

AZUKA

simpatico
THEATRE

{STRONGER
together

1 POUND 4 OUNCES



written & performed by

Khalil Munir

directed by

Amina Robinson

OCT 22 - NOV 9, 2025

ABOUT THE SHOW

Through a tour-de-force tap performance, live music, and impassioned storytelling, Khalil shares his true tale of growing up and beating the odds in Philadelphia. This triumphant story of hope reveals the transformative power of art to change lives.



This play includes descriptions of gun violence and drug use.



We welcome you to take photos before and after the performance, however photography or recording during this production is strictly prohibited.



If you share your photos, please credit the designers and include:
@AzukaTheatre | @SimpaticoTheatre | #1Pound4Ounces



Please silence phones and any other noisemaking devices prior to the performance.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Azuka Theatre respectfully acknowledges that our work places are situated on land that is not ours - Lenapehoking, the ancestral and spiritual homeland of the Lenni Lenape. We pay respect and honor to the caretakers of this land, past to present, and into the future. Furthermore, we acknowledge the legacy of slavery in Philadelphia and that we benefit from systems and structures funded by the sale of and built by the hands of enslaved people.



The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape are still here! Get to know them and show your support at www.nlltribe.com or by scanning the QR code.

AZUKA'S NAME

Azuka Theatre Founder, Raelle Myrick-Hodges named the company after her niece, Jane Azuka, and to honor the strong community in which she was raised. The name Azuka is from the Nigerian word meaning "strength of foundation."

NOTES FROM REBECCA MAY FLOWERS & ALLISON HEISHMAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

A year and a half ago, Reva Stover and I sat in the Azuka offices while an artist we didn't know yet came by to show us a bit of his autobiographical tap performance. We didn't fully know what to expect, but the 5 minute snippet of this play he shared with us that day immediately captivated us. I remember holding my breath for 5 minutes, then crying and hugging him and thanking him for sharing his story with us. After he left, Reva and I turned to each other. We didn't have to say a word. We both knew we HAD to produce this play.

Over the past 18 months, we have gotten to know Khalil's incredible talent and vibrant spirit through two workshops and this rehearsal process. What a gift. I continue to be deeply moved by his story and awed by his talent, especially when lifted by the beautiful artists on this team.

This has been a perfect way for me to sign off on my time here at Azuka. This production is full of artists and technicians who are kind and exceptional at what they do. I am so grateful to have been a part of this chapter of the *1 Pound 4 Ounces* story.

And with that, I am so pleased to pass the baton to Allison Heishman, the new Artistic Director of Azuka Theatre! Allison is an incredible human and artist, a person I have admired for a long time. This is meant to be, and I am thrilled to support all the things she, Mark, and Autumn will dream up next. "Tag, you're it!"

Rebecca May Flowers, Outgoing Artistic Director



Left to Right: Autumn Blalock, Khalil Munir, Miranda Watkins, and Zuhairah McGill
1 Pound 4 Ounces Workshop 2024. Photo by: Rebecca May Flowers

NOTES FROM REBECCA MAY FLOWERS & ALLISON HEISHMAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

I first walked through Azuka's doors in 2006 as a volunteer stuffing envelopes and reading plays, and immediately fell in love. What started small soon grew into something much deeper: planning programs, directing mainstage productions, and helping shape the artistic vision. Azuka became my artistic home and the place where I found my voice as a storyteller.

When I stepped into the role of Artistic Director at Simpatico Theatre in 2017, it was a bittersweet goodbye. Azuka had raised me; Simpatico helped me grow. Now, to return and lead both organizations into this next chapter together feels like coming full circle.

It's an honor to champion Khalil's extraordinary play and to collaborate with the artists bringing it to life. I can't wait to share what's ahead for Azuka and Simpatico with you, our audiences who have always felt like family.

It's good to be home.

*Allison Heishman, Artistic Director
Azuka Theatre & Simpatico Theatre*



Rebecca May Flowers & Allison Heishman. Photo by Johanna Austin

AZUKA THEATRE + SIMPATICO THEATRE

Rebecca May Flowers
Artistic Director

Allison Heishman
Artistic Director

1 POUND 4 OUNCES

Written and Performed by

KHALIL MUNIR

Featuring Musician

RAJEER ALFORD

Directed by

AMINA ROBINSON

Scenic Designer

VIC GILL-GOMEZ

Lighting Designer

ALYSSANDRA DOCHERTY

Sound Designer

LARRY D. FOWLER, JR.

Production Manager

KERENI SANCHEZ

10th Floor Productions

Production Stage Manager

PATRESHETTARLINI ADAMS

Honorary Producers

LYNDSEY & KEVIN MCCORMICK

WORLD PREMIERE

OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 9, 2025

*We would like to thank the following artists for their contributions to the development of this work:
Zuhairah McGill, Karen Smith, and Brian Anthony Wilson.*

CAST

Khalil Munir.....Himself
Rajeer Alford.....Musician

Setting:

Various times and various places in Philadelphia, but South Philly is at its heart.

1 Pound 4 Ounces is approximately 75 minutes with no intermission.



The Stage Manager for this production is a member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Lighting and Sound Designers are members of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE, the union representing Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound and Projection designers in Live Performance.



Azuka Theatre is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance (GPCA).



Azuka Theatre is a proud participant in Theatre Philadelphia's Barrymore Awards program. The Barrymore Awards recognize professional theatre in the Greater Philadelphia region, honor local artists and theatre companies, and increase public awareness of the richness and diversity of our region's thriving theatre community. Learn more at www.theatrephiladelphia.org.



Azuka Theatre is an Associate Member of the National New Play Network (NNPN).



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Support provided in part by the Shubert Foundation, the Philadelphia Foundation, MKM Foundation, the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

A NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT KHALIL MUNIR

1 Pound 4 Ounces is a show about truth-telling, vulnerability, and connection — a story that reminds us of the power found in being seen and heard. It's a journey toward purpose, born from struggle, resilience, and self-discovery. This piece is for those who dare to rise from the concrete, for the ones who push through the cracks toward light, love, and liberation.

I'm feeling especially thankful and full of gratitude. To my beautiful wife, Shavonne Munir, thank you for being my rock, my peace, and my greatest blessing. Your love and strength hold our world together.

To our amazing children, Kha'ori Dae Munir and Olivia Lorraine Munir, you are the light of my life — every laugh, every hug, every moment reminds me what true joy looks like.

And to all my friends and family, thank you for your endless support, encouragement, and love. None of this journey would be possible without you. I'm truly grateful for the village that surrounds me.

With love and appreciation,
Khalil Munir

A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR AMINA ROBINSON

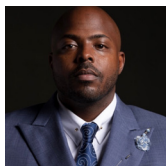
Sometimes a story comes along that grabs you, penetrates your spirit, and reinvigorates your childhood memories of fire hydrants in the summer, little hug juices, quarter bags of chips from the corner store, double-Dutch, and playing outside all day on South Philly marble steps. Well, at least that is what happened to me when I read *1 Pound 4 Ounces* by Khalil Munir.

Khalil's story begins with his true miracle of birth and takes us on a journey of innocence and youth, resilience, hope, love and loss within the context of growing up in South Philly. The landscape is one familiar to me, as I grew up in the same neighborhood as Khalil. This shows abides in the world of economic disenfranchisement of Black people in Philadelphia, the aftershocks of systematic disbursement of crack into Black neighborhoods and celebrates the power of a people to not only survive, but to thrive.

The overlap in my life and Khalil's is palpable. We have known one another for many years. But, far before that his grandfather Eddie Simon gave my mother her very first job, well before I was even a thought in her mind. I remember going to Mr. Eddie's corner store to get snacks and bacon for breakfast. We played in the same streets. Our fathers struggled in many of the same ways. Most interestingly, we were not in the minority in this experience. This show is very Philly. This show is very Black Philly. We receive it as a tribute to our city, to our community, to our memories, and to our legacy. This jaw'n is US!

Amina Robinson

WHO'S WHO



Khalil Munir he/him (Playwright/Himself) is a dynamic performer, educator, and author whose work bridges movement, music, and powerful personal storytelling. He is the creator and star of *1 Pound, 4 Ounces*, a critically acclaimed one-man show that draws from his own childhood to explore resilience, identity, and hope through a captivating blend of narrative, improvisational tap dance, and original music. Khalil is also the author of *The Crown Is Yours*, an inspiring children's book that celebrates self-worth and confidence. A graduate of Adelphi University with a BFA in Theatre, he brings his passion for the arts into the classroom as a dedicated theater and movement teacher at Delaware Valley Friends School. Through every stage he steps on and every student he teaches, Khalil Munir continues to uplift, empower, and ignite the transformative power of performance.



Rajeer Alford he/him (Musician) is a musician, actor, and producer. Most of his recent performing has been on stage and he is thrilled to make his Azuka debut with this team as a musician/music producer. The South Jersey Native was last seen on stage as Tom Collins in the Arden Theatre's production of *Rent*. He has a strong belief in the transformative power of theater and live music and hopes you will enjoy this special piece of art.



Amina Robinson she/her (Director) is a professional actor, director, and Associate Professor of Acting and Musical Theater at Temple University. She is thrilled to return to Azuka! As an actor, Amina has performed on Broadway, national tours, national commercials, and many television series. Amina's directing credits include productions at Wilma Theater, Arden Theatre, Azuka Theater, Theater Horizon, Lantern Theater, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, IAMA Theater (Los Angeles), and Queens Theater (New York). Currently, Amina is the only Black woman to win a Barrymore Award for Outstanding Direction of a Musical for *The Color Purple* and *Once on this Island* and is currently nominated for a Barrymore for directing *Intimate Apparel* at The Arden. SOUTH PHILLY ALL DAY!



Patreshettarlini ('Pat') Adams she/her (Stage Manager) is the Resident Stage Manager at the Wilma Theater. She has been with the organization since 1996. This season (2025-26) will be her 30th and she has recently celebrated over 100 productions with them! She has also been a member of Actor's Equity for over 30 years. Pat's almost 40-year career encompasses work with the Crossroads Theatre Company, New Brunswick, NJ; Freedom Theatre, Philadelphia, PA; New Victory Theater, NYC; Ford's Theater, Washington, DC; The National Black Theater Festival, Winston-Salem, NC; The National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta, GA.; the Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa. She has also traveled internationally with the dance company, Noche Flamenco! Pat serves as a Board Member for Theatre

Philadelphia; the Lay Leader and a Christ-Servant Minister at Emmanuel UMC; a Lifetime member of the Stage Managers' Association and a Board member for the Foundation for Stage Managers; a Board member-at-Large for the National Theatre Conference. She has received the Bonaly Recognition for Stage Management (2017); the IUP Alumni Award of Distinction/Fine Arts (2018); a 2020 recipient of the Del Hughes Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Art of Stage Management. In memory of 'Miss Thomi', for Love and Faith.



Victoria "Vic" Gill-Gomez they/them (Scenic Designer) is a queer Mexican American designer and stagehand. Originally from the DMV, they graduated from Washington College on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with training in technical theater and design. They currently serve as non-teaching faculty at The Haverford School and mentor young men in technical theater. They thrive on scrappy theater-making and new written work. Over their five years in Philadelphia, previous collaborations and assistant designs include: Shakespeare in Clark Park, on which they serve as an Artistic Advisory Board member; Wolf Performing Arts Center; Lightning Rod Special; Rutgers University; and Swarthmore College. Love to Shawn and Iz. Instagram: @gi11y



Alyssandra Docherty she/her (Lighting Designer) is a two-time Barrymore Award-winning lighting designer originally from Vernon, NJ. After graduating from DeSales University, she continued her training as an apprentice at Goodspeed Musicals in Connecticut. She has toured internationally with Koresh Dance Company and BalletX to stages in Belarus, Mexico, Bermuda, Serbia, Italy, and across the USA. Azuka: *Mrs. Harrison* and *Moth*. Her designs have also been seen at Arden Theatre Company, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Delaware Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Walnut Street Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, and Westport Country Playhouse, among others. AlyssandraDocherty.com

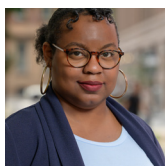


Larry D. Flower Jr. he/him (Sound Designer) THEATER: Regional: Guthrie Theater; Seattle Rep; Arden Theater; Lantern Theatre; Interact Theatre Company; The Wilma Theater; People's Light; Theater Horizon; Playmakers Rep; Denver Center; ACT Contemporary Theatre; Trinity Repertory Company; Steppenwolf Theatre Company; Camden Rep; Passage Theater Company. DANCE Rennie Harris Puremovement (DJ); Eleon Dance; Danse 4 Nia; Duane Lee Holland Dance; Kaleah London Dance. OTHER: Imaging Director and Content Editor, Healthcare NOW Radio. AWARDS: Barrymore Award (4 nominations since 2018; 2023 Recipient (*A Hit Dog Will Holler* - Azuka). MEMBERSHIPS: USA Local 829; TSDCA; ASCAP. SOCIAL: @mrcisum (IG).

WHO'S WHO



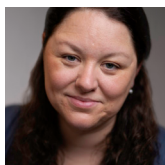
Chantel Thea Cumberbatch she/her (Assistant Stage Manager) is a proud 1st gen Trinidadian-American excitedly making her Azuka debut! Over the years, she has worked across the Greater Philadelphia region at various regional theaters and educational facilities including, but not limited to, the Wilma Theater, Arden Theatre Company, Simpatico Theatre, Theatre Horizon, Candlelight Theater, Media Theatre, Wolf Performing Arts Center, West Chester University, and the University of the Arts (RIP). With a devotion to exploring all artistic avenues, her career has ranged from Actor, Stage Manager, Director, Teaching Artist, Box Office Manager, to Costume and Props Manager. These experiences have solidified her belief that, "the ensemble of theater is the heart of the art". She is delighted to work with such talented and passionate people and can't wait to see what amazingsness their collaboration creates.



Autumn Storm Blalock, MA she/her (Dramaturg) is the New Play Development Director of Azuka Theatre. Her role includes moderating the playwriting cohorts and collaborating on initiatives for new opportunities for playwrights involved with Azuka. She holds a Master of Arts in Theater and a Graduate Certification in Nonprofit Management. She also holds a certification in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and leads corporate workshops on ways to create inclusive and healthy environments.



Kereni Sanchez - 10th Floor Productions she/her (Production Manager) is very proud to join Azuka & Simpatico's wonderful team for *1 Pound 4 Ounces* as the Production Manager. Kereni is a dynamic Stage and Production Manager based in Philadelphia. As the proud co-owner and CEO of 10th Floor Productions, Kereni has worked directly with organizations such as BalletX, Penn Live Arts, Klip Collective, Esperanza Arts Center, Montgomery Theater, The Sonder Space, Metropolitan Ballet Academy, and Fiera Studios. Kereni holds a BFA in Directing, Playwriting, and Production from UArts. To get in touch, please email kereni@10thfloor.live. To explore other 10th Floor Productions projects, visit 10thfloor.live.



Rebecca May Flowers she/her (Outgoing Artistic Director) is wrapping up her time here as Artistic Director while she transitions into her role as Founding Artistic Director of Philadelphia Children's Theater. Before coming to Azuka in 2021, Rebecca was the Associate Artistic Director at Theatre Horizon. As a director and choreographer, Rebecca has worked at schools, universities, and regional theaters across Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Florida. Recent credits include: *Bright Star* and *White Christmas* (Candlelight Theatre), *Galilee* by Christine Evans (Azuka Theatre), *The Wolves* by Sarah Delappe and *Fefu and Her Friends* by Maria Irene Fornes (Temple University), and *Matilda the Musical* (Steel River Playhouse). Rebecca is currently developing a new play for children called *Baby Whale and the Plastic Ocean*, which will tour to schools,

theaters, and community events in 2026. More info at pachildrenstheater.org. A Florida native, Rebecca earned her B.A. in Theater from Florida State University and her M.A. in Theater from University of Central Florida. All my love to Sean, Kai, Jax, and Circe.



Allison Heishman she/her (Artistic Director) is a director and educator who has been a part of the Philadelphia artistic community since 2003. With Azuka Theatre (former Associate Artistic Director): *Ready, Steady, Yeti, Go* (NNPN Rolling World Premiere), *The Arsonists* (NNPN Rolling World Premiere), *Local Girls* (WP), *The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence*, *Skin & Bone* (WP), *Failure: A Love Story*, *Hazard County*, *the terrible girls* (WP), *Azuka One Acts*. Other credits: *Tartuffe* (Commonwealth Classic), *Macbeth* (Revolution Shakespeare), *Rabbit Hole*, *Eurydice* (Ruhl, Arcadia University), *No Reservations* (PNAA Productions, WP), *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll* (Plays & Players), *Pinkalicious, the musical* (Walnut Street Theater, Kids' Series), *A Respectable Widow Takes to Vulgarly*, *Spacewang* (Tiny Dynamite, A Play A Pie A Pint, Barnes Foundation). Heishman was the Assistant Director under Blanka Zizka for the Wilma Theater's productions of *Angels in America, parts I and II*. She has written and directed for Theatre Programs at the National Constitution Center, where she served as the director of Living News, a fast-paced show geared towards middle and high school students that discusses current events and the Constitution. Senior Lecturer at the University of the Arts. Proud alumna of Washington College, Chestertown, MD. 2017 nominee for the F. Otto Haas Barrymore Award for an Emerging Philadelphia Theatre Artist. www.allisonheishman.org



Simpatico Theatre (Co-Producer) explores stories that celebrate, challenge, and expand our definitions of community and compassion. We stage thought-provoking work that's grounded in social justice, civil rights, and community service. Our grassroots dedication to bridging communities fuels our work, reveals avenues of advocacy for our audiences, and leads to transformative collaborations in our city.

Founded in 2005, Simpatico has produced 35 full-scale productions to date. Simpatico has been a four-time finalist for The Philadelphia Award for Social Insight (formerly the Virginia Brown Martin Philadelphia Award) for our work in the community, winning twice, first in 2016 for our production of *Time Is On Our Side*, commissioned by R. Eric Thomas and again in 2024 for our production of *A Shadow That Broke the Light*. We have attracted the finest artists working in our region as a result of our growing aesthetic, and our June 2019 production of *Cry It Out* garnered recognition for Excellence in a Lead Performance for actress Brandi Burgess. Our work is made accessible to all through Pay What You Decide ticketing.

A MESSAGE FROM HONORARY PRODUCERS LYNDSEY & KEVIN MCCORMICK

After being patrons and supporters of Azuka for a few years, Artistic Director Rebecca May Flowers asked me and Kevin to be Honorary Producers for a new show called *1 Pound 4 Ounces*. I am a fellow Philly born artist who was also a premature baby (funnily enough, I weighed the opposite— 4lbs 1 oz) and was immediately intrigued by this hometown underdog story. As a current arts administrator and former theatre fundraiser, I certainly knew the importance of supporting performing arts, and I had convinced other donors how special it can be to contribute to a specific project. Yet, I had never tried Honorary Producing myself...

From the first moment Rebecca gushed about this fascinating interdisciplinary piece, to the earnest and energetic workshop they presented last season, to attending the designer rehearsal this week, it's been thrilling to see how the show has taken shape and progressed through various iterations. This amazing creative team has worked so hard to create the version we're seeing tonight, and I'm excited for all of us to experience it!

New work like this is made possible when people realize the value of art in our society and intentionally pay the artists and administrators who create and present it. Azuka's "Pay What You Decide" ticket model welcomes all of us to experience the magic of live performing arts, no matter our capacity. It's up to us, then, to pay fairly — and perhaps even give generously on top of that — to ensure that great art can keep being made in our great city. We invite you to join us in supporting Azuka Theatre this season and hope you enjoy the show.

Cheers,
Lyndsey and Kevin McCormick



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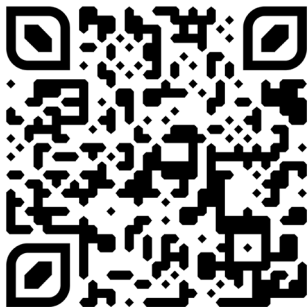
The family of Kate Esposito

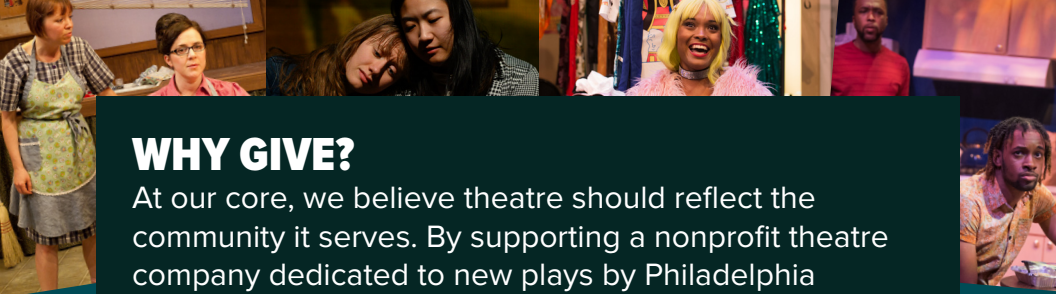
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Ready to add your name to this list?

Simply scan the QR code with your phone or visit **AzukaTheatre.org/support**.

✿ We hope you'll consider joining us as a Recurring Azuka Donor (RAD) with a monthly, quarterly or yearly contribution.





WHY GIVE?

At our core, we believe theatre should reflect the community it serves. By supporting a nonprofit theatre company dedicated to new plays by Philadelphia playwrights, you invest not only in extraordinary art, but in the people, neighborhoods, and stories that make this city unique.

WHAT DOES YOUR GIFT DO?

It fuels local talent by empowering Philadelphia-based playwrights to create and share their work, launching careers and ensuring their stories resonate on our stages and beyond.

It plays a vital role in bringing world-premiere productions to life. Imagine the thrill of knowing you were among the first to see a play that may go on to regional and national stages.

It amplifies community voices by reflecting the diverse, vibrant communities of Philadelphia. Your support ensures those stories - often unheard - are celebrated and preserved.

It ensures access for all by sustaining programs like Pay What You Decide ticketing, breaking down barriers and ensuring theater remains accessible to every audience member.

SUPPORT AZUKA TODAY!

To make your gift, visit AzukaTheatre.org/support or contact Mark Andrews by calling (215) 563-1100 or email mark@azukatheatre.org.

Thank you for making our work possible!

CLASS C

BY **CHAZ T. MARTIN**

DIRECTED BY **REBECCA WRIGHT**

MAY 7 - 24, 2026

WORLD PREMIERE

Set in a future where American citizens face government-assigned classifications, Chaz T. Martin's new play is a thrilling story of identity, loyalty, and survival. Old party lines and identity politics collide in a suspenseful tale that challenges who we can—or should—trust.

AZUKA **simpatico**
THEATRE

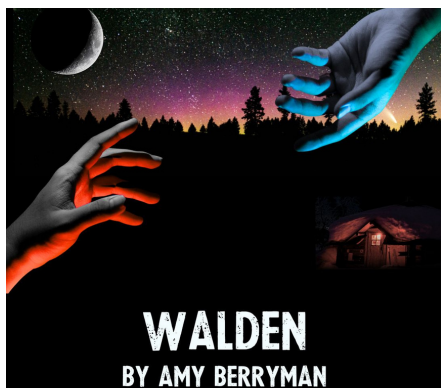


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AZUKA THEATRE

1700 Sansom Street, Suite 800,
Philadelphia, PA 19103,
215.563.1100, AzukaTheatre.org

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Lorraine Crawford & Khalil Munir, Sr.

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Isaiah Price

Music Consultant

Elena Camp

Head Electrician

Dalton Whiting

Audio Engineer

John Kolbinski

Lead Scenic Painter

Anna Ryabova

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Miles Ellis Novotny

Head Electrician

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our focus on Philadelphia playwrights,
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We are looking for passionate individuals who are energized by Azuka's mission and programming to join our Board of Directors. As we look ahead, we are excited to include new voices in our leadership model.

Interested?

Email **Board@AzukaTheatre.org** for more information!

Azuka Theatre is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any employee or job applicant on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, gender expression, age, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or public assistance status in the recruitment, hiring, training, compensation, promotion, transfer, layoff, recall and termination of employees. Azuka is committed to building a diverse, inclusive and equitable work environment. Those who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other members of underrepresented communities are encouraged to apply.



Brandi Burgess & Danielle Leneé in *Mrs. Harrison* by R. Eric Thomas (2018)

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