

WORLD PREMIERE

HOLD ON!

BY PAUL WEBB

## BLOOD MAKES FOR FASTER INK.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
LEADS A PUSH FOR BLACK VOTING  
RIGHTS IN SELMA, ALABAMA. IN HIS WAY,  
A HARDENING PRESIDENT, EMBATTLED BELIEFS,  
AND 54 MILES OF EVEN HARDER PAVEMENT.

PRESENTED WITH SUPPORT FROM  
THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS



**THE BLACK REP**

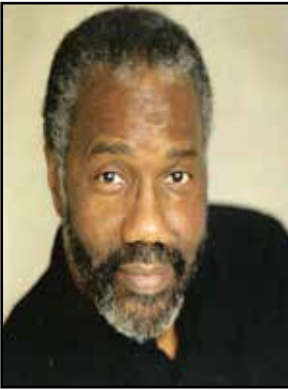
THEATRE OF THE SOUL SINCE 1976



**EDISON THEATRE**

JANUARY 10 - 28

# DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Welcome to our 47th season here at The Black Rep. In a way, it can be said that the journey for the World Premiere of *Hold On!* to open our 47th Season, is a long time in the making. Paul Webb previously wrote 2014's film *Selma* and this is his adaptation of his own screenplay, for the stage. Robert Vaughn, from Theatrical Rights Worldwide, with whom I've been doing business for forty years, reached out to me, seeking my thoughts on this script. He said that Paul's agent was looking for someone to license it, and if I liked it, we could produce the World Premiere. I read this script, and thought "Wow, this is good storytelling!" We have a commitment to introduce new work, that I believe adds to the rich canon of African American literature for the stage. I believe this story perfectly aligns with that mission.

In 2015, I was in a production of *All The Way*, which is another story that features a battle of wills between Martin Luther King Jr and Lyndon Baines Johnson, except it's mostly from LBJ's perspective. *Hold On!* is the flip side of that same coin. This story is squarely from the lens of MLK, and other key figures of the civil rights movement, like John Lewis and Ralph Abernathy. More importantly, one of the things that really appealed to me was Coretta Scott King's role in the events of this story. The contribution of women in depictions of the movement is often neglected. We get a better sense of their contributions here, from the vantage points of Coretta and Annie Lee Cooper.

I'm the, the Henry Hampton artist in residence at Washington University. I think this is an open invitation, for people here in our community, to take advantage of the access we have to the archives, here in St. Louis, and build upon the years of storytelling that Henry gifted the world, through his documentaries like *Eyes on the Prize*. Right here in this city, there's a collection that features hours and hours of footage, and interviews that help make this history real for people. We need this history more than ever, because unfortunately a lot of the issues that *Hold On!* deals with are all to relevant, and prevalent to our lives today. Stories like this have a special kind of urgency and immediacy, in a world where the options for students to study Black literature and Black history, are being eliminated from school curriculums. This story we're telling shines a light on the importance of Black theatre and politics, and the role of Black theatre in remembering, celebrating, and uplifting our history.

I've been fortunate enough to collaborate with incredible creative team, and an awesome cast that has made this process a daily joy. Thank you for joining us, and marching with us on the journey!

Soul Shines On!

*Ron Himes*



By Paul Webb  
Directed by Ron Himes\*\*

*Scenic Design*

Dunsi Dai

*Projections Design*

Zach Cohn

*Lighting Design*

Sean Savoie

*Sound Design*

Lamar Harris

*Costume Design*

Marc W. Vital II

*Props Design*

Meg Brinkley

*Stage Manager*

Tracy D. Holliway-Wiggins\*

*Assistant Stage Manager*

Alan Phillips

JANUARY 10 - 28, 2024  
EDISON THEATRE AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

\*Members of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Hands of the United States.

\*\* 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.

# PLAYWRIGHT



Paul Webb is a screenwriter and playwright best known for writing the screenplay of the 2014 film *Selma*. Webb was born in Britain and spent 10 years teaching then another 15 years working in the petrochemical industry before deciding to pursue a career in writing. When writing a draft for the screenplay of *Lincoln* for Steven Spielberg, the consultant was Doris Kearns Goodwin who is married to Richard Goodwin. Goodwin was the presidential advisor during the Johnson administration

known for writing the speech on the Voting Rights Act in 1965. After getting to know them Webb states, “So I decided here is the story I wanted to tell. I started reading about the era and about Johnson. But I soon realized that the man who had made it necessary to pass the legislation so urgently was Martin Luther King. The story which needed telling was the Selma voting rights campaign, in which he was central.”

A black and white promotional poster for the play 'Dutchman' by Amiri Baraka. The poster features a woman wearing a large, wide-brimmed hat and a patterned top, looking upwards. The background is a blurred, high-speed scene of a train or subway platform. Text on the poster includes: 'SOUL SIREN PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS', 'DUTCHMAN', 'by Amiri Baraka', '2.1.21 - 2.18.21', a QR code, 'SCAN FOR TICKETS', and 'GREENFINCH THEATER, 2525 S JEFFERSON AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63104'.

SOUL SIREN PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

**DUTCHMAN**  
*by Amiri Baraka*  
2.1.21 - 2.18.21



SCAN FOR TICKETS

GREENFINCH THEATER  
2525 S JEFFERSON AVE  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63104

*The Black Rep graciously acknowledges annual support for its mainstage and educational programs from:*

## **SEASON 47 PARTNERS**



**THE BLACK SEED**

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**THE SHUBERT FOUNDATION INC.**



 **Washington**  
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*This project is supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts, Washington University in St. Louis, with support for opening night from Ameren and casting support from Peter and Susan Tuteur.*

*Support for our Education and Community Programs is provided by: Ameren, AmeriCorps, Cardinals Care, ClayCo, Edward Jones, Jordan Foundation, Missouri Arts Council, Missouri Community Service Commission, PNC Arts Alive, Taylor Family Foundation, Tilles Foundation and the Trio Foundation.*

### **SUPPORT**

The Black Rep wishes to acknowledge and thank our supporters. The following contributions were made in the period from April 1, 2023 through December 1, 2023. Financial gifts from companies, foundations, government entities and individuals ensure the continuance of first-rate main stage productions and education programs that touch young lives throughout Missouri and Illinois. To donate, please contact Christina Yancy, Development Associate, at 314-534-3333. Please scan the QR code or go to [theblackrep.org/supporters](https://theblackrep.org/supporters) to see the list of supporters.



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**Musical Director Emeritus** Neal Tate  
**Musical Director Emeritus** Charles Creath  
**SDCF Lloyd Richards New Futures Artist in Residence** Jon Royal  
**AmeriCorps Community Arts Fellow** Alan Phillips  
**AmeriCorps Community Arts Fellow** Allie Forte  
**AmeriCorps Community Arts Fellow** Marnice Davis  
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**Development Associate** Christina Yancy  
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**Sales and Promotions Coordinator** Keshon Campbell  
**Creative Group** Rodgers Townsend

# CAST AND PRODUCTION STAFF

## CAST

*Tamara Thomas*  
*Jeff Cummings\**  
*Evann DeBose*  
*Enoch King\**  
*Greg Carr Sr.*  
*Joel Anthony*  
*Jason Little*  
*Isaiah Di Lorenzo*  
*Thomas Patrick Riley*  
*Eric Dean White\**  
*Tammie Holland*  
*Brian Dykstra\**  
*Greg Carr II*  
*Olajuwon Davis*

## MUSICIAN

**Antonio Foster** Piano:  
*A Change Is Gonna Come*  
*Keep Your Eyes on the Prize*  
*We Shall Over Come.*

*Director* Ron Himes\*\*  
*Scenic Design* Dunsai Dai  
*Projections Designer* Zach Cohn  
*Lighting Design* Sean Savoie  
*Sound Design* Lamar Harris  
*Costume Design* Marc W. Vital II  
*Stage Manager* Tracy D. Holliway-Wiggins\*  
*Assistant Stage Manager* Alan Phillips  
*Co-Technical Director* Christian Kitchens  
*Co-Technical Director* Kaylie Carpenter  
*Costume Shop Supervisor* Ellen Minch  
*Scenic Artist* RobVan Dillon  
*Carpenters* Christian LeNoir  
Caleb Long

The Black Rep wishes to extend a special thank you to Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

\*Members of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Hands of the United States.

# THE CAST



**TAMARA THOMAS** (Annie Lee Cooper/Viola), is a native of Long Island, NY. She graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, TN. with a B.A. in Dramatics & Speech. Some of Tamara's theatre credits include the role of 'Penny' in *ACRES OF DIAMONDS* at the Billie Holiday Theatre, N.Y., the 'Lady in Orange' in *FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF* at the Horace Mann Theatre, N.Y. and 'Joyce' in *A HOUSE DIVIDED* at the Scottish Rite Theatre, St. Louis, MO. Tamara also has various video, T.V. and film credits. She feels extremely blessed for the opportunity to work with Director Ron Himes and this amazingly talented cast and crew, for the world premiere of *HOLD ON!*, for her debut performance with The Black Rep!



**JEFF CUMMINGS** (Walter, Col. Al Lingo), is thrilled to return to The Black Rep for *HOLD ON!*, having previously appeared as Dr. George in *BEHIND THE SHEET*. His most recent St. Louis' appearance was as Record Producer Sam Phillips in Stages' production of *MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET* last fall. Other local credits include *CLUE* at Stages, *THE GOOD SHIP ST. LOUIS* at Upstream Theatre, *JAKE'S WOMEN* for Moonstone Theatre Company, *LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST* at St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, and *OSLO & HAMLET* at St. Louis Repertory Theatre. Regional credits include Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle, Portland Center Stage, Sacramento Theatre Company, Utah Shakespeare Festival, California Shakespeare Festival, and seven

seasons with Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Favorite roles include James Tyrone, Jr. in *A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN*, Septimus in *ARCADIA* and Brutus in *JULIUS CAESAR*, Jeff is also an Audie Award winning audiobook narrator with over 300 recordings including works by Mark Twain, Gore Vidal, Nora Roberts, Dean Koontz, and Philip K. Dick. Jeff has an MFA from Penn State University and dedicates this show to his extraordinary teacher, mentor, and friend, Helen Manfull, who passed away in October of last year.



**EVANN DE-BOSE** (Coretta King), is a native of St. Louis. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. She is also a former Acting Intern of The Black Rep. Evann is an actress, vocalist, teaching artist, and allergy-friendly baker. A few of her theater credits include Reya in *The Gringo: A New Musical*, the ensemble of *Eubie!*, Denitra in *Lines in the Dust*, Gail in *Akeelah and the Bee*, Glinda in *The Wiz*, Singing Mary in *Black Nativity*, Marta in Company, and Lady in Orange in *For Colored Girls*. Evann not only enjoys performing, but also teaching her craft. She holds the position of Early Childhood Music Teacher at Forsyth School and is an early childhood teaching artist at Center of Creative Arts

(COCA). Evann would like to thank God for her gifts and her family for their continual support. Keep up with her performances and projects at [evannlution.com](http://evannlution.com).





**ENOCH KING** (Martin Luther King), is honored to make his debut at The Black Rep! Enoch is an Atlanta native and his recent credits include: *THAT SERIOUS HE-MAN BALL* (True Colors Theatre) *FLYIN' WEST* (Indiana Repertory Theatre) *CHICKEN AND BISCUITS* (Dominion Entertainment) *THE LIGHT* (Horizon Theatre), *TONI STONE* (Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Featured Performer)(Alliance Theatre), *THE BLUEST EYE* (Synchronicity Theatre) *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE* and *SKELETON CREW* (American Stage), *PARADISE BLUE* (True Colors Theatre) *HANDS OF COLOR* (Synchronicity Theatre- Suzi Bass Award for Best World Premiere) *SKELETON CREW* (True Colors Theatre) *BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY* and *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* (American Stage-St. Petersburg, FL.) *THE CHRISTIANS* (Suzi Bass

Award for Best Supporting Actor) (Actors Express). He can currently be seen on TV and Film in *ATLANTA*, *TILL*, and *THE LAST DAYS OF PTOLEMY GREY*. He is represented by Houghton Talent and Ross Stephens Arts and Entertainment. Special shout out to the Tribe of 5!



**GREG CARR, SR.** (Ralph Albernathy), is an accomplished director, playwright, actor and published writer. His award-winning plays *JOHNNIE TAYLOR IS GONE* and *A COLORED FUNERAL* were produced at the historic Karamu House in Cleveland and at the Cleveland Playhouse. Gregory has appeared at The Black Rep in *GODSPELL*, *BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR*, *DAMN YANKEES*, and *THE RIVER NIGER*. He wishes to thank his family and friends for all their support and is honored to appear in this production with his son, Gregory S. Carr II.



**JOEL ANTONY** (Hoseah Williams), was born and raised in St. Louis. Joel knew that he wanted to be an actor early. He was captivated by The Black Rep in the 31st season with *Death and the King's Horseman* and secretly had a desire to be on that stage. In 2012, Joel started with productions like *Our Town* as Joe Stoddard and Guildenstern in *Guildenstern and Rosencrantz Are Dead* at STLCC. In 2015 Joel graced stages outside college working with Gitana Productions in *Black and Blue* and participating in the Every 28 Hrs. play festival. In 2017 Joel played the roles of Adam in *Prometheus Dream* (First Run Theater), Absalom Jenkins in *Between Worlds* (Gitana Productions), Richard in *Moving Forward* (KMW PRODUCTIONS), and Derrick in *Tangled* (TLT PROD.) Joel is elated and deeply honored that his dream of being on the stage

at The Black Rep has come to fruition. Thank you Mr. Ron Himes for believing in me enough to trust me with this role. Thank you to my family and everyone that has supported me through this journey. To my son, Jabir, there are no words for the love I have for you. You are the fuel for this drive."



**JASON LITTLE** (Andrew Young/Jimmie Lee Jackson), is thrilled to be joining The Black Rep in the world premiere of *HOLD ON!* Jason's credits consist of *TWO TRAINS RUNNING* (Sterling) with The Black Rep in 2019, *OTHELLO* with The Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis in 2021, and *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD* with the Repertory Theater of St. Louis in 2017. Little also has movie, TV and commercial credits. He appeared in *ATL HOMICIDE* (Ardentric Johnson) on TV One network, *WICKED CITY* (Daniel), on ALLBLK, *LITTLE HEROES* (Mayor Randolph) on Amazon Prime, and *THE BLOOD BROTHERS* (Daniel) on Tubi just to name a few.



**ISIAH DI LORENZO** (Registrar/Richard Goodwin/State Trooper), *HOLD ON!* marks Isiah's Black Rep stage debut. Mr. Di Lorenzo is a graduate of the Saint Louis University, earning degrees in Drama & Literature before Stephens College offered him an opportunity to embark on a life in music and movement with a Dance Scholarship which opened doors for professional immersion in a broad range of Theatre on both coasts of the U.S. & Canada - and beyond. Recent credits include *Bitter Fruit* and *Good Ship St. Louis* with Upstream and *What the Condition Means to Me* with Max & Louie. Huge thanks to this magnificent team of collaborators and The Black Rep's loud and loyal audience for creating this sacred space.



**THOMAS PATRICK RILEY** (Leverne/Deputy/State Trooper), is honored to be telling this powerful story with such an amazing company in his Black Rep. debut. Previous St. Louis Credits include Hotspur in *The Game's Afoot* (St. Louis Shakespeare Festival), Old Green Grasshopper in *James in the Giant Peach* (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), and Bryce/Bull/ Lawrence in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis). You can hear Thomas' voice at the World Chess Hall of Fame through January 21, 2024, narrating lines from "A Game of Chess" for an exhibit on T.S. Eliot. He will also be portraying Elder Thomas in the St. Louis Actor's Studio's upcoming production of *The Whale*

running from April 5-21 at the Gaslight Theatre. He received his B.A. in Theatre, acting concentration from Muhlenberg College. Visit [thomaspriley.com](http://thomaspriley.com) or [@thomaspatrickriley](https://www.instagram.com/thomaspatrickriley) on Instagram.



**ERIC DEAN WHITE** (George Wallace / Sheriff Clark), is very excited to be returning to The Black Rep, where he was last seen as Stephen Price in *The African Company Presents Richard III*. He has worked at numerous theatres around St. Louis and regionally. Favorite Theatre Roles: *Dial M for Murder* (Inspector Hubbard), *Salt, Root & Roe* (Gareth), *The Kiss/De Kus* (Man), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Satan), *Driving Miss Daisy* (Boolie), *The Fourth Reich* (Man), *Never the Sinner* (Robert Crowe), *The Normal Heart* (Felix), *The Pillowman* (Tupolski), *King Lear* (Kent), *Savage in Limbo* (Tony). TV: *Chicago Fire*, NBC. Training: The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York. Proud member of Actors' Equity

Association. Thanks to the ENTIRE creative team & cast at The Black Rep for taking me on this creative journey! Love to Wendy, Payton & Cassidy for their never-ending patience & support. [ericdeanwhite.com](http://ericdeanwhite.com)



**TAMMIE HOLLAND** (Della/Gerri), an Emmy-nominated St. Louis media veteran, makes her professional theatrical debut with the world premiere of *HOLD ON!* by Paul Webb, directed by Ron Himes. She hosts 'This Week with Tammie Holland,' a podcast powered by Brown & Crouppen, and is a morning show personality on St. Louis' Foxy 106.9 FM. Formerly with iHeartRadio and KSDK News Channel 5, Tammie received 'The Key to the City' from Mayor Tishaura Jones and her own 'Tammie Holland Day' from the Missouri House of Representatives in 2021. Recognized by the Radio Preservation Task Force at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., Tammie's radio contributions are cataloged in a national historic collection, highlighting the achievements of

African-American women in broadcasting. Although Tammie is a Stage IV Colon Cancer Survivor, she still bravely fights lung cancer. She credits God, and a supportive family for her strength and inspiration. Above all of Tammie's accomplishments and experiences, she is most proud of her role as mother to her 17-year-old daughter, Meadow Grace. Happily they call St. Louis home.



**BRIAN DYKSTRA** (Lyndon Johnson), is an actor, playwright and HBO def Poet. St. Louis audiences may remember him from *All The Way* at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis where he played LBJ for the first time (also starring Ron Himes.) Broadway: *Great Society* (where he understudied Brian Cox as LBJ) and *Lucky Guy* (with Tom Hanks). London: *Americana Absurdum*. Regional:

*Jerusalem* (Rooster Byron), *Red* (Mark Rothko), *King John* (King John), *Banned From Baseball* (Pete Rose), *A Doll's House Part 2* (Torvald), *The Humans*, (Erik), *Copenhagen* (Heisenberg). Brian is the only person other than Mos Def and Dave Chappelle to appear on both Chappelle's Show (*Blind Ambition* & *White People Dancing*) and HBO def Poetry in the same season. Other TV & Film: *The Good Fight*, *The Blacklist*, *Stay*, *The Affair*, *Bull*, *Third Watch*, *Law &*

*Order*, *Knight and Day*, *Freedomland*, *Corn*, *Spectropia*. Playwright: *Hiding Behind Comets*, *Clean Alternatives*, *Education*, *Silence*, etc. Currently: writing a few tv shows, a musical: *Crazy*, *Make Crazy*, and three plays: *Art Thieves*, *Polishing Shakespeare*, and *On The Docket*. Brian is married to the woman of his dreams. Briandykstra.net.



**GREG CARR II** (John Lewis), is excited to be making his Black Rep debut! Some of his previous roles include: Mysterious Man in *Into The Woods* (Missouri Baptist University), Adam Pontipee in *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers* (Missouri Baptist University), Ensemble in *All Shook Up* (Paul Bunyan Playhouse), and George in *Godspell* (Paul Bunyan Playhouse.) He would like to give a special thanks to his friends and family for all their support. He would also like to give a special thanks to this amazing cast and crew. Enjoy the show!



**OLAJUWON DAVIS** (James Forman), is a St. Louis native with many talents and a unique life story. His acting career launched at 15 years old after interning at The Black Rep and landing a role in the award-winning musical, *Sarafina!*. Under the tutelage of The Black Rep's Founder & Producing Director, Ron Himes, Olajuwon has developed a passion for acting and storytelling. He has starred in five Black Rep productions throughout his career, he was last seen in *Sketeton Crew*. Olajuwon is an accomplished actor off stage as well. His breakout performance in the award-winning independent film *Palacios*, written and directed by

Sundance Festival Alum, Bobby Herrera of Gray Picture, was his

first on screen performance. He recently released a hip-hop EP titled "Zombies", is developing a documentary film about his life as an artist and activist, and when not performing works as a Violence Intervention Specialist at the Freedom Community Center. He dedicates this performance to those he mentors. "If I can do it, so can you!" He is grateful for the love and support of his friends, family, and many mentors. And sends a special thanks to his Godmother Marsha Cann, the Great Ron Himes, his friend Bobby Herrera, and all others who believed in his talent and humanity.

# ORDER OF THE PLAY

PLACE: Selma, Alabama & Washington, DC

TIME: 1965

## ACT I

- Scene 1**      *A resident's room in 'Dunne's Rest Home', Selma, Alabama*
- Scene 2**      *The King family living room*
- Scene 3**      *The voter registration office in Selma county courthouse*
- Scene 4**      *Washington hotel room*
- Scene 5**      *The Oval office*
- Scene 6**      *The office of Governor Wallace*
- Scene 7**      *Side-room, Brown's Chapel, Selma*
- Scene 8**      *The King family's living room*

## ACT II

- Scene 1**      *Press conference/outside courthouse*
- Scene 2**      *Jail cell*
- Scene 3**      *The office of Governor Wallace*
- Scene 4**      *The Oval office*
- Scene 5**      *Marion at night/chapel pulpit/sheriff's office*
- Scene 6**      *The Oval Office/press room/ Pettus Bridge*
- Scene 7**      *Side-room, Brown's Chapel, Selma*
- Scene 8**      *The Oval Office/Brown Chapel side-room*
- Scene 9**      *The Oval Office/Wallace's office/Pettus Bridge/side room/chapel pulpit*
- Scene 10**     *The Oval Office*
- Scene 11**     *Brown Chapel side-room/Senate*
- Scene 12**     *Brown Chapel side-room/the Oval Office*
- Scene 13**     *Wallace's office/Montgomery/Selma/a stage*

# STAGE MANAGEMENT

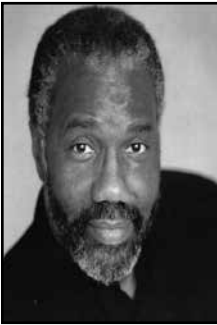


**TRACY D. HOLLIWAY WIGGINS** (Stage Manager), is a native of East St. Louis and a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. She has served in various roles with The Black Rep for thirty-three years. Some of her favorite stage management credits with the 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



**ALAN PHILLIPS** (Assistant Stage Manager) (he/him), is an artist from St. Louis, MO. Currently a first-year AmeriCorps Community Arts Fellow at The Black Rep, he received his BFA in Theatre from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. While studying at JSU, Alan performed in *Mama, I Want To Sing*, *Afro Angel*, *New Beginnings*, *The Colored Museum*, *Top Dog Underdog*, and *Living History*. He is also a member of Mad Drama Performance Troupe and has designed sound for countless shows during his tenure.

## 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: *Eubie!*, *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *Jitney*, *Sweat*, *Spell #7*, *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*, *Nina Simone: Four Women*, *Cainfield 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 Colored Museum* 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).



**DUNSI DAI** (Scenic Designer), has designed scenery for off-Broadway and regional theatres across the country. His favorite designs include *RITA'S RESOURCE* (Pan Asian Rap, N.Y.C.), *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS* (Brook Hollow Players, N.Y.), *CARMEN* (Trenton State Theatre, N.J.), *DESERT SONG* (Hampton Playhouse, N.H.), *WEST SIDE STORY* (Struthers Library Theatre, Pa.), *MARAT/SADE* (Stanford Rep, Calif.), *BIG RIVER* (Human Race Theatre, Ohio), *BLUES IN ALABAMA SKY* (True Color Theatre, Ga.). In the Midwest region, his favorite designs include: *WIT* (Repertory Theatre St. Louis), *WAITING FOR GODOT* (St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre), *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* (STAGES St. Louis), *HANNA'S SUITCASE* (Metro Theatre Company), *OLD WICKED SONGS* (New Jewish Theatre), *1776* (Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre), *TWO HEADED* (Black Cat Theatre), *GREY GARDEN*, and *INDECENT* (Max & Louie Productions, MO), *THE NIGHT OF IGUANA* and *GLASS MANAGERY* (St. Louis Tennessee Williams Festival). His set design for Mustard Seed Theatre's *REMNANT* received a Kevin Kline award in the category of Outstanding Scene Design in 2008. He is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. Dunsui has been endorsed by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as the Best Scene Designer on the "2015 Go List" and "2018 Go List".



**ZACH COHN** (Projections Designer), (he/him) is a multidisciplinary designer from NYC studying Drama and Computer Science. He has worked across theatre roles: he designed the lighting for WashU's Performing Arts Department productions of *Fucking A* and *God of Carnage*, projections for *Cabaret*, and sound for *The Dust*. He also directed the recent student production of *Something Rotten*. He is stage managing the PAD's production of *The Winter's Tale* this spring.



**SEAN SAVOIE** (Lighting Designer), Sean is currently in his 17th year as faculty Lighting Designer at Washington University. He received his BFA from the University of Southern Mississippi and his MFA from the University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music (CCM) in Lighting Design and Technology. Selected regional designs include: The Black Rep, Stages St Louis, Winter Opera St. Louis, Union Ave Opera, HotCity Theatre, Upstream Theatre, Wayside Theatre; Shenandoah University; Theatre West Virginia; Tsunami Theatre Company in Washington, DC; New York Chinese Cultural Center; Portland Opera (Associate and Assistant Designer), Know Theatre, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, and Cincinnati Opera (Assistant Designer).



**LAMAR HARRIS** (Sound Designer), is a trombonist / composer from St. Louis, MO. He has recorded several projects, his latest being *The MOTheR Suite*, music for choreographer Kirven Douthit-Boyd. Harris has composed music for Alvin Ailey Dance Company's *STILL* and underscoring for various television commercials. Deejaying under the handle DJ Nune, he's been a featured artist at Music at The Intersection 2023/2022, Confluence Music Festival 2023/2022, Grub & Groove 2023, Fair St. Louis 2022, NHL All-Star Saturday Night 2019, Taste of St. Louis, events for Nike, Jack Daniels, The American Heart Association, Centene, Children's Hospital, and the African American Research Library and Cultural Center in Broward County, Florida. Harris has performed with artists such as Sheila E., Terence Blanchard, Keyon Harrold, BeBe Winans, Fred Wesley, Sy Smith, Eric

Roberson, ZO!, Marc de Clive-Lowe, and Rich Medina. He has performed opening deejay sets for Lil Jon, Flo-Rida, Biz Markie, and many other artists. Lamar has been the musical director / sound designer for shows at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis' *The Ant & The Grasshopper / Polkadots*, *The Cool Kids Musical 2019-2020*, Shakespeare in The Street's *Blow Winds*, Metro Theatre Company's, *Wonderland*, *Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, UMSL Theater Department, *The WIZ*, musical consultant for New Jewish Theatre's *District Merchant* and, The Black Rep's *Behind the Sheet / Skeleton Crew*. In 2018, Lamar was awarded the Regional Arts Commission Artist Fellowship. To learn more about Lamar Harris, visit [thelamarharris.com](http://thelamarharris.com).



**MARC W. VITAL II**(Costume Designer), (he, him) is the Assistant Professor of Costume Design at the University of Missouri. He serves KCACTF Region 5 as the Vice Chair of Representation, Equity, and Diversity, promoting inclusion and providing opportunities for our underserved members. He earned his BA in Theatre with a Concentration in Costume Design from the University of Alabama and his MFA in Costume Design from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His recent works include *The Prom*, based on an original concept by Jack Viertel with book and lyrics by Chad Beguelin, book by Bob Martin, and music by Matthew Sklar.; *Ragtime* by Terrence McNally with music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens; and *Luchadora* by Alvaro Saar Rios. In his spare time, he enjoys home brewing for TTRPGs, creating 1/6 scale figures, and lifting weights. These creative outlets allow him stretch his body

and mind in alternative ways outside his primary work.



**MEG BRINKLEY (PROP DESIGNER)**, is the Prop Manager at Opera Theatre of St Louis. Prop credits include work at Mustard Seed Theatre, New Jewish Theatre, Shakespeare Festival STL, Metro Theatre, Rebels & Misfits Productions, Act Inc, and others. She is happy to be returning to The Black Rep for her second production. Many thanks to Ron for the opportunity, and to her Brinkley men for their support.

# *The Black Rep Community and Education Programs Touring Productions*

## **WHEN THE RATTLESNAKE SOUNDS**

by Alice Childress

*Grades: K-5, Community*

In the midst of summer, Harriet Tubman and her friends, Lennie and Celia, work hard to raise money for the abolitionist cause. What happens “when the rattlesnake sounds” and inspires fear to thrive? *When the Rattlesnake Sounds*, offers a fresh perspective on Harriet and how she uses fear to sing a song of Freedom.

## **FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN**

by Robert Alan Mitchell

*Grades: 6-12, Community*

A new play celebrating the life and work of Frankie Muse Freeman, an African-American Civil Rights Attorney and the first female U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner, told from the perspective of her daughter.

*(Limited Booking January – March)*

## **RACE IN AMERICA: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

Developed by the St. Louis Black Repertory Company

*Grades 6 - College; Community*

*Race in America: Past, Present, and Future* comes alive with music, poetry, and song in a compelling montage of works by artists from the past and present. This show will explore the effects of racism throughout history with poetry and words. Using rhythm and rhyme, *Race in America* will lead us to think about the burning question: "How far have we come?"

The Black Rep offers three 50-minute touring productions performed by members of the Professional Fellows 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.



# 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

## Summer Performing Arts

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.

## MAINSTAGE INTERGENERATIONAL MATINEES

The Black Rep is pleased to present intergenerational matinees for all mainstage productions. Intergenerational matinees were uniquely designed to allow schools and other local organizations to experience live theatre performances and participate in post-show discussions, at an affordable rate. For more information, to book a touring show or an Intergenerational Matinee contact the Education Dept. 314 -534-3807

**Hold ON!**  
Edison Theatre  
Washington University in St. Louis

January 17, 2024

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

# Sophisticated Ladies

A women's Giving Initiative committed to underwriting a main stage production each year highlighting the talents of Black female artists.

This year's production: **Wedding Band** by Alice Childress

*Tickets to Sophisticated Ladies Luncheon and Opening Night*



Lorraine  
Hansberry  
**\$2500**

8 Tickets



Ruby Dee  
**\$1000**

6 Tickets



Nina Simone  
**\$500**

4 Tickets



Cicely Tyson  
**\$250**

2 Tickets



Viola Davis  
**\$150**

1 Ticket

## 2024 Sophisticated Ladies Luncheon



February 25th  
1-4 PM

*Catering provided by*



**BUTLER'S PANTRY**

For questions or more information please contact Christina Yancy,  
[christinay@theblackrep.org](mailto:christinay@theblackrep.org)

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## *IN THE THEATRE*

In order to assure the enjoyment of the theatre experience for all patrons, we ask your cooperation with the following considerations of the theatre environment.

- Food is not permitted in the theatre
- Smoking is not permitted in the building.
- The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited. A violation of the Author's rights and are actionable under United States copyright law. For more information, please visit: <https://shop.samuelyfrench.com/content/files/pdf/ piracy-whitepaper.pdf>.
- Please silence all cell phones, beeping watches and devices upon entering the theatre and during intermission.
- Children over the age of five are welcome in the theatre, but, no babies in arms please.
- Late comers will be seated in the nearest available seats at an appropriate pause in the performance. Patrons may move to their original seats at intermission.
- In case of fire, please walk in an orderly manner to the nearest exit. Do not run.

Special Services – The theatres are fully accessible to the physically challenged and includes wheelchair seating. Please see the House Staff.

## *AUDIENCE SERVICES*

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](http://theblackrep.org).

To reach us in person visit:

**The Black Rep Box Office**  
**813 N. Skinker Blvd.**  
**St. Louis, MO 63130**  
**[www.theblackrep.org](http://www.theblackrep.org)**

**GROUP SALES** -Host a Night at the Theatre - Bring a group of 12-99 and receive a 10% discount, or bring a group of 100 or more and receive a 20% discount.

Please call the Box Office at 314.534.3810 to make your reservations.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** – Season subscriptions offer the benefits of seat selection, ticket exchange, lost ticket replacement, and discounts to The Black Rep supporters. To subscribe, call 314.534.3810.

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BLACK REP?**

Call us.....314-534-3807

Group Sales /Tickets - Heather Beal, Audience Development

Donations - Jennifer Stoffel, Director of Advancement and Strategic Initiatives

# THE BLACK REP

THEATRE OF THE SOUL SINCE 1976



## SEASON 47

**WODUN**  
BLOOD MAKES FOR FASTER INK.  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
LEADS A PUSH FOR BLACK VOYING  
IN THE SOUTH. A SASSY, YOUNG  
A MORTALITY PROTESTS. DRAGGERS BELIEVE  
AND SA WILES OF THE AMERICAN FUTURE.

**FLY**  
GRAVITY ISN'T THE STRONGEST FORCE TO DEFEY.  
AS HE ALWAYS COLLECTS  
POWER, PINKIE & MIMI-NEE  
TRUSTED A YOUNG MAN  
FOCUSSED ON THE TRAGEDY AND  
CAMPUSLY EMPLOYED  
KINDLY THE ATTACK AMERICAN.

**WEDDING BAND**  
BLIND LOVE DRAWS VIGILANT HATE.  
REDEFINING THEIR LOVE  
ASSISTS BROTHER CAROLINA  
INTO WISCONSIN  
SANK, A WORLD AHEAD THE  
ONE-DECK PARADISE  
AND THEY FANDED IS  
A BELLY MIGHT BE  
HEAR FOR THE LOVE  
SHEET BY BLACK  
AND WHITE.

**A TIMBUKTOU**  
TRUSTED WORDS TIE A KNOTTED FATE.  
SET IN WEST AFRICA  
A WOLF PUPPET SHOW AND  
BUT BEE UP TOUGHER  
TIME AND TIME AGAIN  
WHILE HIS EXCELLENCE  
CHARACTER PEOPLE AND  
FALL IN LOVE WITH  
THE YOUNG WOLF.

**KING HEDLEY**  
LIFE IS FREE UNTIL IT COSTS YOU EVERYTHING  
ON A COIN FACED THE BRITISH STRENGTH OF  
JIMMY JOHNSON AND A CHANGING FAMILY WHILE  
PLAYING DECKS WHERE NOTHING CAN ENHANCE.

THE BLACK REP

CALL 314 534-3810 OR VISIT [THEBLACKREP.ORG](http://THEBLACKREP.ORG)