

**EVERYTHING**

**EVERYWHERE**

**EVERYONE**

**Issues of Our Time**

*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

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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:

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**2023-2024**

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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:

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# 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.

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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



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

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[www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org](http://www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org)



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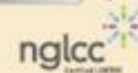
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presents

# **SKELETON CREW**

**Written by Dominique Morisseau**

**Directed by Dr. Nadia Bodie-Smith**

February 9-25, 2024

SKELETON CREW

Is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French.

## **Special Thanks**

Juan Isler, Olivia Allen, Debbie DeRosa, Ann Bozek, Marguerite LeBlanc, Slee Arnold, Joye Goff, Sondra Iverson, Nikki Hinnant, Celeste Hinnant, Dunella Jones, Barbara Diciero, Monica Long, Debra Russell, Sandy Carrington, Nava Zvaig, Thom Haynes, Beverly Olsen, Jim O'Brien, Louise Farmer, Christine Stachowicz, Karin Shank, Melissa Zeph, Sally Beale, Kelly Caniglia, Jeff Nugent, Professor David Zonderman, Theatre In The Park, Umstead Park United Church of Christ

The Director wishes to thank the North Carolina Central University Theatre Department and the staff of The Justice Theater Project for their stellar work and commitment

**Summer of 2024  
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**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL JR.

The Justice Theater Project presents

# SKELETON CREW

**Written by Dominique Morisseau**

**Directed by Dr. Nadia Bodie-Smith**

Production Stage Manager  
**Jada Ameer Lewis-Rasheed**

Set Design/Build  
**Erik Benson**

Intimacy Coordination  
**Heather Strickland**

Lighting and Sound Design  
**Cory Arnold**

Costume Design  
**Jodeya Brown**

Properties  
**Jada Ameer Lewis Rasheed**

Board Operations  
**Yamila Monge**

Scenic Painter  
**Geraud Staton**

Running Crew  
**Alex Lewis**

Projections/Running Crew  
**Jasmine Perez**

***SKELETON CREW* will be performed with one  
15-minute intermission**

Videotaping or other video or audio recording prohibited

Original Music by James Keys. SKELETON CREW was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City and the 2014 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort Winner of the 2014 Sky Cooper New American Play Prize at Marin Theatre Company, Mill Valley, CA, Artistic Director, Jasson Minadakis; Managing Director, Michael Barker

## Cast

Faye            Kalimah Williams

Dez             Malcolm Green

Shanita        Camryn Sherer

Reggie         Moses T. Alexander Greene

### Set Build Crew:

Erik Benson, Nate Benson, Erin Bell, Larry Rothman, Jenny Glazner, Jasmin Perez, Malachi Moore, Joyrdan Richardson, Sarah Richardson, Derontay Alexander, Chad Foushee, Jada Lewis Rasheed, Jodeya Brown, Hallel Jackson, Kyla Brown, Shahim Faircloth, Florence Hiheglo, Brook North, Carolyn Cole, Stephen Furs, Tim Rath, Barry Walter, Kathy Langfield

### Discussions and Events:

**Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>:** OPENING NIGHT – Meet the Director. 6:30 pm refreshments and discussion.

**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>:** 6:15 pm 2024-25 SEASON REVEAL! Join us in person or on Facebook live as Jerry Sipp and Friends announce our exciting upcoming season.

**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>:** 3:30 pm show, Post-Show Discussion "Labor, Deindustrialization, and the Great Recession" with History Professor David Zonderman, an expert in American labor history and reform.



**Malcolm Green (Dez)** is a native of Laurinburg, North Carolina, who discovered his love for theater during the early days of his matriculation at North Carolina Central University. He has worked on stage and off as an actor, scenic carpenter, and technician. Having been involved with the theater over the last 15 years, he's performed twice at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and the National Black Theatre Festival. Malcolm's favorite shows over the years have been *Gem Of The Ocean*, *The Bluest Eye*, and an original mashup by Asabi of *Ntozake Shange* and Keith Antar Mason's works *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuff*/*For For Black Boys Who Have Considered Homicide When the Streets Were Too Much*. His most recent role was Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire* with the Hampton University Repertory Theatre Company.



**Moses T. Alexander Greene (Reggie)** is thrilled to make his return to the Justice Theater Project stage! A Long Island, NY native and the artistic director of Li V Mahob Productions, previous onstage roles include Pa/Ol' Mister (*The Color Purple*), Roy (*The Odd Couple*), Delsin (*Pooled*), Jake (*Porqy and Bess*), Wailin' Joe/Rev Hobson (*Memphis The Musical*), and Private First Class Peterson (*A Soldier's Play*). He dedicates his performances to his son Marchell and late grandfather Harvey Gorham, a Beaufort County, NC native who worked as a factory worker in Brooklyn, NY, for over 40 years. "You got this, baby." "Thanks, Grandpa. Thanks." [livmahob.org](http://livmahob.org) IG/Twitter: mobettergreene



**Camryn Sherer (Shanita)** is a native of Durham, NC, and a recent graduate of Howard University's BFA Theater Program. She discovered her passion for acting at seven years old. Since then, she has been in shows including *Children of Killers* by Katori Hall and her first professional show, *Trouble in Mind* by Alex Childress, also produced by Aqape 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.



**Kalimah Williams (Faye)** is a Senior at North Carolina Central University. She is an actor, writer, and director who believes art should make you feel something. She most recently portrayed Dr. Stephanie Smith in "Drums of Sweetwater" at NCCU Theatre.



**Cory Arnold (Lighting Designer)** has a B.A. in Music Business from Millikin University. Recent Lighting Design credits include *12 Angry Jurors*, *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.



**Erik Benson (Set Designer/Build)** has been working from North Carolina to Boston to Broadway backstage as a stage carpenter, electrician, rigger, technical director, production manager, designer, and all around lover of live performance for over 30 years. Participating in *Skeleton Crew* continues the work he's done with Brandeis University, Appalachian State University, and Manbites Dog Theater, collaborating to design and build productions for drama of our times. Erik lives in Durham with his wife Laura and three children, and plays music and hockey when he's not otherwise working in the integrated technology business.



**Dr. Nadia Bodie-Smith (Director)** is originally from Nassau, Bahamas, and is an Assistant Professor in Performance Studies at NCCU where she recently received the College of Arts and Social Science Award for Outstanding Teaching. This spring, she was nominated by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region IV, for Best Direction of *Drums of Sweetwater*. Other professional pursuits involve her work as editor of the *ENCORE Theatre Journal* for the National Association for Dramatic and Speech Arts (NADSA) and as Production Designer for Sweet Unknown South Film Studios. Nadia hopes that her instruction inspires collaborative, critical thinkers and artists who use their craft to better society. Her Production Design work is showcased in the 2022 action film *A Day to Die*, starring Bruce Willis, available on streaming services.



**Jodeya Brown (Costume Designer)** is from Durham NC. She is a North Carolina Central University student majoring in Technical Theater with a concentration in Costume Design. Jodeya was the Costume Designer for *Present Laughter* at Switchyard Theatre and has worked as a crew member for many of NCCU's productions. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



**Alex Lewis (Running Crew)** is from Panama City, Panama. He is grateful to be back in another Justice Theater Project production. He is represented by KU Talent and has worked in multiple productions in the Triangle. Most recently, he worked backstage as a dresser for the *Prom* at Theatre Raleigh, was the stage manager for *My Wonderful Birthday Suit* at RLT, and was a running crew member for *Best of Enemies* at The Justice Theater Project. Last seen on stage, he played Jocke for the TIP production of *Let the Right One*. Special thanks to Jerry Sipp, Melissa Zeph, Debbie DeRosa, the cast, crew, and his tribe Dannibeth Farnum, Stephen Furs, and Jordan Farell for all the love & YOU for supporting local theater and the arts. Check his Zumba Classes and more -<https://linktr.ee/introjourney>



**Jada Ameer Lewis Rasheed (Stage Manager/Prop Designer)** a sophomore Theater major at the illustrious North Carolina Central University, hails from Henderson, NC. She enriched her repertoire with groups such as Henderson Rec Players, The Justice Theater Project, Clarksville Players and many others. She has portrayed roles such as Ariel (*The Little Mermaid*), Little Inez (*Hairspray*); Nala (*The Lion King*), Cassie (*13 The Musical*); and 'TiMoune' (*Once On This Island*), among various others in her vibrant theatrical journey. Her passions first began to blossom during her family trips to the National Black Theatre Festival. She plans on dedicating her life to the art of storytelling. Jada extends heartfelt gratitude to her family, particularly her Aunt Imannah and Grandmother Marolyn, for their unwavering and passionate support in nurturing her dreams.



**Geraud Staton (Scenic Painter)** began his acting career onstage as Yasha in *The Cherry Orchard* (Little Green Pig). Other roles include Inspector Bertozzo in *Anarchist!*, Taylor in *Prelude to a Kiss* (Ghost and Spice), and Gerard in *The Overwhelming* (Manbites Dog). He has appeared in three 10 x 10 Festivals at The Carrboro ArtsCenter, as a member of an ensemble cast in *Oh What a Lovely War*, and as an actor/dancer in *Uncle Sam Wants You*. His favorite role to date is Sam in the play *Mr. Burns – A Post Electric Play* (Manbites Dog). He has done set design for *Night Beast*, *The Pillowman*, *Harriet Jacobs*, and *The Parent Project*. He also had a recurring role as Anvil Steel in NPR's *Jade City Pharaoh*. Geraud's film debut was as Earl in *Basilisk* in 2013. He's since been part of three projects, including *Frequency* and *Going Down Slow*.



**Jerry Sipp (Interim Executive Producer, Artistic Director)** serves as Artistic Director for The Justice Theater Project. Before becoming our A.D., Jerry was seen on our stage as Fagin in *OLIVER!*, Mitch Album in *Tuesdays with Morrie* and LBJ in *All The Way*. Other favorite historical figures he has portrayed include John Wilkes Booth in *The Actor and The Assassin*, Shakespeare in *Equivocation*, and Robert Louis Stevenson in his original one-man show, *Shadows*. He has acted in over 100 plays spanning 38 U.S. states and Scotland. He has directed 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.



**Sara Thompson (Community Engagement Coordinator)** Sara holds a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Maryland, where she wrote her dissertation on alternative Shakespeare companies and methods of attracting the postmodern hipster audience demographic. Sara has an MA in Shakespeare Studies from the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, and BAs in Theatre, English, and History from UNC-Greensboro. A cultural historian, her research interests extend beyond theatre history and Shakespeare to the production of cultural capital, audience and reception studies, and interpersonal and intercultural communication. Her other passion is helping folks become more confident and authentic speakers, which she does online as That Presentation Coach (she's on Instagram and TikTok @thatpresentationcoach). As a dramaturg in Raleigh, she has worked for JTP, Raleigh Little Theatre, Burning Coal Theatre Company, and the Women's Theatre Festival. Further afield, she has dramaturged with the Georgia Shakespeare Festival in Atlanta and Triad Stage in Greensboro, as well as in the Washington, DC area on productions of *The Matchmaker*, *Moliere*, *Impromptu*, and *Troilus and Cressida*. Sara is the social media manager for her dog Linda's thriving Instagram account (@LindainHR).



**Jasmin Perez (Projectionist/Running Crew)** is from Youngsville, NC and a freshman majoring in Pharmaceutical Science at North Carolina Center University. She enjoys theatre and is happy to be joining the JTP team for the first time.

