

For immediate release

**NATIONAL TOUR CAST ANNOUNCED FOR THE
2020 TONY AWARD-WINNING BEST REVIVAL OF
1982 PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING DRAMA “A SOLDIER’S PLAY”
COMING TO CENTER THEATRE GROUP / AHMANSON THEATRE
MAY 23 THROUGH JUNE 25, 2023**

**Starring Norm Lewis as Captain Richard Davenport and featuring Off-Broadway’s original
Bernard Cobb Eugene Lee as Sergeant Vernon C. Waters.**

The North American tour of “**A Soldier’s Play**” will make its Los Angeles premiere at **Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre** May 23 through June 25, 2023. Written by American playwright **Charles Fuller**, “**A Soldier’s Play**” stars **Norm Lewis**, and is directed by Tony Award winner and Roundabout Theatre Company’s Senior Resident Director **Kenny Leon**. Opening night for Roundabout Theatre Company’s 2020 Tony Award-winning Best Revival of the 1982 Pulitzer Prize-winning “**A Soldier’s Play**” is set for May 24, 2023.

Grammy, Tony, and SAG Award nominee **Norm Lewis** will star as Captain Richard Davenport. Joining him will be Broadway, TV and film star **Eugene Lee**, who originated the role of Corporal Bernard Cobb in the original 1981 Off-Broadway production of “**A Soldier’s Play**,” as Sergeant Vernon C. Waters, **Will Adams** as Corporal Bernard Cobb, **Brandon Alvi3n** as an understudy, **Sheldon D. Brown** as Private C.J. Memphis, **Malik Esoj Childs** as Private Tony Smalls, **Ja’Qu3n Cole** as an understudy, **William Connell** as Captain Charles Taylor, **Charles Everett** as an understudy, **Alex Michael Givens** as Corporal Ellis, **Matthew Goodrich** as Captain Wilcox, **Chattan Mayes Johnson** as Lieutenant Byrd, **Branden Davon Lindsay** as Private Louis Henson, **Tarik Lowe** as Private First-Class Melvin Peterson, **Al’Jaleel McGhee** as an understudy, **Howard W. Overshown** as Private James Wilkie, and **Alex Ross** as an understudy.

Joining director **Kenny Leon** for the tour of Roundabout Theatre Company’s “**A Soldier’s Play**” is the Broadway design team that includes **Derek McLane** (Sets), **Dede Ayite** (Costumes), **Allen Lee Hughes** (Lights), **Dan Moses Schreier** (Sound) and **Cristina Angeles** (Associate Director). The tour of “**A Soldier’s Play**” is produced by **Roundabout Theatre Company** and **Tamar Climan**. The “**A Soldier’s Play**” tour stage management team is John Atherlay and RL Campbell. The company management team is Frank Lott and Jordan Lingreen.

“The recent passing of The Giant that is Charles Fuller has only magnified his brilliance... an amazing writer who left us so much with his masterful ‘A Soldiers Play,’” said director **Kenny Leon**. “We honor him with this American tour of the Broadway production of this great American classic. Come — laugh, think and reflect — America is in need of love.”

In 1944, on a Louisiana Army base, two shots ring out. A Black sergeant is murdered. And a series of interrogations triggers a gripping barrage of questions about sacrifice, service, and identity in America. Charles Fuller's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece opened on Broadway for the first time on Jan. 21, 2020 at Roundabout Theatre Company's American Airlines Theatre, nearly 40 years after it was written. The acclaimed production was nominated for seven Tony Awards and three Drama Desk Awards, winning Best Revival for both.

Tickets for “A Soldier’s Play” are on sale and start at \$40. They are available through [CenterTheatreGroup.org](https://www.CenterTheatreGroup.org), Audience Services at (213) 972-4400 or in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Offices (at the Ahmanson Theatre) at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012. Performances run Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Performances run Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, and in collaboration with the four Associate Artistic Directors, Lindsay Allbaugh, Tyrone Davis, Neel Keller, and Kelley Kirkpatrick, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstance to serve Los Angeles. [CenterTheatreGroup.org](https://www.CenterTheatreGroup.org)

Bank of America is Center Theatre Group’s 2022 – 2023 Season Sponsor. Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. For more than 20 years, the company has supported Center Theatre Group’s innovative Education and Community Partnerships programs as well as world-class productions. Bank of America is also an instrumental supporter in accelerating Center Theatre Group's commitment to becoming an anti-racist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization.

American Express is the official credit card for Center Theatre Group and the presenting sponsor of the Digital Stage.

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April 18, 2023

Connect with “A Soldier’s Play” on tour: asoldiersplaytour.com

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BIOGRAPHIES:

Norm Lewis (*Captain Richard Davenport*). Emmy, Grammy, Tony, and SAG Award nominee, Norm Lewis, recently starred in Spike Lee's critically acclaimed, “Da 5 Bloods,” and in the groundbreaking FX series, “Pose.” Additionally, Mr. Lewis can be seen starring in ABC's newest series, “Women of The Movement” and offscreen, his voice can be heard in the latest season of Apple TV's animated series, “Central Park.” He was also seen as 'Caiaphas' in the award-winning NBC television special, “Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert!” alongside John Legend, Sara Bareilles, and Alice Cooper. Mr. Lewis returned to Broadway in the Fall of 2021, starring in “Chicken & Biscuits” at the Circle In The Square Theatre. He previously appeared in the Broadway revival of “Once on This Island” and as Sweeney Todd in the Off-Broadway production of “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street” at the Barrow Street Theatre, receiving the AUDELCO Award for his performance. In May of 2014, he made history as “The Phantom of the Opera’s” first African American Phantom on Broadway. He has been seen on PBS in the “Live From Lincoln Center” productions of “Showboat” with Vanessa Williams, “Norm Lewis: Who Am I?,” “New Year’s Eve: A Gershwin Celebration” with Diane Reeves, as well as “American Voices” with Renée Fleming and the PBS Specials “First You Dream – The Music of Kander & Ebb” and “Ella Wishes You A Swingin' Christmas.” He can be seen recurring in the VH1 series, “Daytime Divas,” also alongside Vanessa Williams. His additional television credits include “Law & Order,” “Dr. Death,” “Mrs. America,” “Better Things,” “The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt,” “Bull,” “Chicago Med,” “Gotham,” “The Blacklist,” and “Blue Bloods,” as well as in his recurring role as Senator Edison Davis on the hit drama “Scandal.” Mr. Lewis is a proud founding member of Black Theatre United, an organization which stands together to help protect Black people, Black talent and Black lives of all shapes and orientations in theatre and communities across the country. He received Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle award nominations for his performance as Porgy in the Broadway production of “The Gershwins’ Porgy & Bess.” Other Broadway credits include “Sondheim on Sondheim,” “The Little Mermaid,” “Les Misérables,” “Chicago,” “Amour,” “The Wild Party,” “Side Show,” “Miss Saigon,” and “The Who’s Tommy.” In London’s West End he has appeared as Javert in “Les Misérables” and “Les Misérables: The 25th Anniversary Concert,” which aired on PBS. Off-Broadway Mr. Lewis has performed in “Dessa Rose” (Drama Desk nomination, AUDELCO Award), Shakespeare in the Park’s “The Tempest,” “The Two Gentlemen of Verona” (Drama League nomination), “Captains Courageous,” and “A New Brain.” His regional credits include Porgy in The Gershwins’ “Porgy and Bess” (A.R.T.), “Ragtime,” “Dreamgirls” (with Jennifer Holliday), “First You Dream,” “Sweeney Todd,” and “The Fantasticks.” His additional film credits include “Christmas In Tune” (starring opposite Reba McEntire), “Magnum Opus,” “Winter’s Tale,” “Sex and the City 2,” “Confidences,” and “Preaching to

the Choir.” Norm's albums “The Norm Lewis Christmas Album” album & "This is The Life" can be found on Amazon.com as well as cdbaby.com.

Eugene Lee (*Sergeant Vernon C. Waters*). In 1972, in college, Lee acted in a command performance of “A Raisin in the Sun” for President Lyndon B. Johnson at his Texas ranch. Fifty years later he’s done television shows and movies, including: “The Women of Brewster Place,” “Good Times,” “The White Shadow,” “Wolf,” an independent film, the Broadway production of “American Son” and the Emmy nominated Netflix film adaptation. He has multiple appearances on stage with the Negro Ensemble, Company including the original cast of “A Soldier's Play.” He’s a "Wilsonian Warrior" for his work in plays by August Wilson, including Broadway in “Gem of the Ocean” and “How I Learned What I Learned.” His TV writing credits include: “Homicide: Life on the Streets,” “Walker, Texas Ranger,” “Port Chicago.” His plays include: “East Texas Hot Links,” “Fear Itself,” “Somebody Called,” “Ode to Juneteenth,” “Killingsworth,” and “Lyn' Ass.” Artist in Residence and Artistic Director of the Black and Latino Playwright's Celebration at Texas State University. Mr. Lee was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters in 2018. eugeneleeonline.com

Will Adams (*Corporal Bernard Cobb*) recently starred in the film “A Holiday in Harlem” (Hallmark) and recurred in Tyler Perry’s “The Oval” (BET). His theatre credits include “Skeleton Crew,” “A Death of a Salesman” (Trinity Rep), and “Curse of the Starving Class” (Williamstown Theatre Festival). MFA: Brown/Trinity Rep.

Brandon Alvi3n (*Understudy*) is from Newark, NJ. MFA in Acting from Wayne State University 2018. Select credits: Harpo in “The Color Purple” (2nd Nat’l), Kenny in “Chicken & Biscuits” (Virginia Rep) and Martin L. King Jr. in “The Mountaintop” (Hope Rep). Many thanks to the cast, crew, and creatives. Social media: @iactwright

Sheldon D. Brown (*Private C.J. Memphis*). Theatre credits include Steppenwolf Theatre, (“Choir Boy,” Jeff Award winning), Court Theatre (“Man In The Ring”); About Face Theatre (Magnolia Ballet) and more. Film/TV screenwriting credits include “Cicada” (Spirit Award nominated), “The Big Leap” (FOX). He is represented by Stewart Talent & Innovative Artists.

Malik Esoj Childs (*Private Tony Smalls*) is native to the eastside of Detroit, MI. UNC School of the Arts (2019). Recent productions include “Exception to the Rule” by Dave Harris (Roundabout Theater Company). “soft” by Donja R. Love (Williamstown Theater Festival).

Ja’qu3n Cole (*Understudy*) was raised in Toledo, OH. TV: “Winning Time: The Rise Of The Lakers Dynasty” (HBO), “Snowfall” (FX), “Wu-Tang: An American Saga” (Hulu). Graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA). @jqcole.

William Connell (*Captain Charles Taylor*). “INK” (MTC), “A View From the Bridge” (2010 Broadway revival), “The Coast of Utopia” (LCT), “Nureyev’s Eyes” (George Street), “Alphabetical Order” (Keen Co.), “Hamlet” (Aspen Music Festival), “One Man, Two

Guvnors” (PTC, Berkeley Rep, South Coast Rep). TV/Film: “Succession,” “Bluff City Law,” “Blindspot,” “Blacklist,” “Bull,” “Smash,” “Not Fade Away.” B.F.A. UNCSA.

Charles Everett (*Understudy*) is thrilled to be joining the cast of this iconic play. Favorite theatre credits include King in “The Mountaintop” (Emerson Theatre Collaborative/Connecticut), Doug in “Raft of the Medusa” (Barefoot Theatre Company/NYC), and Harry Truman in “Convention” (Brontosaurus Haircut Productions/NYC). Television: “Fleishman is in Trouble,” “Only Murders in the Building,” “The Equalizer,” “FBI: Most Wanted,” “Bull.” Charles is a graduate of Maggie Flanigan Studio in New York City.

Alex Michael Givens (*Corporal Ellis*). Select Regional Theatre credits: “How to Catch Creation” (Geva Theatre Center); “The Christians,” “The Crucible,” “The Life of Galileo,” “Sense and Sensibility,” “My Fair Lady,” “Skeleton Crew” (PlayMakers Repertory Company); “Cymbeline” “Macbeth,” “Shakespeare in Love,” “All’s Well that Ends Well,” “Richard the Third,” “King John” (Great River Shakespeare Festival).

Matthew Goodrich (*Captain Wilcox*). Broadway: “A Soldier’s Play,” “All My Sons,” “The Nance,” “Picnic.” Regional credits include Alabama Shakespeare Festival, TheatreSquared, Florida Repertory Theatre, and Orlando Shakes. MFA, CalArts. actoratt.com, @goodie_grams.

Chattan Mayes Johnson (*Lieutenant Byrd*) is honored to make his National Tour debut. Regional credits: “Newsies” (Jack Kelley), “Godspell” (“All Good Gifts” Disciple). Education: Carnegie Mellon University 2022.

Branden Davon Lindsay (*Private Louis Henson*) is an actor and Southern gentleman born and raised in Greenville, SC. He is honored to be making his first National Tour debut. 2021 Graduate from NYU Grad Acting. Recent credits include: Off Broadway: “Merry Wives” (Public Theater). Film: “The Greatest Beer Run Ever” (Apple TV+). Television: “Awkwafina” (Comedy Central), “Blue Bloods” (CBS), “Evil” (CBS).

Tarik Lowe (*Private First-Class Melvin Peterson*) is an actor/writer known for his versatility and dramatic depth. He debuted in “Music of the Heart” starring Meryl Streep. Film: the Oscar-winning “Whiplash,” “The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete,” “Pimp” and co-writer/star in “Supporting Characters,” which premiered at Tribeca. TV: “One Life to Live,” “Major Crimes,” “Blindspot,” “Outsiders,” “Law & Order” and “Blue Bloods.”

Al’Jaleel McGhee (*Understudy*). Chicago-built artist. Currently appears on “61st Street” (AMC), “Lady in the Lake” (Apple TV+), “Power Book IV: FORCE” (Starz). Regional: “Intimate Apparel,” “Fireflies” (Northlight), “Wolf Play” (Gift), “Graveyard Shift” (Goodman, New Stages), “Paradise Blue” (Timeline), “Breach” (Victory Gardens), “Blues for an Alabama Sky” (Court). Northwestern, MFA.

Howard W. Overshown (*Private James Wilkie*). Broadway: “The Lehman Trilogy” (U/S), “Saint Joan,” “Julius Caesar,” “A Freeman of Color,” “A Soldiers Play” (U/S). Off-

Broadway: "Yellowman," "The Underlying Chris," "Passage," "Beauty on the Vine," "Cost of Living" (U/S). TV/Film: "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "girls5eva," "Law and Order," "Blue Bloods," "Fosse/Verdon," "The Affair," "Pride and Glory," "13," "Lost Cat Corona," "Body of Lies," "Madam Secretary."

Alex Ross (*Understudy*). Broadway: "Book of Mormon" (Elder Price Standby). Regional: Dallas Theater Center, Theatre Aspen, Watertown Theatre, Theater Three, Uptown Players. TV/Film: "Logan Lucky," "Bull," "Law & Order SVU," "NCIS LA," "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," "Queen of the South," "Long Road Home," "Revolution." VO: "Smite," "One Piece," "Black Butler." @astanross

Charles Fuller 1939-2022 (*Playwright*). Mr. Fuller received the Dramatists Guild's Flora Roberts Award for his extensive body of work. Mr. Fuller's creative efforts involve a wide range of theatre, film and television. He was a member of the Negro Ensemble Company, where his "Zooman and the Sign" won him an Obie and "A Soldier's Play" won him a Pulitzer Prize, Best American Play and an Edgar Award. Mr. Fuller's adaptation of his play became the 1984 film "A Soldier's Story," which was nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award and won a Writers Guild of America Award. He has written screenplays for CBS, PBS and Showtime. He has also mentored young playwrights at Cherry Lane Theatre and was commissioned by Cherry Lane to write a play, "One Night," which opened there in 2014. The 2020 Broadway premiere of Fuller's "A Soldier's Play" won the Tony Award for Best Revival at Roundabout Theatre Company and is on National Tour starring Norm Lewis. "A Soldier's Play" is also being adapted into a limited TV series by Sony Pictures Television.

Kenny Leon (*Director*) is a Tony Award- winning director who also has been honored with The Actors Fund Medal of Honor, an Obie Award and an NAACP Image Award. Mr. Leon is also a proud honoree of the George Abbott Lifetime Achievement for American Theatre. Broadway: "A Soldier's Play;" "American Son;" "Children of a Lesser God;" "Holler If Ya Hear Me;" "A Raisin in the Sun;" "The Mountaintop;" "Stick Fly;" August Wilson's "Fences," "Gem of the Ocean" and "Radio Golf." Upcoming Broadway: Suzan-Lori Parks' "Topdog/Underdog" on Broadway this fall. Off-Broadway: "The Underlying Chris," "Everybody's Ruby," "Emergence-See!" (The Public); "Smart People" (Second Stage). Television: Robin Roberts Presents: "Mahalia;" "Colin in Black & White;" "4400;" "Amend: The Fight for America;" "American Son" (adapted for Netflix); "Hairspray Live!;" "The Wiz Live!;" "Steel Magnolias;" "Dynasty;" "In My Dreams." Author: "Take You Wherever You Go." Artistic Director Emeritus, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company. Senior Resident Director: Roundabout Theatre Company.