Responders

WORLD PREMIERE

WRITTEN BY JOSEPH SCOTT FORD
DIRECTED BY VICKIE WASHINGTON

JUNE 5-30

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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Dear Friends,

Today's performance is not just a world premiere: it's a celebration of local talent and a powerful new theatrical voice, Arkansas native Joseph Scott Ford. *Responders*—a compelling narrative born from the heart of our community—now takes its place on the national stage, in collaboration with Arkansas Repertory Theatre.

This script has been on our radar for over four years. It received full-on development at ANPF 2022, with the same team you're experiencing now, including director vickie washington (*The Mountaintop, School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play*, among others) and this superb cast. Back in 2022, filing out of the theatre following the *Responders* staged reading, audiences didn't hold back. "You must produce this play!" They clearly loved it. The artists loved it. And now, all of Arkansas will have the chance to love it, too.

At TheatreSquared we look for the best of what's next, fresh new plays whose stories resonate with the moment we live in—here in Arkansas, in mid-America, and as a nation. Our commitment to developing groundbreaking theatre is reflected in the success of plays featured at ANPF, many of which have gone on to major productions and national acclaim. Plays like *At the Wedding, Russian Troll Farm, Weightless,* and *FLEX,* initially workshopped here and often premiered here, have added significantly to the American theatrical landscape.

So thank you for your enthusiastic support of new work—we do not take that support for granted.

And, today, thank you for helping us introduce *Responders* to the American stage. Your presence here helps ensure that the voice of the American heartland resonates powerfully in our cultural conversation.

Enjoy the show!

Shannon A. Jones / Executive Director
Bob Ford / Artistic Director
CREATIVE TEAM
vickie washington  Director
Sydney Lynne  Scenic Designer
Jennifer McClory  Costume Designer
Levi J. Wilkins  Lighting Designer
PA Worthington  Sound Designer
Brodie Jasch  Props Designer
Emely Zepeda*  Production Stage Manager

CAST
Bradley Campbell*  Daryl
Kelsey Claire*  Ang
Edwin Green  Tucker
Miranda Jane*  Suzie

UNDERSTUDIES
Justin Fletcher  Daryl
Lara Jo Hightower  Suzie
Justin Mackey  Tucker

ADDITIONAL CREATIVES
Sarah Behrend-Wilcox  Assistant Director
Amber Holley  Assistant Stage Manager
Forrest Jessing  Technical Direction Lead

Responders is a co-production with Arkansas Repertory Theatre in Little Rock, AR. Ken-Matt Martin, Interim Artistic Director. Will Trice, Executive Director.

TIME PERIOD
Modern Era

SETTING
Rural Oklahoma

RUN TIME
90 minutes, no intermission

* Member, Actors’ Equity Association
° Member, United Scenic Artists, Local 829
# Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers
BRADLEY CAMPBELL (Daryl) returns to TheatreSquared, where he originated the role of Daryl at the 2022 Arkansas New Play Festival. Credits include: the Witch in The Butterfly’s Evil Spell, Signor Naccarelli in The Light in the Piazza, Hucklebee in The Fantasticks, Geronte in The Liar, Valere in La Bête, and Nick in Shear Madness (Theatre Three); Ellsworth Snow in Into the Breeches! (Stage West); Ed in Straight White Men (Second Thought Theatre); Eddie in The Legend of Georgia McBride and Hector in The History Boys (Uptown Players); Horace Vandergelder in Hello, Dolly! (Lyric Stage); Danny in Xanadu and Harry Dangle in One Man, Two Guvnors (WaterTower Theatre); Maurice in Beauty and the Beast (Casa Mañana); and Angus in The Drawer Boy (Plano Repertory Theatre—Best Performance by an Actor, Dallas Theatre Guild). He holds an MFA in acting from Rutgers University.

EDWIN GREEN (Tucker) returns to TheatreSquared, where he previously played Eli in At The Wedding and Tucker in the staged reading of Responders. Most recently, Edwin performed in New York City as Malcolm X in Primary Stages’ staged reading of Malcolm X and Redd Foxx Washing Dishes at Jimmy’s Chicken Shack in Harlem. Edwin’s credits include Ejlert Lovborg in Hedda Gabler and Alan in God of Carnage (University of Arkansas) and Macbeth / Lady Macbeth in Macbeth (SHSU). He holds a BFA in acting and directing from Sam Houston State University and an MFA in acting from the University of Arkansas.

MIRANDA JANE (Suzie) returns to TheatreSquared, where she originated the role of Suzie at the 2022 Arkansas New Play Festival. Her credits include Suzanne Sugarbaker in Designing Women: The Play (Arkansas Repertory Theatre, World Premiere co-production with TheatreSquared); The Witch in Into the Woods, featuring Hillary Rodham Clinton (Arkansas Rep); Ariel in Grumpy Old Men: The Musical (Prather Productions; Midwest Premiere, Circa ‘21); Miss Mona in The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (Totem Pole Playhouse); M’Lynn in Steel Magnolias (TopHat Productions); various roles at Murry’s Playhouse in Little Rock, where she has made frequent appearances; and several theaters in Branson, where she performed for twelve years. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, with instructor certifications in yoga, social dance, and English language teaching (CELTa).

VICKIE WASHINGTON (Director) returns to TheatreSquared, where her directing credits include The Mountaintop, Schoolgirls; or The African Mean Girls Play, Ain’t I a Woman, and staged readings of Responders and I Am Delivered’t. Additional directing credits include: Hairy & Sherri (Salt Lake Acting Company); Seven Guitars and Fabrication (UNT); Blood Knot (Flat Rock Playhouse); What to Send Up When it Goes Down and Are you now, or have you ever been... (Stage West); The Great Lonely Roamer (Echo); Black Nativity (Bishop Arts); Mississippi Goddamn (SDCC-World Premiere); Harriet Jacobs (TCU); Passing Strange (Theatre Three); Sunset Baby and Single Black Female (Jubilee Theatre); Fences (African American Repertory Theater). Acting credits include POTUS (Stage West); A Raisin in the Sun (WaterTower Theatre); Dreaming Emmett (DNAWORKS); Primer for a Failed Superpower (The TEAM); Crowns (Dallas Theater Center); for colored girls..., Joe Turner’s Come and Gone, and Piano Lesson (Theatre Three): A Lesson Before Dying (Jubilee Theatre); Contribution (Soul Rep); The Tempest and Macbeth (Shakespeare Dallas). Screen credits: Random Acts of Flyness (HBO) and indie films They Charge for the Sun, Meta Care, Swimming in Your Skin Again (Sundance selection), and Steps of Faith.

JENNIFER McCLORY (Costume Designer) previously designed What the Constitution Means to Me, Sanctuary City, Ann, and At The Wedding, and was the Associate Costume Designer for Kim’s Convenience and Assistant Costume Designer for The Band’s Visit at TheatreSquared, where she is also the Wardrobe Supervisor. She has also collaborated with the TheatreSquared Education department on several projects. Other credits include Dark Sisters (Opera Fayetteville); Man of La Mancha (Inspire Theatre); Go, Dog, Go! and Peter Pan (Trike Theatre/Walton Arts Center); Mamma Mia, Crimes of the Heart, and others (Arts Center of the Ozarks); and Legally Blonde, Cabaret, Dead Man’s Cell Phone, Magic/Bird, and others (Arkansas Public Theatre). She has also worked with Arts Live Theatre and Trike Theatre as a costumer and teaching artist. She has worked on multiple film, television, and commercial projects around NWA. She is a University of Arkansas graduate with degrees in English and creative writing. She is a published novelist in addition to her costuming work.
LEVI J. WILKINS (Lighting Designer) makes his TheatreSquared debut. Born and raised on the southwest side of Chicago, Levi studied theatre and production at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois. Theater credits include: Exit Strategy (Northwestern University); What to Send Up When It Goes Down (Congo Square Theatre & Lookingglass Theatre Company); Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Invictus Theatre); The Mountaintop (Constellation Stage & Screen); Into The Side of A Hill (Flint Repertory Theatre); Is God Is (A Red Orchid Theatre); Once on This Island (Pulse Theatre); A Raisin in The Sun (Indiana University NW); Stew, London Road, and Jump (Shattered Globe Theatre). He is currently the lighting director at The Faith Community of St. Sabina.

PA WORTHINGTON (Sound Designer) is a technical and creative designer and a Co-Technical Director at TheatreSquared. Most recently PA has written music and designed sound for TheatreSquared’s productions of What the Constitution Means to Me and Dial M for Murder. Worthington has designed sound for theatre, film, and various other multimedia, along with managing a variety of technical designs for productions in India, New Zealand, China, and the United States, while keeping Fayetteville, AR, as his home base. He received his BA in Theatre from the University of North Texas and his MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

EMELY ZEPEDA (Production Stage Manager) is the resident production stage manager at TheatreSquared, where she has stage managed Laughs in Spanish, What the Constitution Means to Me, The Band’s Visit, Dial M for Murder, Violet, Sanctuary City, Detroit ‘67, It Came From Outer Space, Miss You Like Hell, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, The Mountaintop, Designing Women, American Mariachi, and A Christmas Carol (2023, 2022, and 2021). She was previously the resident production stage manager with Brave New World Repertory Theatre in Brooklyn, NY, where she stage managed Over and Above, Shakespeare on Stratford (2021 and 2019), The Hook, A View from the Bridge, The Plantation, and Miss Julie, Asian Equities. Other credits: I Am My Own Wife (Long Wharf Theatre); Only Human (St. Clement’s); Tech Support (59E59 Theatres); Till (New York Musical Festival); Zen AM and I Am Antigone (Theater for the New City); Hatefuck (WP Theater); Soft Butter (Ars Nova); Melt (High Line); Thunderbodies (Soho Repertory Theatre); Ann and Skeleton Crew (Dorset Theatre). She holds an MFA in Stage Management from the Yale School of Drama and a BA in Theatre Technical Design from Binghamton University.

JOSEPH SCOTT FORD (Playwright) is a playwright, singer-songwriter, and actor based in Little Rock, AR. He is part of the husband & wife Folk-Pop duo JoClair. In addition to two original television pilots, he has written several plays, Not Even The Good Things being his first full-length. His second full-length play, Responders, is receiving its world premiere in a co-production in 2024 with TheatreSquared and the Arkansas Repertory Theatre. He workshops his third full-length, Penthouse Play, with Broadway stars Eden Espinosa (Rent, Wicked) and Brandon Kalm (Waitress, American Psycho). Other works include The Only Mountain in Texas, Mainly the Rabbit, Sasparilla, The Catch, and Montauk Rising, which is in development. Acting credits include the world premiere of Primating (Arkansas Repertory Theatre), Good Mourning (pilot), After Life (pilot), The Space, and various roles with the Upstart Creatures Theatre Company, where he was an ensemble member. He received a BA in economics & history from Vanderbilt University and studied acting under Bill Esper at the William Esper Studio.

ROBERT FORD (Artistic Director) is an award-winning playwright, novelist, and musician who helped found TheatreSquared in 2005 and since then has co-produced 90 plays and musicals and facilitated the development of over 85 new works. T2’s nineteenth season will feature his new play, In The Grove of Forgetting, which was previously featured as a play-in-progress in the 2023 Arkansas New Play Festival. With Amy Herzberg, he co-adapted two versions of A Christmas Carol for T2. T2 has produced several of his plays, including Fault, The Spiritualist, The Fall of the House (also Alabama Shakespeare Festival–Edgar Award nominee), My Father’s War, Look Away, ‘Twas the Night, and adaptations of Great Expectations and It’s a Wonderful Life. His critically acclaimed first novel, The Student Conductor, was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick. He holds a MMus degree from Yale and MFAs in acting from Rutgers and in playwriting & screenwriting from the University of Texas at Austin.

SHANNON A. JONES (Executive Director) joined TheatreSquared in 2014 and navigated roles from assistant stage manager to general manager before taking the helm in 2023. In her time at T2, she has managed, supported, and uplifted a multitude of artists; facilitated donor, artist, and community engagement; mentored emerging stage managers; served as a member of the DEI-focused TRUE NWA Train Cohort; and led the development of T2’s DEIA goals. As Executive Director, she oversees the company’s 100 employees, budgeting, operations, and the production of eight plays and the Arkansas New Play Festival each season. She was recognized in Northwest Arkansas Business Journal’s 2023 Forty Under 40 class. Highlights of her behind-the-scenes work at T2 include Peter and the Starcatcher, The Champion, and The Legend of Georgia McBride, among many others. She holds a BFA in stage management from the University of Central Florida and is a member of Actors’ Equity Association.

BRODIE JASC (Props Designer) is the properties director at TheatreSquared, where his previous credits include Cambodian Rock Band, A Christmas Carol (2023), Dial M for Murder, Detroit ‘67, Shakespeare in Love, The Legend of Georgia McBride, Every Brilliant Thing, The Wolves, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, Vietgone, Peter and the Starcatcher, Around the World in 80 Days, and 20+ other productions. His regional credits include An Evening with Groucho (Heritage Theater Festival), Big Maybelle: Soul of the Blues (Bay Street Theater), and Unto These Hills (Cherokee Historical Association). He holds a BA in theatrical design and technology from Castleton University.

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TheatreSquared’s 2024 summer camps for grades 6-12 in acting, improv, musical theatre, and more are filling up! Join us this year to learn a new skill or hone your talents.

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Dear friends,

TheatreSquared is a place where the community gathers to experience the magic of storytelling and the joy of togetherness. It’s where families come to laugh, friends come to be inspired, and individuals from all walks of life come to connect with the arts and with one another.

As a valued member of our theatre family, you hold a special place in our hearts.

Your gift to T2, no matter the size, helps us create an environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and uplifted through accessible ticket prices, educational programs, and world-class theatre experiences.

Together, let’s ensure that the tradition of gathering around shared experiences remains alive for all in our community.

With heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support,

Todd Simmons / T2 Board President

WHY SUPPORT T2?

35% of TheatreSquared’s annual budget is funded by ticket sales. Your generosity allows T2 to provide:

REMARKABLE LIVE THEATRE  In our intimate space, great theatre performances are just feet away. Each play is newly envisioned and staged for diverse audiences here in Northwest Arkansas.

EDUCATION FOR YOUTH  More than 25,000 students experience T2’s performances and residencies each year—from Fayetteville to Mena, Bentonville to Searcy, Southeast Missouri to the Arkansas Delta.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS’S HOME FOR PROFESSIONAL THEATRE ARTISTS  T2 is one of only two professional theatre companies in the state presenting a year-round season. Artists are compensated on a national scale. Broad access to a professional theatre supports a higher quality of life for everyone working and living in Northwest Arkansas.

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These community members have given generously to support T2’s work on stage and in schools, providing the margin of excellence that sets T2’s work apart.

Reflects contributions received as of May 20, 2024.

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Special Thanks

TheatreSquared is proud to partner with the Department of Theatre at the University of Arkansas in providing shared resources and professional opportunities for student artists-in-training.
Join us with your gift to close out TheatreSquared’s ambitious commitment to a state-of-the-art home for professional theatre in our region—and help us guarantee the future of this award-winning cultural and educational anchor for decades to come.

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For giving levels, continuing updates, and information on the campaign, visit OURNEXTSTAGE.ORG.

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By Lorraine Hansberry
Directed by Dexter J. Singleton
August 21-September 15, 2024

twenty50
by Tony Meneses
Directed by Rebecca Rivas
October 2-November 3, 2024

A Christmas Carol
From the novel by Charles Dickens
Adapted by Amy Herzberg & Robert Ford
Directed by Steven Marzolf
November 20-December 24, 2024

Primary Trust
By Eboni Booth
Directed by vickie washington
January 22-February 23, 2025

Twelfth Night
By William Shakespeare
In a modern verse translation by Alison Carey
March 5-March 30, 2025

In The Grove of Forgetting
By Robert Ford
Directed by Damon Kiely
April 16-May 4, 2025

A Gentleman’s Guide to
Love and Murder
Book & Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman
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