Sam’s Coming

By Kia Corthron

Directed By Adrienne D. Williams

LOUANNA O. CARLIN & JOHN MACDONALD
READING SERIES

P. TYLER BRITT (he/him)*
Stage Manager

DENISE BURSE (she/her)*
DOR and others

ARNIE BURTON (he/him)*
JEFF and others

JACQUELINE GREGG (she/her)*
Stage Directions

JULES LATIMER (she/her)*
RY and others

JOHN LENARTZ (he/him)*
SAM and others

APRIL MATTHIS (she/her)*
BEEDEE

FORREST McCLENDON (he/him)*
GEORGE and others

PEGGY J. SCOTT (she/her)*
LOU and others

LISA STRUM (she/her)*
ODETTE and others
KIA CORTHRON (she/her)

Kia Corthron (Playwright) is the author of numerous plays, which have been produced in New York, across the U.S., and internationally. Awards for her body of work for the stage include the Windham Campbell Prize for Drama, the Horton Foote Prize, the Flora Roberts Award, the United States Artists Jane Addams Fellowship, the Otto Award for Political Theatre, the Simon Great Plains Playwright Award, and the Lee Reynolds Award. She has also written a little television: for David Simon’s The Wire (Edgar and Writers Guild Outstanding Series awards) and Tom Fontana’s The Jury. In 2018, she partnered with playwright Naomi Wallace, director Kevin Hourigan, Theater Three Collaborative, and New York Rep to produce IMAGINE: YEMEN, an evening of short plays addressing the catastrophe in Yemen and U.S. responsibility for it. Her own contribution was a nine-minute musical, the main song later animated by Charlotte Lesnick. It was screened in London at the United Nations Association-UK’s We The People’s Film Festival and is available on YouTube. In 2016, Kia’s debut novel, The Castle Cross the Magnet Carter, was published by Seven Stories Press. It was named a New York Times Book Review Editor’s Choice and was awarded The Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. Her second novel, Moon and the Mars, will be released August 31, 2021.

ADRIENNE D. WILLIAMS (she/her)

Adrienne D. Williams (Director) is New York based actor, director, and educator. She is an Artistic Associate at the Martha’s Vineyard Playhouse, and a member of The Honor Roll, The Bechdel Group and the Rattlestick Theatre Community. She holds an MFA in Acting from Binghamton University and studied Vocal Performance at Converse College. Her directing credits include DREAM OF THE BURNING BOY, THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT, ELECTRA, BUS STOP, TROUBLE IN MIND, NORA, WHAT NOW?, UNCLE VANYA, ANGELS’S MIXTAPE, PIPELINE, CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY, A LIMBO LARGE AND BROAD, LUCK OF THE IRISH, JOE TURNER’S COME AND GONE, ANTIGONE, INTIMATE APPAREL, IPHIGENIA AT AULIS, ZOOMAN AND THE SIGN, THE COLORED MUSEUM, BEFORE IT HITS HOME, JUST PASSIN’ THROUGH, and (opera) THE TALES OF HOFFMAN. Adrienne most recently directed SHE KILLS MONSTERS by Qui Nguyen at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. As an educator Adrienne is a Visiting Professor and Creative Director for the Brooklyn College MFA Theatre Program. She has taught and directed on the faculties of Juilliard Drama Division, NYU Graduate Acting Program, NYU Gallatin School, Hunter College, City College of New York, and Syracuse University. Her acting credits include Clytemnestra in IPHIGENIEA AT AULIS, Alma in YELLOW MAN (Best Actress nominee IRNE awards Boston), Andrea in AL FRESCO with Craig Lucas, and Rose in FENCES. As a playwright, her short play TENNESSE WALTZ which was produced at HERE Performing Arts Center was published by Applause Books in an anthology entitled SHE PRESISTED: 30 plays by women over forty in Nov 2021. Television and film credits included Bull, Blindspot, Blue Bloods, Law and Order, The Sopranos, Tags, The Architect, and Corn. She is a member of SAG-AFTRA, AEA, SDC and the League of Professional Theatre Women. http://www.adriennedwilliams.com

P. TYLER BRITT (he/him)*

P. Tyler Britt (AEA Stage Manager) is a Brooklyn-based, -born, and -raised theater practitioner and teaching artist. A graduate of Hunter College with a BA in theater, Britt’s teaching artistry is currently featured online via WNET/PBS, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Brooklyn Public Library, Queens Public Library, and the New Victory Theater.
DENISE BURSE (she/her)*

Denise Burse is a native Atlantan, now living, and working in New York City. Ms. Burse is a graduate of Spelman College. She had a long and prosperous career honing her craft in Atlanta, at the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Children’s Theatre, Jomandi, and Just Us Theatre, before setting off for the bright lights of New York. One of her first jobs after moving to New York, was at The Billie Holiday Theatre in Brooklyn, where she returned in 2017 to do “The Old Settler” with Pauletta Washington, written by John Henry Redwood, directed by Michelle Shay. Ms. Burse shared the 2017 Emmy Award for her ensemble performance in “San Junipero” an episode on the hit Netflix series, “Black Mirror” written by the creator of the series Charlie Brooker. She had another stint at Billie Holiday Theatre in 2018 in Colman Domingo’s “Dot” which was a shared production with Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theatre. Directed by Kenny Leon and envisioned by Jamel Jude for the transfer, now Artistic Director of the aforementioned theatre.

Some of her other credits include, the now airing limited Apple TV Plus series “The Last Days of Ptolomey Grey” starring Samuel L. Jackson, and Dominique Fishback. “Vacation Friends” Disney, “Partner Track” and a film produced by Mirrriamx to be released sometime next year. Ms. Burse has worked on Manifest, New Amsterdam, One Dollar, and all the original Law and Orders. She can still be seen as Claretha Jenkins (the noisy neighbor) on reruns of the original “House of Payne” created by Tyler Perry.

Denise has worked on the Broadway stage, Off Broadway, Off Off Broadway and most of the regional theatres. Her more than 35 year career has garnered her a Theatre World Award, an Audelco Award, numerous Audelco nominations and a Gregory Award nomination.

ARNIE BURTON (he/him)*

Arnie Burton (JEFF, and others) is a New York based actor. Credits include - Broadway; MACHINAL, PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, THE 39 STEPS, A FREE MAN OF COLOR, AMADEUS.

Off Bway highlights; LEWISTON/CLARKSTON (Drama Desk nom. Featured actor), THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR (Callaway Award), THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP (Drama League nom), THE TEMPERAMENTALS (Drama Desk Award ensemble), THE NEW YORKERS (ENCORES), THE EXPLORERS CLUB (MTC), LIVES OF THE SAINTS, MERE MORTALS (Primary Stages), TIMON OF ATHENS, THE WINTERS TAIL, THE JEW OF MALTA, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (TFANA), FAIRYCAKES, TAIL! SPIN!, THE LAST SUNDAY IN JUNE.  International; THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (RSC). Regional highlights; BEFORE THE MEETING (Williamstown), ALL IN THE TIMING, BIG SKY (Geffen Theater. LA), CONFEDERACY OF DUNCES (Huntington Theater), William Finn’s THE ROYAL FAMILY OF BROADWAY (Barrington St), STRANGE AND SEPERATE PEOPLE (Penguin), PERFECT NONSENSE (Hartford Stage) also A.R.T., The Old Globe, Berkely Rep, Philadelphia Theater Co, Shakespeare Theater of DC, Film: THE GREATEST SHOWMAN, THE INVENTION OF LYING, IGBY GOES DOWN, GAME 6, THE PRIVATE LIVES OF PIPPA LEE.  TV includes, WECRASHED, JESSICA JONES, SEARCH PARTY, NEW MURPHY BROWN, ELEMENTARY, THE GOOD FIGHT, BLACKLIST, WHITE COLLAR, FLESH & BONE(recurring), BLUE BLOODS, FRAISER, LAW & ORDER, L&O CRIMINAL INTENT, CAROLINE IN THE CITY, SISTER SISTER

JACQUELINE GREGG (she/her)*

Jacqueline Gregg (Stage Directions) has worked with Peculiar Works Project, Compagnia de’ Colombari, The Dream Keeper Theatre Company, The Queen’s...
JOHN LENARTZ (he/him)*


APRIL MATTHIS (she/her)*

April Matthis (BEEDEE) is an OBIE-winning performer and is a member of Elevator Repair Service. Off-Broadway credits include: HELP (The Shed); TONI STONE (Roundabout: Lortel, Drama Desk nom., Outer Critics Circle, OBIE Awards), Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theater, The Signature Theater, New York Theater Workshop, LCT3, Soho Rep, Clubbed Thumb, and Ma-Yi. Television and film work includes “New Amsterdam”, “The Blacklist” (NBC), “EVIL,” “The Good Fight” (Paramount +) and Fugitive Dreams (FantasiaFest, Austin Film Festival, Manchester Film Festival).

FORREST McCLENDON (he/him)*

Forrest McClendon (GEORGE, and others) returned to Broadway this past Fall as Depression in Keenan Scott II’s new play THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN, a role he created in the world premiere at Syracuse Stage and Baltimore Center Stage. Forrest is most widely known for his Tony-nominated Broadway debut as Mr. Tambo in THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman, also starring in the London premiere at the Garrick Theater. A recipient of the Lunt–Fontanne Fellowship for top regional actors, Forrest has appeared nationwide in plays and musicals ranging from the Foundling Father in THE AMERICA PLAY (Central Texas Critics Table Award) to Roscoe in AVENUE
LISA STRUM (she/her)*
Lisa Strum (ODETTE, and others) is a director, actor, playwright and singer. Most recently, she directed Intimate Apparel at Oklahoma State University, and the virtual film production of BALTIMORE that she directed for Ramapo College won FIVE Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Award Winning Productions. Lisa also directed FALL by France-Luce Benson for the 2019 One Act Play Festival with Ensemble Studio Theatre. She starred as Rose in FENCES with the REP and Virginia REP. She also starred in the Michigan Premiere of PIPELINE at Detroit Public Theatre, and SWEAT at People’s Light. Her solo play, She Gon’ Learn had sold out performances at the United Solo Festival on Theatre Row, and received one of the festival’s Best Solo Show Awards. The show was also featured with The New Black Fest at the Lark. As an actor, Lisa worked at Lincoln Center Theatre with Tony Award winning director Thomas Kail, appeared at Summer Stage, Signature Theatre, New Federal Theatre and The Obie Award Winning 48 Hours in... Harlem. Lisa also had a recurring role on Law & Order: SVU, co-starred on New Amsterdam, The Blacklist, and the television pilot Citizen Baines with James Cromwell. As an arts in education theatre instructor, Lisa is a staff facilitator at Columbia University for The Literacy Unbound Summer Institute and was the Theatre Specialist for the Abrons Arts Center at Henry Street Settlement for nine seasons. Lisa was a Finalist for the Doric Wilson Independent Playwright Award and the recipient of the Playwrights Fellowship at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. She was nominated for a New York Innovative Theatre Award for Best Outstanding Actress, and received a Broadway World Award for Best actress for the Regional production of FENCES. This Spring, Lisa will premiere her new play, By the Way... with the Obie Award Winning Fire This Time Festival and Dream, Girl! with The New Black Fest in collaboration with the Apollo.

PEGGY J. SCOTT (she/her)*

*Members of Actors’ Equity Association
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