DON'TRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA

BY NATHAN ALAN DAVIS  DIRECTED BY RON HIMES

WITH EACH WAVE, THE CALL GROWS STRONGER.

JULY 06 - 24, 2022 • EDISON THEATRE AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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Directed by Ron Himes

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JULY 6 - 24, 2022
EDISON THEATRE
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

** SDC, The Director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc. an independent national labor union *Members of Actor’s Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Hands of the United States.

DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

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DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA was first produced in a rolling world premiere by Skylight Theatre Company as a co-production with Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble (California), Phoenix Theatre Company (Indianapolis, Indiana), Theatre Alliance (Washington, DC), Oregon Contemporary Theatre (Eugene, Oregon) and Cleveland Public Theatre as part of the National New Play Network's Continued Life Program.

DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA was presented in a development production at CULTURALDC’s 2014 Source Festival in Washington, DC.
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Additional support from the Black Communities Investment Initiative of the St. Louis Community Foundation, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, and the St. Louis Regional Racial Healing and Justice Fund.
NATHAN ALAN DAVIS’ plays include *The Refuge Plays, The High Ground, Nat Turner in Jerusalem* (Stavis Playwright Award, 2017), *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea* (Steinberg/ATCA New Play Citation, 2015), *Origin Story,* and *The Wind and the Breeze* (Lorraine Hansberry Award, 2013). For his body of work thus far, he has received a Windham-Campbell Prize (2021), a Steinberg Playwright Award (2020), and a Whiting Award in Drama (2018). His plays have been produced and commissioned by theaters across the United States, including New York Theatre Workshop, Arena Stage, Seattle Rep., Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, and Skylight Theatre. As a screenwriter, he has worked on TV and film projects for HBO Max, Paramount, AMC, BET, Netflix, and others. Originally from Rockford, Illinois, Nathan is an alumnus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Indiana University Bloomington, and The Juilliard School. Currently, he is a Lecturer in Theater and Berlind Playwright-in-Residence at Princeton University and a Venturous Fellow at the Playwrights’ Center.
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CAST

Shea  Brannon Evans
Mom   Lakesha Glover*
Danelle  Lucia Graff
Dontrell Jones, III  Christian Kitchens
Dad     Olajuwon Davis
Erika  Claire McClannan
Robby  Mekhi Mitchell

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Director  Ron Himes**
Choreographer  Heather Beal
Scenic Design  Emma Hoffbrauer
Projection Design  Margery and Peter Spack
Lighting Design  Jasmine Williams
Sound Designer  Jackie Sharp
Costume Designer  Daryl Harris
Production Manager (Edison Theatre)  Emily Kennebeck
Stage Manager  Tracy D. Holliway-Wiggins*
Assistant Stage Manager  Taijha Silas
Technical Director  Phillip Dixon
Technical Director (Edison Theatre)  Tab Birt
Costume Shop Manager  Ellen Minch
Wardrobe Head  Kristen Gray
Wardrobe Crew  Christina Yancy
Covid Safety Manager  Taijha Silas
Light Board Operator  Zahria Moore
Sound Board Operator  De’Janna Scales-Hand
Teen Tech  Kristalyn Drew Beal
Teen Tech  Elijah Griffin

The Black Rep wishes to extend a special thank you to Washington University in St. Louis, Bill Larson, Mike Loui, Emily Frei, Rodgers Townsend and Tracy Long, The Muny, Brian Macke, and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

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OLAJUWON DAVIS (Dad), is honored and excited to be back home at The Black Rep where he began his acting career many years ago in the stage-production of *Sarafina!* as Crocodile. He was last seen in *Jitney* as Youngblood. After humble beginnings he performed street theatre, and starred in his first on screen production, *Palacios*, where he won the Special Award for Outstanding Performance at St. Louis International Film Festival in 2017. He is grateful for the love and support of his friends and family. And sends a special thanks to Ron Himes for continuing to believe in his talent and gifts.

BRANNON EVANS (Shea), is a rising Senior Theatre Performance Major and she is very excited to be performing this moving show with The Black Rep! She serves as President of the Johnny Carson Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee and has acted in and directed a few shows with Theatrix. In her free time she enjoys singing with UNL Jazz Singers and Boots & Cats. She is very grateful to the cast and crew for bringing this show, which is near and dear to her heart, to life. Brannon plans to continue performing and become a teaching artist to help foster and inspire the next generation.

LAKESHA GLOVER (Mom), is very excited to be a part of *Dontrell, Who kissed the Sea* with The Black Rep. She’s honored to be working again with Ron Himes of The Black Rep and the talented Heather Beal. Her theatre credits include *Father Comes Home From The Wars* (Southern Rep Theatre), *Seven Guitars* (The Black Rep), *Veux Carre* (Tennessee Williams Theater Company), and *House of Bernarda Alba* (Good Company Theatre), to name just a few. Some of her film/TV credits include *The Adulterer, Regret, Saturday’s,* and *Leverage:Redemption.* She wants to thank her mom, family, and friends for all their support. She dedicates her performance to Lorry Burkins, Adella the storyteller, Carol Sutton (grand) Sherri Marina, Linda Kennedy and my Uncle Kenny. Uncle Kenny, I’ll shine for you!!
CHRISTIAN KITCHENS (Dontrell Jones, III), is a second year fellow at The Black Rep, he specializes in acting, singing, sound production and stage combat. He is a Georgia native, where he attended Jones County High School. Afterwards Christian spent some time studying at Alabama State University before finishing his degree on the LA campus of The American Musical Dramatic Academy. He is very excited and pleased to receive the opportunity and loves being able to continue his post graduate acting training here at The Black Rep.

CLAIRE MCCLANNAN (Erika), is a senior acting major at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Her previous work includes principal deviser in A Thousand Words at the Nebraska Rep, and Beauty in Smokefall at Thatrix. She is beyond grateful for the opportunity to perform Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea, The Black Rep and would like to thank her brilliant cast and crew mates.

MEKHI MITCHELL (Robby), is a sophomore Theatre Performance major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mekhi made his acting debut in the Nebraska Rep run of Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea and is grateful and astatic for the opportunity of returning to the role of “Robby” in The Black Rep run of Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea. Mekhi would like to thank God, his family, and friends for their support and Director Ron Himes for this opportunity.

LUCIA GRAFF (Danelle), is a junior Theatre Performance major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has been in the Nebraska Repertory Theatre’s production of Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea and also their production of Stephen Dietz’s Dracula: Mina’s Quest. She’s also a four national dance championship qualifier. She’s very thankful to be given this opportunity to be a part of The Black Rep.
TRACY D. HOLLWAY-WIGGINS (Stage Manager), is a native of East St. Louis and a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. She has served in various roles with The Black Rep for thirty-three years. Some of her favorite stage management credits with the company include Black Nativity, The Gospel at Colonus, Strands and Nina Simone:Four Women. She has also stage managed for Dances of India, ATREK Dance Company and Washington University Dance Theatre. Tracy thanks God for the vision of Genesis Academy of Arts and Fine Arts Ministry, Genesis Arts Ministry of East St. Louis and Frontline Freedom where she is the Deliverance Ministry. She believes Matthew 21:22

TAIJHA SILAS (Assistant Stage Manager), is from Alexandria, Louisiana. She has a Bachelor of Science in Theatre with a concentration in Performance and Directing and Musical Theatre from Northwestern State University. Taijha has been performing for 10 years with training in music, dance, acting, and tech. Taijha has performed in shows such as Hairspray, Rock of Ages, Sister Act, and Fame. She has directed selections from Love/Sick, Sealed for Freshness, A Midsummer Nights Dream, and The Outsiders. She is currently an Acting Fellow with The Black Rep. She is grateful for the opportunities presented to her and hopes to continue her career in theatre for a long time!
ACTION OF THE PLAY

SETTING
Baltimore, Maryland; the Chesapeake Bay coast; Atlantic Ocean

TIME
The Present

ACT I

Prologue  Dream

Scene 1  Dontrell’s Bedroom

Scent 2  Robby’s Car

Scene 3  Aquarium

Scene 4  Erika’s Condo

Scene 5  Pool

Scene 6  Jones’ Living Room

Scene 7  Erika’s Condo

Scene 8  Jones’ Living Room

Scene 9  Erika’s Condo

Scene 10  The Ocean
RON HIMES (Director), has produced and directed more than 200 plays at The Black Rep, including all ten plays written by August Wilson. His Black Rep directing credits include: Jitney, Sweat, Spell #7, Don’t Bother Me I Can’t Cope, Nina Simone; Four Women, Canfield Drive, Dot, Lines In The Dust, Twisted Melodies, Sunset Baby, Purlie, Black Nativity: A Holiday Celebration, the critically acclaimed productions of Ruined and The Montford Point Marine. Himes also created and directed the highly acclaimed, Crossin’ Over and Tell Me Somethin’ Good. He has directed a number of world premieres including Torn Asunder, Smash/Hit!, Insidious, Home the Musical, Servant of the People, Riffs and Urban Transitions: Loose Blossoms. Directing credits from theatres across the country include Ain’t Misbehavin’ and Fences (The Clarence Brown Theatre in Knoxville); The Colored Museum and Blues for an Alabama Sky (Indiana Repertory Theatre); Flyin’ West (Delaware Theatre Company); For Colored Girls........... (People’s Light and Theatre Company in Philadelphia); Riffs (Seven Stages in Atlanta); Spunk, Spell #7 and Radio Golf (Studio Theatre in Washington, DC); One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest and I’m Not Rappaport (Old Creamery Theatre in Garrison, IA); and An Enemy of the People (Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, AK). University and College credits include: Crumbs From The Table Of Joy and Our Town, (University of Southern Indiana in Evansville); Intimate Apparel, (University of Indiana in Bloomington); You Can’t Take It With You, (University of Wisconsin in Madison); The Championship Season and The Dance on Widow’s Row, (Dillard University in New Orleans); Three Ways Home (University of Illinois in Chicago); and The Darker Face of the Earth (University of South Carolina in Columbia); For Colored Girls..., Blues for Mr. Charlie, Hairspray, Ragtime, The Lion and The Jewel and Trojan Women (Washington University in St. Louis).

HEATHER BEAL (Choreographer), received her B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago and her MFA in dance from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a certified Dunham Technique Instructor and was a principal dancer with the Katherine Dunham Museum Children's Workshop Performance Company from the age of six into young adulthood. She performed with the company around the United States and France. She has also performed in many productions at The Black Rep and several productions at the St. Louis MUNY. Her Black Rep credits include: Nina Simone: Four Woman, Purlie, The Me Nobody Knows, Le Freak C’est Chic, DreamGirls. Theatre credits include Ghost (Metro Theatre), and Feeding Beatrice (The Rep). College credits include: For Colored Girls... (Washington University), Little Shop of Horrors and First Date (University of Southern Indiana). Heather also curated & conceived Black AF: A Celebration of Blackness Through Dance and Song (TLT Productions).
EMMA LAINÉ HOFFBAUER (Scenic Design), is a graduate student beginning her last semester as a Scenic Design MFA candidate with the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She will graduate in May 2022, and her scenic design for Don’trell, Who Kissed the Sea will be the basis for her Masters thesis at UNL. Emma is delighted she had the opportunity to collaborate with this talented team of artists and The Black Rep, and she hopes you enjoy this show as much as she enjoyed designing it!

JASMINE WILLIAMS (Lighting Design), is an Atlanta-based Artist and Lighting Designer for theater, music, dance, opera, and immersive experiences. After a significant time spent as a Stage Manager, Jasmine transitioned to Lighting and Costume Design. As a Designer and Technician, Jasmine has worked on No Dream Deferred’s debut production of Tarell Alvin McCraney’s, In The Red and Brown Water, and Tulane University’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. She has also worked with the Flint Repertory Theater, the Alliance Theater, the New Orleans Ballet Association, and the Summer Lyric Theater at Tulane. She received her Design MFA from Tulane University in 2020, and her BA from Albany State University in 2016. Jasmine continues to collaborate with theaters, companies, directors, choreographers, and visual artists across New Orleans, and plans to build a new network in Atlanta. Jasmine appreciates her mentorship with John”Ray” Proctor and Kathy Perkins and would like to thank her family, mentors, and friends, for their love, patience, and support.

JACKIE SHARP (Sound Design),
DARYL HARRIS MFA, PhD (Costume Designer), is a veteran of theatre throughout North America, Europe, West Africa, Asia, and Australia- has received multiple awards for his costume designs for The Black Rep, his “home” since the early 23rd Street days. The Arts Council's Druid Award is among the recognitions he received for Theatre Tuscaloosa (Alabama) and Tuscaloosa Community Dancers productions including Mame, The King & I, and Nutcracker. Canada’s Royal British Columbia Museum has exhibited his costumes. He is an Associate Professor in Northern Kentucky University’s (NKU) School of the Arts (SOTA) Theatre and Dance Program, where he designs, acts, directs, and teaches “Race, Gender and Theatre” courses. He recently received the Cincinnati League of Theatres Award for Outstanding Costumes for NKU's production of Alice Childress's Trouble in Mind. He regularly presents costume-related papers at national and international conferences, but he is most at home with Ron and The Black Rep.

MARGERY AND PETER SPACK (Projection Design), are scenery and video designers. Recently they have designed scenery for Canfield Drive, Home, and Two Trains Running at The Black Rep. The Play that Goes Wrong, Heisenberg, and Safe House at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Life Sucks, New Jerusalem, Brighton Beach Memoirs (2020 Theatre Circle Award Winner) and Intimate Apparel (2018 Theatre Circle Award Winner) at The New Jewish Theatre. Romeo & Juliet for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis in Forest Park. As Studio Spack Environment Design, Margery and Peter also design corporate theater, product reveals, broadcast news, trade show environments, and private events. They both have BFAs from Webster University and reside in their hometown of St. Louis.
BURGUNDY & GOLD MASK LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT
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The Black Rep wishes to acknowledge and thank our supporters. The following contributions were made in the period from September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Financial gifts from companies, foundations, government entities and individuals ensure the continuance of first-rate main stage productions and education programs that touch young lives throughout Missouri and Illinois. To donate, please contact Christina Yancy, Development Associate, at 314 534-3333

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**Touring Productions**

**WAITING FOR MARTIN**
by Joseph Henderson  
*Grades: 6-12; Community*

Waiting for Martin follows Solomon, a hard-working young man, Rose and her brother Pete, as they wait to see if Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will pass through their area. Come along and learn what it was like to live in that time period through the stories of people that pass by this small group of youngsters waiting to see a man that changed history.

**STAMPING, SHOUTING, AND SINGING HOME**
by Lisa Evans  
*Grades 4-12*

Stamping, Shouting and Singing Home follows the journey of Lizzie on her quest for Truth, Justice, and Freedom. Set in the Deep South during the 1950s Civil Rights Era, Lizzie is set to dig deep into herself, her family, and her family history in order to understand the injustices present in her life and lives of those she loves.

**TURN-UP**
by Naima Carter Russell & Eugene H. Russell IV  
*Grades Pre K - 4*

Coach Carver is determined to save a failing community garden but he just can't seem to keep people interested. He fears that this growing season may be the garden's last. A mail delivery mixup somehow leads to one of his turnips growing bigger than any he's ever seen! How will he even get it out of the ground? What will he do with it when he does? A lively bunch of characters “Turn Up” to help but will it be enough? Written by Atlanta husband and wife team Naima Carter Russell and Eugene H. Russell IV and set to music, Turn-Up is a fun, humorous story about perseverance and the power of community.
Workshops and Residences

Members of the Professional Touring Company conduct drama workshops in residence in schools and community centers throughout the year. Classes vary in length from 90-min. workshops to masterclasses taught for several weeks. Subject matter may be customized to fit curriculum or other requirements.

*$225 per 90 Min.
(Minimum 90-min. sessions)

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The Teen Tech Program allows interested teens to gain experience understand what it takes to develop a production behind the scenes.
*Classes are held on Sat. from 10am-12pm for 8 weeks.
Prices: $10 per class

Young Actors Ensemble

The Young Actors Ensemble is composed of young artists (ages 8-17). Classes from professional artists are held every Saturday from 10-11:15am for 8 wks
Prices: $10 per class

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Each summer The Black Rep provides an 8-week arts intensive designed to provide students an exciting opportunity to artistically express themselves through Theatre, Acting, Visual Arts, Dance, Movement, Playwriting, and Music.

MAINSTAGE INTERGENERATIONAL MATINEES

The Black Rep is pleased to present intergenerational matinees for all mainstage productions. Intergenerational matinees were uniquely designed to allow schools and other local organizations to experience live theatre performances and participate in post-show discussions, at an affordable rate. For more information, to book a touring show or an Intergenerational Matinee contact the Education Dept. 314-534-3807

DONTRELL WHO KISSED THE SEA                  JULY 13, 2022
by Nathan Alan Davis

For more information email:
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