

**CENTER
THEATRE
GROUP**

MICHAEL RITCHIE Artistic Director | **DOUGLAS C. BAKER** Producing Director
GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

L.A. WRITERS' WORKSHOP FESTIVAL

A celebration of the unrivaled diversity
and excellence of the playwrights
who call Center Theatre Group and
Los Angeles home.

JUNE 29, 2019
**KIRK DOUGLAS
THEATRE**

1PM **CAMPAIGN**

By Laura Jacqmin

2017/2018 L.A. Writers' Workshop Member
Directed by Monty Cole

3:30PM **SLEEPING GIANT**

By Steve Yockey

2011/2012 L.A. Writers' Workshop Member
Directed by Michael Matthews

7PM **CONFEDERATES**

By Dominique Morisseau

2016/2017 L.A. Writers' Workshop Member
Directed by Goldie E. Patrick

NEW PLAYS
Forged
IN L.A.

NEW PLAYS
Forged
IN L.A.

1PM
CAMPAIGN

By Laura Jacqmin

With (in alphabetical order)

Jon Chaffin Guy Who's Not White
LaNisa Renee Frederick ... Woman at the Very End
Simon Helberg Skinny White Guy
Raymond Lee Guy with Beret
Jason Ritter Really Strong Guy
Xochitl Romero Stage Directions

Dramaturg

Alana Dietze

Stage Manager

Alyssa Escalante

Directed by Monty Cole

3:30PM
SLEEPING GIANT

By Steve Yockey

With (in alphabetical order)

Philippe Bowgen The Messenger
June Carryl The Convert
Shalita Grant The Naif
Teya Patt Stage Directions
Michael Grant Terry The Raconteur

Dramaturg

Andy Knight

Stage Manager

Mercedes L. Clanton

Directed by Michael Matthews

7PM
CONFEDERATES

By Dominique Morisseau

With (in alphabetical order)

Zibby Allen Missy Sue/Candice
Cherise Boothe Sara
Sophina Brown Sandra
Tiffany Oglesby Stage Directions
Nija Okoro Luanne/Jade
Cornelius Smith, Jr. Abner/Malik

Stage Manager

Maggie Swing

Directed by Goldie E. Patrick

Confederates is a co-commission between Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Penumbra Theatre as part of *American Revolutions: the United States History Cycle*.

BIOGRAPHIES

CAMPAIGN

JON CHAFFIN (*Guy Who's Not White*). Theatre: *Two Trains Running* (Matrix Theatre), *American Saga—Gunshot Medley: Part 1* (Rogue Machine), *Native Son* (Antaeus Theatre, Center Theatre Group), *King Hedley II* (Matrix Theatre), *The Dumb Waiter* (PushPush Theater). Television/film: *Lucifer*, *Snowfall*, *Hawaii Five-0*, *The Haves and Have Nots*, *Stitchers*, *Army Wives*, *Blindspotting*, *If Not Now, When?*, *96 Minutes*. Jon received his BA from Fort Valley State University. He is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

LANISA RENEE FREDERICK (*Woman at the Very End*) is excited to return to Center Theatre Group after working on the August Wilson In-School Residency readings and workshopping Eliza Clark's *Quack*. LaNisa, who has Chicago roots, has worked at regional theatres including Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf, and Lookingglass. Now based in L.A., LaNisa is a content creator co-producing an online sketch series (*Hashtagbooked*), a TV actor (*Young Sheldon*, *Teachers*, *Chicago P.D.*), and voiceover artist.

SIMON HELBERG (*Skinny White Guy*) is best known for portraying Howard Wolowitz in CBS's award-winning smash hit *The Big Bang Theory*. He was Golden Globe-nominated for his performance opposite Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant in Stephen Frears's feature film *Florence Foster Jenkins*. Simon also wrote, co-directed, and starred opposite Melanie Lynskey, Alfred Molina, and Zachary Quinto in *We'll Never Have Paris*, which premiered at the SXSW Film Festival.

RAYMOND LEE (*Guy with Beret*) was a series regular in Alan Ball's HBO series *Here and Now* opposite Tim Robbins and Holly Hunter. Recurring roles on Amazon's *Mozart in the Jungle* and *Scandal*. Theatre credits include the World premiere productions of *Vietgone* (Manhattan Theatre Club, Theatre World Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Debut) and *Office Hour* opposite Sandra Oh and *Cambodian Rock Band* (South Coast Repertory). Upcoming: Paramount feature film *Top Gun: Maverick* opposite Tom Cruise and Jon Hamm.

JASON RITTER (*Really Strong Guy*) will next be seen in the Netflix series *Raising Dion*. He starred in ABC's *Kevin (Probably) Saves the World*, Comedy Central's *Another Period*, and was nominated for an Emmy on NBC's

Parenthood. Recent film credits include HBO's *The Tale* and *Bitch*. Stage credits include *The City of Conversation* and David Mamet's *Ghost Stories: The Shawl & Prairie du Chien*. Ritter voiced Dipper Pines in Disney's *Gravity Falls* and will also be voicing a role in the sequel to *Frozen*.

XOCHITL ROMERO (*Stage Directions*). Off-Broadway: *To the Bone* (Cherry Lane Theatre), *Chimichangas and Zoloff* (Atlantic Theater), *Very Pretty Girls* (New World Stages). Regional: *Cost of Living* (Fountain Theatre), *Queens* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Kill Local* (La Jolla Playhouse), *HisPanic Attack* (The Second City Hollywood), *Uncomfortably Numb* (The Second City Hollywood), *Mutual Philanthropy* (EST/L.A.), *The Giant Void in My Soul* (Ammo Theatre), *Blackbird* (Hyde Park Theatre). Film/television credits include *The Conners*, *Temple Grandin*, *Modern Family*, *Friday Night Lights*, *Going Viral*.

LAURA JACQMIN (*Playwright*) is a Los Angeles-based writer for television, video games, and theatre. She's currently a writer-supervising producer on *Get Shorty* (Epix). Selected plays: *Residence* (Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville); *January Joiner* (Long Wharf Theatre); *Dental Society Midwinter Meeting* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *Ski Dubai* (Steppenwolf). Video game credits include *Minecraft: Story Mode* and *The Walking Dead: A New Frontier* (both with Telltale Games) and *Life 2.0* (FoxNext/Fogbank). She's a winner of the Wasserstein Prize and co-founder of The Kilroys.

ALANA DIETZE (*Dramaturg*) is an Ovation-nominated director and actor and the Literary Manager & Associate Artistic Director of the Echo Theater Company. Most recently, her production of *The Wolves* enjoyed a sold-out and extended run at the Echo. Her production of *Dry Land* won the 2016 Ovation Award for Best Production (Intimate Theater) and was remounted at the Kirk Douglas Theatre as part of Center Theatre Group's inaugural Block Party.

ALYSSA ESCALANTE (*Stage Manager*) is an Equity stage manager based in Los Angeles. Recent credits include *M. Butterfly*, *Photograph 51*, *Culture Clash (Still) in America* (South Coast Repertory), *The Bacchae* with SITI Company (Getty Villa), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Boston Court Pasadena), and *Hold These Truths* (Pasadena Playhouse).

MONTY COLE (*Director*) has directed productions, readings, and workshops for Goodman Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Alley Theatre, Court Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, American Theatre Company, The Gift Theatre, The House Theatre of Chicago, Cape Cod Theatre Project, and others. Monty will direct *Black*

Odyssey by Marcus Gardley at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in the upcoming season. He received his MFA in directing from the California Institute of the Arts.

SLEEPING GIANT

PHILIPPE BOWGEN (*The Messenger*) makes his Center Theatre Group debut with *Sleeping Giant*. New York: *Homos, or Everyone in America* (Labyrinth), *The Changeling* (Red Bull), *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* (59E59 Theaters), and productions at NYTW, MCC, Atlantic, and more. Regional: Old Globe, Yale Rep, McCarter, Dallas, Guthrie, Hartford Stage, Westport, Paper Mill, and many more. TV: *The Mick* on FOX, *Supernatural*, upcoming *Veronica Mars* on Hulu. Film: upcoming *A Nightmare Wakes*, *The Samuel Project*, and *Hamlet*. MFA Brown/Trinity Rep.

JUNE CARRYL (*The Convert*). Acting credits include *Back Roads*, directed by Alex Pettyfer, *Dead Woman Walking*, written and directed by Hagar Ben-Asher, *Cabaret* at Celebration Theatre and *Failure: A Love Story* (Center Theatre Group Block Party and Coeurage Theatre Company), both directed by Michael Matthews, and *Romeo and Juliet* at A Noise Within, directed by Dámaso Rodríguez. She received the 2017 ADAA Saroyan/Paul Human Rights Playwriting Prize for her play *The Good Minister from Harare*.

SHALITA GRANT (*The Naif*). Since graduating Juilliard, Shalita has nurtured an impressive body of work. Recently she starred in CBS's *NCIS: New Orleans*, Netflix's *Santa Clarita Diet*, and PBS's Civil War series *Mercy Street*, for what the *New York Post* praised as "the show's most memorable performance." On Broadway, Shalita garnered a Tony® nomination for her portrayal of Cassandra in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. When not working, she enjoys pole dancing, raising her three dogs, and philanthropy.

TEYA PATT (*Stage Directions*) is the MOST excited to be able to participate in today's festivities. Some theatre credits include *Carrie the Musical* (La Mirada), *Breaking Through* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Avenue Q* (3-D), *Everything You Touch*, *Heavier Than...* (Boston Court). Some TV/film: *Deadwood: The Movie*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *Fresh Off the Boat*, *Casual*, and *Fear the Walking Dead*. Thanks Steve :) Enjoy!

MICHAEL GRANT TERRY (*The Raconteur*). Trained at Emerson College, Michael is best known for playing Wendell Bray on Fox's *Bones*. He was an apprentice at

the prestigious Williamstown Theatre Festival. Theatre credits include *Once in a Lifetime* (Williamstown), *All That's Shiny* (Williamstown), *All Your Hard Work* (Elephant Theatre), *Lobster Alice* (The Blank), *Stupid Kids* (Celebration). TV/film credits include *Bones*, *Grimm*, *NCIS*, *Castle*, *Criminal Minds*, *Veronica Mars*, *CSI:NY*. Love to his wife and the bun in her oven.

STEVE YOCKEY (*Playwright*). This season: *Reykjavik* opens as an NNPN Rolling World Premiere at Actor's Express, Rorschach Theatre, Kitchen Dog Theater, and Southern Rep; and *Sleeping Giant* will premiere at the Assembly Rooms in the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Other plays include *Mercury*, *Pluto*, *Bellwether*, *Afterlife*, *Octopus*, *Niagara Falls*, *Wolves*, *Very Still & Hard to See*, *Blackberry Winter*, and *The Thrush & The Woodpecker*. Currently a writer/producer for the television series *Supernatural*. MFA—NYU/Tisch.

ANDY KNIGHT (*Dramaturg*) is South Coast Repertory's Associate Literary Director. At SCR, his dramaturgy credits include the World premieres of Lauren Yee's *Cambodian Rock Band*, Qui Nguyen's *Vietgone*, Catherine Trieschmann's Theatre for Young Audiences play, *OZ 2.5*, and the West Coast premieres of Karen Zacarias's *Destiny of Desire* and Sarah Burgess's *Kings*. Other recent credits include the World premiere of Carla Ching's *The Two Kids That Blow Sh*t Up* with Artists at Play.

MARCEDES L. CLANTON (*Stage Manager*). Center Theatre Group: *Rotterdam*, *Die, Mommie, Die!* CV Repertory Theatre: *Good People*. Garry Marshall Theatre: *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. A Noise Within: *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, *The Maids*. Select stage manager credits: *Sons of the Prophet*, *The Temperamentals*, *Bootycandy*, *Wolves*, *The Color Purple: The Musical*, Leslie Jordan's *Fruit Fly*, *Take Me Out*, [title of show].

MICHAEL MATTHEWS (*Director*). Selected credits: *Good People* (CV Rep), *Cabaret* (Ovation nom), *End of the Rainbow* (Laguna Playhouse, La Mirada), *12 Angry Men*, *The Graduate* (w/ Melanie Griffith), *Bootycandy*, *Failure: A Love Story* (Ovation Award, Director), *Sons of the Prophet*, *Psyche* (World premiere), *Peter Pan: The Boy Who Hated Mothers* (LA Weekly nom), *Rabbit Hole* (La Mirada). Recipient of the 2015 L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for Career Achievement in Direction. Proud member of SDC.

CONFEDERATES

ZIBBY ALLEN (*Missy Sue/Candice*). Originally from the Bay Area, Zibby trained at the American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) before going on to study with Steppenwolf West in L.A. Most recent TV credits include roles on *The Flash* (CW), *For The People* (ABC), *The Twilight Zone* (CBS), *The Exorcist* (CBS), and *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* In addition to acting Allen writes, produces, and is the creator & co-host of acclaimed true crime podcast *Small Town Dicks*. Currently she splits her time working between L.A. and Vancouver.

CHERISE BOOTHE (*Sara*). Obie Awards for *Fabulation* (Signature) and *Milk Like Sugar* (Playwrights Horizons). New York: *Ruined*, *When We Were Young and Unafraid* (MTC), *Father Comes Home From The Wars* (Public Theater Lab). Regional: *Barbecue* (Geffen, NAACP Best Ensemble Cast), *Familiar* (Yale Rep). Film: *Ricki and the Flash* (opposite Meryl Streep), *42*, *The Wool Cap*. TV: *New Amsterdam*, *The Blacklist*, *CSI*, *Rizzoli & Isles*, *Major Crimes*, *The Good Wife*, *L&O:SVU*. Lunt Fontaine Fellowship. MFA NYU. cherisebooth.com

SOPHINA BROWN (*Sandra*). Broadway and regional: Disney's *The Lion King*, *Fame: The Musical*, Steve Martin's *Meteor Shower*, *Good People* (Ovation Award nomination), *No Strings*. Film: *Because I Said So*. TV: many recurring, guest star, and series regular roles including multiple seasons on CBS's *Shark* and *Numb3rs*. She is currently a series regular on Lena Waithe's new comedy *Twenties*. As a producer, Sophina's productions have garnered multiple LADCC, NAACP, and Ovation Award nominations and wins.

TIFFANY OGLESBY (*Stage Directions*) recently moved to L.A. after spending several years working professionally as an actor and writer in Chicago. She is thrilled to work with Center Theatre Group alongside such amazing and talented artists. She received her BFA in performing arts from Savannah College of Art and Design and received her MFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Recent TV credits include FOX's *Empire*, Showtime's *The Chi*, and NBC's *Chicago Med*. Thank you Dominique for the opportunity.

NIJA OKORO (*Luanne/Jade*). Theatre credits include *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Geffen Playhouse), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Taper), *Two Trains Running* (Matrix Theatre), *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (U/S, Taper), *Zoey's Perfect Wedding* (Denver Center), *An Octoroon* (CTC), *Blueprints to Freedom* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Mountaintop* (Cape May Stage).

TV credits include *The Deuce*, *Animal Kingdom*, *StartUp*, *Insecure*. Upcoming film: *Red River*, *A Doll's House* (starring Sir Ben Kingsley), and *Gilpin*. Training: The Juilliard School.

CORNELIUS SMITH, JR. (*Abner/Malik*) co-starred as Marcus Walker on the ABC hit series *Scandal* for four seasons. From 2007–2011, he starred as Dr. Frankie Hubbard on the daytime television drama *All My Children*. He most recently appeared in the Amazon Studios feature film *Against All Enemies* opposite Anthony Mackie and Kristen Stewart and will next be seen on the Lionsgate TV/Spectrum Originals anthology series *Manhunt*. TV credits also include Angela Bassett's *Whitney*, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, *Forever*, and *Major Crimes*.

DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU (*Playwright*). Her plays include *The Detroit Project (A 3-Play Cycle)* (Atlantic Theater Company, Signature Theatre, Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem, and NBT), *Pipeline* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Sunset Baby* (LAByrinth Theatre), *Blood at the Root* (National Black Theatre), and *Follow Me To Nellie's* (Premiere Stages). She is also the Tony®-nominated book writer of *Ain't Too Proud—The Life and Times of the Temptations*, a recent MacArthur Genius Grant Fellow, and was co-producer on the Showtime series *Shameless*.

MAGGIE SWING (*Stage Manager*). Center Theatre Group: *Dana H.*, *For The Love Of*, *Native Son*, *Linda Vista*, *Quack*, *Bloodletting*, *Ameryka*, *Die, Mommie, Die!*, *Elliot*, *A Soldier's Fugue*, *Spamilton*, *Big Night*, *King of the Yeas*, *Failure: A Love Story*, *Dry Land*, *Vicuña*, *Bumpile*. Geffen: *Big Sky*, *Barcelona*, *Guards at the Taj*, *Discord*, *The Country House*, *American Buffalo*. Boston Court: *Collective Rage*. European tour: *The Apple Family Plays*. Off-Broadway: The Public Theater, Lincoln Center, Signature Theatre Company.

GOLDIE E. PATRICK (*Director*). Directing credits: *HERstory: Love Forever*, *Hip Hop* (John F. Kennedy Center), *Blood at the Root* (Howard University). Assistant director credits: *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* (Signature Theatre), *Between the World and Me* (Apollo Theater and John F. Kennedy Center). Playwriting credits: *Name Calling* (Theater Alliance), *Surrender* (Atlas Performing Arts Center), *Unpacked* (DC Black Theatre Festival). Goldie is founder and Executive Director of F.R.E.S.H.H. Inc Theatre Company.



Staff for L.A. Writers' Workshop Festival:
New Plays Forged in L.A.

Associate Artistic Director.....**NEEL KELLER**

Line Producer,
Special Artistic Projects**PATRICIA GARZA**

Associate General Manager.....**KATIE SOFF**

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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 L.A. Writers' Workshop Festival is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

L.A. WRITERS' WORKSHOP

ABOUT THE CENTER THEATRE GROUP L.A. WRITERS' WORKSHOP

The L.A. Writers' Workshop is a dynamic and talented community of playwrights at Center Theatre Group. Since 2005, we have invited seven local playwrights to spend a year researching and writing a new work with the feedback of their fellow writers and artistic staff.

Membership in the Writers' Workshop begins with this residency year and continues with events and activities designed to build community and support professional and artistic development. The program is designed to foster important voices, inspire playwrights to create their best work, encourage bold writing, and build relationships among local playwrights, Center Theatre Group, and the L.A. theatre community. Our growing community currently contains 96 playwrights.

For more information about how you can support the L.A. Writers' Workshop and other artistic development programs, contact us at 213.972.7564.

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(L-R) Playwrights Laura Jacqmin, Steve Yockey, and Dominique Morisseau. PHOTO BY RYAN MILLER/CAPTURE IMAGING.