

**DOBAMA
THEATRE**



STEW

Written By
Zora Howard
Directed By
Nina Domingue

JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 19, 2023

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



The recipe of great play often consists of many pieces. The characters are the ingredients. They have a taste and texture all their own, but together they complement each other and lend something to the pot that is unique.

The circumstances are the broth. This is the environment in which the ingredients are thrown, with its own flavor and density. The seasoning is the text. Without strong dialogue, the play is flat and lacks the spice that makes it deliciously interesting. When all of these elements are thrown into a script, it is up to the cast and creative team to cook. Turning up the heat until it simmers or boils, stirring it carefully into a smooth consistency nothing sticks to the bottom, and occasionally tasting it to make sure that all the elements are balanced. When done well, all these elements and efforts merge together into a cohesive dish.

Zora Howard's fantastic play STEW has all the fixings for a great feast. Like most family recipes, it is the love that it's made with that helps it come together into a satisfying meal. As we act as a fly on the wall, we get to know these women as they tease, prod, instruct and question each other. We experience their family dynamics and watch as closely guarded secrets are brought to

light. Ultimately we come to understand that no matter how much they bicker or what tragedy may befall them, they are united in love and will be there to support each other, come what may.

Thank you for being a part of Dobama. We hope your experience is joyful, moving, and meaningful. We're grateful for your presence and your ongoing support.

With Love and Respect,

Nathan Motta



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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR/COMPOSER



NINA DOMINGUE is a Black Woman, Griot, Actor, Playwright, Director, Cultural Memory Worker, #NOLAGirl4Life, Teaching Artist, Intimacy Advocate pursuing Choreographic certification, momof5, sister, daughter, friend, ever-becoming. She writes in the tradition of those women who explore the interior lives of Black women with love, curiosity and wonder. Kilroy's List 2020 "The Lost Plays", Cleveland Public Theater, Premier Fellow 2021, CPT Catapult Fellow 2019, Nord Family Foundation Playwriting Fellow 2019, Twelve Literary Arts Barbara Smith Fellow, 2019.



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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT/LYRICIST



ZORA HOWARD is a Harlem-bred writer and performer. Plays include *STEW* (2021 Pulitzer Prize Finalist; Page 73 Productions); *THE MASTER'S TOOLS* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *BUST* (2022 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Finalist; 2022 L. Arnold Weissberger New Play Award Finalist); *HANG TIME* (2022 Creative Capital Award Finalist); and *GOOD FAITH*. Her work has been developed at Ojai Playwrights Conference, SPACE at Ryder Farm, The Lark, Primary Stages, and Cape Cod Theatre Project, among others. In 2020, her film *Premature* (2020 Film Independent John Cassavetes Award nominee), which she co-wrote with director Rashaad Ernesto Green, opened in theaters following its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. Zora is the inaugural Judith Champion Fellow at MTC, a 2022 Lilly Award and Helen Merrill Award recipient and is currently under commission from Seattle Rep, MTC, and Wessex Grove.



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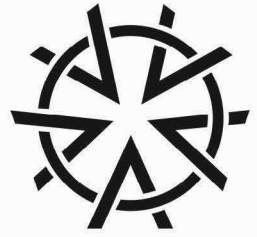
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The Regional Premiere of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize Finalist

STEW

BY ZORA HOWARD

DIRECTED BY NINA DOMINGUE

JANUARY 27 -FEBRUARY 19, 2023

THE CAST

CHRISTINA JOHNSON
MAMA

NICOLE SUMLIN†
LILLIAN

ADRIONNA POWELL
NELLY

LOGAN DIOR WILLIAMS
LIL' MAMA

MAYA NICHOLSON SWING
(LILLIAN/NELLY)

*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



THIS PLAY WILL BE PERFORMED WITH NO INTERMISSION
Patrons who exit the theatre will only be allowed re-entry at the discretion of the Stage Manager.

STEW premiered off-Broadway at Walkerspace on January 20, 2020. Produced by Page 73 and directed by Colette Robert, the production featured Portia, Kristin Dodson, Toni Lachelle Pollitt and Nikole Salter.

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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

Nina Domingue

STAGE MANAGER

Faith Roush

ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Barbara Kozlov

ASST. DIRECTOR

Esma Eddeb

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Marcus Dana

SCENIC DESIGNER

Laura Carlson-Tarantowski

SCENIC PAINTER

Jamie Cohen-Kiraly

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Josee Coyle

SOUND DESIGNER

Megan Culley

COSTUME DESIGNER

Mia Jones

WARDROBE

Lady Jen Ryan

PROPS DESIGNER

Dred Geib

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Nathan Motta

DOBAMA STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nathan Motta

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Colin Anderson

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Erin Dolan

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Elise Kuklinca

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Carrie Williams

DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

Mariah Burks

RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Marcus Dana

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*

RESIDENT ASSISTANT SM

Elizabeth Cammett

BOX OFFICE STAFF

Evelyn Lindrose
Owen Schneider

INTERNS

Esma Eddeb (Directing)
Cali Parey (Directing)
Michael Glavan(Directing)

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**indicates new board members for the 21/22 Season*

CAST



CHRISTINA JOHNSON (MAMA) Cleveland native Christina Johnson is a singer, Stylist, songwriter, visual artist and poet. Since her very first stage performance in “Geminia- a Space age Cinderella” as a

child, the arts have become more than the performance but a catalyst for learning, peace and balance. Christina has been a part of several script development groups locally. The love of the arts keeps her connected on stage, as well as working behind the scenes of productions. Recently performing in Karamu houses social justice series Juneteenth and Freedom after Juneteenth ,and Many years of “Black Nativity”. Christina has also been seen in “What If”, “Sisters of Selma”, “The Wiz”(as Evillene), “The Color Purple” (as Sofia), “Crowns”, “My brothers keeper” ,” Sister Act”, “ And her hair went with her” “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” to name a few. More to come soon from the stage as well as the recording studio.



NICOLE SUMLIN † (LILLIAN) is an actor, singer, director, writer, producer, and educator. She is honored to return to the Dobama stage after appearing as Ella in LIFE SUCKS and Elizabeth Keckley in A CIVIL WAR

CHRISTMAS. NYC performances: Medusa (Medusa), Zu (Project Tiresias), Judge Jill Joyce (How to Be a Winner), and Columbiner (ReB+VoDkA+Me). Regional work includes performances at Beck Center for the

Performing Arts, Cain Park, Cleveland Play House, Ensemble Theatre, Karamu House, Playhouse Square, Ohio Shakespeare Theatre, Tantrum Theatre, and others. She was named 2019 Best Actress in a Musical by the Cleveland Critics Circle (Billie Holiday, Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grille, Beck Center). She serves as Education Director at Cleveland Public Theatre and is a member of the adjunct faculty for Baldwin Wallace University’s Department of Theatre and Dance. She graduated from Wheaton College (IL) and studied voice at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music. She is thankful for God’s grace and her family’s love.



ADRIONNA POWELL (NELLY) is a Cleveland based actor. She is the Youth Coordinator at Mandel JCC; has worked with Cleveland Public Theatre, Great Lakes Theater and more. She is thrilled to be making her return

to Dobama. She was last seen on our stage in the 44th Marilyn Bianchi Kids Playwriting Festival.



LOGAN DIOR WILLIAMS (LIL’ MAMA) Previous shows include: Fences, Brownsville Song (b song for tray), A Christmas Carol, Sugar Belle, The Hollow Image (A daughter’s Trilogy), What if?, The

Four Angels of Sixteenth Street, We Call Him George, What We Could Have Been, Tomorrow’s Dance, Juba (Song of Negroes),

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.

Journey to the New Star, Children without Faces, M'AAFA, and The Phoenix Society. Theaters: Karamu House Performing Arts Theater, Dobama Theater, Great lakes Theater, Cleveland Music Settlement, Cleveland Public Theater, Aurora Community Theater, City of Cleveland Little Theater, Cleveland Institute of Music and The University of Akron Black Box. Logan Williams, a ninth grader at Cleveland School of The Arts, is prominently featured as an Outstanding Youth Philanthropist in The Soul of Philanthropy Cleveland (TSOPCLE) Celebrate Those Who Give Black. She now enjoys being a Cheerleader and Track Star for John Hay High school. Logan has been repeatedly honored for her coordination of many local donation efforts such as blessing bags, blessing boxes, warm blankets and pet supplies each year on her birthday.



MAYA NICHOLSON SWING (LILLIAN/NELLY) After being formally trained at Kent State University, Maya Nicholson became a company member of several local theatres in the NEOhio area, including Magical Theatre

Company, The Ohio Shakespeare Festival, and The Chameleon Village Project. She is now the Artistic Associate at Magical Theatre Company and continues to be thrilled to create and learn more about this craft. These past years, she has directed some of her favorite productions: Ain't Misbehavin', For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf, Sister Act, Fences, and many more. Maya is a core member of the newly formed Akron Black Artist Guild. She is a Theatre, Film, and Voice actor, as well as a carpenter, director, and playwright, and is represented by Docherty Talent Agency. Maya has tied her social justice work and love for theatre together in a myriad of productions, including Say It Loud! (co-creator), Home (co-collaborator), inCOPnegro (co-collaborator),

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and truly enjoys this work. Maya is an educator and being so an avid student. She prides herself in her continued study of Lessac Kinesensic training, improvisation, and

dramaturgy. She teaches a series of theatre courses to all ages and that information can be found on her website along with her upcoming work, www.mayanicholson.com.

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

NINA DOMINGUE
(see About the Director)

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

FAITH ROUSH
is a freelance theatre artist with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Management from Kent State University. Recent credits include *What We Learned While Alone: Global Voices Speak to the Pandemic* (Stage Manager – American Public Health Association Conference) *Plaid as Hell* (Production Manager – Babes with Blades Theatre Company), *The Thin Place* (Production Stage Manager – Dobama Theatre) *The Revolutionists* (Stage Manager – Equality Productions), and *Godspell* (Production Stage Manager – Porthouse Theatre). Faith is ecstatic to be back at Dobama this season and would like to thank her partner and family for their continuous love and support. Special thanks to Ron and Alzana Nuzzolillo for inspiring her to pursue a career in the arts.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

BARBARA KOZLOV
is thrilled to join Dobama Theatre for the second time as an Assistant Stage Manager. Barbara is a Kent State University alumna, but has recently gone back to school for a degree in Applied Sciences to pursue the lofty goal of becoming a Renaissance woman. A few of her favorite shows she previously worked on include: *A Christmas Carol* (Rubber City Theatre), *The Zoom Play That Has a Title* and *35mm: A Musical Exhibition* (Kent State University), *BKLYN: the Musical* (Porthouse Theatre), and *Concord Floral* (The University of Akron). Barbara is ever grateful for her

family and friends who have always loved and supported her.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ESMA EDDEB
is honored to be working with Dobama and the company of STEW! Her past credits include working at American Shakespeare Center, Playhouse Square and Great Lakes Theater. She'd like to thank her parents, siblings, her husband Hashim, and nephew Musa for being so supportive in all her endeavors. She'd also like to thank Nina and the incredible women of STEW who made every rehearsal the most fulfilling incredible time.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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, Cleveland School of Ballet THE NUTCRACKER. Previously Lighting includes: Tri-C East/Metro from 2000-2016 as Lighting Designer, Laurel School 2009-12, Resident Lighting Designer at Near West Theatre from 2001-06, Guest LD at The Canton Players Guild 2005-11, Verlezza Dance 2004-10, Beck Center 1995-2000, including THE SECRET GARDEN, where he won the 1995-96 Peggy Ezekiel "Award of Outstanding Achievement", CSU Factory Theatre, Cassidy Theatre, Karamu House, Lake Erie College 1997-06, 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.

SCENIC DESIGNER

LAURA CARLSON 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; “Kill Move Paradise”, ‘Brownsville Song (b-side for Trey)’, ‘Sunset Baby’, ‘Stupid Fucking Bird’ and ‘Slowgirl’.

SCENIC PAINTER

JAMIE COHEN-KIRALY is a contemporary artist in Cleveland. She graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2020, and has continued her career as a professional artist in the form of theater, tattooing, murals, and other painting projects. As a former Dobama Theater intern, she is now working on many shows behind the scenes, building and painting productions around the Cleveland area.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

JOSEE COYLE Josee is honored to work on this production of *Stew*. Josee is a young artist who’s recent works include *Steel Magnolias* at French Creek and *How the Circus Stole Christmas* at CPT. You can see their work again this April in a production of *Can I Touch It?* with CPT. They hope you enjoy this show and feel the heart that was put into it by every member of the team.

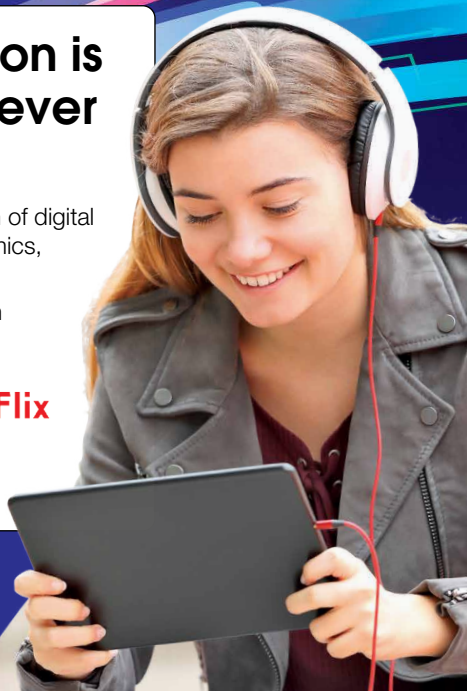
SOUND DESIGNER

MEGAN CULLEY Credits include: Dobama: Grounded; Hurricane Diane; Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again. Other Selected Credits: Antigone (Cleveland Play House); Cullud Wattah/The Loophole (The Public Theater); Holmes & Watson Apt. 2B (KCRep); Terminus (New York Theatre Workshop); 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (ACT of CT); Stranger Sings! (Off-Broadway); Inanimate (The Flea Theater); The Last Match (B Street Theatre); Roan @ the Gates (Luna Stage); The Color Purple

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(Theatre Horizon). Associate Designer: Flying Over Sunset by James Lapine (Lincoln Center Theater, Broadway); for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf (The Public Theater); Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (KCRep).

COSTUME DESIGNER

MIA JONES

(she, her) is delighted to be part of this wonderful production of STEW. Mia has had the privilege of performing, stage managing, costume designing, and directing, in such venues as Karamu House, Dobama Theater, Cain Park, The Cleveland Playhouse (State Theater), Cleveland Public Theater (CPT), and Near West Theatre. She has been recognized by the city of Cleveland receiving an award for Arts and Entertainment.

WARDROBE

LADY JEN RYAN

Lady Jen is beyond thrilled to return to 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, 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 DESIGNER

VANESSA COOK

is a B-W Conservatory (BM) and Regent University (MA) alum, Ms Cook is the owner of Cook Theatre Designs, LLC, a freelance design firm that serves Ohio theatre programs. She served as TD, designer and adjunct professor at Heidelberg University and is former costume/set designer for Heidelberg’s Community Music School. Ms. Cook currently works with several Cleveland based theater companies, most recently; Spark Theatre 4 Youth, Near West, Dobama, Cleveland Opera Theatre, and Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute. She assists with local and regional HS productions teaching the next generation about technical theatre. Ms. Cook is the co-founder of the Norwalk Arts Center (NAC) and serves on the board of directors as Secretary, as well as NAC’s prop/set and costume mistress.

PRODUCTION MANAGER

NATHAN MOTTA

(See Staff Artistic Director)

DOBAMA EMERGING ACTORS PROGRAM (DEAP)

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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 *Your Final Night Alive*, *The Soliloquy Project - Significant Other*, *She Washed His Hands*, *Spring's Awakening* (DEAP, upcoming), *Unicorn Lost in NYC* (Dobama); *I'm Alive You Bastards and I Always Will Be* (Nightbloom Theatre Co); *The Inside Story* (Playwrights Local); *The Last Five Years* (upcoming - Olde Town Hall); *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

is a Cleveland, OH native. For the past 22 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 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 *ANTIGONE* (Cleveland Play House). Instagram: @magical_mariahb Email: mariahb@dobama.org

ERIN DOLAN

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

is an Actor, Director, Educator, Playwright, and Poet based in Northeast Ohio. Originally from western Massachusetts, Erin spent her later childhood in Lorain County. She studied theatre at Kent State University and Lorain County Community College, where she first discovered her great love of including children in the creative process. Her path led her to Houston, Texas, and later to Columbus and Akron, Ohio, where she focused solely on her work in Early Childhood Education for several years. In 2017, Erin returned to Cleveland to rejoin the exciting and dynamic arts community here. Erin has over twenty years of experience as a classroom educator, the last eight of which included administration. She is the co-founder of Awesome Possum Theatre Company as well as Stratosphere, a performing arts collective. Erin was most recently heard onstage as the voice of Val Fuego in *Web of Deceit* (Stratosphere/BorderLight Festival), an illustrated radio play. Recent directing credits include *James and the Giant Peach* (LCCC/Spark Theatre 4 Youth collaboration), *Cupid & Psyche* (Stratosphere), *Burst of Thought* (Cleveland Public Theatre's Pandemonium). Also a playwright, Erin has been commissioned to adapt children's classics for The Illusion Factory in Akron, Talespinner Children's Theatre in Cleveland, and most recently Spark Theatre 4 Youth in Elyria, Ohio. Erin is a proud and vocal advocate for artists and educators. She strives to nurture in all children, artists, and audiences an enthusiasm for learning and an appreciation for their own imagination. Email: edolan@dobama.org

ESMA EDDEB

DIRECTING INTERN

(See Production Assistant)

MICHAEL GLAVAN

DIRECTING INTERN/TEACHING ARTIST

(he/him) is an actor, director, and teaching artist originally from the greater Cleveland area. After graduating Kent State University, Michael moved to New York City and worked off-Broadway and regionally across the country as an actor for the better part of the last decade. His longest running off-Broadway role made appearances in Bravo Network's *The Shahs of Sunset* as well as *Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen*, which began a modest career in television and commercial work. As a director Michael has relished the opportunity to stage a pretty wide breadth of production. Directing credits include: *The Haunted Forest* featured in the 2022 Marilyn Bianchi Kid's Playwriting Festival, *She Kills Monsters* currently (fall '22) in rehearsal at Laurel

School, *Godspell* and [title of show] at KSU's E-Z Blackbox, *Richard III* with The Mad Rogues (formerly Bard and Bourbon) in Milwaukee, *Macbeth* with a Chekhov-focused studio theatre company Name of Bird in NYC, *Joey and Ron* a 60s bubblegum pop musical at the Player's Theatre in NYC, as well as developing new short works within a performance series titled *Fast and Furious* which premiered monthly at the Tank in NYC. Since returning to Cleveland Michael has had the pleasure of getting more acquainted with NEOhio theatres: working with Rubber City Theatre's 2021 new musical development series; with Cleveland Playhouse as a teaching artist for John Adams High School, Stevenson, OLMC; with Dobama in the 2021 production of *Airness* as well as MBKPF; with Porthouse Theatre in the 2022 production of *Little Shop of Horrors*; with The Greenhouse as a prospective member of the actors' studio collective. Instagram: @mglavan425 Email: mike.glavan@gmail.com

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

Christopher Johnston
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.

ELISE KUKLINCA

CONNECTIVITY DIRECTOR

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

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), *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*. 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. Email: nmotta@dobama.org

CALI PAREY

DIRECTING INTERN

is a director, stage manager, and teaching artist. She is a determined and passionate student of the world. Cali is honored to be part of the Dobama team as an intern this year! Hailing from Cleveland, she is a graduate of Cleveland State University and recipient of the Reuben and Dorothy Silver Endowed Scholarship. She managed *Into the Woods* and *Marat/Sade* and worked as assistant director on *Polaroid Stories* while at CSU. She has had the pleasure of directing young artists in *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, *Singing in the Rain Jr.*, and *Pinocchio Jr.* at StageCrafters Youth Theatre. Cali has worked with Dobama and Cleveland Public Theatre in the past. Most recently, Cali directed a local cast in *Waiting For Godot*, in a fundraising effort for The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. She is so grateful to be surrounded with such creative and talented minds here at Dobama. Never Ever Give Up.

CARRIE WILLIAMS

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

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. Email: carrie@dobama.org

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In recognizing the land upon which we reside, we express our gratitude and appreciation to those who lived and worked here before us; those whose stewardship and resilient spirit makes our residence possible on this traditional homeland of the Lenape (Delaware), Shawnee, Wyandot Miami, Ottawa, Potawatomi, and other Great Lakes tribes (Chippewa, Kickapoo, Wea, Pinakshaw, and Kaskaskia). We also acknowledge the thousands of Native Americans who now call Northeast Ohio home. Dobama Theatre and the greater Cleveland area occupy land officially ceded by 1100 chiefs and warriors signing the Treaty of Greenville in 1795.

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

Dobama Theatre is committed to anti-racism action and a culture of authentic inclusivity. This effort is ongoing and will not end anytime soon. Our work is divided into three parts: The People, The Work, and The Process. The People come first, as they also do in our core values. We care for the whole person and create a larger, more equitable table for all to pursue our mission together. The Work are actions being taken to root out white supremacist, misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, and other oppressive structures so that we might replace them with organizational tools built on consensus, transparency, and trust. The Process is how we will move forward in equitably representing and investing in the community we serve, and how we will continue to assess our progress, remain accountable, and determine further action in years to come.

For more information on these and other efforts, visit dobama.org/antiracism

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Dobama Theatre recognizes the generosity of the many sponsors, foundations, and individuals who sustain us with contributions throughout the year. Each gift is significant regardless of size, both to us as an organization and to the donor. We have combined the following names to acknowledge the significance of those gifts, large and small. Thank you; we would not be here without you.

Please consider becoming a member of **The Premiere Club** today. *Benefits begin at the \$150 level.* **For more information on The Premiere Club and its great benefits, please pick up a brochure at the theatre or call us at 216.932.6838.**

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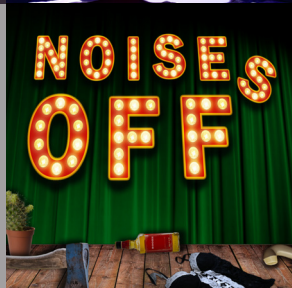
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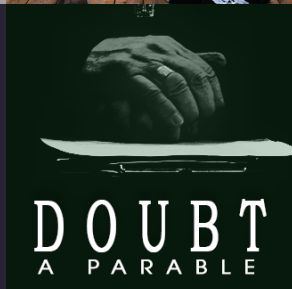
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FEBRUARY 10 — 26



English playwright Michael Frayn, after watching a performance from the wings: "It was funnier from behind than in front, and I thought that one day I must write a farce from behind." And write a fabulous farce he did!

MAR 24 — APR 16



This 2005 Pulitzer Prize-winner for Drama draws one into a world of suspicion surrounding a Catholic school in the 1960s. The relationship between a priest and a young male student will raise questions long after you leave the theater.

MAY 26 — JUN 25



In this Tony Award-nominated musical; swim away to the sands of the French Antilles in the glistening Caribbean Sea. A wise peasant girl uses the power of love and the beauty of acceptance to bring together very different people.

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Written By
Sharr White

Directed By
Nathan Motta

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