

the justice theater
project

THE POSSIBLE DREAM

2021 / 2022 Season

A Season of Courageous Change

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Sipp on Justice

Though it sounds like a snarky Facebook meme, the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus coined the famous phrase “the only constant in life is change.” And it’s true. Everything changes around us all the time. Year to year, day to day, moment to moment. If change is so commonplace, why is it so difficult to affect positive social change?



JERRY SIPP

The Status Quo puts up one heck of a fight. Powerful forces enjoy their place of power and privilege, and do everything they can to keep things just the way they are. Because change is inevitable, things keep right on changing - just not for the better where social justice is currently concerned.

Turning that tide takes an even more powerful force. As Don Quixote sings in “The Impossible Dream” from MAN OF LAMANCHA, we must “fight for the right, without question or pause, to be willing to march into Hell for a Heavenly cause.” Tilting at these windmills takes a touch of madness - and a whole lotta courage. This is why The Justice Theater Project’s season theme is THE POSSIBLE DREAM: 2021-22 A Season of Courageous Change. Through challenge after challenge, through huge setbacks and small victories, they courageously forge ahead in their ultimate quest for a world where right and good win the day.

Stealing another phrase from another group of philosophers, appropriately named AMERICA, “Oz never did give nothing to the Tin Man that he didn’t already have.” The same goes for the Cowardly Lion. He always had the courage within him to take on the wicked, he only needed a worthy enough cause.

The cause of social justice for all is perhaps the worthiest of all. The courage is within all of us. If change is going to happen no matter what, let’s be an intentional positive change for a more fair, loving, and peaceful planet. What is your POSSIBLE dream? Let’s make hay, make a plan, and make our dreams come to life not just on stage, but in our community, our country, and our world.

- *Jerry*

**We Are Proud To Present
A Presentation About The
Herero Of Namibia,
Formerly Known As South
West Africa, From The German
Sudwestafrika, Between
The Years 1884 – 1915**



By Jackie Sibblies Drury

Produced by special arrangement with
DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC. of Woodstock, Illinois

We Are Proud to Present... received its world premiere in April 2012 at Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago, Illinois, directed by Eric Ting, Chew Yew, artistic director, Jan Kallish, executive director, and had its New York premiere at Soho Rep., Sarah Benson, artistic director, Cynthia Flowers, executive director. We Are Proud To Present... was developed at Magic Theatre's Virgin Play Series, San Francisco; The Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco; and Victory Garden Theatre's IGNITION Festival.

Directed by: Amelia Lumpkin

Stage Management by: Jeremy Vance

Assistant Stage Management by: Allyssa Petrone

Costumes by: Lydia Houston

Lighting Design by: George Jack

Sound Design by: Juan Isler

Set Design by: Jerry Sipp

Master Carpentry by: Jeffrey Nugent

Props by: Olivia Allen

Dramaturgy by: Olivia Allen, Dr. Kaye C. Evans

Running Crew: Benjamin London

Videography/Live Stream by: Mikki Marvel & Pimpila Violette

Fight and Intimacy Choreography by: Heather J. Strickland

We are Proud to Present...

We are Proud to Present... is a comedic dramatization of the largely forgotten Herero and Namaqua genocide which took place in Namibia between 1904-1907 when the region was a German colony after Germany confiscated tribal lands and the Herero people rebelled. The retribution over four years by German soldiers resulted in more than 65,000 deaths.

Award-winning playwright Jackie Sibblies Drury collides the political with the personal in a play that is irreverently funny and seriously brave. A group of actors gathers to tell the little-known story as a “presentation” of the first genocide of the 20th century. *We Are Proud to Present ...* takes place largely in a rehearsal room that descends from collaborative to absurd as a group of idealistic actors—three black and three white—attempt to recreate the extinction of the Herero tribe at the hands of their German colonizers. Along the way, they test the limits of empathy as their own stories, subjectivities, assumptions, and prejudices catalyze their theatrical process.

As the full force of a horrific past crashes into the good intentions of the present, what seemed a faraway place and time comes all too close to home. Just whose story are they telling? This gut-wrenching, intelligent, often funny—until it’s not—play asks us, what happens when we only have one side of the story?

The cast and crew have had powerful conversations about comfort, identity, and privilege and worked with two volunteer social workers. Audiences will be surprised that a play with such a serious subject creates dialogue, optimism, and inspiration.

Director Amelia Lumpkin, making her directing debut with The Justice Theater Project, shares, “The story is challenging unto itself, it is easier to face if you look at it as a long-ago atrocity of the Herero at the hands of Germans at the turn of the century, but through the course of the play, we learn it is really about the ways the story touches us closer to home and where we can find ourselves. The play figuratively invites the audience into the conversation during the show. The characters are relatable - they talk like me, are modern, the language is relatable. Jackie’s structure and layers in the script are as deep as Shakespeare, but written for a modern-day audience to feel the impact.”

“This show can also impact our community by helping to deepen our conversations about race, violence, and history. These issues are often the elephant in the room. Humor, stories, and representation can help us to work through these. Jackie’s script is challenging in an exciting way. She writes in a style that leaves blanks to be filled, she raises the bar for the performers to use every skill, even including optional lines in the script - it is creative, innovative, and leaves some moments up to the director to create. Theatre lovers from all styles of theatre will find this show entertaining. The immediacy of theater to tell a story is there, and the language is accessible.”

Meet the Artists of

We Are Proud To Present A Presentation About The Herero Of Namibia, Formerly Known As South West Africa, From The German Sudwestafrika, Between The Years 1884 – 1915



Dylan Bailey (Actor 3/Another White Man) is a Raleigh-based theatre artist and arts educator. He holds a BFA in Theatre for Youth from East Carolina University. He's acted with Seed Art Share, Burning Coal Theatre, Pittsboro Youth Theatre, Theatre in the Park, Pure Life Theatre, and Summer Storybook Theatre. As a teaching artist, he has worked with SAY, NCT, CYT, Raleigh

Little Theatre, Applause! Youth Theatre, TAP, The ArtsCenter, Seed Art Share, Burning Coal Theatre, and Starbright Little Players. In 2020 he was recognized as an "Outstanding Arts Educator" by Chatham Life + Style in their publication's Best of the Year event. He currently serves as a member of Pure Life Theatre's Core Leadership and as Seed Art Share's Managing Director. In his free time, he writes plays for young audiences!



DJ Brinson (Actor 2/Black Man) is beyond grateful to be part of this production. This will be his first time on stage in seven years and he's excited to finally hit the stage again with such a special and powerful piece. He holds a BA in Acting from Greensboro College and is currently getting his Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from North Carolina Central University. Some

of his favorite collaborative memories include opening for Maroon 5, Kenny Chesney and Jimmy Buffet (The Greenbrier Resort), Adrian in Smokey Joe's Cafe (The Allenberry Playhouse), and Principle in the 2018 Sheetz Super Bowl commercial. When DJ is not acting, he spends time working as a talent agent for Devise Talent Agency and in healthcare marketing and administration. Time with family and friends is time well spent and if there are hot wings involved, he's a happy man! Big thanks to everyone involved in this production, loved ones for support, and my sweet English Bulldog, Shuga-my best friend!



Alli Mae Carnes (Actor 5/Sarah) is thrilled to be making her Justice Theater Project performance debut! Alli is a full-time actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, and teacher. Originally from Florida, she grew up dancing in the Nutcracker Ballet and various dance competitions. Since moving to the Triangle in 2018, Alli has performed in multiple shows and has worked as a

choreographer/teaching artist for the NCT Conservatory, Raleigh Area Children's Theatre, St. Mary's School, Sanderson High School, Raleigh School of Music, Raleigh Little Theatre, Gallery Players, and The Justice Theater Project. When Alli is not performing or teaching with these companies, she teaches voice and

Meet the Artists

acting lessons from her private studio “The Alli Mae Carnes Studio.” She loves teaching students all over the world, spanning over 4 countries, through the AMCS. She is an advocate for self-expression and making theatre a safe space where people feel free to be themselves. Hope you enjoy this beautiful, important show!
@allimaecarnes



Trevon Carr (Actor 4/ Another Black Man) is thrilled to be making his Justice Theater Project debut. He was most recently seen in Theatre Raleigh’s Oh, What a Night as a Swing/Ensemble. In Trevon’s free time he loves taking pictures and creating videos which can be seen on his Instagram: @iamtrevoncarr



J. Ra’Chel Fowler (Actor 6/Black Woman) is a North Carolina performance artist. She is a native of Durham and an Alum of NCCU’s theatre department and holds three additional advanced degrees. J. Ra’Chel was last seen on The Justice Theater Project’s stage as Cynthia in SWEAT. She is very excited to return to this COVID-protected stage in this upcoming production and “play”

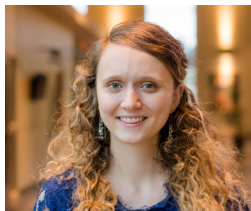
with these talented actors. Her most recent theatrical production includes TIP’s The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble. Other local theatrical productions include Seven, the play, Worried, and “For Colored Girls...”. J. Ra’Chel has also performed with the late Dr. Chuck Davis’ African American Dance Ensemble (AADE), Cultural Movement African Dance Company, and Ayoluwa African Dance Ensemble. Her greatest joys are her three children: Kourtnee’ Ra’Chel, Josiah & Jeremiah. J. Ra’Chel believes “the difference between living and existing is “PASSION”. Her mantra in life is D2BD – Dare 2B Different ~ “if you’re lucky enough to be different, don’t ever change”.



Matthew Hager (Actor 1/White Man/Music Coordinator) is an actor, theatre-maker, and teaching artist based out of Raleigh. For The Justice Theater Project Matthew previously performed in Sweat and directed The Justice Theater Project’s summer camp productions for the last three years and will direct Mary Poppins Jr. this summer. Matthew has acted for many other local companies, including NC Theatre, NC Symphony, EBZB Productions, Bulldog Theater Ensemble, Honest Pint, Manbites Dog,

Deep Dish, and Burning Coal Theatre (company member since 2012). In 2017, Matthew founded Aggregate Theatre Company with the mission of developing a younger theatergoing audience in the Triangle. Aggregate will release Matthew’s original musical Giselle la Trent the Gazellephant later this year as the first podcast musical made for kids and families. FB & Instagram: @aggreatetheater

Meet the Artists



Olivia Allen (Props Designer/Dramaturg) is excited to make her return to live theatre in her hometown, Raleigh. She graduated with a BFA in Directing from Emory & Henry College in 2019. Some of her favorite stage management credits include *Eurydice*, *Cabaret* (E&H), and *The Lion King Jr* (The Dreamland Stage Company). Her favorite directing projects include *RENT: School Edition* at Seattle Children's Theatre (asst. director), *No Exit*, and *Rodgers and Hammerstein's State Fair* (E&H). Before moving back to Raleigh, she interned at Georgia Ensemble Theatre where she served as the assistant director for their productions of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Night Must Fall*, and *Leading Ladies*. Olivia also serves as an Admin and Artistic Associate for The Justice Theater Project and is looking forward to the rest of the season.



Lydia Henry Houston (Costumer/Wardrobe) was the Costumer for The Justice Theater Project's *Black Nativity in Concert 2021*. She is a sewist with more than 40 years of sewing and costuming experience. Graduating with a Degree in Fashion from Bauder College in 2014, Lydia earned The Craftsmanship Award in the Annual Bauder Black Tie Fashion Show. Before attending college, she had 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. She specializes in creating an awesome fitting garment. 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. Always creating, she designs bowties with her husband for their company, The BowGame Bowties. She currently operates ExtremelyLydia Sewing Company. Her motto is "You Design It, I'll Make It".



Juan Isler (Sound Designer) a native of Kinston, NC, grew up singing and earned a music-business degree at Winston-Salem State University in 1993. He worked as a deejay before coming to Raleigh, where he got a job as technical director at what is now Spectrum News in 2004. He has worked on more than 50 plays in venues across the Triangle on both sides of the stage, as an actor, technician, and director. He is the resident Sound Designer at The Justice Theater Project. He also serves on various boards, NRACT and Beltline To Broadway, and is on the core leadership committee at Pure Life Theater. He is an active member of the American Theater Critics Association and a recipient of the Raleigh Arts Commission's Medal of Arts award. He is the host of the show "TORN," where he is one of the public faces of the online hub Beltline To Broadway (beltlinetobroadway.org, formerly RDU On Stage). All of this, while working as an event coordinator at NC State University.

Meet the Artists



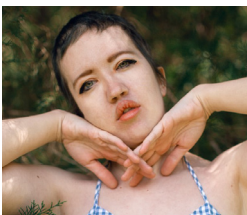
George Jack (Light Designer) previously designed lighting for The Justice Theater Project's production of For Colored Girls. He is better known in the Raleigh area as an actor, performing in dozens of local productions with Burning Coal Theatre (including Magaldi in *Evita*, Ben Franklin in *1776*, Polonius in *Hamlet*), Sweet Tea Shakespeare (York in *RICHARD II*, The Old Shepherd in *The Winter's Tale*, and roles in *Henry IV*, *King Lear*, and *Hamlet*), Raleigh Ensemble

Players (Claude Monet in *Defying Gravity*), Theatre in the Park, and the African American Cultural Complex (John Quincy Adams in *Amistad Saga*). He has a BA from the College of William and Mary and an MFA from the University of Louisville. George is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh.



Amelia Lumpkin (Director) graduated from Davidson College with a BA in Theatre and a minor in Arabic. As an all-around theatre maker, arts administrator, and performer, she is delighted to debut her professional directing with The Justice Theater Project where she has managed the summer camp program from 2018 to 2021. In the past, she directed *Cloud Tectonics* and *The Purple Flower* at Davidson, site-specific one-act plays for Channel Dance at Fort Point Theater Channel.

She has collaborated as a theatre teacher or administrator for youth theatre programs with Choate Rosemary Hall, Davidson Community Players, Raleigh Little Theater, The Theater Offensive, and her elementary school students during five years of teaching. Her study abroad in Bolivia inspired *Canela*, *Café* or *Chocolate*, a bilingual play she wrote, directed, designed, and performed alongside members of *Saya Mauchi* about the black experience in Bolivia. You can check out her other current project: *Assigned Female at Birth*: a web series about some bodies has two seasons available to watch for free on YouTube. She sends the greatest kudos to this incredible team that has kept telling this story despite all of the challenges and to her family who has been her greatest supporters.



Mikki Marvel (they/she) (Videographer/Live Stream) livestreams art that uplifts progressive ideas and helps people have fun while doing it. Career highlights include: Storyboard Media (Video Strategist & Creative Producer), Stream Raleigh (Creative Producer), Second City Comedy Conservatory (Graduate, 2021), Impro Theatre - LA (Virtual Technical Director), Pineapple-Shaped Lamps (Producer of *Sketch-Mess*), The Anthropologists (Creative Producer of *No Pants in Tucson Digital* - 2022), National Women's Theatre Festival (Virtual Technical Director and Producer of *WTFringe 21*), 2022 Moxie Arts Incubator in NYC (Producer Cohort).

Meet the Artists



Jeffrey Nugent (Master Carpenter) is delighted to help this talented cast, crew, and production team to tell such a wonderful story. Thanks to Jerry for the opportunity; Shelley for her patience and willingness to share; and to each of YOU for supporting our passion. Enjoy the show!



Alyssa Petrone (Assistant Stage Manager) Avid crafter, creator, and all-around problem solver, Alyssa has no less than six tricks up her sleeve at any given time. Stage managing, designing lights and props, crew, acting, sword fighting, knitting a scarf--She's up for any challenge you want to throw at her. Over the past 18 years she has contributed to well over 100 productions and refuses to pick any favorites to name here.



Heather J. Strickland (Fight and Intimacy Choreographer) has worked in the triangle area for nearly 20 years as a director, actor, and dance/fight/movement/intimacy choreographer. Recent fight/intimacy choreography credits include: NRACT's Bonnie and Clyde, Honest Pint's Metromaniacs, NC State University Theatre's Ragtime, and Raleigh Little Theatre's Pippin. Favorite projects include: Director for Bare Theatre's

all-female Titus Andronicus and the regional premiere of EverScape, Director for RLT's What We're Up Against, Dance/Fight Choreography for Justice Theatre Project's Oliver, and Movement Director for RLT's Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime and Sonorous Road's The Wolves. Heather works with schools and theaters as a teacher and choreographer, including St. Mary's High School, NC State University Theatre, Apex High School, and Panther Creek High School. Heather has a degree in Theatre Arts from Flagler College and is trained by the Society of American Fight Directors.



Jeremy Vance (Stage Manager) graduated from ECU with a BFA in Theatre Arts and is delighted to be a part of this powerful production. Previous credits include I and You with Burning Coal Theatre; Turn of the Screw at The Turnage Theatre; Big Fish, Cabaret, Pirates of Penzance, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Bat Boy, and Mamma Mia! at Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Center.

THE POSSIBLE DREAM

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

Additional support provided by The Catholic Community of Saint Francis of Assisi, IBM Corporation, GlaxoSmithKline, In-Kind Friends.

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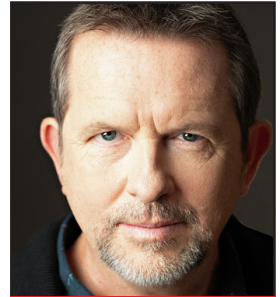
From the BOARD

As I think about our theme of THE POSSIBLE DREAM: A Season of Courageous Change, I'm struck by the importance of hope - especially in light of the events of the past few years. Hope is forward-looking and makes dreams possible. The Justice Theater Project has the audacity to be hopeful with our amazing 2021-2022 season.

You'll find examples of courage and possibility in each of this year's shows. May they move you, inspire and cajole you.

Thank you for being with us on this journey and may you remain hopeful in pursuit of your own dreams.

Thank you for your continued support of The Justice Theater Project.



SEAN GARGAN

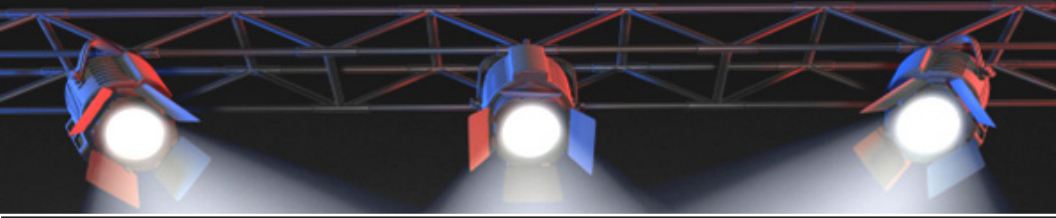
Sean Gargan

Sean Gargan
Board Chair
The Justice Theater Project

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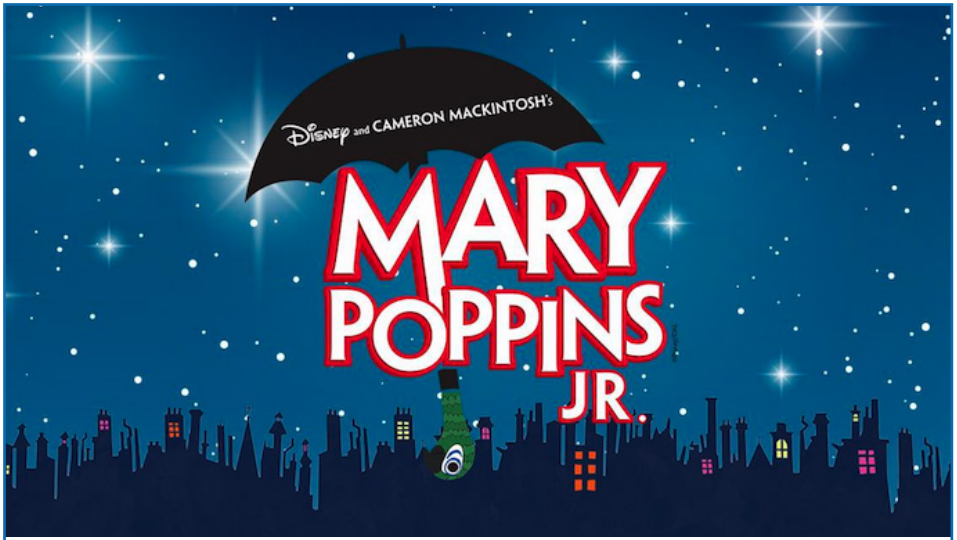
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JTP 2020/21 SEASON THE POSSIBLE DREAM

We Are Proud to Present A Presentation...

[Show Details](#) >>



We Are Proud to Present A Presentation About The Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known As South West Africa, From The German Sudwestafrika, Between The Years 1884-1915
By Jackie Sibblies Drury

February 11-27,2022
Saint Augustine University, Seby Jones Theatre, Raleigh

A group of actors gather to tell the little-known story of the first genocide of the 20th century. We Are Proud to Present ... takes place largely in a rehearsal room that descends from collaborative to absurd as a group of idealistic actors—three black and three white—attempt to recreate the extinction of the Herero tribe at the hands of their German colonizers. Along the way, they test the limits of empathy as their own stories, subjectivities, assumptions and prejudices catalyze their theatrical process. Eventually the full force of a horrific past crashes into the good intentions of the present, and what seemed a faraway place and time comes all too close to home.



Enemy of the People

[Show Details](#) ▶▶

ENEMY of the PEOPLE



By David Blakely
Directed by Jerry Sipp

Regional Premiere: April 8-24, 2022

A thrilling, funny, and gripping new reimagining of Ibsen's 1882 classic.

Fracking may be causing earthquakes in an Oklahoma town where tens of millions of barrels of oil are stored. If "The Big One" hits, the explosive results would be a disaster. When the local newspaper editor tries to blow the whistle, his brother, the sheriff, will go to any lengths to stop him, including exposing his secrets, ruining his reputation, and making him an Enemy of the People.

Man of La Mancha

[Show Details](#) ▶▶



Written By Dale Wasserman,
Music By Mitch Leigh, Lyrics By Joe Darion
Directed by Jesse Gephart

June 10-26, 2022

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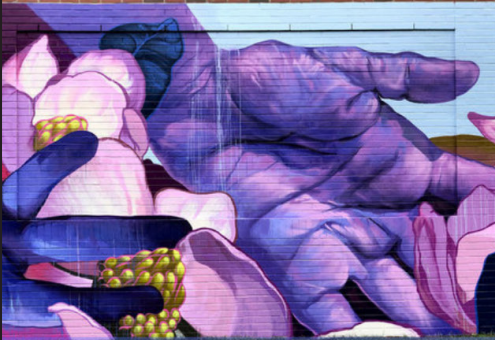


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