



ROBERT LUPONE, BERNARD TELSEY and WILLIAM CANTLER / artistic directors

BLAKE WEST / executive director

presents

SOft

by DONJA R. LOVE

with LEON ADDISON BROWN, BIKO EISEN-MARTIN, DHARON JONES, ESSENCE LOTUS, TRAVIS RAEBURN, SHAKUR TOLLIVER, DARIO VAZQUEZ, ED VENTURA

scenic design **ADAM**

costume design

lighting design

sound design

original music

ADAM RIGG QWEEN JEAN CHA SEE GERMÁN MARTÍNEZ

MAURICIO ESCAMILLA

fight direction

UNKLEDAVE'S FIGHT-HOUSE

production stage manager

RACHEL DENISE APRIL general manager

BETH DEMBROW director of finance

OLSON

director of public engagement & education

TRICIA

director of production and facilities

STEVE ROSENBERG manager of artistic production

AYANA PARKER MORRISON manager of artistic development

ELISSA HUANG

manager of musical programming & development

SCOTT GALINA casting
THE TELSEY
OFFICE

DESTINY LILLY, CSA

marketing consultant **NIKKI VERA**

publicity
MATT ROSS PR /
MATT ROSS,
NICOLE CAPATASTO,
LIZ LOMBARDI,
GRACE WALKER

directed by WHITNEY WHITE

Presented in the SUSAN & RONALD FRANKEL THEATER

CAST

Mr. Cartwright	LEON ADDISON BROWN
Mr. Isaiah	BIKO EISEN-MARTIN
Antoine	DHARON JONES
Dee	ESSENCE LOTUS
Bashir	TRAVIS RAEBURN
Kevin	SHAKUR TOLLIVER
Jamal	DARIO VAZQUEZ
	ED VENTURA
assistant stage manage	rZACHARY PEREZ

TIME: Now **PLACE:** A juvenile boarding school, where flowers are in full bloom



LEON ADDISON BROWN



BIKO EISEN-MARTIN



DHARON JONES



ESSENCE LOTUS



TRAVIS RAEBURN



SHAKUR TOLLIVER



DARIO VAZQUEZ



ED VENTURA

WHO'S WHO

DONJA R. LOVE—he/him (*Author*) is Black, Queer, living with HIV, and thriving. A Philly native, he's the recipient of POZ's Best in Performing Arts Award, the Horton Foote Playwriting Award, the Terrance McNally Award, the Antonyo's inaugural Langston Hughes Award, and the Princess Grace Playwriting Award. Other honors include the Philadelphia Adult Grand Slam Poetry Champion. He's the co-founder of The Each-Other Project, a digital media platform that builds community through art and activism for Black queer and trans communities. He's also the creator of Write It Out!—a playwright's program and prize for people living with HIV. He's graced the cover of POZ Magazine's POZ 100 issue and he's one of Plus Magazine's "Most Amazing People living with HIV". Plays include *soft* (MCC), *one in two* (The New Group), FIREFLIES (Atlantic Theater Company), SUGAR IN OUR WOUNDS (Manhattan Theatre Club), and WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ALL THAT BEAUTY? "Visibility is survival."—Joseph Beam

WHITNEY WHITE (Director) is an Obie Award and Lily Awardwinning director, writer, and musician originally from Chicago. She was recently a writer on Boots Riley's I'M A VIRGO (Amazon Studios, MediaRes). Her original piece Semblance premiered at NYTW in 2021, and her musical Macbeth in Stride premiered at American Repertory Theatre in 2021. Directing: ON SUGARLAND (NYTW), THE AMEN CORNER (Shakespeare Theatre Company), OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD (WP Theatre and Second Stage, NYT Critic's Pick), WHAT TO SEND UP WHEN IT GOES DOWN (The Movement Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, American Repertory Theatre, The Public Theater, NYT Critic's Pick), CANYON (LA Times Critic's Choice and recipient of the CTG Block Party Grant, IAMA), JUMP (National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere, PlayMakers Rep). Digital projects include: WHAT IS LEFT BURNS by James Ijames (Steppenwolf), FINISH THE FIGHT by Ming Peiffer (The New York Times), ANIMALS by Stacy Osei-Kuffour (Williamstown Theatre and Audible), and SOFT LIGHT by Aleshea Harris (The Movement Theatre Company). Her five-part cycle deconstructing Shakespeare's women and female ambition is currently in development with American Repertory Theater (Boston, MA). Past awards and fellowships: Jerome Fellowship, Susan Stroman Directing Award, Rolex Protegé and Mentorship Arts Initiative, Sundance Theatre Lab, The Drama League Next Wave Series, Roundabout Directing Fellowship, and the 2050 Fellowship at the New York Theatre Workshop. MFA Acting: Brown University/Trinity Rep, BA: Northwestern University.

LEON ADDISON BROWN (*Mr. Cartwright*) Broadway: THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL, PRELUDE TO A KISS, ON THE WATERFRONT, SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME, MISERY. Off-Broadway: MASTER HAROLD... AND THE BOYS (Drama League and Audelco nominee), THE PAINTED ROCKS OF REVOLVER CREEK, THE TRAIN DRIVER, THE BOX, THE ORPHANS HOME CYCLE (Drama Desk Award), TWO TRAINS RUNNING. Regional: The Long Wharf (CCC award),

Hartford Stage Co., The Westport Country Playhouse (CCC award), Williamstown and Berkshire Theatre Fest., Yale Rep. Arena Stage, Baltimore Center Stage. Film/TV: "REPAIR," "CHICAGO MED," "EVIL," "NEW AMSTERDAM," FORTY WINKS, PARIS IS IN HARLEM, BEN IS BACK, THE SURROGATE, "We Crashed," MUSIC OF THE HEART, WHIRLYGIRL, THE EDGE, "THE BREAKS," "LAW & ORDER," "LAW & ORDER: SVU," "THE KNICK," A WALK AMONG THE TOMBSTONES. Training: The UNC School of the Arts.

BIKO EISEN-MARTIN—he/him (*Mr. Isaiah*) The Public, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, 59E59, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Longwharf Theatre Co., Studio Theatre, The Folger, CrossroadsTheatre Co., Arden Theatre Co., Syracuse Stage, Cleveland Play House, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Denver Center Theatre Co., Gulfshore Playhouse, Olney Theatre Co., Marin Theatre Co., Chautauqua, Pioneer Theatre Co., Colorado Shakespeare Festival, TheatreWorks (CA), Campo Santo. Film/TV: "BUCK" (Sundance), "DIETLAND" (AMC), "MODERN LOVE" (Amazon), "GHOST" (Starz) "BLUE BLOODS" (CBS), TESTAMENT (Via Brooklyn). BA/MAT: Brown University; MFA: National Theatre Conservatory. @saybiko.

DHARON JONES (*Antoine*) Native of Brooklyn, NY, Jones began dancing at the National Dance Institute (NDI) as a child. He recently graduated from Ithaca College in 2021, after making his Broadway Debut as Riff in the 2020 revival WEST SIDE STORY which was unfortunately shut down due to COVID. Jones has appeared on film projects including: SATURDAY CHURCH, CHAMPIONS NYU (short), and recently shooting his first lead in a feature film set to release in 2022. TV credits include: "BLUE BLOODS" and "UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT." Thank you to my manager, Lisa Calli, my agent Leslie Zaslower, Telsey casting and the team at MCC!

ESSENCE LOTUS (Dee) is a Brooklyn born and raised artist with deep love and care for Black trans and queer folk. Each performance they do is filled with the intention of a ritual meant to venerate their honorable Black American, Panamanian, and diasporic ancestors and kin. Essence wishes for you to hold yourself in softness, and that you may find others who can hold you just as softly. Having graduated from Kingsborough Community College and Tisch School of the Arts, they remain a student of life.

TRAVIS RAEBURN (*Bashir*) is a proud son, brother and artist. A Brooklyn baby raised in Queens, he is a graduate of SUNY Purchase's Acting Conservatory (BFA). While attending Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School (Drama), Travis was a part of the MCC Youth Company for 3 years under Jen Shirley where he honed his voice in spoken word and poetry. He is over the moon to return back home with MCC family and community. Some credits include "WU-TANG: AN AMERICAN SAGA" season 2, FIRST MATCH, commercials for MasterCard USA, Xfinity, and Pop Tarts and IN THE SOUTHERN BREEZE at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater last fall. Raeburn is forever in endless gratitude and debt to his mother and grandmother for their endless love and support. He would like to

thank family, friends, and predecessors for allowing him to stand on their shoulders. Black lives have and always will matter. His music is streaming on all platforms under the name TravRae. Instagram @travierae.

SHAKUR TOLLIVER (*Kevin*) is excited to be making his MCC debut. Shakur thanks you for taking the time to bear witness. Theatre is nothing without you. Here are some institutions and individuals Shakur has worked with and loves—Shotgun Players, MCC, Blessed Unrest, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Chisa Hutchinson, Donja R. Love, reg e. gaines, Whitney White. Shakur dedicates every show to Rodney, grandma, Poppop, his mother, and everyone struggling to find their softness. Shakurtolliver.com

DARIO VAZQUEZ (*Jamal*) A Bronx native, Dario is thrilled to be making his Off-Broadway debut with MCC. Currently a BFA Acting Major at Ithaca College, he can soon be seen in Ray Romano's feature film directorial debut, SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS. Other credits include "THE GOOD FIGHT" and "THAT DAMN MICHAEL CHE."

ED VENTURA (*Eddie*) is a Dominican-Puerto Rican actor/writer/ finesser born in Providence, RI and raised in the Boogie Down Bronx. He was the 2020-2021 Van Lier New Voices Fellow with The Lark, was a 2018 SPACE on Ryder Farm Greenhouse Resident, and is a current member of Ensemble Studio Theatre's Youngblood Collective. He's had his work developed with LAByrinth's 2019 Intensive Ensemble, Curious Theatre Company, and more. His previous acting credits have consisted of THE SIBLINGS PLAY (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), and THE PARLOUR (Middle Voice). He's currently working toward completing his BFA in Acting, and double minor in Playwriting/Screenwriting at SUNY Purchase. Ed is a proud alumni of the MCC Youth Company's Acting Lab, Playwriting Lab, and Ambassadors program. He would also like to shoutout to all the women in his family that have made him the young man he is today.

ADAM RIGG (*Scenic Designer*) is an award-winning set and costume designer based in New York, who has designed more than 50 world premiere plays, musicals, and operas. Off-Broadway credits include WHICH WAY TO THE STAGE (MCC), ON SUGARLAND (NYTW), CULLUD WATTAH (Public Theater), FEFU AND HER FRIENDS (Theatre for a New Audience; Special Citation, Henry Hews Design Award), IS GOD IS (Soho Rep), FABULATION (Signature Theatre), CONTINUITY (MTC), BLUE RIDGE (Atlantic Theater Company), and THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND (NYTW). Opera credits include THE LORD OF CRIES (Santa Fe Opera), BREAKING THE WAVES (Opera Philadelphia), and PRISM (LA Opera), among others. Upcoming projects: THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH (Lincoln Center Theater), HOOD (Asolo Rep), THE LISTENERS (Norwegian National Opera); soft (MCC).

www.adamriggdesign.com

QWEEN JEAN (Costume Designer) Thank you Donja for offering our community this radical act of softness. Whitney you continue to

prove that love is the most powerful weapon we possess. Thank you my queen. Y'all are home to me. Recent theatre: WEDDING BAND, ON SUGARLAND, BLACK NO MORE, I NEED SPACE, MACBETH IN STRIDE, SEMBLANCE, OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD, SIBLINGS PLAY, AMEN CORNER, RAGS PARKLAND, GOOD GRIEF, OTHELLO, and the acclaimed WHAT TO SEND UP, WHEN IT GOES DOWN. MFA from NYU Tisch. Black Trans Lives Matter!

CHA SEE (Lighting Designer) New York credits include EXCEPTION TO THE RULE (Roundabout Theatre Company), THE ALCHEMIST (Red Bull Theater), THE FEVER (Minetta Lane Theatre), one in two (The New Group), WHAT TO SEND UP WHEN IT GOES DOWN (Playwrights Horizons, BAM, Public Theater, Movement Theatre Company), HOUSE PLANT and IN THE PENAL COLONY (Next Door @ NYTW), and YASMINA'S NECKLACE (Primary Stages). Regional credits include FIREFLIES (Pioneer Theatre Company), CHANGE AGENT (Arena Stage), THE GREAT LEAP (Portland Center Stage), ON THE GROUNDS OF BELONGING (Long Wharf Theatre) and AMERICA V.1: THE SAD DEMISE & EVENTUAL EXTINCTION OF THE AMERICAN NEGRO (Barrington Stage Company). Training: MFA, NYU Tisch. www.seelightingdesign.com. Instagram: @seethruuu

GERMÁN MARTÍNEZ (Sound Designer) is a NYC based Sound Designer who is thrilled to be back home in New York after completing a circuit of regional theatre productions. This production marks his official off-Broadway debut as a Sound Designer. Germán is a Montclair State University alum (2018) and is the current Eastern Representative for the TSDCA (Theatrical Sound Designer and Composers Association). His work has been featured at: American Repertory Theatre, GALA Hispanic, George Street Playhouse, Two River Theater, ASU Gammage, and Trinity Rep. This production is a dream play to work on, and he invites any like minded artists to collaborate. He thanks Ayana for inviting him to work at MCC, and Whitney and Donja for their wisdom. You can keep up with his work on Instagram: @GermanTheSoundDesigner

MAURICIO ESAMILLA (Original Music) Mauricio Escamilla, MOWRI, is a sonic artist, music producer, composer, drummer, percussionist and audio engineer based in Brooklyn, New York. Having a decade of experience composing and designing for theater, film, commercial, and live music performance, MOWRI thrives within creative collaboration and experimental applications. Mowri combines found sounds, digital sampling, original production, and creative percussive playing to create a driving fusion sound. As a first generation artist of Central American immigrant parents, mowri focuses his creative energy and expertise in collaboration with fellow BIPOC artists. Education: BFA Kinetic Imaging. VCU. Richmond, Virginia. MSc Sound Design. The University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Notable credits include: A WALK INTO SLAVERY (The Billie Holiday Theatre), THE BANDAGED PLACE (Powerhouse Theatre), ON THE GROUNDS OF BELONGING (Long Wharf Theatre), WILD: ACT 1 (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture). mescamilla.com // mowrichops.com

UNKLEDAVE'S FIGHT-HOUSE (Fight-direction) Broadway: GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY, ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE, THE GREAT SOCIETY, TUCK EVERLASTING, AN AMERICAN IN PARIS, DISGRACED. Off- Broadway: ON SUGARLAND (NYTW), KIMBERLY AKIMBO (Atlantic), HALFWAY BITCHES GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN (Atlantic Theater, Drama Desk Nomination), OEDIPUS EL REY (The Public Theater - Drama Desk Nomination). Film/TV: "POOR BEHAVIOR"; "EMOTICON"; "ANNIE LIVE!".

ADAM D-F. STEVENS—he/they (Emotional Wellness Consultant) MA, RDT, is a Registered Drama Therapist (RDT). Adam currently practices at the Hetrick-Martin Institute, HMI, guiding Queer youth. They serve as an adjunct faculty member at Antioch University in Seattle, and New York University and Marymount Manhattan College in NYC. They have sat on the Board of Directors for the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA) as Chair of the Cultural Humility, Equity, and Diversity Committee. Adam is a political and social justice theatre practitioner. In 2020, they were named Artistic Director for the NYU Program in Drama Therapy's Collideoscope Repertory Theatre Company whose mission is to advance racial justice and healing through artful affinity and performance. Adam's superpowers are rooted in the fantastical forces of creativity and love.

RACHEL DENISE APRIL (Production Stage Manager) is a Guyanese-American Stage Manager, who has studied Theatrical Design and Stage Management at the City College of New York. Select Credits include: CHICKEN AND BISCUITS (Queens Theatre), RETREAT WORKSHOP (National Black Theatre), THE BIG GREEN THEATER FESTIVAL (SuperHero Playhouse), THE HOLE (Zhailon Levingston), NEPTUNE (Timothy DuWhite), THE GENESIS PLAYS (The In[heir]itance Project), ANAÏS NIN GOES TO HELL (MTWorks), MACBETH (of the Oppressed) (Fab Marquee Productions), and THE FIRE THIS TIME FESTIVAL 2015 (The Kraine Theater). She has worked on projects throughout the United States with the In[heir]itance Project, and internationally with Different Translation. She is currently a Creative Partner of Different Translation.

ZACHARY PEREZ (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on his first Off-Broadway play here at MCC! Zach holds his BFA in Stage Management from the University of Central Florida. His past credits include the SONG OF THE NORTH (International Tour) and ALIEN/NATION (Williamstown Theatre Festival). He hopes everyone walks away with something after seeing this incredible show! Many thanks and lots of love to my family, my team, and Claudia!

ANDREW DIAZ (*Prop Supervisor*) Previously with MCC: WHICH WAY TO THE STAGE, SEARED, ALICE BY HEART, THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE. Recent credits: BIRTHDAY CANDLES (Roundabout), ON SUGARLAND, SEMBLANCE (NYTW), ENGLISH, KIMBERLY AKIMBO (Atlantic Theater), FEFU AND HER FRIENDS (TFANA, Henry Hewes Design Award). Walt Disney Entertainment, SNL, 2NDStage, The Vineyard Theater, Signature Theater, and many others.

THE TELSEY OFFICE (*Casting*) With offices in both New York and Los Angeles, The Telsey Office casts for theater, film, television, and commercials. The Telsey Office is dedicated to creating safe, equitable, and anti-racist spaces through collaboration, artistry, heart, accountability, and advocacy.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. Equity is governed by its own members through an elected Council, representing principal actors, chorus actors and stage managers living in three regions: Eastern, Central and Western. Members at large participate in Equity's governance through a system of regional Boards and Committees. Equity has 28 designated area liaison cities with over 100 members each. #EquityWorks













EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Since 1999, MCC THEATER has used the power of theater to excite minds, foster a collaborative and creative community for New York City high school students across all five boroughs, investing in the next generation of theatermakers. Every year, more than 1200 New York City students' lives are transformed through our programs, cultivating in them a deep appreciation for the arts and its power to engage and affect change.

Driven by our mission to provoke conversations, we are committed to using the power of theater to ask some of the essential questions of our times. Our **EDUCATION** programs break down barriers to embolden students and young audiences to deepen their CURIOSITY and find confidence in THEIR VOICES. Those voices are uplifted as their words are woven together to form the fabric of our UNCENSORED, BKYC UNCENSORED and FRESHPLAY performances.





After making a seamless transition to remote learning in March of 2020, MCC continues to adapt and innovate to meet the changing needs of our students and community; offering LIVE online performances of all our culminating productions and implementing hybrid after-school and in-school programs.

This year we were thrilled to host our first in-person performances of UNCENSORED and BKYC UNCENSORED in two years. This July our staged reading festival for FRESHPLAY will also return home to the MCC Theater stage.

We continue the long and valued relationships with our four partner schools: Manhattan International High School, Baruch College Campus High School, The High School for Law and Public Service on the George Washington High School Campus in Manhattan, and The High School for Public Service in Brooklyn. We are committed to providing quality arts-based education because youth voices matter and creating an inclusive space where everyone's stories are heard can inspire change in ourselves and in society.

Throughout the pandemic MCC's Education Department virtually served from MAR 2020-JUN 2021:

- 103 STUDENTS in our after school Youth Company programs
- **925 STUDENTS** across our in-school partnerships within four high schools in NYC
- **199 STUDENTS** were served through our Virtual Student Matinee program

MCC THEATER's Education Programs are supported by the Axe-Houghton Foundation, The Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation, Harold J. Newman† & Ruth Newman, The Pinkerton Foundation, The Eric Rosedale Playwriting Fund, Tiger Baron Foundation, The Lark, New York State Council on the Arts, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the city council.

MCC THEATER STAFF

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Executive Director	Blake West
General Manager	Beth Dembrow
Assistant General Manager/Company Manager	Brendan McNamara
Director of Finance	
Finance and Business Manager	
Finance Assistant	
Manager of Artistic Production	
Manager of Artistic Development	
Manager of Musical Programming and Development	
Artistic Coordinator	
Burnt Umber Playwright-in-Residence	
Director of Production and Facilities	
Facilities Manager	
Production and Facilities Assistant	
Costume Shop Manager	
Building Consultant	
Development Consultant	
Interim Director of Development	
Senior Manager of Special Events	
Manager of Individual Giving	Megan Foehr
Manager of Institutional Giving	Carrie O'Dell
Special Events & Individual Giving Associate	Kayla Campise
Development Operations Associate	Rebecca DeMarco
Fundraising Consultant	
Telefund CallersKristina Dizon, Sar	m Hood Adrain, Caitlin Ort,
	atie Van Riper, Keith Weiss
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Audience Services Manager	
Marketing and Audience Services Assistant	
Marketing Assistant	
Graphic Design & Videography	
	endan Whipple, Tony Cotte
PhotographersDa Ping Lao, Brandon N	
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Box Office Staff Affis	
Director of Dublic Engagement & Education	
Director of Public Engagement & Education	
Manager of Education Programs	Dee Hughes
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant	Dee Hughes
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant Brooklyn Youth Company Director	Dee Hughes Dominic Martello Vickie Tanner
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant Brooklyn Youth Company Director Youth Company Performance Lab Director	Dee HughesDominic MartelloVickie TannerJen Shirley
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant Brooklyn Youth Company Director Youth Company Performance Lab Director Youth Company Performance Lab Associate Director	Dee HughesDominic MartelloVickie TannerJen ShirleyKevin Carillo
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant Brooklyn Youth Company Director Youth Company Performance Lab Director Youth Company Performance Lab Associate Director Youth Company Playwriting Lab Director	
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant Brooklyn Youth Company Director Youth Company Performance Lab Director Youth Company Performance Lab Associate Director Youth Company Playwriting Lab Director Playwriting Lab Assistant Director	
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant Brooklyn Youth Company Director Youth Company Performance Lab Director Youth Company Performance Lab Associate Director Youth Company Playwriting Lab Director Playwriting Lab Assistant Director Washington Heights Youth Company Director	Dee Hughes Dominic Martello Vickie Tanner Jen Shirley Kevin Carillo Donja R. Love Alexander Lambie Raphael Peacock
Manager of Education Programs	Dee Hughes Dominic Martello Vickie Tanner Jen Shirley Kevin Carillo Donja R. Love Alexander Lambie Raphael Peacock Peacock, Marissa Stewart
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant Brooklyn Youth Company Director Youth Company Performance Lab Director Youth Company Performance Lab Associate Director Youth Company Playwriting Lab Director Playwriting Lab Assistant Director Washington Heights Youth Company Director Senior Teaching Artists	Dee Hughes Dominic Martello Vickie Tanner Jen Shirley Kevin Carillo Donja R. Love Alexander Lambie Raphael Peacock Peacock, Marissa Stewart
Manager of Education Programs	Dee Hughes Dominic Martello Vickie Tanner Jen Shirley Kevin Carillo Donja R. Love Alexander Lambie Raphael Peacock Peacock, Marissa Stewart
Manager of Education Programs Education and Public Engagement Assistant Brooklyn Youth Company Director Youth Company Performance Lab Director Youth Company Performance Lab Associate Director Youth Company Playwriting Lab Director Playwriting Lab Assistant Director Washington Heights Youth Company Director Senior Teaching Artists	Dee Hughes Dominic Martello Vickie Tanner Jen Shirley Kevin Carillo Donja R. Love Alexander Lambie Raphael Peacock Peacock, Marissa Stewart

STAFF FOR SOft

Company Manager	Brendan McNamara
Production Manager	
Production Stage Manager	
Assistant Stage Manager	Zachary Perez
Production Assistant	Katherine Guanche

Prop Supervisor	Andrew Diaz	
Assistant Director		
Assistant Scenic Designer	Lily Guerin	
Assistant Costume Designer	Elise McLean	
Associate Lighting Designer	Charlotte McPherson	
Associate Sound Designer	Nikki Belenski	
Covid Safety Officer	Hannah Hernandez	
Rehearsal Production Assistant	Kimberly Scaglione	
Technical Director	Scott Palmer	
Deck Carpenter		
Carpenters	•	
	Peter Strand, Robert Zevac, Ian Stark	
Wardrobe Supervisor		
Special FX Make-Up Design		
Barber		
Stitchers	<i>y</i>	
Production Audio	Nick LaGrasta	
Sound Board Operator		
Audio Crew	AJ Glover, Katie Curran	
Production Electrician		
Lighting Programmer		
Light Board Operator		
Lighting Crew Jamie Crockett, Katherine Dumais, Ariana Finamore,		
Ashley Kok, Vincent Procker, Diane Tees, Danielle Verkennes,		
Alena Thomas, Amy Harper, Amanda Langhaus, Lazarus Nazario		

CASTING

The Telsey Office Destiny Lilly, CSA Charlie Hano

SPECIAL THANKS

Gina Maria Leonetti

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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Our **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT** programs invite audiences to delve deeper into our onstage work as well as build bridges across our community artistically and geographically. Connect with us and each other.

Audience members of all generations have emboldened our work with VIBRANT DISCUSSIONS, debates, and reflections that spill out of the theater and fill the streets and continue to reverberate throughout New York City and beyond.

LET'S TALK: We invite you to join our Audience Conversations taking place directly after select performances. We also host moderated TalkBacks with our cast and creative teams.

LET'S ENGAGE: Community Specific theater nights, panel discussions, and workshops open up the door to wider engagement with our work and our company.

LET'S WATCH: Open mic nights and invitations to student staged readings as well as film screenings bring audiences together in a new way to celebrate artists and artistry in a variety of formats.

Thank you to our Public Engagement partners whose collaboration makes our work possible: African Film Festival New York, Broadway Podcast Network, Developing Artists, The Mental Health Coalition, MOBI—Mobilizing Our Brothers Initiative, Muddy Paws Rescue, NYCAAC—Animal Care Centers of NYC, National Queer Theater, Walk Tall Girl Productions, and W42ST Magazine.

soft RESOURCES AND CARE

Prioritizing and practicing good mental health are life skills that can benefit anyone, no matter when you choose to begin.

Below you will find a list of New York City local websites and contact information for organizations providing mental health and suicide prevention support. Our Public Engagement partners, The Mental Health Coalition have compiled a list of national resources accessible for those in need.

Call 911 if your health and safety are at immediate risk.

If you are in a crisis—call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255 or text TALK to 741741

THE MENTAL HEALTH COALITION'S Resource Library is made available by our alliance of the leading mental health organizations. We encourage you to browse this database to learn about mental health, help a loved one, learn coping skills and seek support.

THE TREVOR PROJECT is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning) young people.

NYC WELL is your connection to free, confidential mental health support. Speak to a counselor via phone, text, or chat and get access to mental health and substance use services, in more than 200 languages, 24/7/365. Call 1-888-NYC-Well for immediate cost free help.

BEAM—Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective. BEAM is a training, movement building and grant making organization dedicated to the healing, wellness, and liberation of Black communities. BEAM envisions a world where there are no barriers to Black Healing.

THE ROBERT W. WILSON MCC THEATER SPACE

Inaugurated on JAN 9, 2019, MCC's new Hell's Kitchen home, **THE ROBERT W. WILSON MCC THEATER SPACE**, is a state-of-the-art
complex designed for us to do what we do best: shake things up. The
space houses two theaters, two rehearsal studios, extensive backstage
facilities, administrative offices, and ample audience amenities.

THE NEWMAN MILLS THEATER is named for Ruth & Harold† Newman and Marianne & Steve Mills. As dedicated co-chairs of The Campaign for MCC THEATER, they led a successful fundraising effort in support of MCC's education and artistic programs.

THE SUSAN & RONALD FRANKEL THEATER is named for Susan & Ronald Frankel. They have been active with the company since 2015. Susan Frankel is also an MCC THEATER Board member.

ROBERT W. WILSON was a well-known and successful investor from the mid-1960's to the mid-1980's. After retirement, he devoted his life to philanthropy. He was a transformative philanthropist, primarily funding worldwide organizations in the preservation and conservation areas. An avid New Yorker, he was also involved with a number of New York's cultural institutions. He was a major supporter of, and held leadership roles with, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Environmental Defense Fund, The Metropolitan Opera, the Whitney Museum, and the World Monuments Fund. In addition, he and the Trust continue to support the above institutions and The Nature Conservancy, The New York Public Library, Central Park Conservancy, BAM, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

MCC THEATER wants to center our event in practices rooted in fostering community. We acknowledge how the PAST and the FUTURE converge on our PRESENT. MCC'S theater home sits on the UNCEDED land of the LENAPE people. We acknowledge that this stolen land was worked on by enslaved Africans. May this living land acknowledgement—to the LENAPE, their elders past and present, and their future generations, as well as to the experience of enslaved Africans and their descendants, serve as a starting ground for change.

PATRON PROGRAM

Every Patron is treated to....

- PERSONALIZED TICKET SERVICE—we reserve the best seats for you.
- EARLY ACCESS to information about casting, special events, and future programming.
- YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION TO POST-SHOW PATRON EVENTS to meet the cast, talk to the artistic leadership, and be a part of the conversation with other Patrons.
- THE CHANCE TO ATTEND PRIVATE READINGS and other exclusive special events.
- **A TAX DEDUCTION** for supporting our work.

MCC is a nonprofit, and we count on our Patron community to support the work behind the work. Your tax-deductible contribution helps us...

- **PRODUCE** vital new plays and musicals.
- **DEVELOP** new work by the next generation of theater artists.
- **CHANGE** the lives of nearly 1,200 NYC public high school students each year.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provoke conversations that have never happened and otherwise never would.

MCC THEATER was founded in 1986 as MANHATTAN CLASS COMPANY by a collective of young actors, writers, and directors determined to steer their own artistic development—and shake things up! That initial group included Artistic Directors **Bernie Telsey, Bob LuPone** and **Will Cantler**, since joined by Executive Director **Blake West**. Our increasingly expansive work continues today.

- **WE PRODUCE EXCITING THEATER.** We produce seasons of BOLD new plays and musicals by exceptional ARTISTS.
- **WE DEVELOP NEW WORK.** We develop NEW WORK by emerging and established artists through a rigorous process that encourages CREATIVE RISK-TAKING.
- **WE HONOR YOUNG VOICES.** Each year our education programs use the power of theater to ROUSE the imaginations of over 1200 high school STUDENTS across ALL FIVE BOROUGHS.
- **WE GET PEOPLE TALKING.** COLLABORATION and COMMUNITY are at the core of everything we do.





Commemorate your support of MCC THEATER with a seat in the Newman Mills Theater

Standard seats begin at \$1,500 per seat.
For more information about seat naming,
please contact Megan Foehr, Manager of Individual Giving
at mfoehr@mcctheater.org or (212) 727-7722 ext. 233.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HAROLD J. NEWMAN

MCC THEATER acknowledges the passing of our dear friend Harold Newman (1931-2021), an esteemed board member for 20 years. Hal's commitment to MCC was unwavering. His financial support was instrumental in the creation and sustainability of our partnership at George Washington High School, where he attended high school. He was the first individual donor to the Campaign for MCC, which supported building the space we now occupy and expanding all of our programs for artist and students. MCC was blessed to be among the organizations he loved and supported so passionately. He was a galvanizing force and while his passing leaves a void, his legacy will live on in our theater and in our hearts. We will miss him as we continue to be inspired by him.



MCC COUNCIL

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We are so grateful to our Producer's Circle members who provide major support of our mission to provoke conversation among artists, audiences and students – at every point in the play-making process, in all of our programs. Our Producer's Circle Members play a key role in the development of new work for the stage and MCC's work with young artists and students. (List as of 3/21/22)

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To learn more about the Producer's Circle, please contact (212) 727-7722 ext. 233 or patrons@mcctheater.org.

MCC PATRONS

We are so grateful to the members of our Patron Program, who provide vital annual support for our programming on and off stage, our education and public engagement initiatives, and so much more. For more information on the Patron Program, please visit mcctheater.org/support or contact patrons@mcctheater.org or (212) 727-7722 ex 233. (List as of 4/25/2022)

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Amid a global pandemic, MCC THEATER persevered and transitioned the annual Miscast gala to a virtual celebration. We're so grateful to all of our donors who helped make this event a worldwide phenomenon, and look forward to celebrating in person on April 4, 2022. (List as of 4/20/2022)

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MCC THEATER is proud to thank everyone who has supported the Campaign for MCC THEATER. You helped make our dream of a home of our own a reality. Our new home allows us to deepen our mission and encourage greater collaboration amongst all of our artists, students, and audiences. (List as of 3/11/2022)

Special thanks to The Office of the Mayor of New York City, Eric Adams; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; The New York City Council, Speaker Corey Johnson; and the Office of Manhattan Borough President, President Gale Brewer for their dedication to the arts and their foundational support for this project.

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THE GARY PLATT INITIATIVE FOR NEW MUSICALS supports artistic development and production of new musicals.

STEVE RICHARDSON AND KIRK RUBI COLLEGE MENTORSHIP FUND supports MCC Youth Company college and career preparation activities.

ERIC ROSEDALE PLAYWRITING FUND supports the annual FreshPlay for the MCC Youth Company.

THE R&S SHULMAN FUND supports artistic development and production of new plays, with a focus on work by African American Playwrights

ARTIST COUNCIL

MCC THEATER wishes to acknowledge Artists and Industry Leaders who have generously donated their time and talent to support MCC THEATER's mission through our Education & Outreach programs, annual MISCAST Gala, and Online Auction.

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EXPLORING SOFTNESS

What does softness mean to you? How do you practice softness? Who is often afforded softness, and why?

Materials for exploration can include:

LITERATURE

- 1. The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
- 2. We Real Cool by bell hooks
- 3. Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
- 4. We Will Not Cancel Us and other Forms of Transformative Justice by adrienne maree brown
- 5. Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot by Mikki Kendall
- 6. Brother to Brother, conceived by Joseph Beam, edited by Essex Hemphill
- 7. The Tradition; a collection of poetry by Jericho Brown
- 8. Don't Call Us Dead; a collection of poetry by Danez Smith

FILM/TV

- 1. Time: The Kalief Browder Story (documentary)
- 2. 13th (documentary)
- 3. Free Meek (docu-series)
- 4. A Man Named Scott (documentary)
- 5. Music Box: DMX: Don't Try to Understand (documentary)
- 6. Check It (documentary)
- 7. Moonlight (film)
- 8. The Last Black Man of San Francisco (film)
- 9. Random Acts of Flyness; Season One, Episode Two (series)
- 10. Dangerous Minds (film, an examination of the white savior complex)

MUSIC

1. Man on the Moon: The End of Day—Kid Cudi

ART

1. A New Republic, Kehinde Wiley

OTHER

- 1. Why Teachers of Color Quit
- 2. Minority Teacher: Hard to Get and Hard to Keep

Optional post-show activities:

- 1. Write a free verse poem or journal about when someone offered you softness or when you offered someone softness. Free verse is defined as poetry that does not have to rhyme nor have a set structure or length.
- 2. Turn your free verse poem or journal entry into a haiku. A haiku is defined as a Japanese poem that consists of seventeen syllables over three lines. The first line is five syllables, the second line is seven syllables, and the third line is five syllables.

THEATER THEATER