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WRITTEN AND BY KEL VIN ROSTON, JR.



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ABOUT US

Baltimore Center Stage is a professional, nonprofit institution committed to entertaining, engaging, and enriching audiences through bold, innovative, and thought-provoking classical and contemporary theater.

Named the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, Baltimore Center Stage has steadily grown as a leader in the national regional theater scene. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Kwame Kwei-Armah OBE and Managing Director Michael Ross, Baltimore Center Stage is committed to creating and presenting a diverse array of world premieres and exhilarating interpretations of established works.

Baltimore Center Stage believes in access for all—creating a welcoming environment for everyone who enters its doors and, at the same time, striving to meet audiences where they are. In addition to Mainstage, Off Center, and Family Series productions in the historic Mount Vernon neighborhood, Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations among a global audience through digital initiatives, which explore how technology and the arts intersect. The theater also nurtures the next generation of artists and theatergoers through the Young Playwrights Festival, Student Matinee Series, and many other educational programs for students, families, and professionals.

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Twisted Melodies is a new play that has been a decade in the making. The incredible Kelvin Roston, Jr. created this gem (learn more about his process on page 8) and it has been a real joy collaborating with him in bringing Donny Hathaway's story to life.

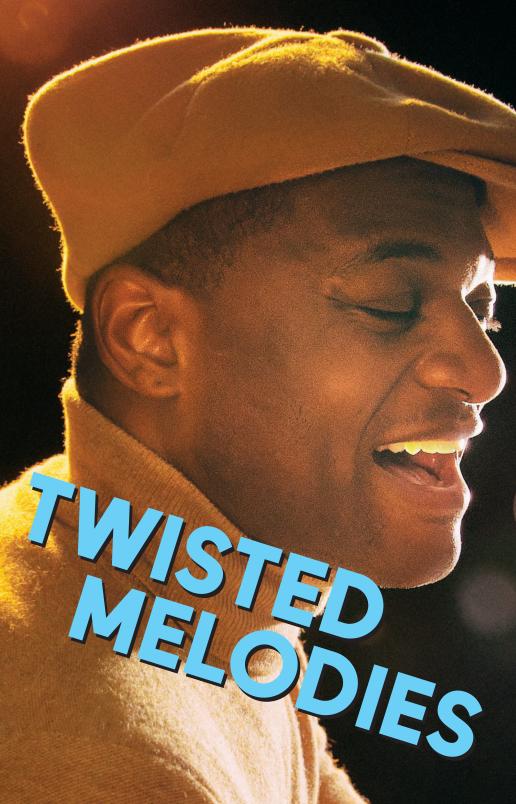
This play first got on my radar during its run at Chicago's Congo Square Theatre, where Kelvin is an Artistic Associate. When we brought Kelvin to Baltimore and he ran through the show for us in the bare rehearsal space, he lit up the room. I knew at once I wanted to share it with my Baltimore Center Stage family.

In this piece, Kelvin channels Donny Hathaway in a most honest and epic portrayal of a man whose story—let alone mind—eludes us all. People familiar with Donny Hathaway and his impact on American music understand the importance of getting this right. And for people less familiar with his music and his cultural significance, you might recognize a few of his hits...

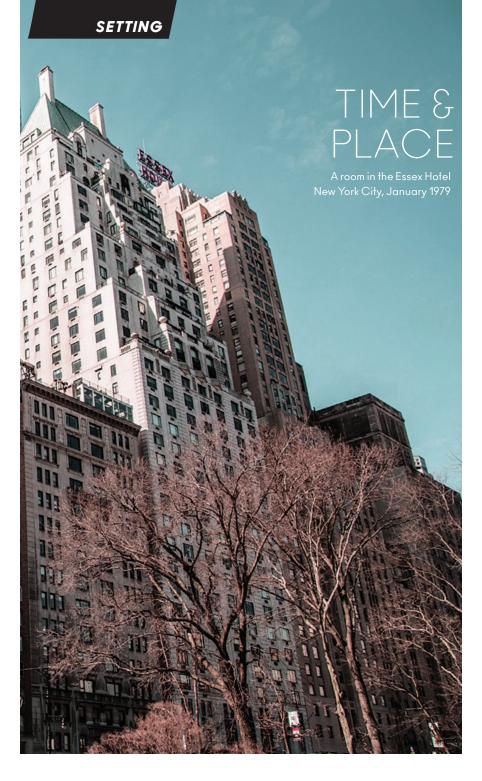
Onward!

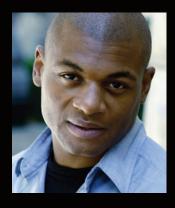
Kwame Kwei-Armah ARTISTIC DIRECTOR











KELVIN ROSTON, JR.

Kelvin Roston, Jr. is so honored to be making his Baltimore Center Stage debut! Kelvin is an actor/singer/musician from St. Louis, MO based in Chicago, IL. He is also the playwright of *Twisted Melodies*, which began its journey 10 years ago in St. Louis as a play called *Psychology of a Genius*, an imagination of the last day of Donny Hathaway.

After moving to Chicago and becoming an Artistic Associate of Congo Square Theatre Company, he adapted the piece into Twisted Melodies, taking a closer look at mental illness through the eyes of Donny Hathaway. The show has enjoyed two runs in Chicago directed by Congo Square's Sam Roberson, and one in St. Louis directed by The Black Rep's Ron Himes. Kelvin is proud to premiere this new version, here at Baltimore Center Stage, directed by Congo Square's Derrick Sanders. As an actor, Kelvin has performed at theaters nationally and internationally, as well as appearing on televion and in film.



By DEANIE VALLONE the Judy and Scott Phares Dramaturgy Fellow

"When I think of music I think in totality, complete,"

DONNY HATHAWAY SAID IN A 1973 INTERVIEW.

"You know, from the lowest blues to the highest symphony. So what I'd like to do is to exemplify each style of as many periods as I can possibly do."
And he certainly did.
Few musicians covered such a range of musical history and genre as Hathaway in his short, but powerful, career.

Born in Chicago in
1945, Hathaway came of
age in a country dealing
with the repercussions of
World War II, amid the
innovation and artistic
excellence of Chicago's
Black Renaissance. At the
age of three, he was sent to
live with his grandmother in
St. Louis, where his second
home became the Trinity
Baptist Church.

At church and at home, Hathaway showed an interest in, and talent for, music. "I hear the most beautiful music in my head," he told his grandmother. A talented gospel singer herself, his grandmother immediately recognized Hathaway's talents, and bought him a piano.

His time spent in the

church and touring as a young gospel singer incorporated the preaching and singing tradition of the church into his musical styling. In 1964, his upbringing and his talents brought him a scholarship to Howard University, where he studied music theory and education. There he trained in the European classical tradition; met a number of young artists who would be lifelong friends and collaborators (including Roberta Flack): and fell in love with Eulalah Donyll, whom he would marry after graduation.

Though Black
vernacular music was
excluded from the Howard
curriculum, Hathaway and
his friends held private
gospel jam sessions after
class. Through these
clandestine sets, he soon
added blues, jazz, and R&B,
to his musical vocabulary.

After graduating in 1967, he went to work as an in-house writer, arranger, and musical director for his friend's record label. Curtom Records. Meanwhile, he began working on his own music. In the 1960s, with the Civil Rights Movement in full swing, ongoing repression and violence led to nationwide protests and riots. Hathaway's music responded to this discrimination and uncertainty with hope and love.

The same generosity of spirit fueled his collaborative impulse, and Hathaway was always the first to acknowledge the talented artists who helped bring his

art to life. His first album, Everything is Everything, was released in 1970.

As with much of his work, it was a group effort. He has also been noted for some of his extraordinary covers of other artists' songs, though biographer Emily J. Lordi writes, "Styles can be imitated, but the history that sounded through Hathaway's heavy, erotic, and soulful connection with his fans and his band was something else." His chart-topping duets and collaborations included playing the organ for Aretha Franklin's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and "Rock Steady." His most famous and successful collaboration, though, was with Roberta Flack. Described by music critic Rashod Ollison as "two music nerds with gorgeous voices and dazzling piano skills," their prodigious musical talents and long-standing friendship led to the 1971 duet album, Roberta Flack & Donny Hathaway, which went gold.

Even though he was quick to collaborate and give credit where it was







due, Hathaway always
remained at the center of
his music. His ability to
evoke church in a secular
setting spoke to the
simultaneously sacred and
political aspects of soul
and blues music. Writer Ed
Pavli contends that
Hathaway "sung you a
Black man's life. [...] He'd
stare straight at your life
and see it like you can't
and sing it like you don't."

Hathaway remained generous with his audiences throughout his career, a trait especially evident during the 1971 recording of Donny Hathaway Live at The Troubadour, Using traditional call-andresponse, he made the audience part of the performance, creating an environment of support and cultural-emotional expression. "You all sound awful good to me," Hathaway told them. In return, the liveliness of the crowd provided Hathaway a safe space to explore, re-invent, celebrate, and share his music.

The highs that came with his successful collaborations, inspiring both live and recorded music, soon fell under the shadow of mental illness, From 1973 to 1974. Hathaway was repeatedly hospitalized, diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. Though some have since speculated that he suffered from a different illness-perhaps bipolar disorder or depressionor simply succumbed to



the stress of his new fame, many people who knew him at the time recalled Hathaway's episodes of hallucinations and delusions.

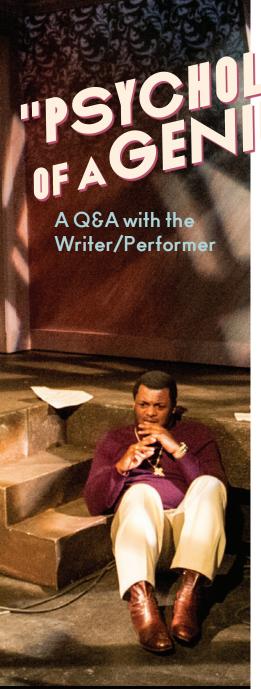
Despite the diagnosis and subsequent treatments, he continued to perform on and off over the next few years. However, at least one reporter, Tim O'Brien, noted the new sound of Hathaway's music, describing it as "kinky, herky-jerky...almost atonal pop...avoid[ing] clear melodic lines." While these twisted melodies could have been a result of mental and emotional strain, they could easily

have signified a selfreinvention. As his friend Sidney Barnes said, "The bigger the talent, the bigger the demons."

In 1979, Hathaway died after a 15-story fall from his Essex hotel room window. Though ruled a suicide, much speculation surrounds the event, and many of his friends claim it could easily have been an accident, that Hathaway would never have taken his own life. Regardless, it was a stunning career cut short. Hathaway's legacy lives on through the music of his first daughter, Lalah; the next generation of artists who have found inspiration in his music, such as Stevie

Wonder and Luther Vandross; and the loving generosity that was his signature.

During a 1973 performance at Carnegie Hall, Hathaway called out to the audience, "Love comes in all different shapes, forms, and fashions. Love comes in all different ways. You just can't put your finger on love—you don't know what it is because...true love is a total thang." Love may be difficult to capture or describe, but Hathaway's music goes a long way towards expressing the ardor he felt towards his art, artists, and audiences.



Kelvin Roston, Jr. at Congo Square Theatre (2015/16) Photo by Samuel G. Roberson **BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE:** You've been living with Donny Hathaway and this piece for quite a while now—or it's been living with you; how did that start?

KELVIN ROSTON, JR.: About 11 years ago now, I was working at The Black Rep in St. Louis. I'm originally from there, and I'd really gotten started working in theater with them. At that point, I had gone through all their internship opportunities, and was working as the tour manager for their mobile educational shows. We would take scaled-down productions around the city to schools, youth centers, shelters, wherever. But we always needed material, and as part of the opportunity the theater challenged us each to conceive and devise our own one-person show. Something that could fit into that format, and tour, and be meaningful have some impact. We called the project "I Stand Alone." And right away, I had this thought of doing something I called "Psychology of a Genius." I wanted something real, and I've always been into music, so I decided to dig into Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, and Donny Hathaway.

BCS: So, what happened to the other two?
It turned into "Donny Stands Alone..."

KELVIN: Well, the director of the program, who was a real mentor of mine, said

that time with Donny— in his mind and his spirit— really became a safe space for the audience, and me.

obviously that's too much material to cover in a half-hour piece! So I had to cut and focus, and I ended up choosing Donny to focus on. My mother lives with mental illness, so that's very personal for me, and it's a powerful part of Donny's story of course. I didn't necessarily start out to cover that—it naturally emerged in passing but wasn't the main focus—but obviously it was part of what drew me to the story.

BCS: How did that 30-minute short turn into the full Mainstage production we have today?

KELVIN: Fast-forward to 2008. I'd moved to Chicago now, and put it on the shelf. You know, you can have your rap, but move to a new place, a new city, and kind of need to reinvent or reintroduce yourself. So I just kept working, making connections to establish myself. Then I became an Artistic Associate at Congo Square [with Derrick Sanders, director of this production]. They encouraged me to dig out the piece and keep exploring it, both as a writer and a performer. I went on to perform it in public, trying it out and changing it and expanding it along the way.

BCS: What was changing, what did that evolution look like?

KELVIN: From the start, I had imagined Donny's last day, last hours, on earth; but I hadn't really focused on mental issues. I followed his career and family and his music and all that, but his mental health wasn't that big a part. And, you know, there's such a taboo around mental illness in America—in Black America, even more so. I guess I was worried or afraid about going into that. But we dove in, and the show and that time with Donny—in his mind and his spirit—really became a safe space for the audience, and me. A place for exploring all the problems and fears and images, and how it actually became part of him and his music, even of his genius.

Then Kwame decided to bring me here and produce the show in Baltimore, and we've kept on exploring and deepening the show, working on the script over the last year. Now it is really a journey inside Donny's mind and heart as well as a look at his musical greatness.

It's been such a blessing. I think we all want a purpose, you know; and in this, I think I have found mine.



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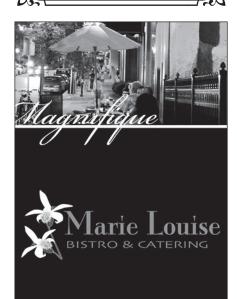




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THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Kelvin Roston, Jr.* Playwright, Music Director, Donny Hathaway

Baltimore Center Stage: debut. Kelvin is an actor/singer/ musician based in Chicago, IL. Playwriting credits include— Twisted Melodies, National credits include—Black Rep, Metro, Union Ave Opera, Writers Theatre, Goodman, Steppenwolf, Court Theatre, Black Ensemble, Marriott-Lincolnshire (Chicago, IL), Paramount (Aurora, IL), Fulton, MSMT. International—Orb (Tokyo, Japan), Festival Hall (Osaka, Japan). TV-KFC, Chicago PD, Chicago Med. Film—Princess Cyd, Get a Job, Beautiful Hands. Professional— Artistic Associate of Congo Square Theatre Company. Kelvin is represented by Paonessa Talent in Chicago and is a proud member of AEA.

Derrick SandersDirector

Baltimore Center Stage:

My America Too, Clybourne Park, Beneatha's Place, Joe Turner's Come and Gone. Off Broadway—Signature: King Hedley II. Regional—Kennedy Center: August Wilson's 20th

Century Cycle: Seven Guitars, King Hedley II; Cincinnati Playhouse: Gee's Bend (Acclaim Awards: Best Director, Outstanding Production); Virginia Stage Co: Fences, Radio Golf; Barebones: Jesus Hopped the A Train: Lincoln Center Theater: Sanctified: Chicago Children's Theatre: Bud, Not Buddy, Jackie and Me (world premiere): American Theatre Co: Topdog/Underdog; True Colors: Jitney, Stick Fly; Minneapolis Children's Theater: Five Fingers of Funk (world premiere); Congo Square: Elmina's Kitchen (Midwest premiere); Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Black Theatre Alliance Awards, Best Production and Direction): Seven Guitars (Jeff Awards, Best Production and Direction), Deep Azure (world premiere), The House That Jack Built, Ali (Black Theatre Alliance Award): Kuntu Rep: A Cryin' Shame; ETA Creative Arts Theatre Co.: Why Black Men Play Basketball. Other Professional—Congo Square Founding Artistic Director; Assistant Director: Broadway/Goodman/Mark Taper/Huntington: Gem Ocean, and Broadway/Goodman: Radio Golf.

Couriney O'Neill

Scenic Designer

Baltimore Center Stage: debut. Regional—Arena Stage: Moby Dick; Virginia Stage: The Mountaintop; Round House: Fetch Clay Make Man; Alliance Theatre: Moby Dick; Milwaukee Rep: The Amish Project, Song Man Dance Man; Steppenwolf: The Burials, The Compass, Life and Limb, Of Mice and Men: Chicago Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet; Lookingglass: Moby Dick, The Little Prince: Marin Theatre: Fetch Clay Make Man; Writers Theatre: Julius Caesar; South Coast: Moby Dick; The Hypocrites: Wit, Oedipus, The Bald Soprano, Mud (Jeff Award); Chicago Children's Theatre: Mr. Chickee's Funny Money, Bud, not Buddy; Court Theatre: Waiting for Godot; Gift Theatre: Grapes of Wrath, Good for Otto, Bethany, Dirty, Cloud 9; Kansas City Rep: When I Come to Die. Associate Designer— Fish in the Dark (Broadway), This is Our Youth (Broadway). Education/Awards—MFA: Northwestern University; BFA: DePaul University; 2017 Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award; 2013 USITT Scene Design Award. Professional— Adjunct Faculty: DePaul University, Northwestern University, courtneyoneill.com

Dede Ayite

Costume Designer

Baltimore Center Stage:

Detroit '67. Recent — Atlantic Theatre Company: Tell Hector I Miss Him, Marie & Rosetta; Roundabout: Ugly Lies the Bone; Lincoln Center Theatre: The Royale; Other design credits

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include—Berkeley Rep and La Jolla Playhouse: The Last Tiger in Haiti; OSF: The Wiz; Studio Theatre: Between Riverside and Crazy; Arena Stage: Blood Quilt, Five Guys Named Moe; The Public: Toast, The Urban Retreat, Manahatta; Steppenwolf: Marie Antoinette (Jeff Award): Dallas Theatre Center: Bella: An American Tall Tale, Stagger Lee; Lincoln Center LCT3: brownsville song (b-side for tray); Cal Shakes: A Raisin in the Sun; Two Rivers, NJPAC: The Music Man in Concert; Improv Everywhere/BBC America: COPPER Project; Yale Rep: The Piano Lesson; Summer Stage: American Schemes. Education— MFA: Yale School of Drama.

Alan C. Edwards Lighting Designer

Baltimore Center Stage: debut. Broadway—Associate Lighting Designer: The Testament of Mary. Off-Broadway-Theatre Row: Son of a Gun. Other New York—Classical Theatre of Harlem: The First Noel, Macbeth, Fit for a Queen; Harlem Stage: Holding It Down; Urban Stages: Illmatic; National Black Theatre: Kill Move Paradise, Dead & Breathing, Carnaval; CTH and NBT: Dutchman. Regional— Guthrie: We Are Proud to Present; Cleveland Play House: The Mountaintop; Dallas Theater Center: The Tempest, The Mountaintop, Stagger Lee; OSF: Fingersmith; Berkshire Theatre Group: Constellations, Deathtrap, The Mystery of Irma Vep; Yale Rep: The Piano Lesson, A Delicate Balance.

Opera & Dance: Madison

Opera: Acis and Galatea;
Tri-Cities Opera: Carmen, The
Marriage of Figaro; Simpson
Opera: Suor Angelica, Curlew
River; Syracuse Opera: Madam
Butterfly; Madiba and The Black
Iris (w/ Jeremy McQueen).
Awards—Audelco (CTH:
Macbeth). Education—MFA:
Yale School of Drama.
alancedwards.com.

Mike TutajProjection Designer

Baltimore Center Stage: debut. Based in Chicago, Mr. Tutaj has been designing projections for theater and live performance for over 15 years. Off-Broadway-MCC Theatre: Ride the Cyclone; EnGarde Arts: Wilderness; York Theater Tomorrow Morning, Regional— Goodman, Steppenwolf, Court Theatre, Lookingglass, Writers Theatre, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Second City, Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Marriott Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Indiana Rep, Alliance Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, South Coast Rep, Syracuse Stage, Virginia Stage, Children's Theatre Company, City Theatre Company, Theatre Squared. Professional— Artistic Associate with TimeLine Theatre Company; served as adjunct faculty at Columbia College Chicago. miketutaj.com

Christopher M. LaPorte Sound Designer

Baltimore Center Stage: debut. Recent design and composition collaborations— Lookingglass: Life Sucks, Mr. and Mrs. Pennyworth: Kansas City Rep: Constellations. Roof of the World. Regional collaborations—Kansas City Rep, Dallas Theatre Center, The Old Globe, Arena Stage, Arsht Theatre Center, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, NY United Solo Festival; Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, Sideshow Theatre Company (17 productions), Timeline, Porchlight, InFusion, Raven, University Of Illinois Chicago, Interrobana, Emerald City.

Hana S. Sharif Production Dramaturg(See page 21)

Wendell Etherly

Dramaturg

Baltimore Center Stage:
debut. Film—Etherly recently
wrapped his first feature film
Market Value and is in
development with his next
feature No Haven. Awards—
He is the recipient of the 2008
Illinois Arts Fellowship Award
for Outstanding Script Work;
a recipient of the 2010 Illinois
Arts Fellowship Award for
Best Film Work, and 2013
3Arts Award Nominee for
Outstanding Chicago Artist.

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Gavin Witt Dramatura

(See page 21)

Deanie Vallone

Dramatura

Baltimore Center Stage:

2016/17 Judy and Scott Phares Dramaturgy Fellow; The White Snake; The Thanksgiving Play (2016 Fall Play Lab); Wright Now Play Later. Regional— Asolo Rep: Ah, Wilderness; Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (dir Frank Galati), Assistant Dramaturg: West Side Story; All the Way; Disgraced; Josephine, Professional—15-16 Dramaturgy and Casting Apprentice (Asolo Rep); 14-15 Education Resident (Milwaukee Rep). Education— MA: St. John's College, University of Cambridge, UK.

Tiffany Fulson Assistant Director

Baltimore Center Stage: debut.
Regional—University of Illinois
at Chicago: Passing Strange the
Musical, As You Like It, Clybourne
Park, The Bluest Eye; Madison
Street Theatre: In My Head;
Journeyman Company/
Gallery 37: Cats, Thirteen the
Musical, The Wiz. Director
credits—The Angry Brigade,
A Woman's World, and an
original adaptation of Amiri
Baraka's Dutchman.

Professional—Teaching artist at Steppenwolf, Timeline Theatre, and Global Girls Inc. Education—BFA: University of Illinois at Chicago (Theatre Performance); Arcadia University for Global Studies in London, England.

Katrina Herrmann* Stage Manager

Baltimore Center Stage: debut. Broadway -Next Fall, after being the original PSM for the production Off Broadway. Other Off Broadway-Barrow Street Theatre: The Flick; Playwrights Horizons: The Flick, The Whale, The Big Meal, Completeness, The Shagas: Philosophy of the World, Kin, The Burnt Part Boys, Circle Mirror Transformation; Manhattan Theatre Club: Close Up Space; The Public: In the Wake, Tours— Theaterworks USA: Anne of Green Gables, The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere. Regional— Chicago Children's Theatre: The Hundred Dresses. The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane; Steppenwolf: Mary Page Marlowe, Spare Change, Lady Madeline; Theater Wit: Naperville: American Theater Company: Kill Floor, The Royale, Sons of the Prophet; TimeLine Theatre: Juno; Light Opera Works: Cole Porter's Greatest Hits, Gershwin's Greatest Hits: Oak Park Festival Theatre: Twelfth Night. Other-During the holidays, she works for Santa Claus at Macy's.

Anthony O. Bullock* Assistant Stage Manager

Baltimore Center Stage:
debut. Off Broadway—Classic
Stage Company. Tour/
International—The White
Snake by Mary Zimmerman in
association with the Goodman
as part of the Wuzhen
Theatre Festival in Wuzhen
China. Regional—Arena

Stage, Studio Theatre (Two seasons as Resident Production Stage Manager), McCarter, Williamstown, Passage Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, Bristol Riverside Theatre.

Dance—Princeton University.
Education—BFA: Oklahoma
City University (Stage
Management). Professional—
Eastern Regional
Representative for the Stage
Managers Association.

Congo Square Theatre Company

Congo Square Theatre Company is a Chicagobased ensemble dedicated to artistic excellence. Their vision for their role within the theater landscape is to champion the Black experience via transformative theater that entertains. educates, and inspires. They are proud to produce definitive and transformative theater, spawned from the African Diaspora, with themes universal to all world cultures.

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Leadership

Artistic Director KWAME KWEI-ARMAH

Kwame Kwei-Armah OBE is an award-winning British playwright, director, actor, and broadcaster. At Baltimore Center Stage he has directed Marley, One Night in Miami..., Amadeus, dance of the holy ghosts (City Paper Top Ten Productions, 2013), The Mountaintop, An Enemy of the People, The Whipping Man, (named Best Director), and Naomi Wallace's Things of Dry Hours. In 2014, Kwame was named Best Director in City Paper's Best of Baltimore, and he was a finalist for SDC's Zelda Fichandler Award for Best Theater Director. Among his works as playwright are Elmina's Kitchen, Let There Be Love, A Bitter Herb, Statement of Regret, and Seize the Day. Beneatha's Place debuted at Baltimore Center Stage in 2013 as part of The Raisin Cycle. Other directorial credits include One Night in Miami... at London's Donmar Warehouse, Twelfth Night, The Comedy of Errors, Much Ado About Nothing and the world premiere of Detroit '67 at New York's Public Theater, Wallace's The Liquid Plain at Signature Theatre, Dominique Morisseau's Skeleton Crew at the Lark Play Development Center, and the world premiere of The Liquid Plain at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. In 2017, he is directing One Love: The Bob Marley Musical, which he also wrote, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre. He has served on the boards of TCG, Steinberg Playwright Awards, The National Theatre, and The Tricycle Theatre (London), and as Artistic Director for the World Arts Festival in Senegal. He was named the Chancellor of the University of the Arts London, and in 2012 was named an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Managing Director MICHAGL ROSS

Michael Ross returns to Baltimore Center Stage after working for seven seasons as managing director of Westport Country Playhouse. From 2002 to 2008 he was managing director of Center Stage. Previously, Ross was managing director of Long Wharf Theatre (1997-2002) where he was on the producing team for the commercial transfer of the Pulitzer Prize winner Wit. He was general manager and business manager at Hartford Stage (1986-1996). Ross served as program officer/project director at National Arts Stabilization, and worked with Baltimore Opera Company and Alley Theater, Houston. Ross has consulted in fundraising, board development, executive search, and strategic planning for theaters nationwide, including Kansas City Repertory Theatre, SITI Company, Wilma Theater, Trinity Repertory Company, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and Everyman Theatre. He has been a panelist for programs hosted by the National Endowment for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, and New England Foundation for the Arts, among others, and was an adjunct professor in The Yale University School of Drama Theater Management Program. He has served on numerous Boards including Theatre Communications Group, The National Women's Hall of Fame, and the Connecticut AIDS Residence Coalition. Ross currently serves on the Board of the Burry Fredrik Foundation.









GAVIN WITT

ARTISTIC

Associate Artistic Director HANA S. SHARIF

HANA S. SHARIF

Hana S. Sharif is a director, playwright, and producer. She served as Associate Artistic Director, Director of New Play Development, and Artistic Producer at Hartford Stage; recently as Program Manager of the ArtsEmerson Ambassador Program; and as Developmental Producer/Tour Manager of Progress Theatre's musical The Burnin'. Hana also served as co-founder and Artistic Director of Nasir Productions, which brings theater to underserved communities. Her directing credits include: Baltimore Center Stage: Les Liaisons Dangereuses; Pride & Prejudice (DCArts: Best Director/Best New Play); Regional: The Whipping Man, Gem of the Ocean (six CCC nominations), Gee's Bend (CCC Award Best Ensemble, two nominations), Next Stop Africa, Cassie, The Drum, and IFdentity. Hana has directed numerous developmental workshops, including Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's The Chat and Chew Supper Club, Janine Nabers' A Swell

in the Ground, and Marcus Gardley's The House That Will Not Stand. Her plays include All the Women I Used to Be, The Rise and Fall of Day, and The Sprott Cycle Trilogy. Hana is the recipient of the 2009–10 Aetna New Voices Fellowship and Theatre Communications Group (TCG) New Generations Fellowship. She serves on the board of directors for the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance and the Sprott Foundation.

Associate Director, Director of Dramaturgy GAVIN WITT

Gavin Witt came to Baltimore Center Stage in 2003, after nearly 15 years in Chicago as an actor, director, dramaturg, translator, and teacher—and co-founder of the classically based greasy joan & cotheater. Among his translations and adaptations are a half-dozen Shakespeare plays; including a Jeff-nominated version of Pericles: Jeff-nominated translations of Beaumarchais' The Barber of Seville and Ionesco's Macbett; and Baltimore Center Stage productions of The Voysey Inheritance and last season's As You Like It. Baltimore Center Stage directing credits include Twelfth Night and a recent short film from a Kenneth Lin script commissioned by Baltimore Center Stage and the Goethe Institut-Washington as part of the international P3M5 project—as well as more than a dozen Young Playwrights Festival entries, many more play readings, and the 50th Anniversary Decade Plays. In addition to working as a dramaturg on scores of productions, readings, and workshops at Baltimore Center Stage, he has also helped develop new work around the country. A graduate of Yale and the University of Chicago, he is currently on the Humanities faculty at Peabody Conservatory, having previously taught at the University of Chicago, DePaul, and Towson; has served on the advisory boards of several theaters; and spent more than a decade as a regional vice president of LMDA, the national association of dramaturgs, before joining its board.



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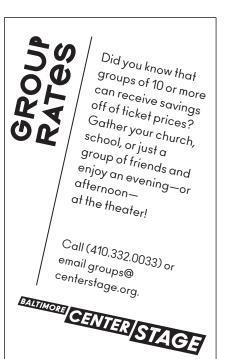
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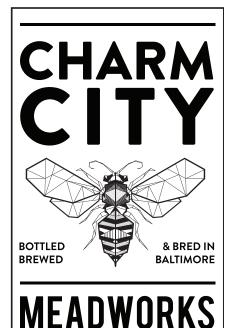
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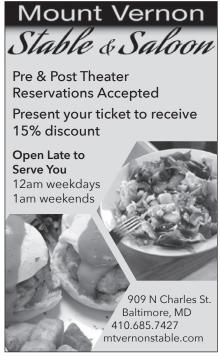
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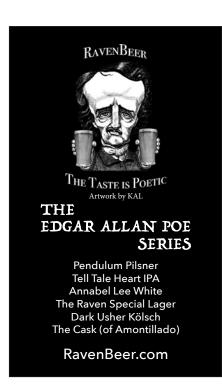
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DEVELOPMENT



The William G. Baker Fund's Support Turns Developmental Work into High-Quality Art

Baltimore Center Stage has been incredibly fortunate to have the support of the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund for over a decade. We are thrilled to turn the spotlight on the achievements of the foundation's philanthropic efforts in the Baltimore community.

The William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund was established in 1964 by Mary S. Baker in memory of her husband, and to this day continues its founders' civicminded philanthropic tradition benefiting the residents of the greater Baltimore area. With a central focus on the role that arts and culture play in the development and growth of healthy individuals and thriving communities, the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund commits its resources to promote and sustain a vibrant arts and culture sector. The foundation's grantmaking supports organizational effectiveness, promotes local artists and their work, and provides cultural experiences that welcome people of all backgrounds, enhance residents' lives, and strengthen the region's sense of cohesion and identity.

General operating support from the Fund allows Baltimore Center Stage and other local arts and culture organizations to produce high-quality artistic work. In addition, Baltimore Center Stage has received special support for last spring's expanded Play Lab, Shadowboxer—a unique opportunity to partner with renowned opera director Leon Major, as well as the lyricist and the composer, in a series of rehearsals and staged readings.

Shadowboxer—an original, contemporary opera telling the story of legendary boxing champion Joe Louis—required additional financial support for development and performance, including a cast of dozens and partnerships with Peabody Conservatory and Morgan State University.

For Batimore Center Stage to continue developing new theatrical works like this, it is imperative that funders like the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund help sustain and extend the process. From administrators to artisans to actors, everyone at Baltimore Center Stage is deeply grateful to the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund for its unwavering support.

The Helmand is proud to partner with Baltimore Center Stage!





Sun — Thurs 5pm/10pn Fri — Sat 5pm/11pm 806 N. Charles Street. Baltimore, MD 21201 Tel: 410 . 752 . 0311

DELIVERY IS AVAILABLE THROUGH ORDER UP AND UBEREATS



IN THE WORKS

Introducing: Mobile Unit

A blind man in a wheelchair and the caretaker who's stuck with him, a couple who's stuck in trashbins, and a three-legged dog who's just stuck—all wondering how and why they got stuck there together. This is the premise behind Samuel Beckett's absurd comedy, Endgame, the inaugural production of Baltimore Center Stage's Mobile Unit.

Mobile Unit, an exciting new initiative, will break down the walls of conventional theater spaces by taking high-quality performances directly to communities including the homeless, the elderly, the incarcerated, and the underserved. Following a successful pilot project in 2016, the project will officially launch this spring with Endgame, a play that explores the inexplicable, unpredictable journey of life, and our desire to not go it alone.

Mobile Unit

Mobile Unit's professional actors will bring both classic and contemporary works to life. The unlimited imagination of audiences will be at the center of the action in the intimacy of community cafeterias, recreation rooms, gyms, or lobbies. It's theater up close and personal for everyone regardless of education or class, age or circumstance—furthering Baltimore Center Stage's mission to provide Access for All.

Baltimore Center Stage is proud to partner with a number of organizations to bring *Endgame* to audiences. These organizations include:

Healthcare for the Homeless

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Esperanza Center

Baltimore Outreach Services

ENDGAME

By Samuel Beckett Directed by Daniel Bryant

MOBILE DATES:

Apr 25-May 5

At Baltimore Center Stage: Fri, Apr 28 at 8 pm Sat, Apr 29 at 2 & 8 pm

Visit our website to meet Daniel Bryant, new Director of Community Programs, and learn more about Endgame and the Mobile Unit.

Left: Terrance Fleming in the Mobile Unit production of Cyrano de Bergerac

BY NAMBI E. KELLEY
DIRECTED BY
KWAME KWEI-ARMAH
BASED ON THE BOOK
BY TONI MORRISON

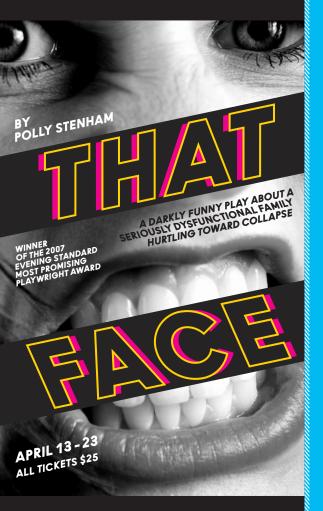
MAY 19-JUN 25

Toni Morrison's exhilarating novel explores complex familial relationships while evoking rhythmic nuances of life during the Harlem Renaissance.

"JAZZ IS
THE VERY FORM
AND VOICE
OF THIS
WONDERFUL
BOOK."

THE BALTIMORE SUN

A WORLD PREMIERE



INTRODUCING THE THIRD SPACE

This new, highly flexible third theater space will be home for bold, adventurous work. From experimental works to fresh initiatives that don't normally reach our main stages, these will offer thrilling, unexpected ventures. With a shorter run in a smaller space, these journeys will be a special treasure for new and longtime patrons alike.

FAMILY SERIES

We are thrilled to introduce the next generation of theatergoers to the joys of high-quality theater.

Inaugurating the new Family Series is **Maria Broom**: television actress, theater educator, and beloved storyteller.

IF I HAD A SUPER POWER Sat, Mar 18

SONGS AND STORIES FOR LITTLE OLD CHILDREN Sat, Apr 22

WHEN THE CHILDREN DANCE

Sat, May 20

exclusive sensory-friendly performance

RETURN OF THE STORY MOTHER

Sat, Jun 20

ALL TICKETS \$15

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ALL 4 PERFORMANCES WILL BE HELD AT 10:30 AM

RUNTIME 45-60 MINS (NO INTERMISSION)

TICKETS CENTERSTAGE.ORG 410.332.0033

MELCOME

Welcome to the newly and completely—renovated Baltimore Center Stage!

We hope you take the time to look around and see all of the exciting new additions to our theater as well as the professionally restored aspects of this beloved and historic building.

You will notice the names of supporters on the following page, in our lobby and throughout the building. We are immensely grateful to all those who have contributed to make this transformational renovation possible.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CENTER STAGE

There is still an opportunity to

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

NAME A SEAT IN THE HEAD THEATER.

For a gift of \$5,000, we would be delighted to inscribe your name, or the name of a friend or loved one, on a seat in the orchestraor, for a gift of \$2,500, a seat in the balcony.

For more information, please contact our Campaign Manager at 410.986.4027 or by email at pwissman@centerstage.org.

CAMPAIGN DONORS

We sincerely thank all of our campaign donors for their tremendously generous support. Without their trust and vision, all of the work we have done and continue to do would not be possible. The following includes gifts of \$10,000 or more.

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Baltimore Center Stage is pleased to have partnerships with a variety of neighborhood restaurants and hotels.

Please take a moment to review our partners and be sure to visit them when you are in the neighborhood! Gold Partners provide special discounts or offers to Baltimore Center Stage patrons. Visit our website for more details on these exclusive offers.



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D. PEABODY INSTITUTE 1E. Mt. Vernon Pl.

E. ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY

400 Cathedral St.

F. THE BALTIMORE SUN 501 N. Calvert St.



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Arts Access

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The Elizabeth & Ken Lundeen Carpentry Intern Whitney Stott

SCENIC ART

Charge Scenic Artist

STAGE OPERATIONS

Stage Carpenter

Wardrobe Supervisor

The following individuals and organizations contributed to this production of Twisted Melodies

Assistant Lighting Designer

Jessica Anderson

Carpenter Sam Martin

Carpentry Intern

Sam Gallagher

Electricians

Stephen Ames Alison Burris

Jake Epp Lillie Kahkonen

Will Voorhies

Front of House Audio Engineer Cory Raynor

Studio Musicians

Michael Flaherty, Drums

Alec Green, Guitar Russell Kirk, Alto Saxophone

Robin Massie-Pighee, Viola
Tierra Nicole Strickland, Vocals

Rachel Anne Warren, Vocals

Production Assistant

Ariela Subar

Props

Jacob Zabawa

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Architect

Cho Benn Holback Associates

Theater Consultant
Charcoalblue

Multimedia Lobby Design Jared Mezzocchi

Graphic Design
Pentagram



Baltimore Center Stage operates under an agreement between LORT and Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.



The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



Musicians engaged by Baltimore Center Stage perform under the terms of an agreement between Center Stage and Local 40543, American Federation of Musicians.

Baltimore Center Stage is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the nonprofit professional theater, and is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the national collective bargaining organization of professional regional theaters.

FOR OUR AUDIENCES

DINING

The Sherman Café & Bar is located on the first floor. Our restaurant food provider, Flavor at Baltimore Center Stage, will be serving dinner and small plates on the second floor with a limited menu of small plates available for order at the first floor bars. The brand new Nancy K. Roche Bar in the Deering Lounge on the fourth floor will be open during Head performances. Our food and beverage service will begin two hours before each performance. The Roche Chapel will no longer offer bar services.

DRINKS

Drinks from our bars are welcome in the theater; lids are required. Please no food in the theater. No outside food or drinks.

PHONES & RECORDING

Please silence all phones and electronic devices before the show and after intermission. Photography, audio recording, and video recording are strictly forbidden.

BATHROOMS

New bathrooms are now available on the second floor, in addition to newly renovated facilities on the first and fourth floors.

BOX OFFICE

The new Marilyn Meyerhoff Box Office on the first floor can service all patron needs regarding purchasing tickets, will call, listening devices, braille and large print programs, and address any of your questions.

ON-STAGE SMOKING

We use tobacco-free herbal imitations for any on-stage smoking and do everything possible to minimize the impact and amount of smoke that drifts into the audience. Let our Box Office or front of house personnel know if you're smoke sensitive.

CHILDREN

Children under six are not allowed in the theater, except for Family Series shows and special events like Back Stage @ Center Stage.

ACCESSIBILITY

MOBILITY

Wheelchair-accessible seating is available for every performance.



VISUAL ASSISTANCE

The Audio Description/Touch Tour performances of *Twisted Melodies* take place on Sun, April 9 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Touch tours present a pre-show opportunity to feel props and set pieces on stage. Large print and braille programs are available upon request.





AUDIO ASSISTANCE

An Open Captioned performance of Twisted Melodies takes place on Sun, April 9 at 7:30 pm. Assistive listening devices are available to be borrowed at no cost.





PARKING

If you are parking in the Baltimore Sun Garage (diagonally across from the theater at Monument & Calvert) you can pay via credit card at the pay station in the garage lobby or at the in-lane pay station as you exit. If you have a pre-paid voucher, proceed directly to your vehicle and enter your voucher after inserting the parking ticket received upon entering the garage. We do not validate parking tickets.

LATE SEATING

Patrons arriving after curtain will be seated at the house manager's discretion.

FEEDBACK

We hope you have an enjoyable, stress-free experience! Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome: info@centerstage.org.

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS THIS SPRING

THE ANNUAL GALA FOR BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE IN OUR NEWLY RENOVATED THEATER

> SATURDAY, JUNE 3 **6 PM TO MIDNIGHT**

TICKETS \$500 | TABLES \$6,000 AND \$10,000



PREVIEW:

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BIDDING:

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Visit centerstage.org/auction for details.

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