



THE BLACK REP

THEATRE OF THE SOUL SINCE 1976

DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA

BY NATHAN ALAN DAVIS DIRECTED BY RON HIMES

WITH EACH WAVE, THE CALL GROWS STRONGER.



JULY 06 - 24, 2022 • EDISON THEATRE AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WITH EACH WAVE, THE CALL GROWS STRONGER.

DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA




THE BLACK REP

By Nathan Alan Davis
Directed by Ron Himes

Choreographer
Heather Beal

Scenic Design
Emma Hoffbrauer

Projection Design
Margery & Peter Spack

Lighting Design
Jasmine Williams

Sound Design
Jackie Sharp

Costume Design
Daryl Harris

Tracy D. Holliday-Wiggins*
Stage Manager

Taijha Silas
Assistant-Stage Manager

JULY 6 - 24, 2022
EDISON THEATRE
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

** SDC, The Director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc. an independent national labor union *Members of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Hands of the United States.

DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA was first produced in a rolling world premiere by Skylight Theatre Company as a co-production with Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble (California), Phoenix Theatre Company (Indianapolis, Indiana), Theatre Alliance (Washington, DC), Oregon Contemporary Theatre (Eugene, Oregon) and Cleveland Public Theatre as part of the National New Play Network's Continued Life Program.

DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA was presented in a development production at CULTURALDC's 2014 Source Festival in

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



NATHAN ALAN DAVIS' plays include *The Refuge Plays*, *The High Ground*, *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* (Stavis Playwright Award, 2017), *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea* (Steinberg/ATCA New Play Citation, 2015), *Origin Story*, and *The Wind and the Breeze* (Lorraine Hansberry Award, 2013). For his body of work thus far, he has received a Windham-Campbell Prize (2021), a Steinberg Playwright Award (2020), and a Whiting Award in Drama (2018). His plays have been produced and commissioned by theaters across the United States, including New York Theatre Workshop, Arena Stage, Seattle Rep., Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, and Skylight

Theatre. As a screenwriter, he has worked on TV and film projects for HBO Max, Paramount, AMC, BET, Netflix, and others. Originally from Rockford, Illinois, Nathan is an alumnus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Indiana University Bloomington, and The Juilliard School. Currently, he is a Lecturer in Theater and Berlioz Playwright-in-Residence at Princeton University and a Venturous Fellow at the Playwrights' Center.

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Shea Brannon Evans
Mom Lakesha Glover*
Danelle Lucia Graff
Dontrell Jones, III Christian Kitchens
Dad Olajuwon Davis
Erika Claire McClannan
Robby Mekhi Mitchell

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Ron Himes**
Choreographer Heather Beal
Scenic Design Emma Hoffbrauer
Projection Design Margery and Peter Spack
Lighting Design Jasmine Williams
Sound Designer Jackie Sharp
Costume Designer Daryl Harris
Production Manager (Edison Theatrer) Emily Kennebeck
Stage Manager Tracy D. Holliday-Wiggins*
Assistant Stage Manager Taijha Silas
Technical Director Phillip Dixon
Technical Director (Edison Theater) Tab Birt
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Wardrobe Head Kristen Gray
Wardrobe Crew Christina Yancy
Covid Safety Manager Taijha Silas
Light Board Operator Zahria Moore
Sound Board Operator De'Janna Scales-Hand
Teen Tech Kristalyn Drew Beal
Teen Tech Elijah Griffin

The Black Rep wishes to extend a special thank you to Washington University in St. Louis, Bill Larson, Mike Loui, Emily Frei, Rodgers Townsend and Tracy Long, The Muny, Brian Macke, and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

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THE CAST



OLAJUWON DAVIS (Dad), is honored and excited to be back home at The Black Rep where he began his acting career many years ago in the stage-production of *Sarafina!*, as Crocodile. He was last seen in *Jitney* as Youngblood. After humble beginnings he performed street theatre, and starred in his first on screen production, *Palacios*, where he won the Special Award for Outstanding Performance at St. Louis International Film Festival in 2017. He is grateful for the love and support of his friends and family. And sends a special thanks to Ron Himes for continuing to believe in his talent and gifts.



BRANNON EVANS (Shea), is a rising Senior Theatre Performance Major and she is very excited to be performing this moving show with The Black Rep! She serves as President of the Johnny Carson Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee and has acted in and directed a few shows with Theatrix. In her free time she enjoys singing with UNL Jazz Singers and Boots & Cats. She is very grateful to the cast and crew for bringing this show, which is near and dear to her heart, to life. Brannon plans to continue performing and become a teaching artist to help foster and inspire the next generation.



LAKESHA GLOVER (Mom), is very excited to be a part of *Dontrell*, *Who kissed the Sea* with The Black Rep. She's honored to be working again with Ron Himes of The Black Rep and the talented Heather Beal. Her theatre credits include *Father Comes Home From The Wars* (Southern Rep Theatre), *Seven Guitars* (The Black Rep), *Veux Carre* (Tennessee Williams Theater Company), and *House of Bernarda Alba* (Good Company Theatre), to name just a few. Some of her film/TV credits include *The Adulterer*, *Regret*, *Saturday's*, and *Leverage:Redemption*. She wants to thank her mom, family, and friends for all their support. She dedicates her performance to Lorry Burkins, Adella the storyteller, Carol Sutton (grand) Sherri Marina, Linda

Kennedy and my Uncle Kenny. Uncle Kenny, I'll shine for you!!



LUCIA GRAFF (Danelle), is a junior Theatre Performance major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has been in the Nebraska Repertory Theatre's production of *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* and also their production of *Stephen Dietz's Dracula: Mina's Quest*. She's also a four national dance championship qualifier. She's very thankful to be given this opportunity to be a part of The Black Rep



CHRISTIAN KITCHENS (Dontrell Jones, III), is a second year fellow at The Black Rep, he specializes in acting, singing, sound production and stage combat. He is a Georgia native, where he attended Jones County High School. Afterwards Christian spent some time studying at Alabama State University before finishing his degree on the LA campus of The American Musical Dramatic Academy. He is very excited and pleased to receive to opportunity and loves being able to continue his post graduate acting training here at The Black Rep.



CLAIRE MCCLANNAN (Erika), is a senior acting major at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Her previous work includes principal deviser in *A Thousand Words* at the Nebraska Rep, and *Beauty in Smokefall* at Theatrix. She is beyond grateful for the opportunity to perform *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea*, The Black Rep and would like to thank her brilliant cast and crew mates.



MEKHI MITCHELL (Robby), is a sophomore Theatre Performance major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mekhi made his acting debut in the Nebraska Rep run of *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea* and is grateful and astatic for the opportunity of returning to the role of "Robby" in The Black Rep run of *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea*. Mekhi would like to thank God, his family, and friends for their support and Director Ron Himes for this opportunity.

STAGE MANAGEMENT



TRACY D. HOLLIWAY-WIGGINS (Stage Manager), is a native of East St. Louis and a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. She has served in various roles with The Black Rep for thirty-three years. Some of her favorite stage management credits with the company include *Black Nativity*, *The Gospel at Colonus*, *Strands* and *Nina Simone: Four Women*. She has also stage managed for Dances of India, ATREK Dance Company and Washington University Dance Theatre. Tracy thanks God for the vision of Genesis Academy of Arts and Fine Arts Ministry, Genesis Arts Ministry of East St. Louis and Frontline Freedom where she is the Deliverance Ministry. She

believes Matthew 21:22



TAIJHA SILAS (Assistant Stage Manager), is from Alexandria, Louisiana. She has a Bachelor of Science in Theatre with a concentration in Performance and Directing and Musical Theatre from Northwestern State University. Taijha has been performing for 10 years with training in music, dance, acting, and tech. Taijha has performed in shows such as *Hairspray*, *Rock of Ages*, *Sister Act*, and *Fame*. She has directed selections from *Love/Sick*, *Sealed for Freshness*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, and *The Outsiders*. She is currently an Acting Fellow with The Black Rep. She is grateful for the opportunities presented to her and hopes to continue her career in theatre for a long time!

ACTION OF THE PLAY



SETTING

Baltimore, Maryland; the Chesapeake Bay coast;
Atlantic Ocean

TIME

The Present

ACT I

Prologue Dream

Scene 1 Dontrell's Bedroom

Scene 2 Robby's Car

Scene 3 Aquarium

Scene 4 Erika's Condo

Scene 5 Pool

Scene 6 Jones' Living Room

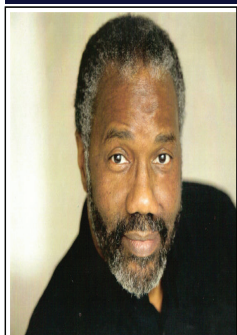
Scene 7 Erika's Condo

Scene 8 Jones' Living Room

Scene 9 Erika's Condo

Scene 10 The Ocean

THE ARTISTIC TEAM



RON HIMES (Director), has produced and directed more than 200 plays at The Black Rep, including all ten plays written by August Wilson. His Black Rep directing credits include: *Jitney*, *Sweat*, *Spell #7*, *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*, *Nina Simone*; *Four Women*, *Canfield Drive*, *Dot*, *Lines In The Dust*, *Twisted Melodies*, *Sunset Baby*, *Purlie*, *Black Nativity: A Holiday Celebration*, the critically acclaimed productions of *Ruined* and *The Montford Point Marine*. Himes also created and directed the highly acclaimed, *Crossin' Over* and *Tell Me Somethin' Good*. He has directed a number of world premieres including *Torn Asunder*, *Smash/Hit!*, *Insidious*, *Home the Musical*, *Servant of the People*, *Riffs* and *Urban Transitions: Loose Blossoms*. Directing credits from theatres across the country include *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Fences* (The Clarence Brown Theatre in Knoxville); *The ColoredMuseum* and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Indiana Repertory Theatre); *Flyin' West* (Delaware Theatre

Company); *For Colored Girls.....* (People's Light and Theatre Company in Philadelphia); *Riffs* (Seven Stages in Atlanta); *Spunk*, *Spell #7* and *Radio Golf* (Studio Theatre in Washington, DC); *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *I'm Not Rappaport* (Old Creamery Theatre in Garrison, IA); and *An Enemy of the People* (Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, AK). University and College credits include: *Crumbs From The Table Of Joy* and *Our Town*, (University of Southern Indiana in Evansville); *Intimate Apparel*, (University of Indiana in Bloomington); *You Can't Take It With You*, (University of Wisconsin in Madison); *The Championship Season* and *The Dance on Widow's Row*, (Dillard University in New Orleans); *Three Ways Home* (University of Illinois in Champaign); *The Darker Face of the Earth* (University of South Carolina in Columbia); *For Colored Girls.....*, *Blues for Mr. Charlie*, *Hairspray*, *Ragtime*, *The Lion* and *The Jewel and Trojan Women* (Washington University in St. Louis).



HEATHER BEAL (Choreographer), received her B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago and her MFA in dance from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a certified Dunham Technique Instructor and was a principal dancer with the Katherine Dunham Museum Children's Workshop Performance Company from the age of six into young adulthood. She performed with the company around the United States and France. She has also performed in many productions at The Black Rep and several productions at the St. Louis MUNY. Her Black Rep credits include: *Nina Simone: Four Woman*, *Purlie*, *The Me Nobody Knows*, *Le Freak C'est Chic*, *DreamGirls*. Theatre credits include *Ghost* (Metro Theatre), and *Feeding Beatrice* (The Rep). College credits include: *For Colored Girls...* (Washington University), *Little Shop of Horrors* and *First Date*

(University of Southern Indiana). Heather also curated & conceived *Black AF: A Celebration of Blackness Through Dance and Song* (TLT Productions).



EMMA LAINE HOFFBAUER (Scenic Design), is a graduate student beginning her last semester as a Scenic Design MFA candidate with the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She will graduate in May 2022, and her scenic design for *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* will be the basis for her Masters thesis at UNL. Emma is delighted she had the opportunity to collaborate with this talented team of artists and The Black Rep, and she hopes you enjoy this show as much as she enjoyed designing it!



JASMINE WILLIAMS (Lighting Design), is an Atlanta-based Artist and Lighting Designer for theater, music, dance, opera, and immersive experiences. After a significant time spent as a Stage Manager, Jasmine transitioned to Lighting and Costume Design. As a Designer and Technician, Jasmine has worked on *No Dream Deferred's* debut production of Tarell Alvin McCraney's, In *The Red and Brown Water*, and Tulane University's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has also worked with the Flint Repertory Theater, the Alliance Theater, the New Orleans Ballet Association, and the Summer Lyric Theater at Tulane. She received her Design MFA from Tulane University in 2020, and her BA from Albany State University in 2016. Jasmine continues to collaborate with theaters,

companies, directors, choreographers, and visual artists across New Orleans, and plans to build a new network in Atlanta. Jasmine appreciates her mentorship with John "Ray" Proctor and Kathy Perkins and would like to thank her family, mentors, and friends, for their love, patience, and support.

JACKIE SHARP (Sound Design),



MARGERY AND PETER SPACK (Projection Design), are scenery and video designers. Recently they have designed scenery for *Canfield Drive*, *Home*, and *Two Trains Running* at The Black Rep. *The Play that Goes Wrong*, *Heisenberg*, and *Safe House* at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. *Life Sucks*, New Jerusalem, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (2020 Theatre Circle Award Winner) and *Intimate Apparel* (2018 Theatre Circle Award Winner) at The New Jewish Theatre. *Romeo & Juliet* for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis in Forest Park. As Studio Spack Environment Design, Margery and Peter also design corporate theater, product reveals, broadcast news, trade show environments, and private events. They both have BFAs from Webster University and reside in their hometown

of St. Louis.



DARYL HARRIS MFA, PhD (Costume Designer), is a veteran of theatre throughout North America, Europe, West Africa, Asia, and Australia- has received multiple awards for his costume designs for The Black Rep, his “home” since the early 23rd Street days. The Arts Council’s Druid Award is among the recognitions he received for Theatre Tuscaloosa (Alabama) and Tuscaloosa Community Dancers productions including *Mame*, *The King & I*, and *Nutcracker*. Canada’s Royal British Columbia Museum has exhibited his costumes. He is an Associate Professor in Northern Kentucky University’s (NKU) School of the Arts (SOTA) Theatre and Dance Program, where he designs, acts, directs, and teaches “Race, Gender and Theatre” courses. He recently received the Cincinnati League

of Theatres Award for Outstanding Costumes for NKU’s production of *Alice Childress’s Trouble in Mind*. He regularly presents costume-related papers at national and international conferences, but he is most at home with Ron and The Black Rep.

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THEATRE OF THE SOUL SINCE 1976

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The Black Rep offers three 50-minute touring productions performed by members of the Professional Intern Program. These shows are designed to be presented in most open spaces such as multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums and theatre auditoriums. No special lighting or sound equipment is required. Touring productions are accompanied by educational study guides with pre and post-performance activities designed to enlighten educators and students.

Touring Productions

WAITING FOR MARTIN

by Joseph Henderson

Grades: 6-12; Community

Waiting for Martin follows Solomon, a hard-working young man, Rose and her brother Pete, as they wait to see if Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will pass through their area. Come along and learn what it was like to live in that time period through the stories of people that pass by this small group of youngsters waiting to see a man that changed history.

STAMPING, SHOUTING, AND SINGING HOME

by Lisa Evans

Grades 4-12

Stamping, Shouting and Singing Home follows the journey of Lizzie on her quest for Truth, Justice, and Freedom. Set in the Deep South during the 1950s Civil Rights Era, Lizzie is set to dig deep into herself, her family, and her family history in order to understand the injustices present in her life and lives of those she loves.

TURN-UP

by Naima Carter Russell & Eugene H. Russell IV

Grades Pre K - 4

Coach Carver is determined to save a failing community garden but he just can't seem to keep people interested. He fears that this growing season may be the garden's last. A mail delivery mixup somehow leads to one of his turnips growing bigger than any he's ever seen! How will he even get it out of the ground? What will he do with it when he does? A lively bunch of characters "Turn Up" to help but will it be enough? Written by Atlanta husband and wife team Naima Carter Russell and Eugene H. Russell IV and set to music, Turn-Up is a fun, humorous story about perseverance and the power of community.

Workshops and Residences

Members of the Professional Touring Company conduct drama workshops in residence in schools and community centers throughout the year. Classes vary in length from 90-min. workshops to masterclasses taught for several weeks. Subject matter may be customized to fit curriculum or other requirements.

*\$225 per 90 Min.
(Minimum 90-min. sessions)

Teen Tech

The Teen Tech Program allows interested teens to gain experience understand what it takes to develop a production behind the scenes.

*Classes are held on Sat. from 10am-12pm for 8 weeks.

Prices: \$10 per class

Young Actors Ensemble

The Young Actors Ensemble is composed of young artists (ages 8-17). Classes from professional artists are held

every Saturday from 10-11:15am for 8 wks

Prices: \$10 per class

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Each summer The Black Rep provides an 8-week arts intensive designed to provide students an exciting opportunity to artistically express themselves through Theatre, Acting, Visual Arts, Dance, Movement, Playwriting, and Music.

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DONTRELL WHO KISSED THE SEA
by Nathan Alan Davis

JULY 13, 2022

**For more information email:
education@theblackrep.org or call: 314-534-3807 ext.2**

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Box Office – The Box Office at the theatres opens two hours prior to each performance. Advance tickets are available by calling The Black Rep Box Office at 314.534.3810 or online at theblackrep.org.

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SEASON 46 LINEUP

The African Company Presents
Richard III

By Charlye Brown
September 7-25, 2022
Edison Theatre at Washington University

Death of a Salesman

By Arthur Miller
January 11-29, 2023
Edison Theatre at Washington University

The Light By

By Loy A. Webb
February 1-26, 2023
Hotchner Studio Theatre at
Washington University

Skelton Crew

By Dominique Morisseau
March 29 - April 16, 2023
Berges Theatre at COCA

Eubie!

By Julianne Boyd
Music by Eubie Blake
May 3-21, 2023
Edison Theatre at Washington University