue to support local theatre, and enjoy the show!

LESLIE HANSON (Squeaky Mouse) is a company member at Theatre of NOTE and is so happy to be back in For The Love Of! She is a native Californian who has performed onstage in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, New York, and Edinburgh. Previous credits include the Lyonsgate horror film Children of Sorrows and the original cast of Re-Animator the Musical. You can also catch her in the action/ thriller feature Happy Hunting. Thanks to the entire company, and everyone who helped bring me into the Scallywags family; I love you all and of you.

FAITH IMAFDON (Tauna Queen). Understudy for Joy Ride, Squeaky Mouse is a proud first-generation Nigerian and Boston native. She holds both an MFA in acting and BA in English from Harvard University. Favorite past performances include: Cut (Numa Ogulu)—Casa 0101, The Fertile River (Rivers)—Baylor University’s Mabee Theatre, And Then They Fell (Crystal)—Brimmer Street Theatre, and The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Saint Monica)—The Hudson Theatre. When not onstage, Faith enjoys dance battles and trolling Epicurious for recipes. She is honored to work on the Kirk Douglas Theatre stage as she reunites with her lovely, badass female cast! Find more Faith at faithimafdon.com. Follow @faithimafdon.

CINDY LIN (Jammy From The Block, Understudy for Prosecute-Her) can't believe she gets to share the stage with Michelle roller derby women again. Original cast of Theatre of NOTE's West Coast premiere of For The Love Of UCLA graduate and HODUIGAN Theatre Company alumna. Past HTC credits include The Weddng Singer, Legally Blonde, Titanic, Curtains, and Unbreakable. Always singing, dancing, kicking, or teaching. Thank you to Theatre of NOTE and everyone that pushed this show forward. Much thanks to her character for appreciation for my teachers and friends. Special thanks to my family—I'm forever grateful. For everyone that chooses the love of the game.

NADIA MARINA (Friida Call-It-How, Understudy for Diaz de los Muertos, Lizzy Lightning) is back again for Block Party, but this time onstage. Her work as an actor/romantina includes Nina in Possum Carcass, Tyler in Some Gift(s), and Christina in Tre. She is also a producer and has worked on productions at the Echo Theatre Company as well as Theatre of NOTE. Newly a mom of two, Nadia thanks her family and the cast for sharing her nicely. More info can be found at nadimarina.com.

LYNN ODELL (Hot Flash) has acted, directed, and produced in New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. She was a member of the Actors’ Playhouse in N.Y., Dude Theatre in San Francisco, and has been with the critically acclaimed Theatre of NOTE in L.A. for almost 20 years. She has also had the privilege of working at Sacred Fools Theatre and Elephant Theatre companies. Her TV credits include Criminal Minds, Law & Order, and Order's children's series. Stages. She is in the independent films Gypsy's, Tramps & Thieves, Have You Seen Me?, Pariah, The Lost One, and Kill Me, Deadly.

ALINA PHELAN (Andrea the Vagabond). Credits: ICT: Dead Man’s Cell Phone, All in the Family, Chalk Rep. Family Planning. Circle X: Lucrative Something Open Fist. All Night Long, Love Water, Theatre of NOTE. Rio Horzo, Entropy, Niagara Falls, Hamlet. The First Quartto (winner—Ganford Award), I Wanna Hold Your Hand, Disassemble, and Hearts Like Fists. TV: How to Get Away with Murder, Grey’s Anatomy, Shameless, Criminal Minds, among others. Thank you to David Bickford, Rhonda, and all the ladies on the team who make this show epic. The biggest thanks to Center Theatre Group for creating Block Party and inviting us to play in your arena.

BRIANA PRICE (Ulyse Reid) was born and raised in Pasadena, California. She studied at Columbia University in the city of New York, where she was preparing to be a doctor. However, her love for the arts took over and steered her in the direction of professional dance and theatre. Briana has toured with Nicki Minaj, performed on Glee and The Neighbors, on stage in Temppest Rude as Ariel, All My Distances Are Far as Ruby, Future Sex, Inc. as an ensemble member, and most recently Lydiastrata Unbound as a female chorus member.

NICOLE GABRIELLA SCIPIONE (Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Undersudy for Michelle, Andrea the Vagabond, Regional (selected) Disgraced (PlayMakers Repertory Company), 32 Beds (South Coast Repertory, Culture Clash), Greenhouse (The Pasadena Playhouse), Night Sky and A Piece of My Heart (La Jolla Playhouse/McEoleti); The Miracle Worker (Sierra Repertory Theatre), Bus Stop (Met Theatre), The Crucible (StageSceneLA’s Best Performance by a Featured Actress), Film/TV (selected): C.S.I. Shark (Spike TV), Detective (TNT), Finder’s Choice (opposite Chad Lowe), McBride: Dogged, Monster Makers, Amed & Trial, Justine Bateman’s Five Minutes, P.U.S.H, and Nicole’s Song in a Convenience Store (third place—Oscar qualifying Athens International Film Festival). Grateful for you. More at IMDb & resumes.actorsaccess.com/nrg.

YOLANDA SNOWBALL (Anna-Stecia) is excited to recreate the role of Anna-Stecia in For The Love Of (or, the roller derby play). Yolanda is a gift of her graduate school colleagues. She grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and has studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City as well as the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. Yolanda’s theatre credits include work with Theatre of NOTE, The Actors’ Gang, Ensemble Studio Theatre LA, and Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble. Her television credits include This Is Us, NCIS, Good Trouble, and Jane the Virgin. Yolanda is honored to be a part of Block Party. Yolanda would like to thank her husband and son for their love and support.

JENNY SODO (Prosecute-Her). Favorite L.A. theatre credits: Hot Cat, D Deb Debbe Deborah, Dry Land, and Gloria, which was recently mentioned by The Los Angeles Times as one of the best of L.A. theatre productions of 2018. TB. Parks and Recreation; LA to Vegas, Reverie. Her passion project, award-winning feature film For IZZY is currently finishing its festival run and is available on VOD: forizzy.com. BFA. NYU. MFA. A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard.

NANCY STONE (Maid of Meat, Understudy for Hot Flash, Anna-Stecia) is thrilled to participate in Center Theatre Group’s Block Party project, award-winning feature film For The Love Of Los Angeles theatre includes Washes/Dyer at East West Players, Tartuffe, Love’s Labor’s Lost, and Embedded with The Actors’ Gang, Atlas Pit and Speech & Debate with Los Angeles New Court Theatre. Recent TV film: The Good Doctor, Grey’s Anatomy, Speechless, The Price, Bones, How I Met Your Mother, and Apple’s untitled morning-show drama with Reese Witherspoon. Nancy has also performed as an actor/improvisor in the Bay Area and NYC.

TANIA VERAFIELD (Lizzie Lightning). Currently in A Noise Within’s Othello as Emilia through April. L.A. theatre—A Noise Within: Lady Henry/Gladys, A Picture of Dorian Gray; Los Angeles, LA to Vegas; The Love Of; This Is Us, Jane the Virgin, The First Time, The Neighbors, How to Get Away with Murder, Law & Order, Universal, as well as the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. Currently in A Noise Within’s The Lost One, A Noise Within: Lady Henry/Gladys, The Mermaids’ Treefall; and Extra/Ordinary. Credits: ICT: Dead Man’s Cell Phone, All in the Family, Chalk Rep. Family Planning. Circle X: Lucrative Something Open Fist. All Night Long. Love Water, Theatre of NOTE. Rio Horzo, Entropy, Niagara Falls, Hamlet. The First Quarto (winner—Ganford Award), I Wanna Hold Your Hand, Disassemble, and Hearts Like Fists. TV: How to Get Away with Murder, Grey’s Anatomy, Shameless, Criminal Minds, among others. Thank you to David Bickford, Rhonda, and all the ladies on the team who make this show epic. The biggest thanks to Center Theatre Group for creating Block Party and inviting us to play in your arena.

GINA FEMIA (Playwright) has written 31 full-length plays which include ALLOND(RA) (winner; Leah Ryan Prize), We Are a Masterpiece (winner; Doris Wilson Award), The Mermaids’ Parade (semifinalist; The Kilroys), Ancestral Bones (honorable mention; The Kilroys), and The Fat Man (honorable mention; The Kilroys). For The Love Of (Original Works Publishing), and The Violet Sisters (Great Plains Theatre Conference). She is the 2019 Writer-In-Residence with Spicy Witch Productions, a current member of Page 73’s Interstate 73 Writers Group, and an alum of EST Youngblood, Pipeline: Theatre’s PlayLab, and New Georges’ Audy Residency. Gina has received residencies with Page.
RHONDA KOHL (Director/Choreographer) is proud to be part of the Center Theatre Group Block Party. Rhonda was the SDCF Fellow on the Broadway debut of In Transit (Circle in the Square) with Kathleen Marshall, whom she also worked with on Mamma Mia! (Hollywood Bowl), Dianne Yankleos (Roundabout Theatre Benefit Reading), and Sweet Charlotte (Reprise 2.0). She recently choreographed and assistant directed Native Gardens at the Pasadena Playhouse. Directing credits include: Around the World in 80 Days (Actors Co-op, L.A. Times Critic’s Choice), Pocket Universe (Hollywood Fringe), Look Back in Anger (LA New Court), Assistant directing: Ragtime and King Charles III (Pasadena Playhouse), Barbecue and Long Day’s Journey Into Night (Geffen Playhouse). SDC Associate Member.

ELI SMITH (Scenic Designer) is an activist, visual artist, and performance designer. She received her BA in physics from SUNY Geneseo and an MFA from CalArts in both performance design and art & technology. Eli’s work expresses the psychology of precarity through constructed landscapes of potential violence. Recent productions include Lewis Klahr’s 2017 film Hearse; Edgar Arceau’s 2016 performance art piece Until, Until, Until, and Nataki Garrett’s 2018 devised work The carousel Bryant Project. Her 2018 video installation A Continuous Thread appeared at The Box gallery in June 2018, and her narrative installation Tiger Play premiered in December 2018 at CalArts.

VICKI CONRAD (Costume Designer) received the Ovation Award for Best Costume Design for The Mystery of Edwin Drood and nominations for 33 Variations (Best Play, Ovation Award), Imaginary Invalid, The Learned Ladies (L.A. Weekly Award), and Big River. Favorite credits include Anna Karenina (Actors Co-op), Bad Jews (The Odyssey), Other Desert Cities (Theatricum Botanicum), Jocasta: A Mother’s Warning Tragedy (Ghost Road), and 80/3 (Scherzo). Her Adonis costumes traveled to Poland’s Grotowski Institute, and her custom designs creations were in the Project Runway season 15 commercial. She is thrilled to get to go to Center Theatre Group’s Block Party and remount For The Love Of It with the Scallywag! vickiconraddesign.com

ROSE MALONE (Lighting Designer) received an MFA in lighting design from CalArts. Some recent productions include Amos & Boris at South Coast Rep, An Unlived Heart at Echo Theater Company, With Love and a Major Organ at Boston Court, and Rachel Cataf at the Pico Union Project. Additionally, she has designed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and assisted with Deaf West Theatre’s production of Spring Awakening on Broadway.

GILLY MOON (Sound Designer) is excited to be remounting For The Love Of It at the Kirk Douglas Theatre! Gilly received her MFA in sound design from CalArts in 2016 and has been pursuing sound design in multiple mediums ever since. Favorite credits include: Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Hollywood with Diablo Sound (sound media and systems design team member), Kaadan Project: Worlds Gow Thin with Rogue Artists Ensemble (co-sound design, 2019 Ovation Award for Sound Design—Intimate Theatre), Gratitude and love to Julie for his support, and to Bash and Larry for their funny loyalty.


THEATRE OF NOTE is an L.A.-based nonprofit ensemble of theatre artists dedicated to creating high-caliber, original work that challenges both its artists and its audiences. Founded in 1981, its democratic, ensemble-based organization is dedicated to providing a creative environment in which collaboration and development of maverick theatre more accurately reflects L.A.’s diverse cultural makeup, thus inspiring a deeper connection with its audiences. NOTE also produces the annual Hollywood Performance Marathon, the NOTEworthly new play development workshops, and its educational outreach Young Writers Project. Stick your hand in L.A.’S NOTEorious black box theatre—you never know if you’ll get licked…or bitten.
Who's Who


Audrey Cain (Lelani) is thrilled to be reprising the role of Lelani after an amazing run at the Skylight Theatre. Other theatre credits include East West Players’ production of La Cage Aux Folles (Anne) and the Fountain Theatre’s Rapid Development Series. Audrey was the proud recipient of Comcast NBCUniversal’s inaugural Conservatory Fellowship for East West Players’ Actors’ Conservatory, as well as the recipient of the Dan Velez Fund Scholarship for Acting. Many thanks to Center Theatre Group for this incredible opportunity, and to the “Rotterdam” for the endless joy.

Ashley Romans (Fiona/Adrian) is thrilled to be reprising the role of Lelani after an amazing run at the Skylight Theatre. Other theatre credits include East West Players’ production of La Cage Aux Folles (Anne) and the Fountain Theatre’s Rapid Development Series. Audrey was the proud recipient of Comcast NBCUniversal’s inaugural Conservatory Fellowship for East West Players’ Actors’ Conservatory, as well as the recipient of the Dan Velez Fund Scholarship for Acting. Many thanks to Center Theatre Group for this incredible opportunity, and to the “Rotterdam” for the endless joy.

Miranda Wynne (Alice) is thrilled to be reprising her all-time favorite role of Alice for Block Party 2019. Last year, Miranda was nominated for Best Lead Performance by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle and Stage Raw. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she received her BA in theatre from UC San Diego. Some favorite credits include Oppenheimer (Rogue Machine Theatre), Punk Rock (Odyssey Theatre Ensemble), and Three Sisters (La Jolla Playhouse). She would like to thank Center Theatre Group and Skylight Theatre for this opportunity and her grandma Addie for being her #1 fan. mirandawynne.com @mirandawynne

Jon Brittain (Playwright) received the Olivier Award in 2017 for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre and was also nominated for the Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright. His other work includes The Wake, What Would Spock Do?, The Fragile First Award-winning musical A Super Happy Story (About Feeling Super Sad) and the cult hit Margaret Thatcher Queen of Soho. Brittain also directs stand-up comedy and has twice won the Edinburgh Comedy Award for his shows with John Kearns. He has written for Cartoon Network’s The Amazing World of Gumball and is currently a staff writer on The Crown.

Michael A. Shepperd (Director). Artistic Director of L.A.’s award-winning Celebration Theatre. Recent directing credits: The Boy from Oz (awards: Ovation, LADCC), Rotterdam (awards: LADCC—Best Production, Stage Raw—Best Production), LA’s Funniest Play of the Year—Laughter on the 23rd Floor (Director). The View Upstairs (BMW Award—Best Director). The View Upstairs (BMW Award—Best Director). Assistant Director for Sweet (Mark Taper Forum). Acting credits: Festes (Troy, Ovation, LADCC nom), BootyCandy (LADCC nom), Ovation, Stage Raw win), The Color Purple (Mister; Ovation Award), Steel (Ovation Award), Intimate Apparel (NAACP Theatre Award). Broadway/regional credits: Cathy Ribgy is Peter Pan, The Seafarer, Little Shop of Horrors. TV: Curb Your Enthusiasm, Soul Man, Hot In Cleveland.

Jeff McLaughlin (Scenic & Lighting Designer) works across most industries in which design is called for: film, television, commercials, corporate events, music videos, concerts, and escape rooms; however, his first love continues to be theatre. Recent notable works include Stupid Kid at The Road Theatre (Ovation nominee), Cult Of Love with IAMTA Theatre Company, the feature film Snapshots directed by Melanie Mayron, and Evil Live for The History Channel. He is very proud to be working on Rotterdam once again with the same amazing people as last time and some new ones to boot!

Naila Aladdin Sanders (Costume Designer). Credits include Citizen: An American Lyric, The Amazing World of Gumball, The Gift of the Magi, What Would Spock Do?, Jitney, The Color Purple, 2019 Star Wars musical spoof, The Amazing World of Gumball. She is also the recipient of the Evening Standard Award for Costume Design and is currently working on Rotterdam once again with the same amazing people as last time and some new ones to boot!

Christopher Moscatello (Sound Designer). Recipient of the 2018 LADCC and 2015 Stage Raw Awards for Sound Design, Christopher Moscatello is also a composer, sound editor/mixer, and music director for theatre, television, and film.
MARCEDES L. CLANTON (Stage Manager) is delighted to return to the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Selected credits: Mutt House (premiere), Liverpool on 25th Floor, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. The Madwoman of Chaillot, Ah, Wilderness!, The Maids, Sons of the Prophet (West Coast premiere), Wolves (L.A. premiere), Justin Love (premiere), The Color Purple (Ox Ford Awards), Leslie Jordan’s Fruit Fly, Waters, Rabbit Hole, Take Me Out (PACAwards), The Tempest (West Coast premiere), and (little of show) She’s proud to be completing her ninth season as Resident Stage Manager with Celebration Theatre.

SKYLIGHT THEATRE COMPANY was created to support artists. Recognized as a “powerhouse of new play development” by Dramatist Magazine, the 36-year-old company discovers, develops, and produces compelling new works that expand mainstream theatre while nurturing and educating the people that create them. Plays premiering at Skylight have gone on to be produced Off-Broadway, nationally, and internationally, and its vibrant family of artists has received prestigious national and local awards. After producing over 100 World premieres and working with hundreds of teens and young adults, Skylight remains dedicated to the power of the artist to create positive change. SkylightTheatre.org

HARTSHORN – HOOK PRODUCTIONS is a live entertainment management company founded in 2007 by Louis Harthorn and Brian Hook. Over 120 productions across five continents, including Olivier and multi-LADCC Award-winning, Rotterdam (Arts, 95E59 New York, Skylight), Dreamwork’s Madagascar the Musical (UK tour), and Woody Sez (Arts). In 2019, their production of Amelie will tour the UK and Asia, Rotterdam will return to the UK and US, and Dolly Parton’s musical 9 to 5 will open at The Savoy Theatre. Louis and Brian hold the positions of Executive Director and Operations Director at the Arts Theatre in the West End.

ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR ROTTERDAM
Assistant Directors:..............Shen Heckel, Shana Rosenhall
Marketing Consultant and Engagement Facilitator:..............Joshua Gershick
Fight Director:.........................Matt Ostulov
Head Carpenter:.......................Melissa Hartman
Prop Carpenter:.......................Ryan Howard
Assistant Lighting Designer:...........Hilda Kane

CREDITS
Original Prop Master:........................Michael O’Hara
Original Casting:................................Ray Clayton Staggs
Original Dialect Coach:........................Turfel Schmelde
Original Assistant Director:......................Shen Heckel
Original Associate Producers:..................Christopher Aguilar, Josh Gershick, Jonathan Munoz-Veintimilla, Shana Rosenhall
Original costumes provided by Skylight Theatre Company. Additional costumes provided by Center Theatre Group Costume Shop.

SKYLIGHT THEATRE COMPANY STAFF
Board of Directors:.......................Fr. Gregory Goethals, SJ—Chair, Steven Karis—Vice Chair & Treasurer, Dale Rau—Secretary, Ford Austin, Bradford Bancroft, Gary Grossman, Wendy Kout, William Scobum, Doris Roberts (In Memoriam)
Advisory Committee:.......................Robert Israel, Chris Rosenblom
Executive Director:......................Sandeep Gounder
Production Assistant:......................Gary Grossman
Producing Artistic Director:..............Gary Grossman
Co-Artistic Director:........................Tony Abatemarco
Artistic Associate:.........................Michael Kearns
Play Lab Director:.............................Lee Blessing
Program Coordinator and Technical Advisor:...........Christopher Hoffman
Lyric Project Program Director:...................John J. Torres
Artistic Leaders:.........................Victoria Pearlman, Celia Ramirez, Shana Rosenhall
Play Lab Assistant Director:.....................Tim Foring
Publicist:........................................Lance Bower, Guillermo Perez Stage Managers:.....................Christopher Hoffman, Colin Grossman, Garrett Longley, Ben Daniel
Front of House:..............................Jill Abatemarco, Ashley Felker, Amy Peich, Carter Wilson
Artistic Advisors:.........................Andy Ackerman, Brooke Adams, Randall Arney, Ed Asner, Dan Bucatinsky, Scott Ellis, Johnny Galecki, Peter Gallagher, Buck Henry, John Benjamin Hickey, Winnie Holzman, Sheryl Keller, Stacy Keach, Sharon Lawrence, Eric McCormack, Mary McDonnell, Terrence McNally, Marcia Milgrom Dodge, Alfred Molina, Geoffrey Nauffts, Billy Porter, Joan Rater, Jeffrey Richman, Don Ross, Thomas Sadoski, Marc Shmuger, Joe Spano

Original costumes provided by Skylight Theatre Company. Additional costumes provided by Center Theatre Group Costume Shop.

Presents the ANTAEUS production of
NATIVE SON
Written by
Nambi E. Kelley
Based on the Novel by
Richard Wright
With (in alphabetical order)

The Black Rat.............................................NOEL ARTHUR
Mrs. Dalton...........................................GIGI BERMINGHAM
Bigger.................................................JON CHAFFIN
Mary.....................................................ELLISS GREER
Jan......................................................MATTHEW GRONDIN
Bessie, Vera.........................................MILDRED MARIE LANGFORD
Britten....................................................NED MOCHEL
Hannah...............................................VICTORIA PLATT
Buddy....................................................BRANDON RACHAL

Scenic Design:...............................Costume Design:...............................Lighting Design:...............................Sound Design:...............................
Edward E. Haynes Jr...........................Wendell C. Carmichael..................Andrew Schmedake..................Jeff Gardner
Projection Design:..........................Center Theatre Group Associate Producer..................Production Stage Manager..................Stage Manager
Adam R. Macias.................................Lindsay Allbaugh............................Taylor Anne Cullen..................Maggie Swing

Directed by
Andi Chapman

TIME: A split-second inside Bigger’s mind, when he runs from his crime, remembers, imagines, two cold and snowy winter days in December 1939 and beyond
PLACE: A labyrinth of Chicago’s black belt and surrounding areas as it appears in Bigger’s mind

Native Son is performed without an intermission.

APRIL 18–28, 2019 KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

Original stage adaptation by Paul Green and Richard Wright and produced in association with the Paul Green Foundation—www.paulgreen.org. The world premiere production of Native Son was produced by Court Theatre—Charles Newell, Artistic Director; Stephen J. Albert, Executive Director, and American Blues Theater—Gwendolyn Whiteside, Producing Artistic Director.

Block Party receives major support from Alist and Marc Ganey, with generous funding also provided by Jini and Mike Berickes, and additional support provided by Kiki and David Goeller. Block Party is also made possible in part by a Center City Performing Arts Grant with support from Sony Pictures Entertainment.
WHO’S WHO

NOEL ARTHUR (The Black Rat) is excited to reprise this role here at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. He thanks his cast, Antaeus Theatre, director Andi Chapman, and adaptor Namibi E. Kelley. Other performance highlights include TAR (Playwrights’ Arena), Bars and Measures (Boston Court), and Eminem’s Kitchen (Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble). TV: Jane the Vegan, Are You Sleeping, ER, Scrubs, NCIS, NCIS: Los Angeles, Shameless. My love to my wife and son, Vanessa and Neo Orion. IG: #polecat

GIORGIO BERLINGHAM (Mrs. Dolton) has appeared on many SoCal stages including Pasadena Playhouse, Old Globe, Inner Theater (ICT), La Mirada, Rubicon, Ensemble Theatre Company, MainStreet, and in many productions with classical theatre company Antaeus. TV: Jane the Vegan, Adam Ruins Everything, Mistresses, Shameless, Days of Our Lives. Film: Laguna Playhouse, Wallis Annenberg, and Pasadena Playhouse. TV: Westworld. For Dad.

JON CHAFFIN (Bigger) is a native of Stone Mountain, Georgia. He is making his Center Theatre Group debut with the revival of the critically acclaimed production Native Son. Theatre: Two Trains Running (Matrix Theatre), American saga—Gunshot Medley: Part 1 (Rocket Machine), Native Son (Antaeus Theatre), King Hedley II (Matrix Theatre), The Dumb Water (PUSH Puppet Theatre). Television: film: Lucifer, Snowfall, Hawaii Five-O, The Haven and Have No Knives, Stitches, Arny Mouses, Blindspotting; If Not Now, When? 96 Minutes. Jon received his BA from Fort Valley State University. He is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.


MATTHEW GRONDM (Jair) is honored to be at the Kirk Douglas Theatre with this inspiring group of artist! Recent credits: District (Theatre Organs), Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing and the NewScripts workshop of Origin Story (South Coast Repertory), The City of Conversation, The Divorce: Women In Jeopardy!, Good People (Ensemble Theatre Company). A Moon for the Misbegotten (Rubicon Theatre), Stupid F*ckering Bad, Bad, Bad: Stage West). Spinning into Butler, Rabbit Hole (Actors Co-op). Friends Like These (New York International Fringe Festival). He is a member of the Antaeus Theatre Company, and appeared in their productions of The Cripple of Inishmaan and Native Son. Readings/workshops include: Laguna Playhouse, Wallis Annenberg, and Pasadena Playhouse. TV: Westworld. For Dad.

MILDRED MARIE LANGFORD (Bessie. Veril is excited to be back at it with Antaeus’ powerful production of Namibi E. Kelley’s adaptation of Native Son as part of Center Theatre Group’s Block Party 2019! Other credits include: Rogue Machine Theatre and Collaborative Artists’ Block’s co-production of Dionna Michelle Daniel’s American Saga—Gunshot Medley: Part 1. Mildred can also now be seen in the new series Commune on YouTube at Commune the Series, which she co-executive produced and co-wrote with anceptor-talented group of artist. @commune.the.series

NED MOCHEL (Ben) is so pleased to be a part of this incredible cast. Ned appeared in Antaeus Theatre Company’s production of Hedda Gabler. Ned also appeared in Sam Hunter’s A Permanent Image at Rogue Machine. Ned hails from Chicago, where he worked for The Goodman Theatre, The Court Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, Remain, and many others. He wishes to thank his pack at home for all the love and support.

VICTORIA PLATT (Hannah), Center Theatre Group. Venice (Kirk Douglas Theatre, Ovation Award nom), Pippin (Mark Taper Forum), Native Son (Antaeus Theatre—2018). Last Jan (Broadway), Building the Wall and Roxy in Cyrano (Fountain Theatre), Sammy (Old Globe), Asphalt (REDCAT), and Atlanta (Geffen). TV: Dimensional Shift (pilot, lead), NCIS: New Orleans, NCIS: Los Angeles, Lucifer, Bones, The Mentalist, Castle, Criminal Minds and contract roles on both All My Children and Guiding Light. Film: The co-producer with Harry Lennix & Terrell Tilford), Josephine Baker in HBO’s Wrench, #TheTruth (dir. Charles Murray), The Gleaner (op. Angus MacFadyen, dir. Harry Lennix), Revival, Interference, Jonathan Hex, VictoriaPlatt.com

BRANDON RACHAL (Buddy). Los Angeles theatre: Fences (Long Beach Playhouse), Love’s Labour’s Lost, Twelfth Night (Downtown Repertory Theatre Company), Othello (Inner City Shakespeare), Regional: Romeo and Juliet (Texas Shakespeare Festival). Film: Iago Web. Jesus Freaks. Training: BA theatre, USC. IG: @randrachal

NAMBI E. KELLEY (Playwright). Award-winning playwright and actress, Namibi has performed on stages across the world and on television. She is currently serving in residence at New Victory Theatre with a brand new Drama Guild Foundation Fellow. She has penned plays for Steppenwolf, Goodman Theatre, Lincoln Center (Director’s Fest), and internationally. Formerly playwright in residence at the National Black Theatre and Goodman Theatre. Awards include: The Prince Prize, Writers Alliance Grant (Dramatists Guild Foundation), the Francescas Primus Prize (finalist), and The Kevin Spacey Foundation Award (finalist). Currently working on an adaptation of Toni Morrison’s Jazz. Native Son will premiere in NYC in July 2019. Namibi is working on several commissions, including television and film projects. namibikeley.com

ANDI CHAPMAN (Director). Associate Artistic Director of Ebery Repertory Theatre. Her directing credits include Ebery Repertory Theatre’s The Gospel at Colonus, which garnered 14 Ovation nominations, including Best Play and Best Play Direction, and won the NAATCP Award for Best Production (2016). Others include Mockingbird, As It Is in Heaven, The Ninth Wave, Actors Co-op Steel Magnolias (for which she garnered a Los Angeles Drama Director award), and a host of others. Assistant director for Joe Turner’s Come and Gone (Mark Taper Forum). Film: the award-winning short films Memorial Street, Elijah’s Song, and Why?. A graduate of Yale School of Drama. An alumnus of The American Film Institute’s Directing Workshop for Women. Andi is honored to be forever Halton Chapman’s daughter.

EDWARD E. HAYNES JR. (Scenic Designer) is excited to be returning to Center Theatre Group where he served as Resident Scenic Designer for 18 years. Regional credits include Mark Taper Forum, Ebony Repertory Theatre Company, South Coast Rep, Kirk Douglas Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, East West Players, Pasadena Playhouse, Hollywood Bowl, Marin Theatre Co., TheatreWorks, Muny Opera, Intiman Theatre, Trinity Rep, Ailey Theatre, Alliance Theatre. Television credits include MTV’s Spring Break 2012 & 2011, Hip Hop Hungary, The Tony Rock Project, and Culture Clash. Ed is the father of twins, Denis and Wesley, and husband to director Elizabeth Bell-Haynes.


ANDREW SCHMEDAKE (Lighting Design) is a Los Angeles-based lighting designer for theatre, dance, and live events. Recent credits include designs for Gabriel Igeas, Steel Magnolias, The Man Who Came to Dinner, The 39 Steps, 33 Variations (Actors Co-op—2017 Ovation Award for Lighting Design), One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest (2018 Ovation Award for Lighting Design), Dogfight (After Hours Theatre Company), Native Son (Antaeus Theatre Company—2018 Ovation nominee), and The Art Couple (Sacre Fools). Andrew holds an MFA from the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University and teaches as a guest lecturer in lighting design at UC Santa Barbara. schmedakelightdesign.com

JEFF GARDNER (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be back at Block Party with his previous design work with Ebery Theatre Company. Jeff’s designs include Cry It Out, also with Echo Theater Company; Picnic for Antaeus Theatre Company; The Cake for the Geffen Playhouse; Rosenzweig & Goldsderem Are Dead for A Noise Within, Tesoro for Circle X Theatre Company, Le Blancs for Rogue Machine Theatre; The Recommendation for IAMA Theatre; Two Trains Running at the Matrix Theatre; and it’s a Wonderful Life for The Pasadena Playhouse. Jeff can also be seen performing live sound effects
Dakin Matthews and Lillian Groag, who felt strongly that ANTAEUS THEATRE COMPANY (Antaeus Theatre Company), a Member of the Broadway League, is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Music), (sound designer, composer, and video designer—Arcadia Machine Theatre), and

TAYLOR ANNE CULLEN (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to make her debut at the Kirk Douglas Theatre with the incredible team of Native Son! Other PSM credits include: How We're Different From Animals, Little Foxes, The Country House, American Buffalo, Yees and Light Me Up.

ANTAEUS THEATRE COMPANY STAFF

ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR NATIVE SON
Assistant Director.............................................Jessica E. Williams Choreographer..................................................Indira Tyler Fight Choreographer..................................................Bo Foxworth Head Carpenter....................................................Bo Foxworth Assistant Lighting Designer...............................Meghan Hong Video Engineer.....................................................Joey Guthman

CREDITS
Original Props Designer...........................Jacyquen Gutierrez Original Dramaturg.............................................Dylan Southard Original Arrangements by...............................Mr. Addison Doby Native Son is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

ANTAUE THEATRE COMPANY
Original costumes provided by Antaeus Theatre Company. Additional costumes provided by the Center Theatre Group Costume Shop.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP’S ARTISTS, PRODUCERS, AND STAFF

MAGGIE SWING (Stage Manager) and Antaeus Theatre Company. A Member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network (IPN), LA Stage Alliance, the American Theatre Wing, and the Alliance of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States (AOP/SM). The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers of the United States. This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

GORDON DAVIDSON (Founding Artistic Director) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and earning countless awards for himself and the theatre—the including the Tony Award for theatrical excellence, Margo Jones Award, The Governor’s Award for the Arts, and a Guggenheim fellowship. The Kentucky Cycle and Angels in America (Part One) won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play were from the Taper (Angels in America won). In 1989, Gordon took over the Arianho and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

BLOOD PONY COMPANY

ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR BLOOD PONY
Block Party General Management........................Megan Alvord, Casey Dermott, Eric Siers Production Coordinator............................................Brooke Baldwin Carpenters...............................Michelle Black, Ryan Fischer, Bo Foxworth, Connor Hayes, Curt Gavin, Melissa Hartman, Ryan Howard, Joe Kidexiai, Randy Pound

SCENIC ARTISTS.............................Orlando de la Paz, Jacquelyn Gutierrez Prop Master.................................Kate Reinib Prop Artisans............................Krisen Addie, Brooke Baldwin, Jennie Caselle, Daniel del Busto, Convin Evans, Chase Hinton

CREDITS
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