



FIRST SEASON PRODUCTION

SLAVE PLAY

by Jeremy O. Harris
Directed by Robert O'Hara

FEBRUARY 9 – MARCH 13, 2022

SECOND SEASON PRODUCTION
AT THE AHMANSON THEATRE

The National Theatre and
Neal Street Productions present

THE LEHMAN TRILOGY

Written by Stefano Massini
Adapted by Ben Power
Directed by Sam Mendes

MARCH 3 – APRIL 10, 2022

THIRD SEASON PRODUCTION

BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY

by Pearl Cleage
Directed by Phylicia Rashad

APRIL 6 – MAY 8, 2022

FOURTH SEASON PRODUCTION

World Premiere Production
A Co-Production with Steppenwolf Theatre Company

KING JAMES

by Rajiv Joseph
Directed by Kenny Leon

JUNE 1 – JULY 3, 2022

FIFTH SEASON PRODUCTION

World Premiere

MIKE BIRBIGLIA: THE OLD MAN AND THE POOL

Written and Performed by Mike Birbiglia
Directed by Seth Barrish

JULY 27 – AUGUST 28, 2022

SEASON PRODUCTION ON CTG'S DIGITAL STAGE

World Premiere

Co-commissioned by Center Theatre Group and
Second Stage Theatre

I'LL BE SEEN' YA

by Jon Robin Baitz
Directed by Robert Egan

MARCH–APRIL 2022



friend.
insider.
visionary.

you!

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**CENTER
THEATRE
GROUP**

Center Theatre Group

Presents

BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY

By

Pearl Cleage

With

Joe Holt Nija Okoro Dennis Pearson Greg Alvarez Reid Kim Steele

Scenic Design

John Iacovelli

Costume, Wig and Hair Design

Wendell C. Carmichael

Lighting Design

Elizabeth Harper

Sound Design

Jeff Gardner

Original Music

Dontae Winslow

Casting

Kim Coleman, CSA

Production Stage Manager

Michelle Blair

CTG Associate Artistic Directors

**Tyrone Davis
Kelley Kirkpatrick**

Directed by

Phylicia Rashad

Commissioned by and World Premiered at ALLIANCE THEATRE COMPANY, Atlanta, Georgia
Kenny Leon, Artistic Director; Edith Love, Managing Director

With Support from the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund's Resident Theatre Institute.

Blues for an Alabama Sky is presented by special arrangement
with Dramatist Play Service, Inc., New York.

APR 6 – MAY 8, 2022 MARK TAPER FORUM

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Angel Allen NIJA OKORO
Guy Jacobs GREG ALVEREZ REID
Leland Cunningham DENNIS PEARSON
Delia Patterson KIM STEELE
Sam Thomas JOE HOLT

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for the listed performer unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

for Leland Cunningham / Sam Thomas NATHAN JAMES
for Angel Allen / Delia Patterson CHARRELL MACK
for Guy Jacobs DESMOND NEWSON

Stage Manager CAMELLA COOPER
Resident Stage Manager DAVID S. FRANKLIN

TIME AND PLACE

It is the summer of 1930 in Harlem, New York

INTERMISSION

Blues for an Alabama Sky will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.



L-R: Greg Alvarez Reid, Kim Steele, Joe Holt (standing), Nija Okoro and Dennis Pearson. Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography.

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones and watch alarms. The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

WHO'S WHO



JOE HOLT (*Sam Thomas, he/him/his*). New York actor Joe Holt is very excited to return to the stage with real humans in seats for *Blues for an Alabama Sky* at the Taper. Recent credits include Fred Wilkes on *Bel-Air*, Dr. Leo Bennett on

The Walking Dead: World Beyond, Jesse Raymond on *All American: Homecoming*, and Detective "Mace" Cunningham on OWN's *Delilah*. Regional credits include *Love and Information* at ACT, *Blue/Orange* at Hartford TheatreWorks, *12 Angry Men* at Merrimack Repertory, and a pandemic-interrupted *The Scarlet Letter* at South Coast Repertory. He is forever grateful for his amazing family, his supportive friends, and every positive (and negative!) experience that has provided him with the chance to grow. And he thanks you all for supporting live theatre!



NIYA OKORO (*Angel Allen, she/her/hers*) is a graduate of the Juilliard School where she received a merit-based full scholarship. Since graduating, she has gotten to do stints in the National Broadway tour of *Jitney*

directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* directed by Phylicia Rashad at the Mark Taper Forum, *Two Trains Running* at The Matrix directed by Michele Shay, *Zoey's Perfect Wedding* at Denver Center, 2017 West Coast Premiere of *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at the Geffen Playhouse. While being on stage, she has made her way to the silver screen, having guest starred on such shows as *9-1-1: Lone Star*, *Animal Kingdom*, *The Duece*, *Start Up*, and starring in *The Black Emperor of Broadway*. She can be seen next in the Disney+ feature film *Hollywood Stargirl* directed by Julia Hart.



DENNIS PEARSON (*Leland Cunningham, he/him/his*) is ecstatic to make his Mark Taper Forum debut. Some stage credits include: *GOING... GOING... GONE!* (The Hudson Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (South Coast Repertory),

A Soldier's Play and *Julius Caesar* (The Studio Theatre), *The Coarse Acting Show* (Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Dream Girls*, *Look Away* (Long Beach Playhouse), *A Long Bridge Over Deep Waters* and *Euripides Medea* (for which he received a Kennedy Center Irene Ryan Award Nomination). He can recently be seen on screen starring in *Unlocked* streaming on Peacock and *Tinderbox* (DC Black Film Festival Best Actor Winner 2020). Dennis is a graduate of the SCR Acting Conservatory and has studied with Academy Award Winner Tim Robbins and The Actors Gang, Femi Ogun's Identity School of Acting, BGB, and Joy Brunson's The Joy of Acting Studio. dennispearsonacting.com, [@_dennispearson](https://www.instagram.com/_dennispearson).



GREG ALVEREZ REID (*Guy Jacobs*) is a New York City-based actor most recently appearing in *The Bluest Eye* at The Huntington Theatre in Boston. He can also be seen in the HBO/HBO Max film *Between The World and*

Me. His theatre credits consist of Off-Broadway: *The Fabulous Miss Marie* (New Federal Theatre/ Castillo Theatre) Regional: *Detroit '67* (Signature Theatre), *Fences* (McCarter Theatre Center/ Long Wharf Theatre), *All My Sons* (People's Light Theatre), *Broke-ology* (Theater Alliance), *Gem of The Ocean* (Hangar Theatre), *Seven Guitars* (Studio Theatre) and renowned arts centers like The Apollo Theater and The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Locomotion) in his native Washington, D.C. He is a proud graduate of the illustrious Howard University in the newly named Chadwick Boseman College of Fine Arts and

attended the British American Dramatic Academy at Oxford. Greg is excited to be making his L.A. theatre debut.



KIM STEELE (*Delia Patterson, she/her/hers*) is thrilled to be returning to the Mark Taper Forum, fresh off her run in the Tony Award-winning Best Musical, *Hadestown* on Broadway. Other Broadway credits: *My Fair Lady* (Lincoln

Center), *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*. Favorite Off-Broadway/Regional: *Motown the Musical* (National Tour), *Jerry Springer the Opera* (Signature Theatre Center), *Kiss Me, Kate* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Hair* (Hollywood Bowl), *Carrie* (Los Angeles Theatre). Kim is a SoCal native with a B.A. in Theater Arts from UCLA. Big thanks to her agent, Ryan, at Ideal Talent Agency. For writing scraps, book recommendations and climate change poetry, find her online @heykimsteele.



NATHAN JAMES (*u/s Leland Cunningham/Sam Thomas, he/him/his*) is a proud native of Pittsburgh where he began his acting career with Kuntu Repertory Theater. He received a BA in Africana Studies from the University of Pittsburgh,

and his MFA from Penn State University. His one-man play, *Growing Pains*, has been produced at The August Wilson Center for African American Culture, The United Solo Theater Festival (Theatre Row NYC), and various theatres and festivals around the United States. Nathan is one of seven playwrights of The New Black Fest's *Hands Up: 7 Playwrights, 7 Testaments* (Seven ten-minute plays following the shooting of Mike Brown). *Hands Up* was featured in American Theatre Magazine, and Nathan's play, *Superiority Fantasy*, was chosen as BBC Radio's Play of the Week. In the spring of 2014, he won first place at Amateur Night at the Apollo with an original poem. Film/TV credits: *Standing Up*, *Falling Down* (Tilted Windmill Productions), *Madam Secretary* (CBS), *Shades of Blue* (NBC), *Quantico* (ABC), *The Wire*

(HBO), *Deception* (ABC), *Blindspot* (NBC), *Vinyl* (HBO), *Person of Interest* (CBS), *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *The Path* (Hulu), *Service to Man* (STARZ). Theatre credits: Off-Broadway – *Travisville* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Playing with Fire* (Gene Frankel Theatre), *Black Angels Over Tuskegee* (St. Luke's Theatre). NY – *Maid's Door* (Billy Holiday Theatre), *Armed* (The Amoralists Theater), *Growing Pains* (Billy Holiday Theatre). Regional - *Radio Golf* (Two River Theater), *Feeding Beatrice* (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), *Julius Caesar* (Pennsylvania Centre Stage), *Work Song* (Pittsburgh City Theatre).



CHARRELL MACK (*u/s Angel Allen/Delia Patterson, she/her/hers*) is very excited to be making her Mark Taper Forum debut with *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. An east coast native, she recently starred in the LA premiere of

Apartment Living by Boni B. Alvarez (directed by Jon Rivera) at Skylight Theatre. She played Rebel in *Ascension* by D.G Watson (directed by Ahmed Best) at The Echo Theatre Company. Other credits include Desdemona in William Shakespeare's *Othello* (directed by Kate Burton) and Nya in *Pipeline* (directed by Larry Powell). Charrell studied theatre at USC, where she received an MFA in Acting. She's looking forward to this amazing opportunity and sends love to her family back home in PA.



DESMOND NEWSON (*u/s Guy Jacobs, he/him/his*) is a dynamic Broadway performer who has been nominated for an L.A. Ovation Award as well as the recipient of an NAACP Theatre Award. He is a graduate of

the University of Central Florida Conservatory Theatre, where he obtained his BFA in Musical Theatre, with a minor in Business. Desmond has been seen in the first national tour of *Hamilton*, *Motown: The Musical* on Broadway, and the 35th Anniversary of *Dreamgirls*, with the original Dreamgirls: Sheryl Lee Ralph, Loretta Devine,

and Tony Award winner, Jennifer Holliday. Internationally, he has been blessed to perform as Simba in *The Lion King* for Hong Kong Disney, as well as the South Korean tour of *FAME: The Musical*. Beyond the stage, Desmond is an exceptional storyteller and playwright. He is using his words in the hopes of creating a more authentic, Black, narrative that will be showcased worldwide. As an adjunct professor and instructor, his goal is to empower the next generation of creative artists to be unapologetic about who they are, on and off the stage.



PEARL CLEAGE (*Playwright, she/her/hers*) is an Atlanta-based writer who is currently Distinguished Artist in Residence at the Alliance Theatre. She was appointed Atlanta's first Poet Laureate in 2020, whose plays include

Flyin' West, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, and *Bourbon at the Border*, commissioned and directed by Kenny Leon at The Alliance Theatre. She is also the author of *A Song for Coretta*, written in 2007 during Cleage's time as Cosby Professor in Women's Studies at Spelman College. Her new play, *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at A Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years*, was commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and will premiere in the fall of 2010, in a joint production by The ASF and Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, directed by Susan Booth. Her plays have also been performed at Arena Stage, Hartford Stage, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Huntington Theatre, The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Long Wharf Theatre, Just Us Theatre, True Colors Theatre, Bushfire Theatre, The Intiman Theatre, St. Louis Black Repertory Company, and Seven Stages. She is also an accomplished performance artist, often working in collaboration with her husband, writer Zaron W. Burnett, Jr. They have performed at The National Black Arts Festival, The National Black Theatre Festival, and colleges and universities across the country. Cleage's most recent play, *Angry, Raucous and Shamelessly Gorgeous*, premiered at the Alliance in 2019,

directed by Susan Booth, and recently completed a run at Hartford Stage. She has recently been commissioned by Fords Theatre as part of their Lincoln Legacy Project to create *Something Moving: A Meditation on Maynard*. Cleage is also an accomplished novelist. Her novels include *What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day*, a New York Times bestseller and an Oprah Book Club selection, *I Wish I Had A Red Dress*, *Some Things I Never Thought I'd Do*, *Babylon Sisters*, *Baby Brother's Blues*, and *Seen It All and Done the Rest*. She also has written *Till You Hear From Me* (Ballantine/One World). She is also the author of *Mad at Miles: A Blackwoman's Guide to Truth*, a groundbreaking work of race and gender, and *We Speak Your Names*, a praise poem commissioned by Oprah Winfrey for her 2005 celebration of legendary African American women and written in collaboration with Zaron Burnett. Cleage has also written for magazines, including *Essence*, *Vibe*, *Rap Pages*, and *Ms.* In addition to her work as the founding editor of *Catalyst Magazine*, a literary journal, she was a regular columnist for The Atlanta Tribune for ten years, winning many awards for her thought-provoking columns. She has also written for TheDefendersOnLine.com. Cleage has been awarded grants in support of her work from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Fulton County Arts Council, The Georgia Council on the Arts, The Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs and The Coca-Cola Foundation. Her work has earned her many awards and honors, including an NAACP Image Award for fiction in 2008. Pearl Cleage is represented by Ron Gwiazda at A3 Artists Agency in New York City. pearlcleage.net.



PHYLICIA RASHAD (*Director, she/her/hers*) directed *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, Paul Oakley Stovall's *Immediate Family* at the Mark Taper Forum and Goodman Theatre, *Our Lady of 121st Street* at the

Signature Theatre, *Fences* at the Long Wharf Theatre and McCarter Theatre, Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* at Ebony Repertory Theatre, Kirk Douglas Theatre, and

Westport Country Playhouse, August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* at Seattle Repertory Theatre, and *Four Little Girls* at the Kennedy Center. As an actress—Broadway: *Skeleton Crew*, *August: Osage County*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Cymbeline* (Lincoln Center Theater), August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* (Tony nomination), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Tony and Drama Desk Awards), *Into the Woods*, *Dreamgirls*, *The Wiz*. Off-Broadway: *Richard II*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Head of Passes* (Lucille Lortel Award), *The Story*, *Helen*, *Everybody's Ruby*, *Blue*, *Bernarda Alba*. Regional: *Every Tongue Confess*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Medea*. Film: *Tick Tick Boom*, *Jingle Jangle*, Pixar's *Soul*, *A Fall From Grace*, *Black Box*, *Creed II*, *Creed*, *Good Deeds*, *For Colored Girls Who've Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf*, *Frankie and Alice*, *Just Wright*, *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, *Loving Jezebel*, and *The Visit*. Television: *This Is Us* (Emmy nominations), *Empire*, *A Raisin in the Sun* (NAACP Image Award, Emmy and SAG nominations), *The Old Settler*, *Free of Eden*, *Cosby*, and *The Cosby Show*.



JOHN IACOVELLI (*Scenic Designer, he/him/his*) first designed on the Taper stage 33 years ago for *Temptation* by Vaclav Havel. This is his ninth collaboration with director Phylicia Rashad, four of them plays by August Wilson:

including *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and Joe Turner's *Come and Gone* here at the Taper. He was Production Designer on the PBS film *The Old Settler* starring Ms. Rashad and directed by Debbie Allen. He has designed extensively in television garnering an Emmy Award for the broadcast of *Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan*. Other TV credits include *Babylon 5* and *Resurrection Blvd*. Other notable productions include *Valley of the Heart*, *Waiting for Godot* here and *Endgame* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. He has designed at many theatres locally including South Coast Rep and The Pasadena Playhouse. He designed the recent premiere of David Mamet's play *The Christopher Boy's Communion*, directed by Mr. Mamet. www.iacovelli.com is his website.



WENDELL C. CARMICHAEL (*Costume, Wig, and Hair Designer*). Theatre credits: *Three Sisters*, *Yellowman*, *Spring Awakening*, *Miss Julie*, *Freedom Summer*, *Paradise Blue*, *Cyrano De Bergerac*, *Macbeth*, *A Winter's Tale*,

Sweeney Todd, *Waiting for Godot*, *Salvage*, *Ragtime*, *Scraps*, *The Mountaintop*, *Our Town*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *WINK*, *Fool for Love*, *In the Heights*, *Happy Ending*, *American Saga: Gunshot Medley*, *Jews, Christians and Screwing Stalin, Vol. 1: A Post Racial America*, *Violet*, *Her Portmeanu*, *Native Son*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *Cabaret*, *West Side Story*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello*, *Desdemona: Play about a Handkerchief*, *The Crucible*, *An Octoroon*, *Br'er Cotton*, *Ball Yards*, *Waiting for the Parade*, *The Good War Greenwood 1964*. 2018 Stage Raw winner – Costume Design, three-time L.A. Ovation Award nominee, 2017 Orange County's Best Costume Designs, 2015 NAACP Theatre Award winner. Member of Local 768, the Theatrical Wardrobe Union/LA Opera.



ELIZABETH HARPER (*Lighting Designer, she/her/hers*) is thrilled to return to the Taper after *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Immediate Family*. Additional credits include: *Between Two Knees* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival

and Yale Rep); *Indecent* and *Rattlesnake Kate* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts) *Office Hour* starring Sandra Oh (South Coast Repertory Theatre); *The Cake* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Play Dead* directed by Teller, *Rock of Ages* (5th Avenue Theatre). World premieres include works by Academy Award winner Lucy Alibar, Kemp Powers, Julia Cho, and Michael Mitnick. Elizabeth is the assistant professor of lighting design at the University of Southern California.



JEFF GARDNER (*Sound Designer, he/him/his*) Jeff is an Ovation Award-winning sound designer and foley artist born and raised in Los Angeles. Jeff has designed and performed throughout the country including the Kirk Douglas

Theatre, Wallis Annenberg Center, Pasadena Playhouse, A Noise Within, The Echo Theater Company, Circle X Theatre, Rogue Machine Theatre, IAMA Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, The Kennedy Center, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Arena Stage, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and is a member of The Antaeus Theatre Company in Glendale. Jeff can be seen at L.A. Theatre Works, where he regularly performs live sound effects. jeffthomasgardner.net



DONTAE WINSLOW (*Original Music, he/him/his*) is one the rising stars in the music industry. He is known as this generation's innovative film composer, arranger, music producer, and trumpeter.

In five years he attained a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Classical Music Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the John's Hopkins University. He also completed studies at USC. Dontae scored opening music for HBO's *The Slow Hustle* and scored the documentary *Baltimore Rising* about the death of unarmed Black male Freddie Grey. He composed music for BET's the *New Edition Story* and Robert Townsend's *In The Hive*. Dontae toured/performed/recorded with Justin Timberlake, Dr. Dre, Jay-Z, Kanye West, Beyonce, Chris Stapleton, Lady A, Jay-Z, Queen Latifah, Garth Brooks, Kamasi Washington, Kendrick Lamar, Kanye West, Jill Scott, Common, Neyo, D'Angelo, Christina Aguilera, Lauryn Hill, and Snoop Dogg. He created the design of the Adams Brass horn with the famous Red Bell. He arranged horns and performed for three Super Bowl Halftime shows: J.Lo and Shakira, and Justin Timberlake, and Dr. Dre in 2022. Dontae also arranged the score for Eminem's

92nd Oscar Awards performance of "Lose Yourself," and conducted and arranged "Moonlight Sonata" at Kobe Bryant's memorial with Alicia Keys on piano. Dontae arranged string orchestra for "Grey" by Pop Band WHY DON'T WE. Most recently, he played trumpet, conducted, orchestrated, arranged, and composed music for The Oscars in 2022. dontaewinslow.com.



KIM COLEMAN, CSA (*Casting, she/her/hers*) is a Los Angeles-based casting director known for her work in film and television. She has received two Emmy nominations for her casting work on the acclaimed Emmy-nominated

television shows *Lovecraft Country* (HBO) and *American Crime* (ABC). Some of her past television credits are *Dear White People*, *She's Gotta Have It!* (Netflix), *Snowfall* (FIX) pilot, *The Good Doctor* (ABC) pilot and season 1, *Greenleaf* (OWN), *The Haves and the Have Nots*, *Survivor's Remorse* (Starz), and *If Loving You Is Wrong* (OWN). Her latest television work includes series *Wu-Tang: an American Saga* (Hulu), *The Good Lord Bird* (Showtime), *Genius: Aretha* (Nat/Geo) *The Upshaws*, *Madam C.J. Walker*, *Family Reunion* (Netflix), *Heels* (Starz), and *Woke* (Hulu). She has received three Artios Awards from the Casting Society of America for excellence in casting for her work on *Dope*, *Dear White People*, Spike Lee's Oscar-winning film *BlackKkKlansman*, and most recently *Zola*. Her most recent feature films include *Cheaper By The Dozen* (20th), *Nanny* (Sundance's Grand Jury Prize), *Emergency* (Amazon), *Da 5 Bloods* (Netflix), *Space Jam 2* (Warner Bros.), *Fatherhood* (Sony), *Harriet* (Focus Features), *Little* (Universal), and *Night School* (Universal). She also casts all television and feature films for the prolific writer, producer, director Tyler Perry. Kim is a CSA member and is a Governor for the Casting Director branches of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences and the Television Academy.



MICHELLE BLAIR (*Production Stage Manager, she/her/hers*) has enjoyed a long history of stage managing in Los Angeles and has worked extensively with Center Theatre Group on over thirty productions at their three theatres. Other

favorites include *A Christmas Carol* First National Tour, *The Pee-wee Herman Show* at Club Nokia, *A Long Bridge Over Deep Waters* with Cornerstone Theater Company, *Henry IV* with Shakespeare Center Los Angeles, *Jersey Boys* in Las Vegas, and *Eurydice* and *La Traviata* with the Los Angeles Opera. Graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of Amsterdam. Mom to 13-year-old Liam and 10-year-old Imogen. For Bones Malone.



CAMELLA COOPER (*Stage Manager, she/her/hers*) has been working in the theatre and education industry for over 10 years. She is a graduate of UC Santa Cruz and Antioch University, Seattle. Shows like *Two Trains Running*

by August Wilson with Sophina Brown, *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage with the African American Theater Arts Troupe, and *Brain Problems* by Malcolm Barrett with Ammunition Theatre Company are a few shows she has stage-managed or assistant stage-managed and just completed working on *Slave Play* by Jeremy O'Harris with CTG. She is also the Co-founder and Director of Operations for Black Stage Everything, a networking and education platform for BIPOC theater practitioners, and the Co-Artistic Director of Ammunition Theatre Company.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP



MEGHAN PRESSMAN (*Managing Director/CEO, she/her/hers*) joined Center Theatre Group as Managing Director in 2019. Previously, she served as Managing Director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (D.C.),

Director of Development for Signature Theatre (N.Y.), and Associate Managing Director of Berkeley Rep, in addition to working at numerous other theatre and arts organizations across the country. She is the Vice-Chair of the National Board for the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).



DOUGLAS C. BAKER (*Producing Director, he/him/his*) is now in his 30th season at Center Theatre Group. He is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network, and is a proud

member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers. In May 2013, Doug received the Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.



TYRONE DAVIS (*Associate Artistic Director, he/him/his*) is a director, actor, producer, educator, and member of Center Theatre Group's artistic staff, he previously served as its Audience Engagement

Director. Selected producing credits include: *Crowndation*, *Black Nourishment*, *The Salvi Chronicles*, *The Duat*, *WET: A DACAmended Journey*, and the upcoming production *King James*. He is passionate about commissioning and developing new works with artists and audiences both locally and nationally. Tyrone is an L.A. native, a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) School of Theater M.F.A. acting program and holds a B.A. in theatre from California State University, Northridge.



KELLEY KIRKPATRICK (*Associate Artistic Director, he/him/his*). Since his arrival at CTG in 2005, Kelley has produced over 100 productions, readings, and workshops, many of which have gone on to Broadway,

Off-Broadway, and beyond. He has collaborated

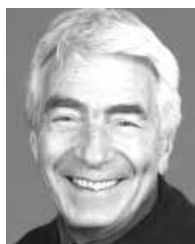
with celebrated artists including David Henry Hwang, Phylicia Rashad, Ruben Santiago Hudson, Michael Friedman, Culture Clash, Lucas Hnath, Roger Guenveur Smith, Les Waters, Leigh Silverman, Lauren Yee, and Danai Gurira.



NAUSICA STERGIOU

(General Manager) has worked supporting artists in theatres of all shapes, sizes, and locales including Center Theatre Group as General Manager and, previously, as Audience Development

Director. She oversees productions at the Taper and Douglas, as well as new play commissions and developmental productions. Nausica has taught Marketing and Management at USC’s School of Dramatic Arts and works with local nonprofits including Hollywood Orchard. B.A. Cornell University. M.F.A. Yale School of Drama.



GORDON DAVIDSON (Founding Artistic Director) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning countless awards for himself and the theatre—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 Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR *BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY*

Assistant Director..... David Blackwell
 Scenic Studio Assistant..... Jacob Harbeck
 Resident Assistant Lighting Designer.....
 Nathan W. Scheuer
 Production Assistant.....Lucas Esperanza-Goodman
 Dialect CoachDamian D. Lewis
 Interim Head Sound Christian Lee
 Interim Wardrobe Supervisor..... Michael Gardner
 Interim Hair and Makeup Supervisor.....Mary Borgia



The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The following employees are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Machine Operators, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada, AFL-CIO, CLC: Stage Crew Local 33; Local Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Local 857; Wardrobe Crew Local 768; Makeup Artists and Hair Stylists Local 706. The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT Theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

CREDITS

Scenery constructed by F&D Scene Changes;
 rehearsal and production photography by
 Craig Schwartz.

Center Theatre Group is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, the Broadway League, Independent Producers’ Network (IPN), LA Stage Alliance, National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) and the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

In the Rehearsal Room for

BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY



CLOCKWISE: Dennis Pearson and Nija Okoro | Phyllicia Rashad and Meghan Pressman | Greg Alvarez Reid | Kim Steele and Nija Okoro. Photos by Craig Schwartz Photography.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Phylcia Rashad | Joe Holt | L-R: Kim Steele, Nija Okoro, Tyrone Davis, Dennis Pearson and Greg Alvarez Reid | Company at first rehearsal. Photos by Craig Schwartz Photography.



**A RAGS-TO RICHES
HIP-HOP TRIPTYCH
ABOUT RACISM,
CAPITALISM,
AND THE FATE OF
HUMANITY ITSELF.**

DOUGLAS

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS

TAMBO & BONES

BY
DAVE HARRIS

DIRECTED BY
TAYLOR REYNOLDS

WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION

L-R: W. Tré Davis and Tyler Fauntleroy. Photo by Chelcie Parry.

MAY1 – MAY29²⁰²⁰
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GROUP**

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**THE REMARKABLE TRUE STORY OF
THE SMALL TOWN THAT WELCOMED THE WORLD**

Book, Music and Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein Directed by Christopher Ashley

MAY 31 – JUN 12
AHMANSONTHEATRE.ORG

THE MUSIC CENTER
Bank of America

**CENTER
THEATRE
GROUP**

Center Theatre Group would like to thank its exceptional staff for their ongoing commitment, dedication, and extraordinary efforts.

ARTISTIC

LUIS ALFARO, LINDSAY ALLBAUGH*
TYRONE DAVIS, NEEL KELLER*
KELLEY KIRKPATRICK* Associate Artistic Directors
TIFFANY SLAGLE Artistic & Literary Administrative Assistant
MATTHEW BOURNE, CASEY NICHOLAW, PHYLICIA RASHAD,
ANNA D. SHAPIRO, PAULA VOGEL Associate Artists
D'LO, MIKAAL SULAIMAN ... Sherwood Award Recipients, 2021

EXECUTIVE

CAMILLE SCHENKKAN* Deputy Managing Director
LISA D. RICHARDSON Manager, Executive Office
ERIC SEPPALA Executive Assistant to the
Managing Director/CEO

LYNNE GUGENHEIM Advancement Strategy, Special Events
& Leadership Consultant
SARAH SCAFIDI Executive Office Fellow
JACQUELINE CARRILLO, ROBY JOHNSON Theatre
Archival Fellows

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

NAUSICA STERGIUO* General Manager
ERIC SIMS* Ahmanson Theatre Presentations Manager
KATIE SOFF* Associate General Manager
MEGAN AARON Company Manager &
Assistant General Manager
JEFFREY UPAH* General Management Associate
ADRIENNE KNIGHT Assistant Company Manager

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

TRACI KWON* Arts Education Initiatives Director
JESUS REYES* Community Partnerships Director
NICO ROSARIO Creative Workforce Initiatives Director
AURORA LOG Department Manager
COURTNEY CLARK Digital Learning Manager
CHRISTINE BREIHAN, ZACHARY BROWN, RAMY EL-ETREBY,
CRISTINA FRIAS, ESTELA GARCIA, AJA HOUSTON,
JOHNATHON L. JACKSON, MARA PALMA, DEBRA PIVER*
TARA RICASA, JESSICA VOLPI Teaching Artists
ABIGAIL HARRIS, ADI FAWK, DUOYI "ZOE" WANG, GILBERT
DELEON, JUAN SALAZAR Spring 2022 Observers

PRODUCTION

JOE HAMLIN* Director of Production
KRYSTIN MATSUMOTO Production Manager
CHRISTOPHER REARDON Production Manager
KATIE CHEN Associate Production Manager
BEONICA BULLARD Assistant Production Manager
CAMBRIA CHICHI Production Coordinator

SHAWN ANDERSON* Head Carpenter (Ahmanson Theatre)
SCOTT LUCAS Head Properties (Ahmanson Theatre)
ROBERT SMITH* Head Sound (Ahmanson Theatre)
SHANE ANDERSON Head Flyrail (Ahmanson Theatre)
MICHAEL GARDNER* Wardrobe Supervisor
(Ahmanson Theatre)

MARY BORGIA Hair & Make-up Supervisor
(Ahmanson Theatre)

CHRISTINE L. COX* House Manager (Ahmanson Theatre)
EMMET KAISER* Head Carpenter (Mark Taper Forum)
MARY ROMERO Head Properties (Mark Taper Forum)
AARON STAUBACH* Head Electrician (Mark Taper Forum)
LINDA WALKER* House Manager (Mark Taper Forum)
NOAH ULIN Head Electrician and Projection Technician
(Kirk Douglas Theatre)

ADAM PHALEN* Head Audio (Kirk Douglas Theatre)
ZANE WAYNERIGHT Stage Supervisor (Kirk Douglas Theatre)
MADELINE SCHUMACHER Wardrobe Supervisor
(Kirk Douglas Theatre)
CHAD SMITH* Technical Director

CHLOE JOY, BRADLEY WEHRE Assistant Technical Director
EDUARDO FERNANDEZ-BAUMANN Shop Coordinator
MERRIANNE NEDREBERG* Prop Director
KATE REINLUB Associate Prop Director
ERIC BABB Assistant Prop Director
ANGELENE STOREY Prop Coordinator
RAUL VEGA MARTINEZ Prop Carpenter
RASHON WILSON Costume Director
WHITNEY OPPENHEIMER Costume Shop Manager
ASHPHORD JACOWAY, CAYLIN DABNEY Resident Assistant
Costume Designer

OPERATIONS

PETER WYLIE Interim Operations & Facilities Director
CHASE ANDERSON-SHAW Temporary KDT
Reopening Manager
NIKI ARMATO Facilities Assistant/
COVID Compliance Officer
JULIO A. CUELLAR* Facilities Assistant
JASMINE BRAFF Operations Coordinator
CURT GAVIN Operations Assistant

NAT PERRY, D'ANGELO ANDERSON Drivers
LEX BECDACH, VANESSA BRADCHULIS,
LILY BROWN, WOODY BROWN, OLIVIA CHOATE,
PRESSLY COKER, TWON POPE, SAM UDERO Stage Door
LIV SCOTT Lead COO and Testing Coordinator
NICKI HESKIN Temporary COVID Communications Manager
SEBASTIAN DE LA PAZ, GUADALUPE GARCIA,
JENNIFER HALDEMAN, HENRY KELLY, DENISE KHA,
CRAIG LAWRENCE, PAT LOEB, JOE MALDONADO,
SIMON MARTIN, JULIE MORGENTHAU,
SATI THYME COVID Compliance Officers
& Operational Support Staff

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SARAH STURDIVANT Director of Finance & Technology
SUZANNE BROWN Controller
DENICE BEHDAD Assistant Controller
NAKISA ASCHTIANI Senior Staff Accountant
XOCHITL ORTEGA Accounts Payable Supervisor
KERRY LARICK Accounting Assistant
JESSICA HERNANDEZ Payroll Manager
JUAN MARTINEZ Payroll Specialist

TOM MEGALE Director of Business Applications
JANELLE CABRERA TORRES Tessitura &
Web Administration Director
JOEY SOLANO Digital Product Manager
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MELISSA MCCAFFREY Human Resources Generalist
CRISTINA TORRES Temporary Human Resources Generalist

MOSS ADAMS Auditor
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GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER Legal Counsel

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TONY JENNISON Interim Director of
Institutional Advancement
MICHAEL CHAVEZ Director of Special Events
ASHLEY TIERNEY Director of the Annual Fund
& Operations
MANDI OR* Associate Director of Special Events
SARAH RIDDLE Associate Director,
Annual Fund & Operations
VANESSA WHEELER Associate Director of
Gift Accounting & Research

PRIYA PATEL Corporate Relations Officer
KIARA TINCH Major Gifts Officer
ELIZABETH DELLORUSSO Individual Giving Officer
PAULA MATALLANA Grants Manager
MIKE RATTERMAN Telefundraising Manager
OLIVIA BEREMUN Donor Stewardship &
Communications Coordinator
JULIA ELISEEVA Donor Liaison/Institutional
Advancement Assistant
GRACELYN SWEENEY Advancement Operations Assistant
MORGAN THOMAS Gift Accounting & Data Analyst
AL BERMAN* VARTAN MERJANIAN,
BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ, NICOLE SCIPIONE*
PAUL VITAGLIANO Donor Advisors

MARKETING AND GRAPHICS

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EMYLI GUDMUNDSON Associate Director,
Advertising & Creative Content
CANDICE WALTERS Associate Director,
Marketing Operations
KIYOMI EMI* Manager, Audience Development and
Marketing Events
AYU TANAKA Marketing Associate
KATHARINE MEANS Marketing Coordinator
CAROLINE THOMPSON/IMPACT 123 Media Planning
CAROL HALL/
CAROL HALL & ASSOCIATES Marketing Consultant
ALLIED MULTICULTURAL MARKETING Marketing Consultants
ALLIED GLOBAL MARKETING Digital Buyer

DEANNA McCLURE Art & Design Director
JAVIER VASQUEZ Digital Content Producer
IRENE T. KANESHIRO* Senior Design Manager
TARA NITZ Senior Designer
SANDI SILBERT Senior Designer

COMMUNICATIONS

JASON MARTIN* Head of Publicity
COURTNEY HEIMBUCK Publicist
LINDSAY JOHNSTON Junior Publicist

TICKET SALES AND SERVICES

SHAWN ROBERTSON* Ticket Sales Director
SKYPP CABANAS* Senior Manager, Ticket Operations
TINTIN NGUYEN Ticketing Operations Coordinator
MICHAEL ZOLDESSY Senior Manager, Account Sales
SANDY CZUBIAK* Audience & Subscriber Services Director
JENNIFER BAKER*
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LUIS ESPINOZA Audience Services Assistant Supervisor

GARY HOLLAND, CHRISTIAN UNGER Audience Services
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DANIEL GARCIA, MICHAEL MUNOZ, FELIPE ROQUE,
MICHELLE SOV Audience Services Representatives
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Asst. Supervisor

LIGIA PISTE* PETER STALOCH* Subscriber Services
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ANGELICA CARBAJAL*
MICHAEL VALLE* 1st Assistant Treasurers
KAITLYN GALVEZ, KEANA JACKSON,
MICHAEL KEMPISTY* 2nd Assistant Treasurers
SD&A TELESERVICES, INC. Outbound Sales Partner

*On staff for 10+ years.

ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMISSIONS

As part of our commitment to supporting new plays and playwrights, we foster and develop a broad range of theatrical work from diverse artists locally, nationally, and abroad.

Artists **creating new work commissioned** by Center Theatre Group this season:

STEVE CUIFFO	LISA KRON	LYNN NOTTAGE
LISA D'AMOUR	KIMBER LEE	MARCO RAMIREZ
LARISSA FASTHORSE	YOUNG JEAN LEE	SARAH RUHL
JENNIFER HALEY	MATTHEW LOPEZ	LUIS VALDEZ
ALESHEA HARRIS	JANINE NABERS	PAULA VOGEL
RAJIV JOSEPH	QUI NGUYEN	KAREN ZACARIAS

Since 2005, we have invited local playwrights to spend a year researching and writing a new work with the feedback of their fellow writers and artistic staff as part of our **L.A. Writers' Workshop**. Our growing community currently contains more than 100 playwrights. 2021/22 Season members:

JAMI BRANDLI	JULIE TAIWO ONI	PIA SHAH
JUNE CARRYL	LISA RAMIREZ	JUDY SOO HOO
JESSICA KO	TISHA MARIE REICHLER-	DELANNA STUDI
PENELOPE LOWDER	AGUILERA	

Learn more at CTGLA.org/Artists.