

the justice theater project



December 8, 2023 in Durham December 9, 2023 at the
Joseph M. Bryan, Jr. Theater in the Museum Park, NC Museum of Art, Raleigh

2023-2024 Season

Deeply personal stories of those
directly affected by
social injustices
and the actions they take
to affect positive change
in our society

Connecting People With the Arts

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission nurtures creativity and enriches our community by championing the arts in Raleigh:

- Partnering with local cultural organizations
- Supporting arts programming
- Advocating for arts investment
- Presenting art exhibitions, public art and special events

Vinculando al Pueblo con las Artes

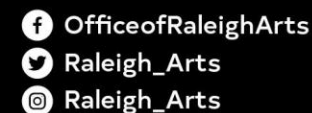
La Comisión de Artes de la Ciudad de Raleigh sustenta la creatividad y enriquece a nuestra comunidad, favoreciendo las artes en Raleigh por medio de:

- La asociación con organizaciones culturales locales
- El apoyo de la programación de las artes
- El fomento de la inversión en el arte
- La presentación de exposiciones artísticas, arte público y eventos especiales

2023-2024 Raleigh Arts Partners

- African American Cultural Festival
- Animazement
- Arts Access
- Arts Together
- Artspace
- Artspllosure
- Burning Coal Theatre Company
- CAM Raleigh
- Carolina Ballet
- Chamber Music Raleigh
- Community Music School
- Cultural Voice of NC
- Diamante Arts & Cultural Center
- El Pueblo
- The Justice Theater Project
- National Women's Theatre Festival
- The NC Chamber Music Institute
- NC Master Chorale
- NC Museum of History
- NC Opera
- NC State LIVE
- NC State University Theatre
- NC Symphony
- NC Theatre
- North Raleigh Arts & Creative Theatre
- Nuv Yug Cultural Organization
- Performance Edge
- PineCone
- Pure Life Theatre Company
- Raleigh Civic Symphony Association
- Raleigh Little Theatre
- The Raleigh Ringers
- Raleigh Youth Choir
- ShopSpace
- Theatre in the Park
- Theatre Raleigh
- Triangle Youth Music
- VAE Raleigh

raleighnc.gov/arts
919-996-3610



Executive Producer: Melissa Zeph

Artistic Director: Jerry Sipp

Business Manager: Marguerite LeBlanc

Theater Administrator: Melissa Reilly

Marketing Coordinator: Slee Arnold

Resident Sound Designer: Juan Isler

Artistic Associate/Administrator: Olivia Allen

Board of Directors

Sean Gargan, Chairperson

Haven Powell, Secretary

Bonny Moellenbrock, Treasurer

Susie Mallard Barnes, Ann Bozek Davis, Dr. Kaye Celeste Evans,
Shontera Gillespie-Coleman, Toby Mallik, Lebone Moses,
Meredith Pope, David Rosenthal, Elizabeth Thomsen

www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org
thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com
919-264-7089



For over a decade, The Justice Theater Project has been concentrating an entire season on a single social justice theme. This served us well for many years, allowing us to make a deep dive into a single issue. As we evolve and take a long look at our world in 2023-24, there are simply too many pressing concerns to wait until subsequent seasons for us to bring them to the forefront. Therefore, going forward, The Justice Theater Project will be who we have always been – a social justice theater company – and will choose plays that address the most critical issues of our time, RIGHT NOW.

This season, we will tackle a myriad of social justice issues – prejudice, persecution, inequity, violence, stereotyping, the list goes on and on. Our varied season contains some of the most famous titles of modern theater as well as some newer scripts destined to become staples of the American stage. And rest assured, with our supporting events, including expert speakers, workshops, roundtables, seminars, and artist interviews, our dives will remain as deep as ever.

Jerry

Grantors

The Justice Theater Project is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, as well as the N.C Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Justice Theater Project is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.

Additional support provided by the AJ Fletcher Foundation, Umstead Park United Church of Christ, The Catholic Community of Saint Francis of Assisi, The LOVID Fund, The Woodard Group, Solidarity Capital, and Triangle Wealth Management.

Partners

The Emily K Center, InKind Friends, The North Carolina Museum of Art, The Raleigh-Cary Jewish Federation, North Carolina Central University Dance and Theater Departments, Saint Augustine University Theatre Department, Saint David’s School Theatre Department, Theatre In The Park, Raleigh Little Theatre, Burning Coal Theatre, Westgate Wine, The Wine Feed, and The Junior League of Raleigh



SEAN GARGAN

Welcome to the exciting 20th anniversary season of The Justice Theater Project! Things have changed dramatically in our community during the past 20 years. One thing that stays the same is our work in staying true to our mission – to produce compelling theater experiences that create community dialogue and gives voice to social concerns.

Throughout economic downturns followed by a year of exponential growth, exciting worldwide advances in sensibilities and compassionate understanding, and a global pandemic, YOUR support of our work and your participation in our discussions, fundraisers, kids’ camps, and more have fostered a unique theater community dedicated to social justice awareness and ways to take action.

Our work continues. As we grow and evolve, it’s apparent that numerous social justice issues keep bubbling up at the same time - all equally important, and all deserving of discussion and action. Our spectacular slate of shows for our 20th anniversary year touch on multiple topics of social concern that will challenge you, delight you, and inspire you.

Thank you for your support, and I’ll see you at the theater.

Sean



Learn more about our theater schedule, sponsorships, subscriptions and summer camps at:

thejusticetheaterproject.org

The Justice Theater Project presents
Black Nativity in Concert 2023

Direction and Original Script
Dr. Asabi (Stephanie Howard)

Music Direction
The Reverend Raymond S. Watson

Choreography
Toya Chinfloo, Kristi V. Johnson

Production Stage Manager
Kalimah Williams

Set Design/Master Carpenter
Jeffrey Nugent

Lighting Design
Cory Arnold

Costume Design
Lydia Houston

Sound Design
Henry Jordan Sound Production

Light Board Operations
Cory Arnold, Shelby Barros

Musicians

The Reverend Ray Watkins – Keyboard
Pierre Whitlow - Organist
Jerry Washington - Bass
Michael Meyers – Drums/Percussion

African Drums
Bashir Shakur

Assistant Stage Manager
Hallel Jackson

Singers
Octavia Watson Allen, Zion Anderson, Ronnell Blount, Kimberly Britt, Jemanda Clay, Shannon Conley, Raven Delk, Jose Diaz, Taufiki Lee, Natalie McMillan, Marvin Outlaw, Jerry Saddler, Camryn Sherer, Autumn Chanel Tyson, Tamisha Waden, Crystal Waters

Dancers
Jeshua Burns, Hayley Ceres, Asha Li Chinfloo, Toya J. Chinfloo, Rayven Day, Jordan Farrell, Destinee Mackey, Yah-I-Sinclair

Mary
Camryn Sherer

Joseph
Ronnell Blount

Griot/Singer
Raven Delk

Children: Noah Outlaw, Claire Outlaw, Jelayah Belle

Platform Art Designer - Gerald Rubin
Scenic Painting - Jerry Sipp, Jeff Nugent, Janet Boudreau, Jenny Glazner
Set Crew - Tim Rath, David Klionsky, Alex DeVirgilis, Sean Gargan

The Music

1. "The Presence of the Lord is Here" by Byron Cage, sung by Marvin Outlaw
2. "African Chant" Ensemble
3. "Open My Heart" by Yolanda Adams, sung by Camryn Sherer and Natalie McMillan
4. "Already Here" by Brian Courtney Wilson, sung by Marvin Outlaw
5. "No Room" Original arrangement by Ray Watkins, sung by Choir
6. "Oh Holy Night" by Adolphe Charles Adam, sung by Taufiki Lee.
"Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him" original arrangement by Ray Watkins, sung by ensemble
7. "Who Could Imagine A King" by Whitney Houston, sung by Zion Anderson and Children
8. "Mary Did You Know" by Lowry, Greene and English, sung by Raven Delk, Autumn Chanel Tyson, and Crystal Waters
9. "What Child is This", Traditional Hymn, sung by Camryn Sherer and Choir
10. "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" African American Spiritual, sung by Ronnell Blount
11. "The Presence of the Lord is Here" by Kelyse Carpenter, sung by Jerry Saddler
12. "Go Tell It On The Mountain" Traditional African-American Spiritual, original arrangement by Ray Watkins, sung by Kimberly Britt
12. "Jesus Oh What a Wonderful Child" Traditional African American Hymn, sung by Tamisha Waden. Original arrangement by Ray Watkins
14. Medley:
"Call Him Up" by LaVelle Lacy
"Are You Ready for the Coming of the Lord"
"Do Not Pass Me By" By Fanny Crosby
"I Put it all in His Hands" by Varn Michael McKay
"Can't Stop Praising His Name" by Keith Pringle
15. "Oh Lord How Excellent" by Brenda Joyce Moore, sung by Shannon Conley
16. "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" written Mervyn Warren, (*Sister Act II* version), sung by Jemanda Clay



Octavia Watson Allen (Singer) was born and raised in Meherrin, Virginia where she met her husband Roger of 38 years. She is a retired LPN and enjoys retirement one day at a time. Octavia can remember singing her entire life. She has sung with her Watson Family Gospel group as well as having sung background vocals for local singers in Virginia for many years. In 2019 she was a soloist in a *Black Nativity* production directed by her daughter Karen-Leigh at McCregor Hall in Henderson, NC and is looking forward to participating in this awesome production. Octavia is the mother of 3 children and has 3 granddaughters that she absolutely adores.



Zion Anderson (Young Shepherd/Singer) is a 13 year old who is honored and excited to be a part of this year's *Black Nativity in Concert*. He is a gospel singing, classically trained cellist, who also does voice over work. Zion is currently a host on WRAL's NC Stem Explorers, a cellist in Duke University's Concert String Orchestra, in Abreu Orchestra in Kidznotes, in the United Strings of Color quartet, and trains with NC Symphony's Bonnie Thron. He loves science, the Bible, creating animation and is looking forward to releasing his own self-published works in 2024.



Asabi (Stephanie Howard) (Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at NC Central University where she serves as Chair. She recently received the Pioneer Award in Theatre at The Day of Dunham Celebration. She has received numerous Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival directing awards and NCCU College of Liberal Arts Awards in Outstanding Teaching, Scholarship, and Playwriting. A graduate of North Carolina A&T State and Wake Forest University, Asabi earned her PhD at Regent University in Communication Arts. As a performer, director, playwright and stage manager, Asabi aspires to immerse herself in nearly every aspect of theater. She has directed many productions and authored such shows as *God Spoke My Name: Maya Angelou; Reaching for God with Dirty Hands and Tainted Blood; and Distorted Beauty*. Among many stage credits, she has performed in *Four Queens No Trumps* and *Intimate Apparel*. On the International scene, she co-directed *Soul Rhythm; Sistah's Voices* at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa and *The Mis-Education of Hip Hop* in Florence, Italy. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Ronnell Blount (Joseph/Singer) was born in Fort Polk, Louisiana on October 17, 1992. Shortly after, he moved to the little town of Plymouth NC, where he grew up to be the bright, intelligent young man he is today. He graduated from NC State University with a Degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism with a Concentration in Program Management and a Minor in Business and Health. Ronnell now lives in Raleigh NC, where he enjoys singing, traveling, playing basketball, spending time with family and friends and most importantly eating good food!!



Kimberly Britt (Singer) is from Williamston NC. and has been singing since the early age of 3 years old. She has touched the hearts and lives of many by singing at local churches and events. Kimberly has been dubbed "The soulful singer with an old soul". Her extensive resume spans from NC to Los Angeles and she has traveled, toured and shared the stage with National Gospel and R&B Artists such as: John P Kee, David Hollister, Keith Sweat, Shirley Caesar and has sung on the hit TV series *GREENLEAF*, and has shared the stage opening for Faith Evans, Anthony Brown and Deitrick Haddon. Kimberly is currently Worship Leader and Vocal Instructor at Union Baptist Church in Durham, NC. She is a very anointed psalmist that has been commissioned to exemplify her gifts and talents to the world. She is ministry-driven and blessed to be able to encourage others not only through song but through her testimony. Kimberly is indeed God's child and vessel.



Jeshua Burns (Dancer) is a Durham, NC native. His experience includes over 12 different high school production at Hillside High School (A lead acting member from 2009-2012). Jeshua spent an entire month within the Summer Abroad in Kingston, Jamaica where he attended Edna Manley Performing Arts College, where he studied traditional race, class, and culture of those who live in Kingston, Jamaica. He has participated in professional dance conventions, performances, networking events, and even commercials. Jeshua's experience continues with performing and international dance conferences such as Rex Nettleford Arts Conference in Kingston, The E. Gwynn Dancers of North Carolina A & T State University performed and assisted in an educational demonstration at the Edna Manley Performing Arts College. He also served as a Stage Apprentice for the American Dance Festival and assisted the staff and interns of the American Dance Festival to produce over 50 professional live shows for 26 professional dance companies in Durham, North Carolina for 8 weeks. Recently, Jeshua returned to North Carolina from Atlanta, Georgia, and is ready to share his gifts with his community.



Asha Li Chinfloo (Dancer) is a dancer and performer from Durham, North Carolina. She has trained in traditional West African, ballet, hip hop, jazz, and contemporary dance. Asha has performed at the Durham Performing Arts Center, PNC Arena and the Carolina Theatre. She has been a scholarship recipient and has studied at the American Dance Festival. Currently, Asha attends the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she is working towards her BFA in Dance with a concentration in Choreography and Performance.



Toya J. Chinfloo (Choreographer) is M.Ed., Choreographer and Dance Director at Hillside High School, and currently serves on the faculty of North Carolina Central University as an Adjunct Professor in the Theater Department. For over twenty years, Toya J. Chinfloo has been shaping and impacting the lives of children of all ages as a Dance Educator. This New Jersey native received training from renowned teachers and performed with legendary artists in dance theater. During her BFA experiences at SUNY Purchase and Montclair State University, Toya trained in Horton, Graham, Cunningham, Limon, Jazz, West African, and classical ballet. Ms. Chinfloo's recent choreographic works have been performed for *Stargaze 26: Fairytale & Fantasy* November 2023; *Too Slow the Turtle* original theater production by Leroy Meadows March 2023, African American Cultural Festival's televised 2020 *Annual Kwanzaa Celebration*; 2019-21 Justice Theater Project's *Black Nativity*; American Dance Festival's 2020 *Creative Parade*; Hillside High School's *Matilda the Musical* 2022, *Stargaze 25: Memories & New Beginnings* 2022, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* 2022; *The Color Purple* 2018 with Valencia Lipscomb; *My Body* music video with Grammy-nominated recording artists Pierce Freelon and Rissi Palmer; and True Dream Productions and Walltown Children's Theater's, *Durham Nutcracker*. Ms. Chinfloo is a Year Three candidate for Dunham Technique Teaching Certification, under the direction of Jan Blunt and Patricia Wilson Co-Directors of IDTC as well as lead Dunham instructor at Hayti Heritage Center's Summer Arts Initiative/ Saturday Youth Arts Enrichment Program under the direction of Carol Lloyd. Toya Chinfloo continues to enjoy performing with the Chinfloo Cultural Arts Dance Ensemble. Chinfloo Cultural Arts Dance Ensemble will be featured on December 29, 2023, at the annual Cary Kwanzaa. Follow us at ChinflooCulturalArts on Instagram for more details.



Jemanda Clay (Singer) was born February 14th, 1992, and raised in Queens, NY. She discovered her vocal talent at the tender age of 5 years old when she sang *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* at her kindergarten graduation. At the age of 8, she began singing with the choir at her home church, Christ Church International in Jamaica, NY, shortly after receiving Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. As her voice developed, she began leading worship at the age of 17, which cultivated her ear for harmonies and vocal arrangements. By age 20, she began singing with a local Gospel group AJ Jones & Unrestricted Praise, and traveling across the northeastern region. In 2014, Jemanda joined Stellar Award Nominated Community Choir, Vincent Bohanan & The Sound Of Victory Fellowship Choir. She is a lead alto and is featured on songs like *God Made Me A Promise* and *Holy*. She has also been featured on singles and albums by local and national artists and has shared stages with great musical artists such as Charles Jenkins, Earnest Pugh, Bishop Hezekiah Walker, Detrick Haddon, P Diddy and more. Singing has always been Jemanda's passion, but singing for the Lord is her greatest joy.



Shannon Conley (Singer) in the tapestry of Gospel music, stands as a radiant thread, weaving melodies of faith, hope, and joy. Hailing from the soulful roots of Dillon, South Carolina, Shannon's journey into the Gospel realm was destined from the moment she first lifted her voice in praise within the walls of her local church. Her vocal prowess blossomed under the influence of her hometown's quartet music and her church's Baptist hymns. Her journey took flight as she became a prominent fixture in her church choir, where her voice, a harmonious blend of power and grace, drew the attention of both congregants and seasoned musicians alike. Offstage, Shannon is not just a singer but a community pillar. She dedicates her time to outreach programs for the homeless and elderly that leverage the power of gospel music to uplift and unite. Her voice serves as a conduit for positive change, echoing the belief that music has the transformative power to heal wounds and bridge divides. Shannon's journey is a testament to the enduring power of faith-infused melodies. With a voice that echoes the sanctuaries of the South and a spirit that resonates with the universal language of hope, Shannon continues to leave an indelible mark on the hearts of those experiencing the gospel through her artistry.



Rayven Day (Dancer) an Atlanta, Georgia native, started dancing when he was 5 years old. Currently pursuing a degree in psychology with a minor in dance at North Carolina Central University, he strives to lead and assist his community, especially as a proud member of the Gamma Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. He has training and experience in several dance forms, including Jazz, Ballet, African, Contemporary, and more! His performances with Giwayen Mata and The Atlanta Ballet rank among his career high points most of the time. He currently spends time honing his choreography talents and studying the art of dance.



Raven Delk (Singer) is making her Justice Theater Project debut in *Black Nativity in Concert!* She has performed with the Amador Valley Chamber Choir, the Vanderbilt University Concert Choir, the Harp and Sword Worship Team, and in various State and National pageants. Raven is a student at the North Carolina Theater Conservatory and the Judith Bruno Voice Academy. Raven loves to dance and travel and is the reigning Miss Black North Carolina USA. She thanks her friends, family, and the Life House Church Community for their support.



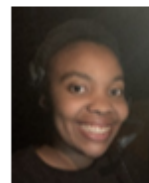
Jose Diaz (Singer) is a 28-year-old Durham native artist, background vocalist and songwriter. He has participated in off Broadway productions of *Fame*, *Dreamgirls* and multiple other productions the last 10 years professionally. He has recently released his single *Score* on all digital platforms and is anticipating a project release in the first quarter of 2024.



Jordan Farrell (Dancer) is a Raleigh native and is excited to be performing in this year's production of *Black Nativity in Concert*. This is her 5th year performing with Justice Theater Project and she loves the essence of this show. Jordan grew up dancing and has always had a love for the dance and theater community. This year she has been able to share her gift of dance at different events in North Carolina. This spring/summer Jordan worked with FLEE Dance, under the direction of Frankie Lee, in the production of SOAR at the North Carolina Museum of Art. Movement has always been something she has been passionate about and she does all she can to help others with their movement journey. She has a B.S. degree in Exercise Physiology from East Carolina University and is a fitness professional in the RDU area. Jordan is the owner of MOVE WITH J, LLC, a wellness/fitness branded company. She is an ACSM Certified Exercise Physiologist and Fitness Nutrition Specialist as well. She believes the best way to live is by moving your body and doing the things that bring you joy. Jordan would like to thank her parents, family and friends for continuously supporting and believing in her dreams.



Lydia Henry Houston, (Costumer, Wardrobe) is happy to be returning for her 3rd year of costuming for Justice Theater Project's *Black Nativity In Concert*. She is an avid Sewist with over 40 years of sewing and Costuming experience. She has designed and sewn costumes for The African American Dance Ensemble, led by Baba Chuck Davis; Collage Dance Company; Suah African Dance Theatre; and several choreographers. In the past year, she has worked as a Costumer for two productions at the NCCU Drama Department and Stargaze for the Hillside High School Dance Department. She specializes in creating awesome-fitting garments. Lydia was a wardrobe assistant with Cirque du Soliel's "Amaluna" in Atlanta, GA, and Miami, FL. She has been a Movie Wardrobe Assistant for a DeVan Clan Production in GA and a True Dreams Production in NC. Her motto is "You Design It, I'll Make It".



Hallel Jackson (Asst. Stage Manager) is from Smyrna, Georgia, and is a Junior at North Carolina Central University majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Technical Theatre. Her previous NCCU credits include *Act N' Out* (Stage Manager), *Chicken and Biscuits* (Stage Manager, Set Designer), and *Drums of Sweetwater* (Master Carpenter, Scenic Charge). She's very grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such great people, and she hopes you all enjoy the performance!



Kristi Vincent Johnson (Choreographer) a Louisiana native, is a performer, educator, choreographer, filmmaker, and scholar. She holds an MFA in Modern Dance from Texas Christian University and a Doctorate of Education in Kinesiology from UNC Greensboro. Her creative work for both stage and film has been featured in national and international festivals such as the NC Dance Festival, the San Francisco Dance Film Festival, the Longleaf Film Festival and Black Truth Film Festival. Currently, Kristi is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Dance at North Carolina Central University where she also serves as the Artistic Director for the Repertory Dance Company and the NCCU Flight Dance Team.



Taufiki Lee (Angel/Singer) is always giving glory and thanks to God. He has worked with various local theater companies which include The Justice Theater Project, TYTTA, Agape Theater, MOJOAA, Women's Theater Festival, Li V Mahob and Pure Life. His most recent accomplishments were with Pure Life Theater's production of *The Face of Emmett Till* and most recently *The Drums of Sweetwater* at NCCU. Taufikil appreciates the opportunity to tell the greatest story ever told with such talented artists, it is a great privilege to get to do this.



Destinee Mackey (Dancer) is a senior at North Carolina Central University. Her major is English Composition and Literature with a minor in Dance. She is also a member of the North Carolina Central University Repertory Dance Company. Destinee is from Raleigh, NC and has been dancing ever since the age of 4. After graduation Destinee hopes to either continue her pursuit in dance performance and dance teaching. She also hopes to travel and take different dance classes around the world to broaden her horizons and use these new experiences to inspire her writing. Destinee one day hopes to walk in similar four steps as her dance teacher, Dr. Kristi Vincent Johnson and become a teacher for dance in higher education.



Natalie McMillan (Singer) has been involved in music for many years. Natalie has directed choirs in various churches in Durham, NC as well as participated on regional and state praise teams in FGFB. She has also sung background vocals for several local artists. A native of Raleigh, NC, Natalie resides in Durham, NC.



Marvin Outlaw (Music Coordinator/Singer) a native of Windsor, NC, was born on December 21, 1989, to Annette and Marvin Outlaw, Sr. At an early age, he showed a passion for music. As a young child, with the support of his parents, he traveled and competed in several music competitions across the East Coast. After graduating from Bertie High School in 2008, Marvin attended Elizabeth City State University, where he majored in Music Education. On April 21, 2013, he married the love of his life, Jordan Lewis-Outlaw, an education student at a nearby university. The couple gave birth to beautiful children, Noah Alexander and Claire Elizabeth Outlaw. They are expecting their 3rd child, Anna Victoria, in early 2024. Today, Marvin resides in Durham, NC with his family and serves on the worship team at Lifehouse Church in Raleigh, NC.



Jerry Saddler (Singer) is a native of Lexington, NC, and is a first time cast member in *Black Nativity in Concert*. Jerry has an extensive background in Gospel music, thanks to his grandmother, the Late Ms. Jessie B. Wood. He is the founder and director of National Recording Artist, Sir'Jerry Saddler and Sound of Pentecost, a community choir based out of Greensboro, NC. He is also a proud member of Patrick Riddick & D'vayne Worship based out of Norfolk, VA. Jerry takes pride in being a positive example for other young black men, showing them that anything is possible, you just have to believe.

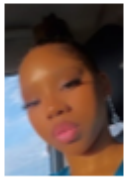
Bashir Shakur (African Drummer) is a percussionist, composer, performer, educator, and recording artist whose unique blend of improvisational, and traditional percussion can be found on his latest release entitled "Visible," with acclaimed Zimbabwean dancer Nora Chipoumare. In addition to his work with Nora, Bashir has recorded, performed, and/or toured with an array of diverse artists which include Chuck Davis, Camille Yarborough (foremother of Rap), DJ Grandmaster Flash, Waley Reyes Jr. (drummer for Santana), The Sunday Special Band, The North Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, Bessie award winner Jawole Jo Zollar and Reggae superstar Freddie McGregor. One of Bashir's latest creations is his youth leadership program Buckets and Beats. Created in 2014 with funding from the Alvin Ailey Arts in Education program. Shakur developed a cost-effective, empowering, and fun 14-week percussion study with 3rd and 5th graders, using just two drumsticks and a bucket. He also plays with his acoustic Jazz, World, and Urban Music band "B-Shak Rhythm and Soul." This quartet of adventurous musicians was formed in 2012 and has been described as Be-bop Jazz, meets Afro-Beat, meets trance-inducing Urban Music. Shakur has been an artist-in-residence and or faculty member at many institutions which include The Brooklyn Music School, New York University, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, American Dance Festival, Williams College and is currently on staff at Elon University. Mr. Shakur would like to thank Allah for all his many gifts and blessings.



Camryn Sherer (Mary/Singer) is a native to Durham, NC and a recent graduate of Howard University's BFA Theater Program. Her passion for acting was discovered at 7 years old and since then she has been in shows consisting of *Children of Killers* by Katori Hall and her first professional show *Trouble in Mind* by Alex Childress, which was also produced by Agape Theater project. Camryn aspires to do art that elevates untold stories and underrepresented communities. She would like to thank her Mom and family for their continued support.



Yah-I Sinclair (Dancer) has performed West African Music and Dance for 28 years. In 1995, while living in Atlanta, GA, Yah-I became a member of the music, dance, and folkloric company Iya Ile, where he was a student of Baba Kwame Ishangi. Yah-I returned to his hometown, Brooklyn, NY, and performed with the Harambee Dance Company, led by Frank and Sandella Molloy. He returned to the South in 2005, landing in Durham, NC, and learned from the Master teacher and trainer, Baba Chuck Davis, as a member of the African American Dance Ensemble. Yah-I is often a featured Shekere player, his instrument of choice for the same 28 years as a musician. Yah-I also owns a vegan restaurant, Vegan Flava, and is a Financial Fitness Advisor with Finfit Life and a Safety Specialist with FedEx Ground.



Autumn Chanel Tyson (Singer) was born on September 22, 1996 to her loving parents Marlyn and Douglas Tyson in the Bronx, NY. At the young age of 7, Autumn's parents overheard her singing to Fantasia Barrino's *Free Yourself* in a subtle but distinct sweet voice. Autumn and her sister Imani would lead worship at her father's church Grace Family Worship Center by the age of 12. Over the years, Autumn has sung professionally for artists such as Lejune Thompson, James Fortune and Ruth LaOntra. As she continues her journey, Autumn aspires to grace more platforms sharing the Gospel of Jesus.



Tamisha Waden (Singer) is an acclaimed Gospel, R&B and Jazz artist who is a native of North Carolina. As a performing artist she has appeared on stage with musical icons such as Roy Ayers, Melba Moore, Mavis Staples, Bruce Hornsby and Tony Terry just to name a few. Waden is known for her dynamic and engaging solo stage performances and with the Grammy-nominated artists The Foreign Exchange. She has been seen on *CBS This Morning* and *Late Night with Seth Meyers* performing alongside artist HissGoldenMessenger. Waden has been featured as a vocalist on The Foreign Exchange's *Tales from the Land of Milk and Honey* album and *Hide & Seek* compilation, Nicolay's album *City Lights Vol. 3: Soweto*, singles *The Brightest Star* and *Afterglow*, and *Sittin Alone* from the highly anticipated Little Brother album *May the Lord Watch*. Waden continues to have sold-out appearances and fans are excited for new music releases and upcoming shows!



Crystal Waters (Singer) is a soprano from Lewiston-Woodville, NC, enriches UNC HEALTH HR and co-leads the Diverse Abilities Employee Resource Group, advocating accessibility. Graduating from Elizabeth City State University, Cambridge College, and East Carolina University, she's active in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc and shapes continuing education pathways as a board member with the NC Career Development Association. Musically thriving as a Pneuma Music vocalist and Worship Wear Coordinator at Lifehouse Church in Raleigh, NC, she's engaged in NSU Theatre Company and founded *Between Sundays*, guiding image consulting. Crystal embodies artistic expression, community, career, and spiritual leadership, leaving an indelible mark through her diverse ventures.



Cory Arnold (Lighting Designer) has a B.A. in Music Business from Millikin University. Recent Lighting Design credits include *Urinetown*, *Annie*, *The Best of Enemies*, *The Dead Man*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Black Nativity in Concert*, *Enemy of the People*, *Man of La Mancha* (The Justice Theater Project), *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Noises Off*, *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, *Forbidden Broadway* (Theatre in the Park), *My Wonderful Birthday Suit* (Raleigh Little Theatre) *SOFAR Sounds* Raleigh/Durham. Cory often uses his skills as a Lighting Designer and Electrician at DPAC, Martin Marietta Center, PNC Arena, Theater in the Park, and other regional venues. He is excited to work with The Justice Theater Project again and thanks those who continue to support him in his pursuit of the arts.



Jeffrey Nugent (Set Designer/Master Carpenter) has been active with Triangle theater groups for more than 20 years as an actor, designer, props wrangler, builder, ninja, etc. He is excited to collaborate with the amazing cast, crew, and production team in telling this wonderful story. Thanks to them for sharing their gifts and to YOU for supporting our passion. Enjoy the show!



Kalimah Williams (Stage Manager) is a Senior at North Carolina Central University. She is an actor, writer and director who believes that art should make you feel something. She was last seen on the NCCU stage as Dr. Stephanie Smith in *The Drums of Sweetwater*.



The Reverend Raymond S. Watkins (Music Director) is a native of Hillsborough, North Carolina, and the Sr. Pastor of Mount Calvary United Church of Christ in Durham, North Carolina. Since his arrival, through his dynamic leadership, spiritual teaching, biblical preaching, and musical abilities, Reverend Watkins has helped the church transition into a cutting-edge 21st-century ministry. This is evident as the church celebrates time-honored traditions while employing new ministry methods and technology. The church is reaping a harvest of renewed visibility in the community through the outreach and evangelistic activities of the ministries under Watkins' leadership. Mount Calvary United Church Of Christ is "On the move for God." Reverend Watkins has helped establish a contemporary worship service for the church, music, media, and technology ministries. In addition to full-time administration, Reverend Watkins maintains an active preaching schedule throughout Durham and the surrounding area's churches, facilitating workshops, preaching revivals, and other services throughout the region. Reverend Watkins also serves with other Pastors in the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance who help facilitate worship services that create outreach for the community. Reverend Watkins graduated from Elon University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Although most of his ministerial career was leading and shepherding music ministries, God redirected his passions toward Pastoral ministry. Upon acknowledging his call, Reverend Watkins pursued and received a Master of Divinity degree from Apex School Of Theology in Durham, North Carolina. After graduation, he preached his Initial Sermon, received his license, and was ordained into the Gospel Ministry by the UBC Ordination Council of The East Cedar Grove Association. Reverend Watkins is well-known throughout the community. He has always exemplified a strong passion and commitment in supporting the community, actively participating in various outreach ministries, visiting the sick and shut-in at home as well as Senior and Assisted Living centers, providing support during times of surgery and hospitalization, providing spiritual counsel based upon scripture for individual and married couples, and providing numerous families with support and assistance during their time of bereavement. Through worship, ministry, and a commitment to servant leadership, Reverend Watkins strives to proclaim the Good News of God's love, to encourage others in their Christian walk, to lead them into praise and worship of Him, and to nurture their spiritual development in ministry. Finally, Reverend Watkins is a family man. He is married to Lakecia D. R. Watkins and the proud father of two daughters, Brittany and Rhea.



Jerry Sipp (Producing Artistic Director) Before becoming our A.D., Jerry was seen on our stage as Fagin in *Oliver!* and Mitch Albom in *Tuesdays with Morrie*. He most recently played Lyndon Johnson in JTP's hit production of *All The Way*. He has acted in over 110 plays spanning 38 U.S. states and Scotland. He has directed and produced well over 100 shows and is an award-winning playwright, having seen 10 of his original scripts produced. Jerry also served as Producing Artistic Director for Temple Theatre, The Playhouse Theatre, and Granville Little Theatre and co-founded Trio Productions, a professional touring company.

Special Thanks

Cassandra Anderson, Ann Bozek, Debbie DeRosa, Marcella Gartrell, Alana Bleimann, Louise Farmer, Shelby Barros, Linda Lowrance, Janet Boudreau, Linda Rich, Jaden Gaskin, Briana Gaskin, Holly Sweetwood, Joyce Rothchild, Sandy Carrington, Cheza Garvin, April Collins, Tammy Bright, Thommie O'Neal, Charlene Marshall, Mary Hall, Stephanie Debnam, Celeste Hinnant, Dunella Jones, Kiara McCarthy, J. Ra'Chel Fowler, Aleta Jordan, Debra Russell, Jimmy Gibbs, Gayle Durham, Beth Gargan, Sean Gargan, Bonny Moellenbrock, Peggy Tatum, Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Saint David's School, Mount Calvary United Church of Christ, North Carolina Central University Theatre Department, The North Carolina Museum of Art, Moses T. Alexander Green

Join us in February for SKELETON CREW

In 2008 Detroit, a small automotive factory is on the brink of foreclosure, and a tight knit family of workers hangs in the balance. With uncertainty everywhere, the line between blue collar and white collar becomes blurred, and this working family must reckon with their personal loyalties, their instincts for survival and their ultimate hopes for humanity.

TONY AWARD WINNER, 2022 Phylicia Rashad – Best Actress

TONY AWARD NOMINEE: Best Play 2022



Raleigh
Arts



Manbites Dog
Theater Fund

A.J. FLETCHER FOUNDATION

Contact us! www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com 919-264-7089



WESTGATE WINE

a casual, informative, and entertaining place to score a sweet deal on wine

delivering to nc & shipping nationwide

www.westgatewinestore.com
 (919) 787-4290
 6405 Westgate Rd, #115
 Raleigh, NC 27617



Aqua Terra

Restorative aquatic therapy treatments coupled with table massage in a peaceful country setting



Achieve your personal health and wellness goals at the Triangle's only Aquatic Bodywork Studio

Contact Lori Barbier today
 919-218-0136
www.aquaterratherapies.com



**A.J. FLETCHER
 FOUNDATION**

The A.J. Fletcher Foundation works to improve the lives and well-being of all North Carolinians.



SOUTH STREAM PRODUCTIONS


**TWELFTH
 NIGHT**

JANUARY 5-21, 2024



GET TICKETS AT
SOUTHSTREAMPRODUCTIONS.COM

YOU CAN
 PAY WHAT
 YOU WANT
 FOR THEM.



umstead park
 UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

We welcome fully every race, religious background, age, ability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and economic condition, who each reflect the image of God.

8208 Brownleigh Drive • Raleigh NC 27617 • 919-844-6661
www.upucc.org • office@upucc.org

College process prep beginning Freshman year

Undergraduate, transfer and graduate students essays

Brainstorm and edit college essays

Manage deadlines and submissions

ACT/SAT Writing & Test tutoring

Mock interviewing skill prep

Scholarship essays and prep

Student Resumes and LinkedIn profiles

YOUR COLLEGE
prep & Process

SLEE ARNOLD
SLEE@SLEEARNOLD.COM
919.345.9847



SOLIDARITY
capital group

Investing for the common good

Is there anything more
you can do?



Creating opportunities for people of faith
and goodwill to finance social
entrepreneurs serving marginalized people
and needs in our community.

Learn More Today!

Steve Monti
(919) 264-6784
smonti@solidaritycap.com

Jim Falanga
(919) 229-9546
jimfalanga@solidaritycap.com

Do your ads need a designers touch?
Is your branding ready for an update?
Does your start-up need a logo?

- Graphic Design
- Branding / Logos
- Advertisements
- Brochures / Booklets
- PowerPoints
- Social Media & More

Latreash Designs

✉ LatreashM@gmail.com
🌐 Latreash.com



www.solidaritycap.com
Proud Community Ambassador Sponsor of
The Justice Theater Project



JTP 2023/24 SEASON

TWELVE ANGRY JURORS

Based on the Emmy Award-Winning television movie by
Reginald Rose

Adapted for the stage by Sherman L. Sergel

Directed by Jerry Sipp

October 13-29, 2023 Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

A disadvantaged teenager is accused of murdering his father and faces the death penalty. On the surface, it seems like an open and shut case. 11 jurors vote to convict. One wants to talk. Heated discussions boil over as these 12 diverse people dig deeper into the evidence, examining the facts from different perspectives. A modern classic that has gained even deeper insight with multicultural, gender-fluid casting.

Black Nativity *in concert*

By Dr. Asabi (Stephanie Howard), Music Director Rev. Ray Watkins

December 9 & 10, 2023 North Carolina Museum of Art

Celebrate and share the 2023 holiday season at our 13th annual production full of inspirational, fun-filled performances through uplifting, inspirational gospel music, expressive West African and contemporary dance, vibrant costuming, and dynamic performers as we continue to entertain audiences through powerful messages of joy and hope. A special family experience for all ages. We are proud to continue to offer this must-see holiday event in partnership with the NC Museum of Art, making it accessible to thousands of holiday revelers in their beautiful amphitheater.

SKELETON CREW

By Dominique Morisseau

Directed by Dr. Nadia Bodie

February 9-25, 2024 Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

As the Great Recession of 2008 hits, a Detroit automotive stamping plant is in danger of being shut down. A tight knit family of workers forms the remaining skeleton crew, and their lives hang in the balance. Faye, Dez, Shanita and Reggie must reckon with their personal loyalties, their instincts for survival and their ultimate hopes for humanity in a play that explores a dozen social justice issues at once. Their decency and care for not only their earnings but also for each other builds as job insecurity looms. Illuminating the truths of living in an era where the system is stacked in favor of corporate interests. *WINNER: Tony Award for Best Actress (Phylicia Rashad).*
Nominated: Tony Award Best Play.

26 PEBBLES

By Eric Ulloa

Directed by Brian Yandle

April 12-28, 2024 Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

December 14, 2012. 26 innocent lives were taken at Sandy Hook Elementary. A reporter visits the town for a few days and then stays for 3 months. He asked five interview questions of each person:

What things do you love about Newtown? Traditions? Locations?

What was your day like on December 14? Take me from waking up in the morning to your head on the pillow at night.

Does this shooting shake your faith? Can (any form of) God exist when tragedies like this happen?

What are your thoughts about Adam Lanza, the shooter? Do you blame him?

What is the one word you'd want Newtown to be remembered for?

In their own words, people spoke about the importance of community, healing, resilience, perseverance, hope and outpourings of love from around the world.

Like pebbles thrown in a pond, these 26 deaths created ripples that still reverberate today.

blank_____

by Nassim Soleimanpour

May 2024 Locations throughout the Triangle

No director. No rehearsal. One performer who has never read the script. A script filled with blanks. One weekend of one-of-a-kind theater held in multiple and diverse locations throughout the Triangle. Iranian playwright Soleimanpour has revolutionized what theatre can be, borne out of a time when his government would not let him leave his home country.

CABARET

Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb,

Book by Joe Masteroff

Directed by Nancy Rich, Music Direction by Katherine Anderson

June 7-23, 2024 Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

In a Berlin nightclub, as the 1920s drew to a close, a garish Master of Ceremonies welcomes the audience and assures them they will forget all their troubles at the Cabaret. Employing the Emcee's bawdy songs as wry commentary, this musical classic explores the dark, heady, and tumultuous life of Sally Bowles and Berlin's natives and expatriates as Germany slowly yields to the emerging Third Reich. *CABARET* boldly tackles racial profiling, inclusiveness, politics, survival, sorrow, and fear in times of culturally and politically reactionary forces and episodes of significant social change. *CABARET* is among the American theatre's most enduring musicals.

UNITED ARTS PARTNERS WITH TOWNS & ARTS NON-PROFITS



TO MAKE ART HAPPEN ACROSS WAKE COUNTY

Learn how United Arts creates a community where the arts and culture are available and accessible to everyone in Wake County.



Scan the code or visit:
www.unitedarts.org
[@UnitedArtsWake](https://www.instagram.com/UnitedArtsWake)



Photos by Chris Janaro (l-r) El Pueblo, CAM, NC Museum of History, Town of Zebulon, African American Cultural Festival, Justice Theater Project, IBMA, Hum Sub, WCPSS Pieces of Gold



3 of our favorite things!

Our Annual Pot Pie Fund Raiser

On Sale EVERY February

the justice theater project

Our mission is to produce compelling theater experiences that create community dialogue and give voice to social concerns.

Season Subscriptions

Become a Season Subscriber TODAY to keep our theater open, receive great customer service, and underwrite programming created to enhance your show experience.

Let's make sure that JTP can weather any storm that comes our way, by creating a sustainable monthly stream of income.

www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org



Senter, Stephenson, Johnson, PA

Quality legal services in Fuquay-Varina since 1953



*Quality legal services, provided
with compassion, since 1953*

**Proud Sponsor of the Arts and
The Justice Theater Project's
2023-2024 Season**

Estate Planning

Real Estate

Estate Administration

Small Business

Guardianship

Pre-Marital Agreements

114 Raleigh St., Fuquay-Varina, NC

www.ssjlw.net 919.552.4707

Total Engagement Consulting by Kimer

*Proudly supports the work of
The Justice Theater Project and
advancing human rights and diversity
through the performing arts*



Diversity Consulting and Training:

- ⇒ Diversity Strategy
- ⇒ Use of Pronouns
- ⇒ Supporting transitioning employees
- ⇒ Starting and growing ERGs
- ⇒ Employee diversity training



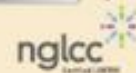
Total
Engagement
Consulting
by Kimer

www.TotalEngagementConsulting.com

Stan@TotalEngagementConsulting.com

Office: 919-787-7315

Mobile: 919-215-5761



**BURNING
COAL
THEATRE
COMPANY**

HYMN

by lolita chakrabarti

directed by marcus d. harvey

presented by Burning Coal
Theatre Company

Jan. 25 - Feb. 11, 2024

burningcoal.org

919.834.4001



**STONE
SOUP
THEATRE CO.**

**QUALITY THEATRE BY
AREA ARTISTS SERVING
OUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY.**



CABARET October, 2023

ROMEO AND JULIET April, 2024

THE SPITFIRE GRILL June, 2024

17001 SEARSTONE DRIVE

CARY, NC

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW
CURIOUS CHARACTERS**



People who are ready to embrace the future and know a great opportunity when they see one.

Those are the people who have come to call Searstone home in retirement.

And now, as we prepare to expand our Cary campus with the introduction of The Highview, select residences are available for those who are ready to take their place in our mix of fascinating folks.

To learn more about immediate opportunities at Searstone or our upcoming expansion, call us: 919.873.4735



SEARSTONE
RETIREMENT COMMUNIT

RETIREMENT LIVING with INTELI



SEARSTONE.COM