CTGOFWD

NOT A MOMENT BUT A MOVEMEN FESTIVAL

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SNEHAL DESAI Artistic Director | MEGHAN PRESSMAN Managing Director/CEO | DOUGLAS C. BAKER Producing Director

GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director



NOT A
Presents

MOMENT

BUT A

MOVEMEN

FESTIVAL

Playwrights
Z & Co" f/aka AzizA Barnes Roger Q. Mason Tahirih Moeller
Cynthia Grace Robinson t. tara turk-haynes

Directors Andi Chapman nicHi douglas Khanisha Foster Nancy Keystone Bruce Lemon, Jr.

Dramaturgs Indy Jordan Linsday A. Jenkins Zharia O'Neal Dylan Southard

WITE

Ito Aghayere Jonelle Allen Ngozi Anyanwu Jasmine Ashanti Z & Co" f/aka AzizA Barnes Maria Bamford
Patricia Belcher Chanell Bell Julanne Chidi Hill Tiffany Daniels Joy DeMichelle Nic Few Simran "Simi" Fulton
Adrián González Crystal Jackson Chris Jarell Indy Jordan Kathleen Littlefield Christopher Livingston Damu Malik
Joy Mamey Tianna Mendez Cortunay Minor Oscar Montoya Alex Morris James Patrick Nelson
Bukola Ogunmola Blessing Oluwole Angel Parker Quentin Plair Gary Poux
Larry Powell Dennis Renard Kalyn Rivers Josh Schell Jasmine Williams Cezar Williams

Associate Artistic Director Lindsay Allbaugh Artistic Producer
Awoye Timpo

Artistic Programs Manager Paige Vehlewald

Literary and Artistic Administrative Assistant Tiffany Slagle

> Casting X CASTING / Víctor Vázquez, CSA

Stage Managers
Edward Khris Fernandez Arielle Hightower
Lydia Runge Liv Scott Ben Shipley

Produced in association with Watts Village Theater Company and The Fire This Time Festival

JUNE 22-24, 2024 KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

Welcome to the Kirk Douglas Theatre!

Thank you for joining us for the Not A Moment, But A Movement ("NAMBAM") play reading festival. We could not be more excited to spend the weekend with you here in Culver City uplifting and supporting five new plays by five incredible playwrights.

Launched in January of 2021, NAMBAM is an initiative created to amplify, center, and celebrate Black voices. Originally conceived as a Digital Stage series during the pandemic, this current season is comprised of a cohort of woman-identifying or nonbinary playwrights who were commissioned to write brand new plays beginning in 2022. Over the course of this weekend, you will be the very first audience members to hear the words of these new plays come to life.

Center Theatre Group has a long history of commissioning and producing new works, as well as supporting playwrights on their journey from page to stage. NAMBAM is a continuation of this important work, and our hope is that programs and initiatives like this one will continue to be the very backbone of CTG, introducing our audiences to innovative, groundbreaking artists and their work—work that will help chart the future of American theatre.

If you'd like to help us continue to support new works and artists like these, please consider making a donation at CTGLA.org/give.

With gratitude,

Suchel Dean

Snehal Desai Artistic Director

Saturday, June 22nd 3 p.m. **KIA WAS HERE**

by Tahirih Moeller Directed by Bruce Lemon, Jr.

Kia Was Here is about an 18-year-old named Kia and her 15-year-old niece named Kamille. The play takes place at two points in time: In the past, Kia copes with her first breakup by stealing her big brother's (Kamille's father's) car to go on late-night snack runs. While Kamille struggles with her sexuality and her mother's negative perception of her body. In the present, Kamille copes with the sudden and tragic loss of Kia by starving herself. Both Kia and Kamille experience hallucinations where food and objects come to life to give them advice on how to process grief.

CAST

Kia	Jasmine Williams
Young Kamille / Kamille	Cortunay Mino
Shaunie / Norwin	Blessing Oluwole
Martha / Shaunie's Hoodie / Birdie	Angel Parke
Hank / Casse / Hot Chip	Gary Poux
Remi / Automated Voice / Stage Manager	Bukola Ogunmola
Stage Directions	Julanne Chidi Hil
Stage Manager	Ben Shipley
Dramaturg	Lindsav A. Jenkins

WHO'S WHO

TAHIRIH MOELLER (Playwright, she/her). Tahirih Moeller is a writer-doodler from Northside Long Beach. As a product of rap music, cartoons, and Black sitcoms, Tahirih creates dynamic, absurd, and often personal pieces that use poetry and humor to reflect Black folk's daily struggles and triumphs. Some of her accomplishments include taking second place for the 2016 Hip Hop Theater Creator Award at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for A Live Mixtage, landing a feature in the *American Theatre* Magazine in the 2019 Role Call Series, and becoming Playwright-in-Residence at her alma mater California State University, Long Beach. Tahirih is currently a member of New West Playwrights with the Ensemble Studio Theatre Los Angeles. She plans to continue writing stories that challenge and entertain audiences. Oh, and she'd appreciate it if you checked out her sister Kyranotkyra's EP, *Heartbreak High*, on Spotify!

BRUCE LEMON, JR. (Director, he/him) is a storyteller born and raised in Watts, CA. As a child, his father made him write stories and read them aloud in the hallway as punishment for lies and mischief. He's still in trouble. Co-Artistic Director of Watts Village. Associate Artistic Director/Ensemble with Cornerstone Theater Company. @BALemonJr

JASMINE WILLIAMS (Kia, she/her). Jasmine is from South Central and is the Executive Director/Producer of Da Poetry Lounge Co. She holds 18 years of art residencies that provide equitable creative programming and is a current CA Creative Corps Fellow. Her work has been featured on FOX, HBO, PBS, & Facebook just to name a few. lamJasmineWilliams.com

CORTUNAY MINOR (Young Kamille / Kamille; she/they). Cortunay Minor is a Theatre actor and a Spoken Word poet. She's a Class of 2024 UCLA alum with a Theatre major and a Community Engagement & Social Change minor. A few of Cortunay's favorite roles include Fairview (Keisha), The Rocky Horror Show (Frank-N-Furter), and Collective Rage (Betty 4). Cortunayminor.com

BLESSING OLUWOLE (Shaunie/Norwin; he/him). Blessing Oluwole is an actor who proudly represents Inglewood, California. Beginning his acting journey in 2016, the road has had its share of smooth and bumpy rides, through it all, his love for the craft so only grown exponentially. Having begun in the theatre, his credits include August Wilson's Seven Guitars (Canewell), Jackie Sibblies Drury's We Are Proud to Present... (Actor 4/ Another Black Man), Suzan-Lori Parks' Topdog/Underdog (Booth) and, most recently, Lynn Nottage's Intimate Apparel (George Armstrong). You may have seen him on TV on HBO's Insecure or CBS' Bob Hearts Abishola. Whether you've seen him or not, he's truly honored to exist in this space and filled with gratitude to work.

ANGEL PARKER (Martha / Shaunie's Hoodie / Birder; she/ her). Angel is thrilled to return to the stage in Kia Was Here and proud of her connection to its playwright Tahirih Moeller. They met 9 years ago when Tahirih was an apprentice at The Blank Theatre Company, where Angel acted in their Young Playwrights Festival for over a decade. Other LA Theatre credits include Independent Shakespeare Company and Will and Company, but working with Center Theatre Group with Tahirih is a dream realized. She is a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts but found her footing working with actors and artists and women like Tahirih. Angel's recent work in television includes her series regular role in *The Recruit* for Netflix and her recurring role on ABC's *The Rookie*. Previous series regular work includes Marvel's *Runaways*, and recurring roles on Superman & Lois, Lab Rats, The Strain, Trial & Error, ER, and the FX Emmy Award-winning American Crime Story: The People v. OJ Simpson. She has also achieved a formidable list of lead roles and guest-star appearances. including Hulu's *The Dropout*, a starring role in Dolly Parton's Mountain Magic Christmas on NBC, the pilot of La Brea, Kevin Costner's ABC pilot National Parks, The Good Doctor, Grand Crew. Animal Kingdom, NCIS: Los Angeles, 911: Lone Star, REL, Teachers, Castle, and Criminal Minds, among others. In film, Angel's work includes the lead role in You Are My Home opposite Alyssa Milano for Netflix and the independent feature Prisoner's Daughter starring Kate Beckinsdale and Brian Cox. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

GARY POUX (Hank / Casse / Hot Chip; he/him). Gary Poux was born and raised in Mansfield, Texas. He received his BA degree in Theatre from the University of Southern California after transferring in from the University of Michigan. He feels absolutely blessed to be a part of this project. Also, he dedicates this performance to his mother who recently gained her angelic wings. We finally on a CTG stage mama!!!

BUKOLA OGUNMOLA (Remi / Automated Voice / Stage Manager; she/her). Bukola Ogunmola is a Nigerian American actor, producer, and educator born, raised, and educated in South Jamaica, Queens, New York. She is so elated to be back working with Center Theatre Group. Some credits include Viola in Twelfth Night (Independent Shakespeare Company), Isabel/Dionna in Measure Still for Measure (Boston Court Pasadena), Juliet in Romeo and Juliet (Better Than Dreams Productions), as well as Yinka in Bob Hearts Abishola (CBS). Upcoming role: Celia in As You Like it at the Griffith Park's Free Shakespeare festival. Thanks to her fantastic family, amazing friends and her wonderful team Ronnie/SMS, Connie, Vera and Adrianne. MFA, USC.

JULANNE CHIDI HILL (Stage Directions, she/her). Julanne Chidi Hill recently appeared in The Bluest Eye directed by Andi Chapman at A Noise Within. Some theatre credits include: The world premiere of BLUE by June Carryl at Rogue Machine Matrix Theater; The Great Jheri Curl Debate, East West Players, Yellowman, Khanisha Foster Director (Lead Performance OC Theater Award); Die Mommie, Die! at Kirk Douglas Theatre; Fences, directed by Wren T. Brown; Booty Candyat Celebration Theatre (Stage Raw Award) directed by Michael Matthews; the U.S. premiere of Athol Fugard's Blue Iris at Fountain Theater, Stephen Sachs Director; The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe: Revisited, Lily Tomlin Theater; We Are Proud to Present a Presentation about the Herero of Namibia (LADCC Award). Additionally, has appeared in both film and television.

BEN SHIPLEY (Stage Manager, they/them) is thrilled to be returning to CTG for the 2024 NAMBAM Presentations! National Tours: Disney's Aladdin, The Prom, Hamilton (Angelica Tour), Warriors Don't Cry, The Magic School Bus: Lost In The Solar System, Junie B. Jones. Selected Off-Broadway credits: The Watering Hole (Signature), 1001 Nights (Atlantic), Don Juan, The Winter's Tale (The Pearl). Selected Regional credits: Ensemble Theatre Company, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, The Wallis, South Coast Rep, New Harmony Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Geffen Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, NYSAF. Ben is an alum of Ithaca College. Love and gratitude to Dominic, my family and friends, and this stellar group of collaborators!

LINDSAY A. JENKINS (Dramaturg, she/her). In lieu of a bio, I offer an excerpt from Dr. Barbara Ann Teer's Letter To The Future. "It is with great love and respect that I write this letter to the future for all the people of color in the world.... I pray that you are the ones who bring grace, beauty, joy and laughter into the world. I pray that you have built strong African American Institutions that give praise and honor to your ancestors...I want you to know that in the end, we are all connected. Seated inside the heart of each and every one of us is a being, a Self, a fire, a flame, a god. Our Theatres must reflect this truth... They must first and foremost teach people what it means to be human, teach people how to love themselves. how to honor themselves."

Saturday, June 22nd 7 p.m. **FKA I AM A BAD BLK PERSON**

by Z & Co" f/aka AzizA Barnes Directed by nicHi douglas

FKA I AM A BAD BLK PERSON is a continuation of the play BLKS: different characters, same question: why do i laugh when i am in pain?

CAST

Z/AZIZA BARNES TALK SHOW HOST	
4KIRA	
J	Ngozi Anyanwu
f / THE BLACK MAN / RUFUS TEE FYEAFLY	Chris Jarell
N / BLACK WOMAN WHO LEVITATED / LEDUC TEBAC	Chanell Bell
ALLELUJA	Maria Bamford
THE BEAR / ALEXA	
CORAL	Tiffany Daniels
THE SERVER / ANGUS CLEMENTINE / THE WHITE MAN	Oscar Montoya
ANOTHER SERVER / DOMINO KAFTAN / SILENT WHITE WOMAN	Joy Mamey
THE JONES	Indy Jordan
Stage Directions	. Indy Jordan, Tiffany Daniels
Stage Manager	
Dramaturo	•

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

Z & Co" f/aka AzizA Barnes (*Playwright; Z/AZIZA BARNES TALK SHOW HOST*) is alive on purpose in this earth drag. They did not provide a biography because they find them distinctly morbid. If someone wants to know Z & Co" f/aka AzizA Barnes' credits, they can Google their given name: Aziza Barnes. In this play of their's, Z & Co" f/aka AzizA Barnes, will be making their acting debut.

nicHI douglas (Director, any pronouns said w/ Respect) is an AUDELCO, Princess Grace, and Lortel award-winning experimental artist based in Brooklyn, you can refer to her/ them/him/us using any pronouns said with Respect. nicHi is interested in leading community care centered creative processes born out of personal inquiry and cultural curiosity. they are an Assistant Arts Professor at NYU/Tisch undergrad in the Experimental Theater Wing where they teach dance & movement methodologies. nicHi's most recent work (pray), a co-production of Ars Nova and National Black Theater, received three 2024 Lortel awards for "Outstanding Musical," "Outstanding Director," and "Outstanding Ensemble". Additional theatre: The Cotillion... (The Movement Theatre Company + New Georges, Choreographer), WEIGHTLESS (WP Theater, Choreographer), SKiNFoLK: AN AMERICAN SHOW (Bushwick Starr + National Black Theater. Choreographer). Upcoming: RECONSTRUCTING (The Team/ BAM, Choreographer). mynameisnichi.com

ITO AGHAYERE (AKIRA, she/her). Star Trek: Picard, Carol's Second Act. Junk, Bernhardt/Hamlet on Broadway. Ito is a Duke University graduate in Political Science and Theater Arts. She later interned at the White House under the Obama Administration while pursuing her graduate studies at Columbia University where she received her MFA. IG: @itoaghayere. AEA Member.

NGOZI ANYANWU (J. she/her). Ngozi Anyanwu is a multihyphenated storyteller most recently seen performing in Nathan Alan Davis's *The Refuge Plays* at The Roundabout Theatre with New York Theatre workshop. Anyanwu will have a world premiere of her play Leroy and Lucy this fall at Steppenwolfe. She's a 2020 Steinberg Playwright Award winner. Her most recent play Last Of The Love Letters premiered at the Atlantic Theater Company Fall 2021. Previous productions include *Good Grief* (Vineyard Theatre in NYC / Center Theatre Group in LA) and The Homecoming Queen (sold-out world premiere run at the Atlantic Theatre). Good Grief was on the Kilroys List 2016 and a semifinalist for the Princess Grace Award and won the Humanitas Award. The Homecoming Queen was on the Kilroys List 2017 and was a Leah Rvan Finalist, Her play *Nike...* (Kilrovs List 2017) was workshopped at The New Black Fest in conjunction with The Lark and The Strand Festival in conjunction with A.C.T and Space on Ryder Farm. Ngozi also has commissions with NYU, The Old Globe, Two Rivers Theatre, The Atlantic Theatre, and Steppenwolf. Anyanwu has also received residencies from LCT3, Space on Ryder Farm, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, The New Harmony Project, New York Stage and Film and Page 73. She attended Point Park University (BA) and received her MFA in Acting from University of California, San

CHRIS JARELL (f / THE BLACK MAN / RUFUS TEE FYEAFLY; he/him), a rising comedian and actor, was born in Chester and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Despite facing hardships like growing up without a father and not fitting in at Steelton High School, Chris channeled his struggles into his comedy. He took the stage at Philadelphia's Laugh House, where Kevin Hart began his career. His popularity quickly grew, and with his motto, "sacrifice something now for something greater later." he moved to New York to pursue his dreams. In New York, his dedication paid off when he booked his first movie, Brotherly Love, produced by Queen Latifah. He also shot a national internet commercial for Apple. Chris has worked alongside celebrities like Lil Rel, Donald Glover, Saniyya Sidney, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, RZA, Ashton Sanders, and Dominique Fishback. His future is bright as he continues to rise in the entertainment industry.

CHANELL BELL (N/BLACK WOMAN WHO LEVITATED/LEDUC TEBAC; she/her). Chanell Bell is an American writer, actor, director, and humanitarian based in Los Angeles. Her latest project Garden Hands will premiere at The Apollo Theatre in NYC through the Hip Hop Film Festival this August 2024. She can be seen in Power Book IV: Force streaming on STARZ as well as shows like Chicago Med and Easy. Recent stage credits include What to Send Up When it Goes Down at Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago, IL. She is a proud member of The Actor's Studio. She is repped by DDO and Powerline Ent.

MARIA BAMFORD (ALLELUJA, she/her) is an award-winning comedian, writer, and actor who lives in Altadena, CA with her beloved husband Scott Marvel Cassidy and 2 dogs. She is extremely honored to be a part of this production. It was on her Vision Board.

TIANNA MENDEZ (*THE BEAR / ALEXA; she/her*). Tianna Mendez, currently nestled in Los Angeles, by way of New York City, has been working professionally in TV, film, and national commercials since 2019. A graduate of UNC-Charlotte, with a BA in English, she loves literary analysis and a well executed story. You might spot her on your television or on the pines, depending on the season. In both arenas, she's excited to be there.

TIFFANY DANIELS (CORAL / Stage Directions; she/her). Tiffany is a Film, Television, Commercial & Stage actress originally from San Diego, CA. After graduating from Cornell University, Tiffany has worked in 60+ Film & Television projects, multiple National Commercials, cheered in the NBA & the NFL, & traveled the country in a National Broadway Tour. Tiffany is passionate about living a healthy lifestyle & reducing her carbon footprint. @ItsMeTiffD TiffanyDaniels.com

OSCAR MONTOYA (THE SERVER/ ANGUS CLEMENTINE/ THE WHITE MAN; he/him). Oscar Montoya found his breakout role as Richie in the Starz comedy, Minx. Oscar is an actor, comedian, and hip-hop dancer living in Los Angeles. He was born in a small town in Colombia and lived in New York, where he was a performer and a faculty member at both the Magnet Theater and The People's Improv Theater. Oscar was a recurring voice on FOX's Bless The Harts and has appeared on USA's Playing House and Adam Ruins Everything. Oscar can be seen in several national commercials (Snickers, Pizza Hut, Cheerios) and various videos for College Humor, MTVOther and Buzzfeed.

JOY MAMEY (ANOTHER SERVER / DOMINO KAFTAN / SILENT WHITE WOMAN; she/they). Joy Mamey is an actor and comedian, in July she will be in Amsterdam, performing at the Boom Chicago Comedy Festival. She's a Studio Tour Guide at Universal Studios Hollywood, a castmember of the sketch comedy series, That's Hollywood, Baby!, and a featured performer for the NBC Universal Showcase. Commercial credits: ESPN, Chewy.com, Codeacademy. She's written, performed & produced sketch comedy shows at the Groundlings, Second City Hollywood, & the Comedy Central Stage.

INDY JORDAN (THE JONES, Stage Directions, Dramaturg; she/her). Multidisciplinary artist Indy Jordan creates experiences that stoke sensuality and criticality. A book she's writing about navigating the chaos of societal collapse inspired some concepts explored in FKA I AM A BAD BLACK PERSON. As indie musician Indy Darling, she channels hues of the blues and funk freedom.

ARIELLE HIGHTOWER (Stage Manager, she/her). Arielle Hightower is a California State University, Fullerton graduate with a Bachelor's in Theatre Arts with an Emphasis in Stage Management. She has both theatre and television experience to her name. She was Assistant Stage Manager for Andi Chapman's The Bluest Eye (A Noise Within Theatre), Gregg T. Daniels's King Hedley II (A Noise Within Theatre), Desean K. Terry's Lines in the Dust (The Matrix Theatre), and Guillermo Cienfuegos's Middle of the World (The Matrix Theatre). Most recently, Arielle was the Production Stage Manager for Kacie Rogers's I Sell Windows at Outside In's Artbox Theatre. Arielle also works as an audience coordinator for Jimmy Kimmel Live!, The Voice, and The Talk. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with Center Theatre Group on such a powerful project.

Sunday, June 23rd 3 p.m. **LETTERS FROM LORETTA**

by Cynthia Grace Robinson Directed by Andi Chapman

An intergenerational love story. Loretta, a widow living with dementia, clings to a relationship with her late husband while fighting to maintain a life of independence as her daughter, Nora, assumes responsibility for her care.

CAST

Loretta "Lo" Hughes	Jonelle Aller
Nora Williams	Joy DeMichelle
Peter Hughes	Alex Morris
	Jasmine Ashant
Dr. Jonathan Williams	Cezar William:
Brenda	Patricia Belche
Nate Hughes	Nic Fev
Stage Directions	Crystal Jacksoi
Stage Manager	Edward Khris Fernande.
Dramaturg	Lindsay A. Jenkin

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

CYNTHIA GRACE ROBINSON (Playwright, she/her). Cynthia Grace Robinson's stories explore the resilience and strength of the human spirit. Her work centers characters of color, specifically Black women, highlighting the complexity, diversity, and beauty of their lives. She uses her platform as a writer to amplify social justice issues, to inspire activism, and to give voice to the people we rarely see represented on stage and screen. Robinson's plays have been produced in the U.S. and internationally. Works include Freedom Summer (North Carolina Black Repertory Company); Dancing On Eggshells (The Billie Holiday Theatre); Peola's Passing (New Perspectives Theatre Company; Festival de Teatro Alternativo, Bogota, Colombia); When Night Falls (Eugene O'Neill semifinalist; Developed at Rising Circle Theater Collective/INKtank Play Development Lab); Gold Star Mother (EstroGenius Festival): Ascension (National Black Theatre Festival: New York International Fringe Festival); Thunder: A Musical Memoir (New York International Fringe Festival); Nightfall (The Fire This Time Festival); Rome In Love (48 Hours in... Harlem, The National Black Theatre); In This Life (Developed at Quick Silver Theatre Company/Playwrights of Color Summit); What If...? (The Black Motherhood and Parenting New Play Festival). Awards and honors include: Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Playwriting Conference (Semi-finalist); The Rivers Writers Unit at The Lark; Playwrights of Color Summit/Quick Silver Theater Company; Rising Circle Theater Collective/INKTank Residency: AUDELCO Award for Excellence in Black Theatre (Nominee): Final Forty Playwright, Samuel French Off-Off-Broadway Short Play (Finalist); Tribeca All-Access Open Stage Inaugural award winner; Best New Play IRNE (Nominee); Thomas Barbour Memorial Playwright's Award (Finalist). Publications include: She Persisted: Monologues from Plays by Women Over 40 (Applause Theatre & Cinema Books); The Book of Estrogenius 2012: A Celebration of Female Voices (manhattantheatresource); We're Not Neutral: Reset Series 2020: Collected Short Plays (Conch Shell Press). Service: Co-director of The Fire This Time New Works Lab. a member of The League of Professional Theatre Women, and a member of The Dramatists Guild of America. Inc.

ANDI CHAPMAN (Director, she/her). Born in New York City, Ms. Chapman is a director, actor, educator. She is the Associate Artistic Director of The Ebony Repertory Theatre. Her Directing credits include: Theatre: *SHE* World Premiere at the Antaeus Theatre; Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye at A Noise Within Theatre; BOTH AND World Premiere at The Boston Court Theatre & Currently playing at the Wallis Theatre; The critically acclaimed *Native Son* Antaeus and Kirk Douglas Theatre, Garnering Best Director nominations (Stage Raw & BroadwayWorld); Ebony Repertory Theatre's The Gospel at Colonus which Garnered 14 Ovation Nominations. Including Best Play & Best Play Direction and won NAACP Theatre Awards 2016 Best Production. Others include The Abuelas, Winters Tale, Mockingbird, As it is in Heaven, The Ninth Wave. The Actor's Co-op *Steel Magnolias*, for which she garnered a Best Director Award. The Dutchman. A Summer Memory. and a host of others. Film: The award-winning short films *Memorial* Street, Elijah's Song, and Why?. As an actress, her television, film, stage credits include: recurring on shows like 911 and The Orville HTGAWM, Criminal Minds, NCIS, SMLF, Shameless, Glee, Dexter, 24, Six Feet Under, Short Cuts. The Lower Depths, **Blood Wedding.** An Adjunct Professor of various universities (Pepperdine, Chapman) she is currently teaching Theatre/Film Acting at Azusa Pacific University. Ms. Chapman is a graduate of the New York High School for the Performing Arts. BFA/ The City College of New York's Davis Center for the Performing Arts. MFA/ The Yale School of Drama. An alumna of The American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women. Andi is also a selected participant of the prestigious Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Andi recently directed *This Bright Wilderness* at the Mark Taper Forum.

JONELLE ALLEN (Loretta "Lo" Hughes, she/her), Beginning her professional career in the late 1960s, Allen has co-starred in films, Broadway productions, and television. In 1972, Allen was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her performance in the musical *Two Gentlemen* of Verona. She was in the cast of the original Off-Broadway 1968 production of *Hair* at Joseph Papp's Public Theater and also appeared in George M! before receiving critical acclaim and a Tony Award nomination for Two Gentlemen of Verona, which earned her New York Drama Critics' Circle. Drama Desk, Theatre World, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her performance. Despite her success, it proved to be her last Broadway appearance to date. Her most notable roles are Grace, the entrepreneurial café owner in the Old West, whom she played for seven years on Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, as well as the flamboyant and outspoken Doreen Jackson on the NBC soap opera *Generations*, and Lucinda Cavender, the vampire witch in the horror comedy film The Midnight Hour. Before Generations, she played ambitious salesgirlturned-boutique-manager Stacey Russell on the short-lived prime-time soap Berrenger's. Allen appeared as legendary Harlem jazz queen Florence Mills in Harlem Renaissance at the 2007 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. She is an adjunct professor teaching at Saddleback College, UCI, and a member of Vinette Carrolls URBAN ARTS CORP.

JOY DEMICHELLE (Nora Williams, she/her). Select Regional Credits: world premiere of Marty And The Hands That Could, US premiere of Nine Night, Aubergine, Sweat, A Raisin In The Sun, Seven Guitars, Blues For An Alabama Sky, Piano Lesson, and Harriet's Return. Select television credits include: Hulu's Mike, All American, Snowfall, The L WORD: Generation Q, For The People and American Gun. MFA: Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Joy is also an Intimacy Choreographer and just completed Jelly's Last Jam at Pasadena Playhouse Instagram:JoyDeMichelle.come

ALEX MORRIS (Peter Hughes). Last seen as HOKE in Driving Miss Daisy and Doaker in The Piano Lesson. 1st Alley Theater African American company member... Resident Artist at A Noise Within ..credits include...entire August Wilson cannon... The Bluest Eye ... Book of Will... American Son... many more... 6 time NAACP theater award winner as well as an Emmy nomination for Ken in Baskets... currently can be seen as Dennis in Carl Webber's The Family Business and its spinoff The Family Business New Orleans on Netflix.

JASMINE ASHANTI (Imani Williams, she/her). Jasmine, originally from Maryland, received a BA in theater from Temple University and an MFA in acting from UC-San Diego. Her LA theatre credits include Ready Steady Yeti Go (Rogue Machine Theater); Stew (Pasadena Playhouse), and Fat Ham (Understudy at Geffen Playhouse). She was a part of the ABC Discovers Talent Showcase 2020. Television credits include Shameless, The Good Doctor, Lucifer, Black-Ish, Netflix's On My Block, Grey's Anatomy, Hulu's Wu-Tang: An American Saga, East New York, and Amazon's Upload.

CEZAR WILLIAMS (Dr. Jonathan Williams, he/him). Cezar Williams is a graduate of NYU. Theatre credits include Surely Goodness and Mercy by Chisa Hutchinson, Keen Company (dir: Jessi D. Hill); James and Annie, written by Tony Award winner Warren Leight, at the Actor's Studio, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati (dir: D. Lynn Meyers) and the Williamstown Theatre Festival (dir: Jack Hofsiss); Section 310, as part of the 2014 Summer Shorts NYC Theatre Festival (dir: Fred Berner); *Thunder* as part of the 2007 New York International Theatre Festival (dir: Greg Allen); Ascension at The National Black Theatre Festival (dir: Petronia Paley); and *Yanagai! Yanagai!* at La Mama (co-dir: Harold Dean James and Karen Oughtred). Television appearances include *Bull, Shades of Blue, Law and* Order, The Enemy Within, Search Party, NYC 22, Blue Bloods. and What Would You Do? He is also an adjunct professor of acting at SUNY Purchase College.

PATRICIA BELCHER (Brenda, she/her). Ms. Belcher came to acting in mid-life in such local plays as Funny Girl and The Comedy of Errors. She's been seen on TV in shows such as Good Luck Charlie, Bones, Young Sheldon, and in movies like Father Stu, and coming soon are Break and Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F.

NIC FEW (Nate Hughes, he/him). Nic Few is elated to make his CTG debut: Nic is a native of Atlanta GA where he began his creative career acting. Education: Brown University Conservatory MFA in Acting/Directing, Clark Atlanta University MA in Ed/Admin. Theatre: Guthrie Theatre: A Midsummer Night's Dream "Oberon/Theseus": Odyssev Theatre: When Stars Align "Faris/Charlie/minister"; Robey Theatre: The Talented Tenth "Bernard"; Robey Theatre: God's Favor "Butchie"; Guthrie Theatre: Confluence "Death", A Christmas Carol "Ghost of Christmas Present": The Old Globe Theatre: A Midsummer Night's Dream "Demetrius", The Merchant of Venice "Morocco", Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead "Horatio"; Theatre@ Boston Court: The Dinosaur Within "Eli"; Los Angeles Shakespeare Center Theatre: Romeo and Juliette, "Romeo" (Mercutio 04 Tybalt) St. Louis Black Rep. Theatre Romeo and Juliet "Romeo"; Horizons Theatre Black Birds "Jack"; NY Theatre Workshop *Misanthrope*; Push Push Theatre: Sex Acts "Via-Prada"; 'Eugene O'Neil Center's The Ballad of Emmitt Till "Wheeler"; Actors Express: The America Play "Boothe"; Trinity Rep Theatre: A Christmas Carol "Topper"; Cherry Orchard "Nicholi"; ChautauguaTheatre: Measure for Measure "Angelo". Television/Film: Chicago Med; The Real MVP; Tab Time; Open; GO ON; 90 Days "Taylor"; Major Crimes "Big Hazard"; The Exes "Dusty"; The Mulaney Show "Jones"; The Chadwick Journals "Donovan" Purple Skinny Jeans "Bill"; 11thhour "Lawrence"; Balls to the Wall "Ice Man"; Blotter "Officer Jim Carter"; The Undying "Mark"; and many more. Backstage calls Nic Few "Splendid!" LA Times says "Nic Few is definitely one to watch" Joe Dowling (director of the world-famous Guthrie Theatre) says: "Nic Few is a master of Language" from Shakespeare to Shabazz Nic seamlessly moves from stage to screen effortlessly captivating audiences with his command and striking good looks! Follow Nic for more @nicfew.

CRYSTAL YVONNE JACKSON (Stage Directions). Crystal Yvonne Jackson made her equity debut playing Mama at ANW. Credits are Tillie in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, Aunt Ruth in *Marvin's Room*, and Ma Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*. Crystal has various producing credits and was just nominated for an NAACP Theatre Award for Best ensemble.

EDWARD KHRIS FERNANDEZ (Stage Manager, he/him). Filipino-American AEA Stage Manager. Regional: Center Theatre Group; Ahmanson Theatre; Mark Taper Forum, Alley Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, Goodman Theatre, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Alley Theatre, East West Players, A Noise Within, Diversionary Theatre, Coronado Playhouse. Opera/Dance: San Diego Opera, Pasadena Dance Theatre. More at ekfsm.com

LINDSAY A. JENKINS (Dramaturg, she/her). In lieu of a bio, I offer an excerpt from Dr. Barbara Ann Teer's Letter To The Future. "It is with great love and respect that I write this letter to the future for all the people of color in the world.... I pray that you are the ones who bring grace, beauty, joy and laughter into the world. I pray that you have built strong African American Institutions that give praise and honor to your ancestors...I want you to know that in the end, we are all connected. Seated inside the heart of each and every one of us is a being, a Self, a fire, a flame, a god. Our Theatres must reflect this truth... They must first and foremost teach people what it means to be human, teach people how to love themselves. how to honor themselves."

Sunday, June 23rd 7 p.m. **NIGHT CITIES**

by Roger Q. Mason
Directed by Nancy Keystone

A young Bayard Rustin—before Civil Rights Movement fame—must choose between his private desires as a queer black man and his public calling as an agent of social justice and civic change. Set against the vibrant labor movement of the 1930s and 40s, this piece embraces the musicality, dream imagery, and liberation of jazz playwriting to explore one man's quest for complex humanity in a world that limits who we are to how we can be used for the good of others.

CAST

Bayard / Dreamer	Larry Powel
Bayard / Leader	Dennis Renard
Bayard / Lover	Christopher Livingsto
Man	
Stage Manager	Lydia Runge
Dramaturg	Dylan Southard
Creative Consultants	é hoylan, Gayen Trinidad

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

ROGER Q. MASON (Playwright, they/them) was recently touted by The Brooklyn Rail as "quickly becoming one of the most significant playwrights of the decade." Their playwriting has been seen on Broadway at Circle in the Square (Circle Reading Series); Off- and Off-Off-Broadway at MCC Theatre with Carnegie Hall, La Mama ETC, New York Theatre Workshop, New Group, The Fire This Time Festival, Dixon Place, American Theatre of Actors, Flea Theatre, and Access Theater; and regionally at McCarter Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Victory Gardens, Chicago Dramatists, Steep Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Theatre Rhinoceros, Open Fist Theatre Company, EST/LA, Coeurage Theatre, Rogue Artists Ensemble, Son of Semele and Skylight Theatre. Roger is an honoree of the Kilroys List; the Chuck Rowland Pioneer Award; The Fire This Time Festival Alumni Spotlight and the Hollywood Fringe Festival Encore Producers Award. Mason's films have been recognized by the British Film Institute Flare Festival, Lonely Wolf International Film Festival, SCAD Film Festival, AT&T Film Award, Atlanta International Film Festival, Webby Awards and Telly Awards. They've screened at the British Film Institute Flare Festival, Lonely Wolf International Film Festival, Inside Out Festival (Toronto), SCAD Film Festival, Hollyshorts, Outfest and Outfest Fusion, Bentonville Film Festival, Outshine Film Festival and the Pan African Film Festival. Mason holds degrees from Princeton University, Middlebury College and Northwestern University. They are a member of Page 73's Interstate 73 Writers Group and Primary Stages Writing Cohort, an alumnus of The Fire This Time Festival, the co-host of Sister Roger's Gayborhood podcast and the lead mentor of the Shay Foundation Fellowship and the New Visions Fellowship. Instagram: @rogerq.mason

NANCY KEYSTONE (Director, she/her) is a playwright, director, designer, visual artist, and founding artistic director of Critical Mass Performance Group. CTG produced CMPG's Ameryka, (Stage Raw's Production of the Year) and multi-award-winning Apollo at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. She's a recipient of a Doris Duke Artist Award, United States Artists Fellowship, TCG's Alan Schneider Director Award.

LARRY POWELL (Bayard / Dreamer; he/him). Larry is a writer, actor, director, and producer born and raised in South Central LA. He is a two-time Ovation Award nominee, threetime NAACP Theater-Award nominee, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Award nominee, two-time LA Drama Critics Circle Award winner, as well as an Audelco and Audie Award nominee. He's starred in premieres of plays by Lucas Hnath, Katori Hall, Matthew Lopez, Suzan Lori-Parks, etc. Larry is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon's School of Drama and Founder/ Creative Director of The Powell Academy of the Performing Arts, an arts organization providing high-performance training and resources to historically marginalized artists on the rise in the mainstream entertainment industry. His first feature, Mother's Milk, which he wrote and directed, has been making the festival rounds to much acclaim & has earned him numerous awards.

DENNIS RENARD (Bayard / Leader; he/him). Dennis Renard is an LA/Chicago based actor and singer, thrilled to be working with CTG for the first time. He was born and raised in Biloxi, MS before attending UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television for undergrad. Since graduating, he's been working on sets and stages all over. Recent Achievements: 2023 Desert Star Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama for his portrayal of Pharus Jonathan Young in Choir Boy by Tarell Alvin McCraney; 2024 LA Theatre Bites Award Nominee for Best Actor in a Musical for his performance in Rogue Machine's 1950's Sci-fi Rom-Com Come Get Maggie; Emmy Award-winning MAX sketch comedy docu-series, Book of Queer; Pop puppet musical, For the Love of the Glove, one of three LA-based shows to be named Best of Theater 2023 by TheaterMania. Instagram @thedenren

CHRISTOPHER LIVINGSTON (Bayard / Lover; he/him). Christopher Livingston recently completed work on the BET+ pilot *ROUTE 187*, produced by Tyler Perry Studios. He starred in the Broadway production of *Birthday Candles* opposite Debra Messing. Prior to that, he appeared in the new Apple TV+ series, WeCRASHED, starring Jared Leto and Anne Hathaway. He portrayed "Wayne Williams" on Netflix's *Mindhunter* directed by David Fincher. In 2019, he made his Broadway debut alongside Brian Cox in *The Great Society*. His New York credits include Something Clean at Roundabout Underground. On The Grounds Of Belonging, Party People. and *The Urban Retreat* at The Public Theater. He was also seen in Wilder Gone in Clubbed Thumb's Summer Works. Julius Caesar at the Delacorte, Peerless at The Cherry Lane and The Architecture of Becoming with Women's Project, Select regional theaters include The Williamstown Theatre Festival, Long Wharf, The McCarter, A.C.T., Yale Rep., Berkeley Rep., Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Center Stage and The Virginia Stage Company. Christopher received his BFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

JAMES PATRICK NELSON (Man, he/him). CTG: Broadway's Slave Play. Off-Broadway: Memorial (NYT Critic's Pick), Reverse Transcription (PTP/Atlantic), The Three Sisters (Maggie Gyllenhaal), Midsummer Night's Dream (Taylor Mac), Ivanov (Ethan Hawke). Regional: Immortal Longings (Terrence McNally world premiere), Bedlam's Sense and Sensibility (A.R.T., Folger — Helen Hayes Award). Film/TV: For Years to Come (SeriesFest, Outfest).

DYLAN SOUTHARD (*Dramaturg, he/him*). Dylan has worked in new play development for theatres including Centerstage Baltimore, The Geffen Playhouse, Antaeus Theatre, Skylight Theatre, Boston Court and Rogue Artists Ensemble. He was the founding creative director of VR Playhouse, where he helped to develop immersive and interactive experiences. He currently teaches at Cal Poly Pomona.

LYDIA RUNGE (Stage Manager, she/her). Lydia Runge is excited to return to CTG after previously working on Our Dear Dead Drug Lord. Select credits include: Sanctuary City, Head Over Heels, The Great Leap (Pasadena Playhouse); Assassins, Mamma Mia!, Man of God, As We Babble On, Allegiance: LA Premiere (East West Players); The Little Foxes, Our Town (South Coast Repertory); On Your Feet, Kinky Boots, Jersey Boys, Million Dollar Quartet, Honky Tonk Angels (Riverside Theatre); An American in Paris, Cinderella, Grease, Ragtime (Musical Theatre West); Two Mile Hollow (Artists at Play). She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse with a BS in Stage Management.

Monday, June 24th 7 p.m. **BLUE PARIS BLUES**

by t. tara turk-haynes
Directed by Khanisha Foster

Diahann Carroll, Sidney Poitier, Joanne Woodward, Paul Newman, Duke Ellington, and Marlon Brando came together to make a movie about jazz expats in Paris in 1961. With the potential to shift the world on its cool and cultural axis, what was happening behind the scenes would be life pivots that would change them all forever.

CAST

Duke Ellington	Damu Malik
Syd (Sydney Poitier)	Quentin Plair
Di (Diahann Carroll)	Kalyn Rivers
Jo (Joanne Woodward)	Kathleen Littlefield
Paul (Paul Newman)	Josh Schell
Marty / Brando	Adrián González
Stage Directions	Simran "Simi" Fulton
Stage Manager	Liv Scott
	Zharia O'Neal

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WHO'S WHO

t.tara turk-haynes (Playwright, she/her) is a writer whose work has been featured in various stages and screens including Lower Depth Ensemble, Rogue Machine, Company of Angeles, the Hip Hop Theater Festival, the Actor's Studio, Ensemble Studio Theatre, the Schomburg and the Kennedy Center. She is a graduate of Lang College and Sarah Lawrence, receiving the Lipkin Playwrighting Award. She has been a Cycle of Violence Fellow at Lower Depth Ensemble, Van Lier Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop, a member of Cosby Screenwriting Program, the Producers Guild Diversity Workshop, the Underwood Theatre Writers Group with Julia Cho, Rinne Groff and Theresa Rebeck and Company of Angels Writers Group. Her screenplays range from shorts to full length. She won Best Screenplay at African American Women in Cinema and was an Urbanworld Screenplay Finalist. Also a producer, she has co-produced the web series Dinner at Lola featuring Tracie Thoms, Yvette Nicole Brown, Bryan Fuller, and Nelsan Ellis, among others. As a fiction writer, her shorts and novellas have been published in various publications. She was published in Signifyin Harlem, Obsidian Call & Response: Experiments in Joy, Reverie: Midwest American Literature, the international anthology X:24, African Voices, and Stress magazine. She has also been featured in Tamara Winfrey's Harris's Dear Black Girl and on several podcasts on diversity, equity and inclusion. She has just finished a novel and a TV pilot on the Harlem Renaissance. She is a founding member of the producing playwrights' collective The Temblors and was a member of the 2021 Geffen Writer's Room.

KHANISHA FOSTER (Director, she/her). Khanisha Foster's writing includes developing a TV series with K&L Productions (Kay Cannon & Laverne McKinnon) and adapting a Philip K. Dick novel with Electric Shepherd Productions and Julie Hébert. She recently directed Raisin in the Sun (SCR) and A New Brain (Celebration Theatre & The LGBT Center) khanishafoster.com

DAMU MALIK (Duke Ellington, he/him). Damu Malik is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts — West. Some of his stage credits include Blues for an Alabama Sky and the original stage productions of One Night in Miami and Rules of Seconds. Damu is incredibly thrilled to be teaming up again with t. tara turk-haynes and Khanisha Foster for this reading.

QUENTIN PLAIR (Sydney Poitier, he/him). Film: Not Without Hope, Burning Sands, Dirty Grandpa, Drumline 2. TV: Apples Never Fall, Tiny Beautiful Things, Genius/MLK, Welcome to Chippendales, Roswell, New Mexico, The Good Lord Bird, The Good Doctor, The Quad. Quentin is repped by Innovative Artists and Monogram Management Group.

KALYN RIVERS (Diahann Carroll, she/her). Kalyn makes her CTG debut! Los Angeles credits: Endangered (Atwater Village Theatre); Devil In The Deep Blue Sea (The Loft Theatre). Chicago credits: Cephianne's Reflection (The Goodman). Film/TV: Not Another Church Movie, The Last Bell, The Set Up. Voiceover: WNBA Prime 2023 Season, Warner Music Group Hip-Hop at Fifty Campaign. Alumni of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

KATHLEEN LITTLEFIELD (Joanne Woodward, she/her). Kathleen Littlefield is thrilled to be making her CTG debut, having recently made her West Coast debut in IAMA Theatre's world premiere of Arrowhead. Broadway: The Nap (MTC), The Glass Menagerie (John Tiffany). Off-Broadway: Love, Love, Love (Roundabout); Linda (MTC). NY/Regional Theater: Twelfth Night (Two River Theater), Convention (Brontosaurus Haircut), Man of the Hour (Metropolitan Playhouse), Graduation Day (Middle Voice). Film: Tenured, Loserville, American Martyr. TV: Orange Is the New Black, The Blacklist, It's a Hit! (pilot). All things SM: @kathleenslittle

JOSH SCHELL (Paul Newman, he/him). Josh Schell is honored to be making his CTG debut. Stage credits include Heroes of the Fourth Turning (San Francisco Playhouse) and In the Red and Brown Water (Marin Theatre Company). Screen credits include Poppet (Hulu), Feed (Sony Pictures), and Other Side of the Box (SXSW). He attended USC.

ADRIÁN GONZÁLEZ (Marty/Brando; he/him). LA THEATRE: Arrowhead (IAMA Theatre); Kiss of the Spider Woman (A Noise Within); Tar (Playwright's Arena); Fixed (Echo Theatre); Lord of the Underworld's Home...(Skylight Theatre); Colony Collapse (Boston Court). FILM/TV: With Love (Amazon); Vida (Starz); Superstore (NBC); The Affair (Showtime); Kevin From Work (Freeform); Your Family or Mine (TBS); The Bridge (FX) EDUCATION: Northwestern University

SIMRAN "SIMI" FULTON (Stage Directions, she/her) is a multi-faceted theatre and film artist in Los Angeles. She was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, where she started her theatre journey before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a degree in Psychology and Theater. She recently graduated from Occidental College, where she performed in many of their productions. She had the privilege of becoming Circle X's 2022 summer intern and has loved every second she has gotten to work with the company since. In addition, she has gotten the opportunity to work both on and off stage at different theaters including Cornerstone Theater Co., and Greenway Arts Alliance. She has recently made her directional debut this summer with *The Fairy Who Cried Gems* at the Hollywood Fringe.

LIV SCOTT (Stage Manager, she/her). Originally from Los Angeles, Liv strives to facilitate powerful storytelling, and she is excited to present *Blue Paris Blues* with her wonderful colleagues. Past credits include corporate conferences, *DiscOasis; A Play Is A Poem; School Girls: Or, The African Mean Girls Play;* Geffen Playhouse, and Chautauqua Opera. livscott.com

ZHARIA O'NEAL (*Dramaturg*, *she/her*). Zharia O'Neal is a playwright & dramaturg hailing from the British Virgin Islands. Her work includes: *Roost* (NPC Semifinalist), *Seven Stage Circle* (Ashland New Plays Finalist), and more. Selected dramaturgy: NAMBAM (Center Theatre Group), *Derecho* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Suburban Black Girl* (OPC), and *A Raisin In The Sun* (South Coast Repertory).

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

AWOYE TIMPO (Artistic Producer, she/her) is a Brooklynbased Director and Producer. Her recent New York credits include Syncing Ink and The Renaissance Mixtape (Victoria Stages at the Apollo Theater), *Elyria* by Deepa Purohit (Atlantic Theater), Wedding Band by Alice Childress (Theatre for a New Audience), In Old Age by Mfoniso Udofia (New York Theatre Workshop), The Loophole by Jay Adana and Zeniba Britt (Public Theater), Carnaval by Nikkole Salter (National Black Theatre), Good Grief by Ngozi Anyanwu (Vineyard Theatre and Audible), and *The Homecoming Queen* by Ngozi Anyanwu (Atlantic Theater Company). Regionally she has directed at the Huntington, Studio Theatre, Long Wharf, Actors Theatre of Louisville and Berkeley Rep. Other projects include concert performances for independent artists as well as for the NBA, Ndebele Funeral (59E59, Edinburgh, South African Tour), Black Picture Show (Artists Space/Metrograph), and Bluebird *Memories* (Audible). Awoye is a Creative Arts Consultant for the African American Policy Forum and the Founding Producer of Classix, theclassix.org

X CASTING / VÍCTOR VÁZQUEZ, CSA (Casting, he/him) is the founder and lead Casting Director of X Casting (xcastingnyc.com). He has cast projects for Broadway (upcoming: Hippest Trip - The Soul Train Musical), Off-Broadway, London's West End, TV (Genius: MLK/X for 20th TV, Nat Geo, Disney+), and Film. He is the proud son of Mexican immigrants.

THE FIRE THIS TIME FESTIVAL was founded in 2009 by playwright Kelley Nicole Girod to provide a platform for early career playwrights of African and African American descent. Since its founding, the Festival has produced the plays of dozens of emerging writers whose works explore a wide range of themes and perspectives. The Festival also supports actors. directors, and technical personnel to help seed the pipeline with diverse talent and amplify underrepresented voices in theatre in New York and beyond. The Fire This Time playwrights have gone on to have their plays produced in cities across the United States and work as writers in film and television. The Festival has produced and developed the work of more than 100 playwrights including Katori Hall, Dominique Morisseau, Radha Blank, Antoinette Nwandu, Jocelyn Bioh, korde arrington tuttle, Stacey Rose, Aziza Barnes, C.A. Johnson, Kevin R. Free, Charly Evon Simpson, Angelica Cheri, James Anthony Tyler, Jordan E. Cooper, Eliana Pipes, Cynthia Grace Robinson, York Walker, Cyrus Aaron, and Nathan Yungerberg.

WATTS VILLAGE THEATER COMPANY (WVTC) was founded in 1996 by actor Quentin Drew and actor/playwright Lynn Manning to provide arts and arts education to the Watts and South LA communities, areas with rich history and but limited access to live theatre. Initially focused on workshops for at-risk youth, WVTC expanded to producing original, critically acclaimed productions exploring cross-cultural relations. Celebrating over two decades of cultural leadership, WVTC continues to empower and uplift the community through storytelling and new partnerships.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP

SNEHAL DESAI (Artistic Director, he/him) was appointed Center Theatre Group's third artistic director in 2023. As an artistic leader, Snehal has sought to raise awareness on social issues that affect Angelenos through impactful and empowering storytelling. Previously, he was the Producing Artistic Director of East West Players. A Soros Fellow and the recipient of a Tanne Award, Snehal was the Inaugural Recipient of the Drama League's Classical Directing Fellowship. He has served on the boards of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (Caata), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and currently serves on the board of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT). Snehal was on the faculty of USC's graduate program in Arts Leadership and is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

MEGHAN PRESSMAN (Managing Director/CEO; she/her) joined Center Theatre Group 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. She is a graduate of Yale School of Drama/Yale School of Management and serves as a mentor in the Theater Management program. Meghan has served as the Vice-Chair for the Theatre Communications Group Board of Directors and is a member of the Broadway League.

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.

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. BA, Cornell University. MFA, Yale School of Drama.

DOUGLAS C. BAKER (Producing Director, he/him) joined Center Theatre Group in 1990. Doug is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network (IPN), and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM). In 2013, Doug received the Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.

LINDSAY ALLBAUGH (Associate Artistic Director, she/her) is a member of Center Theatre Group's artistic staff and has served in varying capacities for the past 15 years. Selected producing credits include—Mark Taper Forum: Archduke, Bent, What the Butler Saw, Steward of Christendom, Waiting for Godot; Kirk Douglas Theatre: Block Party, Big Night, Good Grief, Vicuña, Throw Me on the Burn pile and Light Me Up, Endgame, Women Laughing Alone With Salad, Chavez Ravine, Race, different words for the same thing, The Nether. Co-Artistic Director of the Elephant Theatre 2004—2014.

TIFFANY SLAGLE (Literary & Artistic Administrative Assistant, she/her) has been working at CTG since 2018 in various literary capacities. It's an honor to work on this festival with these incredible playwrights. Other experience includes Shakespeare's Globe, Southwark Playhouse. MA Creative Producing from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

PAIGE VEHLEWALD (Artistic Programs Manager, she/her) Paige hails from Bakersfield, CA and holds a BA from UC Berkeley as well as an MA from the University of Galway. She was a Literary Management and Dramaturgy Apprentice at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, where her credits included assisting on the world premieres of Molly Smith Metzler's Cry It Out and Basil Kreimendahl's We're Gonna Be Okay. After five years working in production for the team of Bob's Burgers, she is thrilled to be back in the world of theatre.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP, one of the nation's preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles' leading notfor-profit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Snehal Desai, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1.600 to 2.100seat 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 country'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 circumstances to serve Los Angeles. Founded in 1967, Center Theatre Group was led by Founding Artistic Director Gordon Davidson until 2005 when Michael Ritchie became artistic director until his retirement in 2021: Snehal Desai was appointed the organization's next artistic director in 2023. Center Theatre Group has produced more than 700 productions across its three stages, including such iconic shows as Zoot Suit; Angels in America; The Kentucky Cycle; Biloxi Blues; Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992; Children of a Lesser God; Curtains; The Drowsy Chaperone; 9 to 5: The Musical; and Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo. CenterTheatreGroup.org

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Matthew of	UIICI aii		
Bene't Bent	ton		Production Assistar
David Rios			Stage Superviso
Preston Pro	oductions		Lightin
Bradford Ba	arnes, Eric Eberle, Kile	ey Haugen, Karla Lopez, Ia	an Mitchell,
Michayla Va	an Treeck, Fenyxx Wrig	htAss	istant House Manager
Taylor Clark	k, Tommaso Di Blasi, N	licolette Ellis, Margaret Fi	ranckhauser,
Elijah, Gree	en, Atika Greene, Jame	s Hodges, David Hunter, J	lr., Chelsey Maus,
Lucy McNul	ity, Ari Moses, Rachel I	Peralta, Camille Reyes, la	n Riley,
Joyce Robin	son, Eric Solis, Niall S	ulcer, Juice Wood	Usher
Abi Gonzale	ez, Monica Greene, Mik	e Lanahan, Stephen Lydio	c, Sondra Mayer,
Regina Nile	es, Lisandra Stebner		Concession
	The Actors and Sta	ge Managers employed in	this production are



Matthow Colloran

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

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

Center Theatre Group is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, the Broadway League, Independent Producers' Network (IPN), and the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.





















THANK YOU for being a part of these moments and for being a part of our community.

JOIN US for a year of special programs and events to celebrate this milestone. Learn more: @@CTGCommunity

TEATRO POR VIDA

CENTER THEATRE GROUP



SNEHAL DESAI Artistic Director | MEGHAN PRESSMAN Managing Director/CEO | DOUGLAS C. BAKER Producing Director

GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

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

ARTISTIC		
LINDSAY ALLBAUGH*Associate Artistic Director	KATE REINLIBAssociate Prop Director	NICKI BONURA Advancement Associate
PAIGE VEHLEWALDArtistic Programs Manager	ERIC BABB° Assistant Prop Director	HAILEY BRUNSONAnnual Giving Coordinator
TIFFANY SLAGLE°Artistic & Literary Administrative Assistant	RAUL VEGA MARTINEZ°Shop Supervisor	ALICE PELAYODonor Liason & Institutional
RANDOLPH MEREDYTH-DRAKEExecutive Assistant	SHANTÁ FARIA DE SACostume Shop Manager	Advancement Assistant
to the Artistic Director	CAYLYN DABNEYResident Assistant Costume Designer	IRENE CHO Executive Assistant
CASEY NICHOLAW, PHYLICIA RASHAD,	ASHPHORD JACOWAYCostume Shop Coordinator	KRISH ADITYA° Donor Events Intern
PAULA VOGEL Associate Artists	OPERATIONS	AL BERMAN, BRAD GRIFFITH, VARTAN MERJANIAN,
EXECUTIVE		BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ, PAUL VITAGLIANO Donor Advisors
CAMILLE SCHENKKAN*Deputy Managing Director	PETER WYLIE	MARKETING
KHANISHA FOSTER Director of Equity,	CHASE ANDERSON-SHAW Kirk Douglas Theatre Manager	GARRETT COLLINS
Belonging & Engagement	VANESSA DE LOERA Facilities Associate	CANDICE WALTERS*Associate Director, Marketing Operations
A'RAELLE FLYNN-BOLDEN Staff Programs Manager	JULIO A. CUELLAR* Facilities Assistant JASMINE BRAFF Operations Manager	ANDRESSA ROYERSenior Manager,
CHRISTOPHER CID° Executive Office Fellow		Audience Development & Marketing Events
NAIMA OROZCO-VALDIVIA°Executive Office Fellow	CURT GAVINOperations Assistant	DEVANY HARDEN°Manager, CRM & Email Marketing
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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: AZIZA BARNES

LISA D'AMOUR LARISSA FASTHORSE JENNIFER HALEY ALESHEA HARRIS GERALDINE ELIZABETH INOA LISA KRON KIMBER LEE

YOUNG JEAN LEE MATTHEW LOPEZ ROGER Q. MASON TAHIRIH MOELLER JANINE NABERS QUI NGUYEN LYNN NOTTAGE

MARCO RAMIREZ

CYNTHIA GRACE ROBINSON SARAH RUHL T.TARA TURK-HAYNES LUIS VALDEZ PAULA VOGEL KAREN ZACARÍAS

LA WRITERS' WORKSHOP

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.

Learn more at CTGLA.org/Artists.

2023/24 COHORT:

AMY BERRYMAN CHRISTOPHER OSCAR PEÑA RAMIZ MONSEF INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN° ISAAC GÓMEZ JASMINE SHARMA

LA ARTIST RESIDENCIES

DIANA BURBANO LARISSA FASTHORSE MICHAEL FEINSTEIN MICHAEL JOHN GARCÉS DANIEL ALEXANDER JONES MADELINE SAYET KRISTINA WONG

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