

DOBAMA THEATRE

PRESENTS



KILL MOVE PARADISE

Written By **James Ijames**
Directed By **Nathan Henry**

March 4 - 27, 2022





ANTIGONE

MAR 5 - 27 | OUTCALT THEATRE

freely adapted by EMILY MANN *from the play by* Sophocles
directed by LAUREN KEATING

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

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adapted by CATHERINE BUSH *from the Alexandre Dumas classic novel*
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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



I first applied for the licensing rights for Dobama to produce KILL MOVE PARADISE on January 13, 2020. Less than one month later, Ahmaud Arbery was chased down and murdered by three

white men while jogging. Two weeks after that, Breonna Taylor was sleeping in her bed when she was shot and killed by police who entered the wrong apartment. Nearly nine weeks later, a police officer knelt on George Floyd's neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds until he died. Mr. Floyd's murder sparked protests, press coverage, demonstrations, confrontations, and conversations in the latest racial reckoning in the United States. With activity halted due to global pandemic, America could not ignore what had

been dismissed by so many for so long. Led by the Black Lives Matter movement and countless other long-time activists, the country as a whole was forced to face the epidemic of systemic racism and violence in a new, profound way.

KILL MOVE PARADISE deals with the unconscionable, traumatic, and haunting issue of the murder of unarmed Black citizens directly and bluntly. Part of what makes this play so extraordinary is that it explores the issue through the eyes of four complex and well-drawn characters who provide an uninterrupted journey of humor and hope, poetry and prose. We see the joy, love, heartbreak, vulnerability, anger, and individual humanity of these four men. Imaginative theatrical moments celebrate the beauty and joy of Black culture. Cultural touch points like music, television sitcoms, and video games are used to focus attention on the anxiety, fear, sadness, stress, and anger that is unique to the Black experience in America. But no one is off the hook, including the audience. The characters confront the "watchers", comment on their presence, ask important questions, and ultimately inspire a hopeful call to action so that others lives might be saved. Thank you for being a witness at this performance. Now what are we going to do?

I'd like to share my heartfelt gratitude to this incredible cast for their courage and vulnerability in this process and acknowledge the mental, emotional, and physical labor that was required to bring this play to life. Additionally, I hope you'll join me in celebrating and giving thanks for the joy, humor, energy, and spirit that emanates from this fantastic and vital production. Plays like KILL MOVE PARADISE don't come along often, but when they do, they can be transformational.

With Love and Respect,

Nathan Motta

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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



NATHAN HENRY is thrilled to return to Dobama Theatre, this time to direct, where he has previously appeared as a performer in the regional premieres of Brandon Jacob-Jenkins' *An Octoroon*, Paula Vogel's *A Civil Way Christmas*, and Tanya Barfield's *The Call*, as well as Rick Elice's *Peter and the Starcatcher* and the world premiere of Eric Coble's *Ten More Minutes From Cleveland*. Nathan is the recipient of the 2018 Cleveland Scene Theatre Award for Best Director for Karamu House's critically acclaimed production of *Passing Strange*. He directed the Cleveland Public Theatre production of *Ya Mama!*, written and performed by Nina Domingue, which appeared at the 2018 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Nathan recently directed Idris Goodwin's *Jacked!* at Cleveland Play House, as well as the world premiere of *White Man's Burden*, a collaboration with Beck Center for the Arts and Baldwin-Wallace University Music Theatre Program. He has worked in professional theatre as a producer, director, choreographer, educator, arts administrator, and actor for over 20 years. Select regional credits for directing include: Nina Domingue's *Sundiata*, Douglas Turner Ward's *Day of Absence*, Eric Coble's *The Velocity of Autumn*, Pearl Cleage's *Flyin' West*, Dael Orlandersmith's *Yellowman*, August Wilson's *Seven Guitars*, and Lee Summers' *From My Hometown*. At Karamu House, he served as Line Producer for the regional premiere of Rajiv Joseph's *The Lake Effect* (co-produced with Ensemble Theatre), the regional premiere of *Simply Simone: The Music of Nina Simone*, and the American premiere of Lisa Codrington's *The Adventures of the Black Girl in her Search for God*. Henry also served as Associate Director for the regional premiere of *Caroline, or Change* (co-production with Dobama Theatre and Karamu House), and co-producer of and performer in *Songs For The Asking* at Playhouse Square. For Deondre Martin and Trey Edward Lawrence Porter.

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

JAMES JAMES is a playwright, director and educator. He has appeared regionally in productions at The Arden Theatre Company, The Philadelphia Theatre Company, The Wilma Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Mauckingbird Theatre Company, and People's Light and Theatre. James' plays have been produced by Flashpoint Theater Company, Orbiter 3, Theatre Horizon, Wilma Theatre (Philadelphia, PA), The National Black Theatre (NYC), Definition Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre (Chicago IL) Shotgun Players (Berkeley, CA) and have received development with PlayPenn New Play Conference, The Lark, Playwright's Horizons, Clubbed Thumb, Villanova Theater, Wilma Theater, Azuka Theatre and Victory Garden. James is the 2011 F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Artist recipient, and he has two Barrymore Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play for *Superior Donuts* and *Angels in America* and two Barrymore Awards for Outstanding Direction of a Play for *The Brothers Size* with Simpatico Theatre Company and *Gem of the Ocean* with Arden Theatre. James is a 2015 Pew Fellow for Playwriting, the 2015 winner of the Terrance McNally New Play Award for *WHITE*, the 2015 Kesselring Honorable Mention Prize winner for *....Miz Martha*, a 2017 recipient of the Whiting Award, a 2019 Kesselring Prize for *Kill Move Paradise* and a 2020 Steinberg Prize. James was a founding member of Orbiter 3, Philadelphia's first playwright producing collective. He received a B.A. in Drama from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and a M.F.A. in Acting from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. James is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Villanova University and a co-artistic of the Wilma Theater. He resides in South Philadelphia. Headshot by Beowulf Sheehan.



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DOBAMA THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS
the Regional Premiere of

KILL MOVE PARADISE

BY JAMES IJAMES

DIRECTED BY NATHAN HENRY

MARCH 4 – 27, 2022

THE CAST

MELL BOWENS, JR †
ISA

AAMAR-MALIK CULBRETH
TINY

ANANIAS J. DIXON*
DAZ

DARIUS STUBBS †
GRIF

SWING †
AVERY LAMAR POPE

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
† Equity Membership Candidate



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. actorsequity.org



The Director is a member of the
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Patrons who exit the theatre will only be allowed re-entry at the discretion of the Stage Manager.

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Chicago, Illinois, as part of
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New York City world premiere produced by
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Harlem, NY, June 2017

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Dobama Theatre is a proud member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG),
the national organization for the American theatre.



PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

Natha Henry

SCENIC DESIGNER

Laura Carlson Tarantowski

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Marcus Dana

SOUND DESIGNER

Derek Graham

COSTUME DESIGNER

Mia Jones

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Jeremy Paul

VIDEOGRAPHY

T. Paul Lowry

STAGE MANAGER

Joel Rathbone*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Kitty Wen

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Nathan Motta

SCENIC PAINTER

Justine Schneider

WARDROBE

Lady Jen Ryan

CHOREOGRAPHER

Jailyn Harris

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Nathan Motta

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DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

Mariah Burks

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RESIDENT SOUND DESIGNER

Richard Ingraham

RESIDENT COSTUME DESIGNER

Tesia Dugan Benson

RESIDENT PROPS DESIGNER

Vanessa Cook

RESIDENT SCENIC ARTIST

Justine Schneider

RESIDENT STAGE MANAGER

Joel Rathbone*

BOX OFFICE STAFF

Owen Schneider

INTERNS

Jamie Cohen-Kiraly
(Technical)

Kitty Wen (Stage
Management)

Andy Zicari (Production)

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Barbara Hill-Newby

Bill Newby

Jennifer Stapleton

*Indicates new board members for the 21/22 Season

CAST



MELL BOWENS, JR† (ISA) is ecstatic to finally be making his Dobama Theatre debut after 6 years of wanting to audition. Mell-Vonti is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace University's BFA Acting program, Class of 2019. Theater Credits include Donkey in *Shrek the Musical*, David Keaton in *The Exonerated*, Tribe in *Hair* (The Beck Center); Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* (Near West Theatre), Soldier in *Macbeth* (Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival & Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival), Wealthy Man in *American LaRonde*; Suffolk in *Henry VI Part 1* (Baldwin Wallace University) and Prisoner in the Russo Brothers' *Cherry*. Mell-Vonti thanks God for His continued blessings. After a year of so much chaos and trauma, here's to coming alive again with passion, individuality, and the courage to share a story. Sit back, relax and enjoy the ride. MellVontiBowensJr.com



AMAR-MALIK CULBRETH (TINY) is thrilled to be making his regional debut in *Kill Move Paradise*. He is from Charlotte, NC and is a first year Music Theatre Major at Baldwin Wallace University. His favorite roles include Everybody in *Everybody*, Walter Lee Younger in *Raisin in the Sun*, Will Rogers in

Will Rogers Follies, Roger in *Rent*, and Anthony Hope in *Sweeney Todd*. Thank you to everyone in the cast, crew and creative team for making this show happen, and thank you to everyone for coming out and supporting! Hey Mom! Thanks for everything! Love you! Instagram - @aamarmc



ANANIAS J. DIXON* (DAZ) is extremely honored to be working with this beautiful group of artists. He is blessed to be a theater teacher and coach at the Cleveland School of the Arts, Cleveland Play

House, and Playhouse Square and has also been a member of George Street Playhouse's educational touring theatre. Theater credits include *Sweat* (Pittsburgh Public Theater); *Sunset Baby*, *The Effect*, *An Octoroon* (Dobama Theatre); *Detroit 67*, *Julius X* (Karamu House); *The Family Claxson*, *How to End Poverty in 90 min* (Cleveland Public Theater); *Black Angels Over Tuskegee* (Actors Temple); *John Henry* (Cleveland Play House); *The Toilet* (New Federal Theatre). TV/film Includes "Law and Order: SVU", "Blue Bloods", "Person of Interest", "Boardwalk Empire", "Upstairs", "NYC 22", *Antwone Fisher*, *Home_*, and *Criminal Activity*. Ananias was also part of Cleveland Play House's New Ground Theatre Festival as the AD for *The Nolan Williams Project* as well as AD for *The Royale* under the direction of Robert Barry Fleming.

DOBAMA MISSION

Dobama Theatre is dedicated to premiering important new plays by established and emerging playwrights in professional productions of the highest quality. Through theatrical production, community engagement, and education programming, Dobama nurtures the development of theatre artists and builds new audiences for the arts while provoking an examination of our contemporary world.



DARIUS STUBBS†

(GRIF) is a poet, playwright, performer, vocalist and educator who has been living and working in Cleveland, OH since 2006. He has collaborated with many creative thinkers

across the city in the creation of over a dozen original performance pieces spanning the genre spectrum from performance art to fully-staged production at local theatres including Cleveland Public Theatre and Near West Theatre. Darius has been a featured speaker in an array of venues and events, including TedXCle 2015 “Untold” series, City Club of Cleveland’s Forum on Transgender Identity in Northeast Ohio, CPT’s Station Hope and Guide to Kulchur’s “Uncanny Voices” series. Darius has also been highlighted among *Scene Magazine*’s “Cleveland People” series, and was awarded the Greater Cleveland Community Shares Rising Activist Award in 2016. He is also the Vice Chair of the board of TransOhio, a non-profit dedicated to education and advocacy in order to better the lives of transgender Ohioans.



AVERY LAMAR POPE†

(SWING) is a multi-disciplinary performance artist based in Cleveland, OH. As an actor, he has worked frequently with Tantrum Theater (Shedrick, *Objects in the Mirror*;

Militant Revolutionary, This Is Not What I Expected...; and Ensemble, *Rhinoceros*), locally at Cleveland Public Theatre (Jimmy, *12,000 Steps*), and participated in new play development and workshop readings through the annual Ohio University Seabury Quinn, Jr. Playwrights’ Festival, Dobama Theatre, and Tantrum East. As a playwright, his play *A World Apart* was a 2021 New South Young Playwrights’ Festival selection at Horizon Theatre in Atlanta, GA. He is also a current Playwrights’ GYM member with Dobama Theatre and a proud member of the Dramatists’ Guild of America. He served as AD for the virtual reading of *Van Sonata* and *Song of Sankofa*, both at Cleveland Public Theatre. He has served as a teaching artist for the STEP program at Cleveland Public Theatre, will this year serve as a teaching artist for Playhouse Square’s Dazzle Awards, and is currently an Actor-Teacher with Great Lakes Theater. His work can be seen on New Play Exchange and averylamarpope.com.



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PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

NATHAN HENRY
(see About the Director)

SCENIC DESIGNER

LAURA CALRSON TARANTOWSKI
is happy to be back at Dobama with a wonderful cast and creative team. As the resident set designer and instructor at Oberlin College, recent work includes *Antigone*, *Twilight Bowl*, and *Olympus*. Favorite recent productions with Dobama include *brownsville song (b-side for trey)*, *Sunset Baby*, *Stupid Fucking Bird* and *Slowgirl*.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

MARCUS DANA
has worked at Dobama Theatre since 2003 in various capacities including Technical Director and Lighting Designer. Recent shows are *Hansel & Gretel* (Technical Director) with Nightingale Opera, *LD Dance Concert: Design Dancing on the Edge*, and Cleveland School of Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Previous Lighting includes Tri-C East/Metro from 2000-2016 as Lighting Designer, Laurel School 2009-2012, Resident Lighting Designer at Near West Theatre from 2001-2006, Guest LD at The Canton Players Guild 2005-2011, Verlezza Dance 2004-2010,

Beck Center 1995-2000, including *The Secret Garden*, where he won the 1995-1996 Peggy Ezekiel "Award of Outstanding Achievement", CSU Factory Theatre, Cassidy Theatre, Karamu House, Lake Erie College 1997-2006, Willoughby Fine Arts Association, The Bang and The Clatter Theatre, Kalliope Stage, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Bonfils Theatre and The Changing Scene.

SOUND DESIGNER

DEREK GRAHAM
is a sound designer/composer based in North Carolina. Previous Dobama credits: *Skeleton Crew*; *Wakey, Wakey*; and *An Octoroon*. Recent composer credits include *Toni Stone* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater/Alliance Theatre); *The Chinese Lady* (Artists Repertory Theatre); *Protocol* and *Redwood* (Portland Center Stage).

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

JEREMY PAUL
is director, designer, and interdisciplinary artist. As the founder and Executive Artistic Director of Maelstrom Collaborative Arts since 2006, Jeremy has led the creation of the original productions *Four Futures*, *The Wandering*, *Inferno*, *Who We Used To Be*, *Don't Wander Off*, *Broken Codes*, *The Turing Machine*, *The Grand Celebration*



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of the Celestial Mystery, TingleTangle, Code: Preludes, The Excavation, and Marble Cities. He has directed the world premieres of Tall Skinny Cruel Cruel Boys, Black Cat Lost and My Barking Dog as well as the regional premiere of Inoculations, Anna Bella Eema, and Stranded on Earth. He recently joined Cleveland Institute of Music as the inaugural Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence.

STAGE MANAGER

JOEL RATHBONE*

has been a freelance Stage Manager for over twenty years in Cleveland. He has managed productions for Playhouse Square, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, Cleveland Shakespeare Company, and Lakeland College. He was grateful for the opportunity to manage Dobama's *Hand to God*, *The Nether*, *Marie Antoinette*, *Ella Enchanted*, *Grounded*, *Sunset Baby*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Wakey Wakey*, *The Night Alive*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *The Call*, *The Norwegians*, *Superior Donuts*, and *Cock*. His other favorite productions around town have been *Next to Normal* for Lakeland College and Ensemble's production of *The Normal Heart*. As always, he couldn't do it without the support of his friends and family, especially his wife Hester and his sons, Joel and Felix.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

KITTY (WANQI) WEN

is a freelance Stage Manager around Northeast Ohio. She has recently completed her Disney

College Program (DCP) Fall 2021 and is honored to make her Dobama debut. Previous credits include Karamu House, Cleveland Public Theatre, Ohio City Theatre Project, Baldwin Wallace, and more. She is the stage management intern for the 21/22 Season with Dobama. She is also sincerely grateful for her mother supporting every path, artistically and spiritually.

CHOREOGRAPHER

JAILYN HARRIS

is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and a graduate of Bowling Green State University, where she received her BAC in theatre, with a minor in dance. She has a strong dance background and extensive experience in Jazz, Hip Hop and Musical Theatre. She is an inaugural member of MadJax Dance Company. Jailyn has choreographed for theaters and organizations across the Northeast Ohio area and beyond, including the Sitar Arts Center in Washington, DC. She has also served as a teaching artist with Dancing Classrooms of Northeast Ohio and the Center for Inspired Learning. As a performer, she has had the opportunity to perform on film and in theaters across Northeast Ohio and beyond with credits from Talespinners Children's Theatre, Rubber City Theatre, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Karamu House, Lakeland Civic Theatre, the Players Guild Theatre and the A.R.T. in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She enjoys working on and developing new works and recently performed in the world premiere of *Bluesman*:

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Never Get out of These Blues Alive and in the world premiere of *Heartbreakers in Hell* by Joey Contreras and Benjamin Halstead.

SCENIC PAINTER

JUSTINE SCHNEIDER

is an artist from the Cleveland area. She has been Dobama's Resident Scenic Artist since 2016, painting almost all of their shows from then to now! Justine also freelances for other theatres such as Great Lakes Theater, Near West, Chagrin Falls Academy, and many more. She is also a member of IATSE Local 209, where she puts her scenic skills to use as a set painter for film. When Justine isn't painting sets, she creates pet portrait commissions and runs a monthly sticker club through her Patreon. To follow Justine on her various artistic endeavors, visit <https://linktr.ee/Artistjustineschneider!>

COSTUME DESIGNER

MIA JONES

is delighted to be part of the crew of KMP. Mia has had the privilege of performing, stage managing, costume design, and directing, in such venues as Karamu House, Dobama Theater, Cain Park, The Cleveland Playhouse (State Theater), Cleveland Public Theater (CPT) and Nearwest Theatre. She has been recognized by the city of Cleveland receiving an award for Arts and Entertainment.

WARDROBE MANAGER

LADY JEN RYAN

is beyond thrilled to return to live theatre and to be given the opportunity to wardrobe for Dobama. She has performed and worked from behind the curtain for over three decades. She majored in vocal performance and minored in musical theatre at Bowling Green State University. She is an operatically trained vocalist,

PLAYWRIGHTS' GYM

WHAT IS THE PLAYWRIGHTS' GYM?

The Playwrights' GYM is Dobama Theatre's playwrights' unit. The GYM is a program that provides local playwrights with the opportunity to workshop new work. GYM playwrights are area professionals who are given various resources to help further their work, including rehearsal space, collaboration with a director to assist the playwright, marketing and public events supported by the theatre. The GYM's goal is to nurture new work in a safe environment.

THE GYM HAS TWO PARTS

GYMreads: staged readings of full plays are conducted in the theatre. These are scheduled throughout the season.

GYMworks: a "showcase" where scenes from full length plays or shorter theatrical works by GYM playwrights are performed in an annual or bi-annual event.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Meredith King
Lisa Langford
Claire Robinson May
Avery Pope
Eric Schmiedl
Amy Schwabauer
Faye Sholiton
Logan Cutler Smith
Greg Vovos
Dr. Mary E. Weems
Rachel Zake

For more information, visit dobama.org.


a fully licensed cosmetologist, an experienced makeup artist, an accomplished dresser/stylist and a distinguished costume designer. Lady Jen would like to acknowledge her support system and theatre muses. LG, RB, RGS, - Special Thanks to Ms. Walker, My Beast, My Boo, My King -only you.

PROPS


ANDY ZICARI

is a proud Cleveland Heights native and product of the fantastic performing arts programs in the CHUH school district. While earning a BA in Musical Studies at Oberlin College and Conservatory, he found his calling in stage management, and has worked on shows for Oberlin's Theatre Department and Opera Theatre Department, as well as for schools and

theatres across the Greater Cleveland area. Andy sends his thanks to his parents, and to the wonderful folks at Dobama for the opportunity to work with them!



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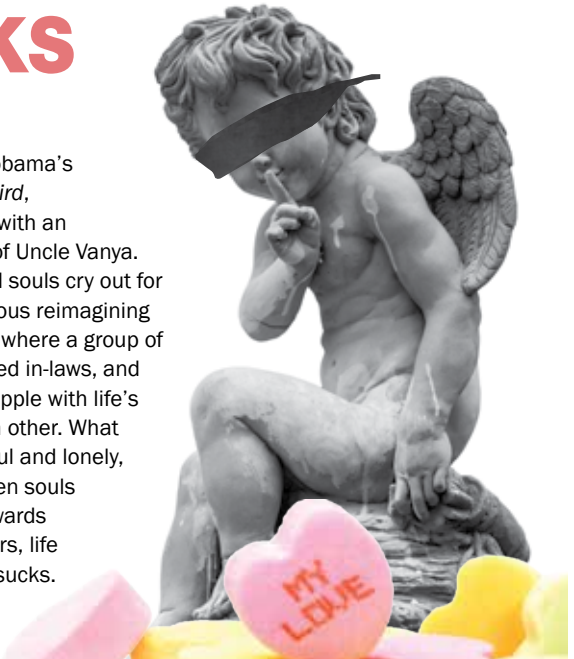
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NEXT ON THE DOBAMA STAGE

LIFE SUCKS

APRIL 22 - MAY 22, 2022

After taking aim at The Seagull in Dobama's hit production of *Stupid F**king Bird*, playwright Aaron Posner returns with an irreverent contemporary remix of Uncle Vanya. Egos clash, hearts hunger, and souls cry out for meaning in this raw and hilarious reimagining of Chekhov's timeless classic where a group of old friends, ex-lovers, estranged in-laws, and lifelong enemies gather to grapple with life's thorniest questions—and each other. What could possibly go wrong? Lustful and lonely, hapless and hopeful, these seven souls collide and stumble their way towards the understanding that life staggers, life confounds life is beautiful, and life sucks. Or does it?



DOBAMA STAFF

COLIN ANDERSON

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

(he/him) has spent his life in Cleveland, which he now calls his artistic home as a director, producer and administrator. He is proud to be openly gay and a fierce advocate for LGBTQ+ equity and access in the theatre industry and beyond. Directing credits include *MBKPF - Your Final Night Alive*, *The Soliloquy Project - Significant Other*, *She Washed His Hands*, *DEAP - Spring's Awakening* (upcoming), *Unicorn Lost in NYC* (Dobama); *I'm Alive You Bastards* and *I Always Will Be* (Nightbloom Theatre Co); *The Inside Story* (Playwrights Local); *Beyond Therapy* (Access Theatre Project); *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Ordinary Days*, *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, and *Next to Normal* (Oberlin College). Colin has also worked with Cleveland Public Theatre, Harlequins Theatre, Elyria Catholic High School, and BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe

Festival, where he acted as Assistant Producer during its founding. He is the Co-Founding Artistic Director of Nightbloom Theatre Company, Cleveland's theatre focused on stories of women and LGBTQ+ folks and a partner of Studio West. BA: Oberlin College. colintyleranderson.com
Email: canderson@dobama.org

MARIAH BURKS

DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

(she/her) is a Cleveland, OH native. For the past 20 years she has collaborated with many theaters across greater Cleveland and more. As an actress, singer, director, and educator she thrives to gain even more versatility. Her work has mainly been seen at Cleveland Play House, where she is currently playing the titular role of Antigone. Other credits include *Clue: A New Comedy* (The Cook), *The 25th Annual*

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Putnam County Spelling Bee (Logainne) and more. An alumni of the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program and a graduate of Bowling Green State University's Musical Theatre Program. Mariah was the recipient of the National Irene Ryan Acting Award at the Kennedy Center (ACTF) in Washington, DC. Other regional and local theatre work includes: *AIRNESS* (Dobama Theatre), *Caroline, or Change* (Tantrum Theatre) and *RAGTIME* (Cain Park). Instagram: @magical_mariahb

ELISE KUKLINCA

CONNECTIVITY DIRECTOR

(she/they) began working at Dobama in 2015 in the box office before transitioning to the Patron Services Manager in 2018. In 2021, Elise became Connectivity Director, a role that encompasses fostering internal communication, connecting with artists, working with volunteers, and building deeper relationships with the greater community. Previously, Elise could be found in myriad places including La Jolla Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, The Carnegie and Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis. Email: elisek@dobama.org

NATHAN MOTTA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

(he/him) is the 5th Artistic Director in Dobama Theatre's 60-year history, where he's directed productions of *The Flick* (2017 Best Director- Cleveland Critics Circle), *An Octoroon* (2016 Best Director- Cleveland Critics Circle), *Stupid Fucking Bird* (2019 Best Director- Cleveland Critics Circle), *AIRNESS*, *The Old Man and the Old Moon*, *Ella Enchanted*, *This, Appropriate*, *John, Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Superior Donuts*, *A Bright New Boise*, *The Lyons*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Aliens*, *A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration*, *Marie Antoinette*, and the World Premiere of *How To Be A Respectable Junkie*. A professional director, conductor, and composer/lyricist, Motta has worked with Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Oberlin College, Cleveland State University, John

Carroll University, Baldwin Wallace University, Opera Cleveland, Ohio Light Opera, Cain Park, Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Mercury Opera Rochester (NY), and Civic Light Opera (Pittsburgh). He is the Founding Artistic Director of the Dobama Emerging Artists Program (DEAP), Dobama's elite summer acting program. He has written two original musicals, *Little White Gloves* and *Midsummer*, and composed original music for *The Land of Oz*, book and lyrics by George Brant. He holds a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.M. from the Eastman School of Music. Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), the national theatrical union that unites, empowers and protects professional Stage Directors and Choreographers throughout the United States.

DARIUS STUBBS

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

(he/him) (See The Cast: Grif)

CARRIE WILLIAMS

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

(she/they) is a performer, director, scenic artist, and a fierce arts education advocate. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Bowling Green State University, she moved to Cleveland to join Great Lakes Theatre's acclaimed School Residency Program as an Actor-Teacher. She has taught and created programming for a multitude of organizations, including Playhouse Square, Ensemble Theatre, French Creek Theatre, Brecksville Theatre on the Square, Fairmount Center for the Arts, Hawken School, and Talespinner Children's Theatre. Her artistic pedagogy focuses on exploring collaborative processes, fostering creativity, and empowering youth to step outside their comfort zone. Here she coordinates the Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival, the longest-running celebration of young playwrights in the United States.

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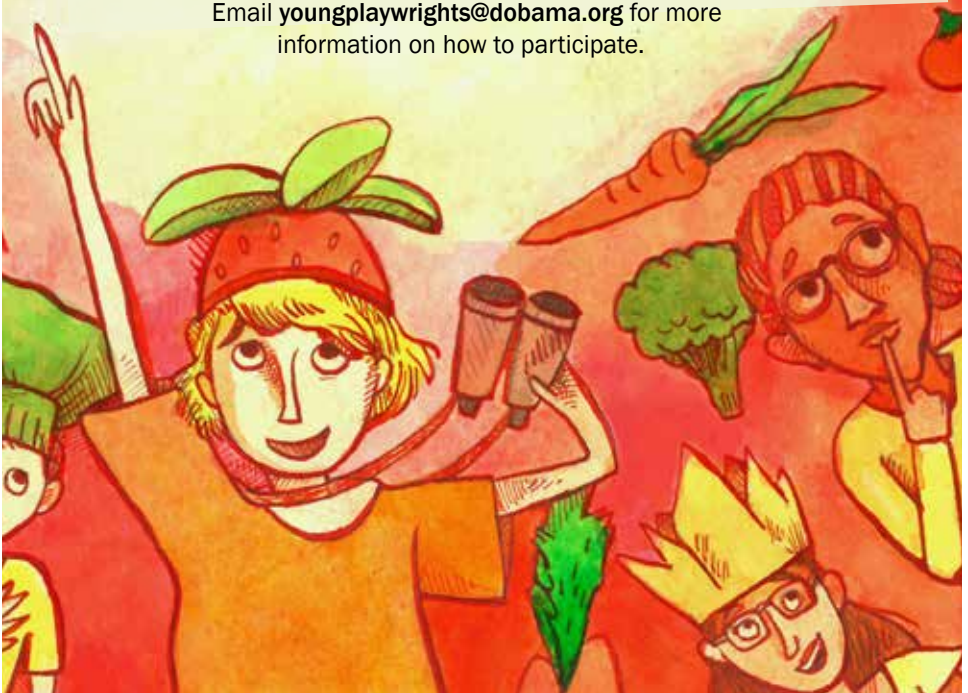
JUNE 2022

THE 44th ANNUAL MARILYN BIANCHI KIDS' PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL

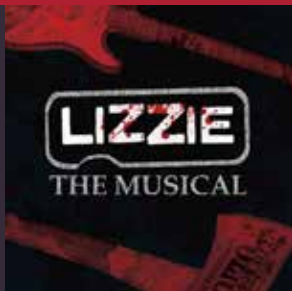
Dedicated to the memory of Marilyn Bianchi (actress, director and a founding member of Dobama) and the first playwriting festival of its kind in the United States, this Dobama tradition continues its long history with the 44th Festival in June 2022!

We receive hundreds of plays written by Northeast Ohio students grades 1 - 12 throughout the year. Select winning entries are performed as part of a FREE Kids' Fest weekend.

Email youngplaywrights@dobama.org for more information on how to participate.

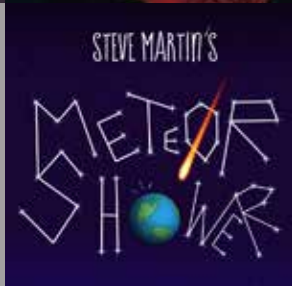


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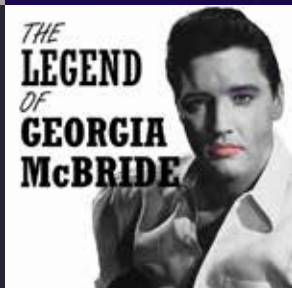
A sexy, bloody American mythology set to a blistering score of hard rock. This new musical rocks in collaboration with Baldwin Wallace Music Theatre Program.

FEBRUARY 4 — 27



This wild and crazy play by Steve Martin pulls back the curtain on two married couples and the extreme transformation they can experience when the sky is the limit. You'll have a burning desire to find out what happens next for these four lovers.

APRIL 1 — MAY 1



Casey is fired from his gig as an Elvis impersonator is over when the bar owner brings in a B-level drag show to replace his act. Experience this transfiguring transformation, while learning to laugh at life's detours.

MAY 27 — JUNE 26



It's 1595 and two brothers - the nemeses of William Shakespeare - are desperate to write a hit play. A local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre will involve Singing, Dancing, AND Acting, Will the lads pen the world's very first musical!?!?!?

JULY 8 — AUGUST 7

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Directed By **Nathan Motta**

APRIL 22 - MAY 22, 2022

