2021 NEW LIGHT NEW VOICES WINNER

NEW LIGHT THEATER PROJECT
PRESENTS

INK'DWELL

BY ERIN E. ADAMS
DIRECTED BY TABATHA GAYLE



59E59

THEATER C

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 16

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CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

KENDRA	BRITNEY NICOLE SIMPSON *
ISAAC	LANDON G. WOODSON *
EMBER	STARR KIRKLAND *
NIA	TAI LESHAUN
MAYA	CHERENE SNOW *

CREATIVE + PRODUCTION TEAM

PLAYWRIGHT	ERIN E. ADAMS
DIRECTOR	TABATHA GAYLE †
MOVEMENT DRAMATURG	LOUIS DEVAUGHN NELSON
SCENIC + PROJECTION DESIGN	ANNA KIRALY
COSTUME DESIGN	DARICEL CALCANO †
LIGHTING DESIGN	ANNIE WIEGAND
SOUND DESIGN	ISAIAH HOWELL
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER	MADELEINE BLOSSOM *
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	MICIAH WALLACE
MASTER CARPENTER	BEN WATSON
ARTISTIC PRODUCER	WILLIAM STEINBERGER
PRODUCING DIRECTOR, NLTP	MICHAEL AGUIRRE †
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, NLTP	SARAH NORRIS †



† Resident Artist of New Light Theater Project * Member of Actors' Equity Association

Run Time: 1 hour, 45 minutes, no intermission



This play explores themes of mental health and depression and talks about death and suicide.

If you or someone you know is struggling with depression or has suicidal thoughts, please call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

Therapy for Black Girls:
www.therapyforblackgirls.com

Therapy for Black Men:
www.therapyforblackmen.org

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Experiencing ***Ink'dWell*** for the first time was a breath of fresh air for me - getting a depiction of a family like mine, of a person like me who, in the face of tragedy and grief, in the face of the realities of living in her particular body and mind, didn't and couldn't move with the "typical strength" expected of someone like her. Witnessing the humanity of someone who looks like me experiencing all the human realities of pain, as tempestuous and uncontrollable and unaccepted as the experience can be, is so precious and rare and rarely seen that I feel particularly blessed and honored to have a hand in sharing this story and this depiction of it with you.

Often we want others, and ourselves, to get to the end of pain. To glean the beauty from it. To be strong, immediately and always. To arrive at a finish line, rather than cycle, as some are allowed to do. We base our perception of our or another's suffering off of what we or others have lived through, and how all of us have been expected to deal with it - to different ends. I invite you to allow others their particular journeys. I invite you to allow yourself the journey. I invite you to allow yourself your care and your humanity, and allow others theirs.

Mental Health Matters. To my Black community in particular - Black Mental Health Matters.

- Tabatha Gayle







STARR KIRKLAND

(she/they; Ember)



Credits include: the world premiere of ***Crying on Television*** (Everyman Theatre), Anthem Award Winner ***Black Feminist Video Game*** (59E59, Center Theatre Group, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Williams Center for the Arts), New York Times Critics' Picks ***Zoetrope*** (Exquisite Corpse Co), and ***TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever*** (JACK); ***of the woman came the beginning of sin and through her we all die*** and ***Sons of the Prophet*** (Normal Ave); ***HOTTENTOTTED*** (The Tank), ***ALICEGRACEANON*** (New Georges), ***Julius Caesar*** (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival), and ***Tight Five*** (New Ambassadors Theatre Co).
www.StarrKirkland.com

TAI LESHAUN

(she/her; Nia)



Tai Leshaun will next be seen in the Peacock limited series *The Best Man: Final Chapters* playing young Nia Long and recently appeared in the Netflix feature *Thunder Force* as the teen version of Octavia Spencer, who stars opposite Melissa McCarthy for director Ben Falcone. A graduate of Marymount Manhattan College with a BFA in Acting, Tai tested for a lead in Reed Morano's upcoming drama series *The Power* at Amazon and continues to train with acting coach Bob Krakower and Ted Sluberski. She is excited to be making her Off Broadway debut and would like to thank God, Tabby, Delsie, her BAM team, and New Light Theater Project for this amazing opportunity.

BRITNEY NICOLE SIMPSON

(she/her; Kendra)



Britney Nicole Simpson is a California native based in NYC. Off Broadway: ***Penelope or How the Odyssey Was Really Written***. Regional: ***The Odyssey, The Yeomen of the Guard, The Wiz,*** world premiere of ***Head Over Heels*** (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), ***Mr Burns, a Post-Electric Play, The Tempest, The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington, Into the Woods, Taming of the Shrew*** (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival), ***Nina Simone: 4 Women*** (Seattle Repertory Theatre), ***Cyrano*** (Two River Theatre), ***A Christmas Carol*** (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park). Education: The Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts.

CHERENE SNOW

(she/her; Maya)



Cherene Snow is a multi-award-winning veteran actor/singer-songwriter from Chicago, who began her career in the cult classic film, *Cooley High*. Her extensive background in theater includes: Broadway's ***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*** (with Scarlett Johansson) and regional credits ***King Lear, Familiar, For All the Women..., Skeleton Crew, The Little Foxes***, and ***Doubt***. Film/TV include: *Jules, Almost Family, The Code, Law & Order, Law & Order SVU,* and *Chappelle's Show*. Cherene has written her first full-length, one-act, and 10-minute plays, ***Monday Wednesday Friday, Hiding Inside Him***, and ***My Heart is a Little Red Wagon***, respectively.

LANDON G. WOODSON

(he/him; Isaac)



Landon G. Woodson is a native of Passaic, NJ. He attended Rutgers University where he earned an MFA in Acting. Recent credits include *B-Boy Blues* (BETPlus), *The Blacklist* (NBC), ***Mud Row*** (Premiere Stages), ***Black History Museum*** (Smoke & Mirrors Collaborative), ***Too Heavy for Your Pocket*** (George Street Playhouse), and ***The Whistleblower*** (The Denver Center). Landon dedicates this performance to his sisters Chelsea, Taylor, and Shannell.
www.LandonGWoodson.com

ERIN E. ADAMS

(she/her; Playwright)

Erin E. Adams is an NYC-based writer and theater artist. Her full-length plays include: ***Ink'dWell***, ***Libra Season*** (Second Thought Theatre STEP commission), ***Snow Globe*** (AMiOS First Draughts Commission), and ***A Creation Myth*** (Weston Fine Arts Award Winner). Her work has been developed with Fresh Ground Pepper, AMiOS, NYU, Brown University, and the University of San Diego. Adams holds a BA with Honors in Literary Arts from Brown University and a MFA in Acting from The Old Globe/USD. She just received her MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU, Tisch School of the Arts. This summer she was selected to attend the Kimbilio Fellowship and Roots. Wounds. Words. Writers' Retreat. Her debut novel, "JACKAL", will be published by Bantam books this fall.

@iameeadams

www.ErinEAdams.com

TABATHA GAYLE

(she/her; Director)

Tabatha Gayle is a multi-disciplinary creator and director based in NYC. Her work seeks to illuminate the lesser explored issues within her community, especially of those at the intersections of identity. Tabatha has developed both individual and collaborative work at New York Theater Workshop, Musical Theater Factory, Ars Nova, the Prelude Festival, Poetic Theater Productions, The Tank, The Wild Project, and Out of Chaos Theater (UK). She is a resident artist with New Light Theater Project, the Resident Acting Company, and Out of Chaos Theater (UK), as well as a Visiting Artist Fellow with the Center for Hellenic Studies at Harvard University.

www.TabathaGayle.com

LOUIS DEVAUGHN NELSON

(he/him; Movement Dramaturg)

Louis DeVaughn Nelson, aka "DeVo," is a Black/Queer interdisciplinary artist and the founder of Hokum Arts, started in 2006. Nelson has worked for 20 years as a performer, choreographer, producer, and director for film, theater, dance, and more. His works have been shown in the USA, Europe, Australia, and South Korea. He was named Best New Choreographer by The Philadelphia City Paper's Editor's Choice Awards and has been recognized for his work combining art and technology. He has studied at DeSales University, Drexel University, The New School, The Jeanne Ruddy School of Dance, and The Koresh School of Dance. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America and Working Title Playwrights. He is currently residing in New York City.

ANNA KIRALY

(she/her; Scenic & Projection Designer)

Anna Kiraly is a visual artist, set, and video designer. She's collaborated with the Pig Iron Theater Company, The Play Company, Talking Band, Peter Sellars, and universities such as Barnard/Columbia, Fordham, Montclair, Smith, and designed visuals for operas and concerts. She is a recipient of a '21 NYSCA grant, the Arts Link Grant, the NEA/TCG Program for Designers, the TCG New Generations and the Jim Henson Foundation's grant. She has taught set design and media at Barnard College/Columbia University and the Hungarian School of Theater and Film.

DARICEL CALCANO

(she/her; Costume Designer)

Daricel Calcano, AEA, is a native of New York City. She's an actor, stage manager, educator and costume designer. Recent credits include: ***That Pretty Pretty, The Motherf**ker with the Hat, Sweat, Less Than 50%, Pass Over***. Love to my family, friends, my pup son, Bennett.

@daricellla

www.daricel.com

ANNIE WIEGAND

(she/her; Lighting Designer)

Off Broadway: ***I Was Most Alive With You*** (Playwrights Horizons). Regional: ***The Upstairs Department*** (Signature Theater Company), ***Eclipsed*** (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre); ***Steel Magnolias*** and ***Under the Breeches*** (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); ***Steel Magnolias*** (Dallas Theater Center), ***The Who and The What*** (Huntington Theatre Company); ***The Children***, ***Matt and Ben***, ***Brahman/I***, and ***Small Mouth Sounds*** (Kitchen Theatre Company); ***The Bridges of Madison County*** (IRNE Nominee for Best Lighting Design), and ***Tribes*** (Speakeasy Stage Company). Off-Off Broadway (select): ***Follies*** (Astoria Performing Arts Center - NYIT Nominee for Best Lighting Design). Teaching: Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance, Gallaudet University. Annie Wiegand is the first and only professional Deaf lighting designer in the US theater industry.

www.AnnieWiegand.com

ISAIAH HOWELL

(they/he; Sound Designer)

Isaiah Howell is theatrical sound designer and live mixer, based in Brooklyn, NY. They received a BFA in Lighting Design with a focus in Sound Design at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2018. Sound design credits include Ben Gassman's ***Botte di Ferro*** (dir. Tara Elliot), Clubbed Thumb Theatre Company's ***Temporary Occupant*** (dir. Rachel Gita Karp), and L.A. New Court Theatre's production of ***Atlas Pit, or The Garbage Man's Son*** (dir. by Beth Lopes; Winner StageSceneLa Scenie Award).

www.IsaiahHowellSound.com

MADELEINE BLOSSOM

(she/her; Production Stage Manager)

Madeleine Blossom is a New York-based AEA stage manager & actor originally from California. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Drew University and a certificate of Mental Health First Aid from The National Council. Madeleine also studied with intimacy directors and coordinators through their Stage Managing Intimacy course, along with similar workshops relating to safety and well-being while making art. Favorite credits include: ***Sweeney Todd*** at South Coast Repertory, ***Heathers*** at Drew, and ***East Side Stories, Actually*** at The Metropolitan Playhouse. All the love to Mama Blossom and those who continue to provide support throughout this crazy thing called life.

www.MadeleineBlossom.com

MICIAH WALLACE

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Miciah Wallace is a young performer making his way in New York City. Originally from the midwest, Miciah has embarked on a journey to build a career as a performer primarily in theater. Credits include work with Theatre Now and National Black Theatre. Miciah intends to make a mark in the musical theater world and is proud to have this project be a step along the way!

@imiciahi

WILL STEINBERGER

(he/him; Artistic Producer)

Will Steinberger is a director and producer. He's thrilled to return to NLTP after working with the company on Gina Femia's streaming ***meet you at the Galaxy Diner*** (The Tank) and Catherine Weingarten's interactive satirical dating app ***I'm So Hot*** (The Tank and Pocket Universe). He has developed new work at Hartford Stage, New York Stage and Film, Clubbed Thumb, the Drama League, Berkshire Theatre Group, the Wilma, and InterAct. Will is a Drama League Award nominee for Charles Gershman's short ***Oedipus 2.0.2.0.*** (All for One f/ Eddie Cooper). Co-Founder, InVersion Theatre.

www.WSteinberger.com

NEW LIGHT THEATER PROJECT

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Led by Artistic Director Sarah Norris and Producing Director Michael Aguirre, New Light is an ensemble-driven theater company that strives to support independent and emerging artists by providing and promoting growth opportunities through exposure to New York City audiences. Since 2013, New Light has mounted over 30 productions which have received critical praise including a sold-out run and 'Best of EdFringe 2019' (*The Stage* for ***H*tler's Tasters***), Best of Theater 2014 (*The L Magazine* for ***Picture Ourselves in Latvia***), *TimeOut NY* Critics' Pick (***H*tler's Tasters, Everything is Super Great, The American Tradition***, ***Breeders,*** and ***Bubba***), resident company of 59E59 Theaters and past recipient of The Flea Theater's Anchor Program, Theatre Row Residency Program, Woodstock Byrdcliffe Residency Fellowship, Chicago Dramatists Grafting Project, and the Access Theater Residency Program. New Light is a 501(c)3 organization. Productions at 59E59 include: ***Everything is Super Great*** (by Stephen Brown), ***H*tler's Tasters***, E2E Festival (by Michelle Kholos Brooks), ***Imagining Madoff*** (by Deb Margolin), ***Hal & Bee*** (by Max Baker), and ***Less Than 50%*** (by Gianmarco Soresi).

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www.NewLightTheaterProject.com



SPECIAL THANKS

59E59 Theaters, NJ Agwuna, Carol Almonte, NYC ASL Interpreting Community, Nora Carroll, Andy Evan Cohen, Houghton Hall Arts Community - Christina Germaine & Katherine Hutt, Steve Jones, Abe Koogler, Martin Lewis, Madeline McCray, Pendragon Theatre, Leighton Samuels, Gama Valle

INK'DWELL received development support from Fresh Ground Pepper and Einhorn School of Performing Arts at Primary Stages.

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and by a Covid Relief Grant from the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation at 59E59 Theaters.





CURATOR'S NOTE

Welcome to New Light Theater Project's *Ink'dWell*. As part of our Co-Op Resident program, NLTP and I are committed to fostering their Collective composed of writers, actors, directors, stage managers, and designers from diverse backgrounds. This play by Erin E. Adams won the 2020-2021 New Light New Voices Award and it's always a pleasure to share work from this cherished organization with you.



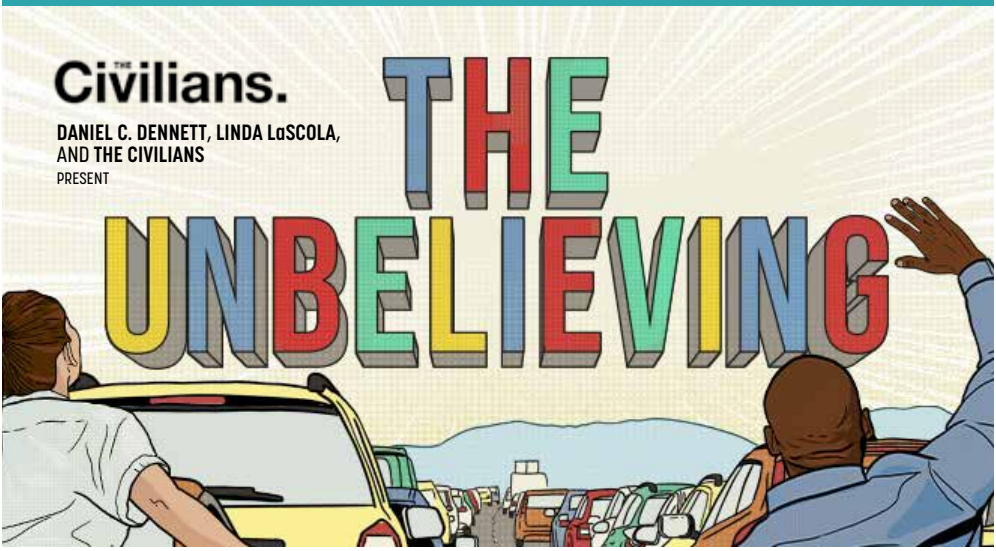
Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

ELYSABETH KLEINHANS President/Founding Artistic Director
VAL DAY Artistic Director
BRIAN BEIRNE Managing Director
ELIZA JOHNSON Finance Associate/Office Manager
CATE PUGLIA Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
MELISSA SHAWCROSS Technical Director
CRISTINA GREENFIELD Marketing Manager
MELINDA GRABER Digital Marketing Associate
ALAN BUTTAR Graphic Designer
MATT ROSS Press Representative
NICOLE CAPATASTO Press Representative
CLAIRE WOJCIECHOWSKI Press Representative
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SHANNON SMITH Theater Manager
COLLEEN MORGEN House Manager
JOHNATHAN PRICE Facilities Manager
WALDIN ROJAS Facilities Assistant
FRANKIE DIAZ Facilities Assistant
LLOYD MULVEY Director of Ticketing Services
CRAIG SCHENKER Box Office Manager
ANDREA ARVANIGIAN Box Office Supervisor
JORDAN ELMAN Box Office Supervisor
DANIELLE COVINGTON Box Office Supervisor
CAILIN KELLY Box Office Associate
MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate /Usher
ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO Usher
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
CHRISTIAN MIRANDA Usher
ELLIOT JACOBS Usher
ERIC BERKELEY Usher
FLOWER RIOS Usher
ITAI ADAM VAGNER Usher
JOEY PITTORINO Usher
KAYLA GRANT Usher
NATALIE LILAVOIS YUSTY Usher
RICHARD RODRIGUEZ Usher
SANTIAGO AGUILAR Usher
AMBER RIGGLE Theater Technician
JOHN D. IVY Theater Technician
KAT KHELLBLAU Theater Technician

THEATER B **OCTOBER 20 — NOVEMBER 19**



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

This presentation is not a production of the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, Inc., which offers its facilities, when available, for productions by not-for-profit theater companies. For further information regarding licensing this theater or other theaters in this Theater Building, contact Brian Beirne, Managing Director. The use of cameras and other recording devices in the Theater is prohibited by law. There is no smoking in this Theater or any part of the Theater Building.