PROSPECT THEATER COMPANY

CARA REICHEL, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
MELISSA HUBER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

presents

The Oscar Micheaux Suite

MUSIC BY
ALPHONSO HORNE

LYRICS BY
JESSE L. KEARNEY, JR.

LYRICS AND ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY
PETER MILLS

BANDLEADER & ORCHESTRATIONS
ALPHONSO HORNE

DIRECTED BY
KIMILLE HOWARD

59
59

THEATER A
MARCH 26 – MARCH 27

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CAST

Oscar Micheaux	**JELANI REMY**
Alice B. Russell & Other Vocals	**FELICIA BOSWELL**
Evelyn Preer & Other Vocals	**TAYLOR SYMONE JACKSON**
Noble Johnson & Other Vocals	**DARIUS ANTHONY HARPER**
George Johnson & Other Vocals	**JAMES HARKNESS**

BAND

Trumpet / Bandleader	**ALPHONSO HORNE**
Reeds	**JONATHAN BESHAY**
Piano	**VICTOR GOULD**
Trombone	**JERRICK MATTHEWS**
Bass	**JONATHAN MICHEL**
Drums	**JAY SAWYER**

SONG LIST

Picture This
Thirty Feet High
I'll Show 'Em
Another Take
Turning On A Dime
Red Summer
I Got The Stuff
Can't Nobody Do It Like I Do
Talk Is Cheap
The Chicago Stroll
Can't Nobody (Reprise)
The Muse
Can You See The Birth of a Nation?

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Production Manager ..... **MEGHAN McVANN**
Company Manager ..... **KIM M. JONES**
Audio Engineer/Mixer ..... **MATTHEW KARNATZ**
Covid Safety Management ..... **SEAN LEEHAN**
Lead Electricians ..... **JENNIFER LENO, AIDEN SARTORI**
Covid Safety Assistant ..... **JESSICA CAUTTERO**

Scenic Design ..... **RIW RAKKULCHON** †
Lighting Design ..... **SHANNON CLARKE** †
Sound Design ..... **BEN SCHEFF** †
Projections Supervisor ..... **DAVID ORLANDO**
Stage Manager ..... **ELIZABETH ANN GOODMAN**
Press Representative ..... **MICHAEL JORGENSEN, JORGENSEN PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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OSCAR MICHEAUX (1884 - 1951) was the quintessential self-made man. Novelist, filmmaker, and relentless self-promoter, Micheaux was born on a farm near Murphysboro, Illinois. He worked as a Pullman porter and then in 1904 homesteaded nearly 500 acres of land in South Dakota. During his lifetime, he wrote and published seven novels and was the author, film director and independent producer of more than 44 films. Micheaux is regarded as the first major African American feature filmmaker, and has been described as "the most successful African American filmmaker of the first half of the 20th century," producing both silent films and sound films.

† Member of United Scenic Artists.
Designers in LORT Theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

FELICIA BOSWELL

(Alice B. Russell & Other Vocals)

Emmy Winner & Grammy Nominee (NBC's *Jesus Christ Superstar LIVE*), 2x Helen Hayes Award Winner (Outstanding Lead Actress/ Musical), BWW Winner (Best Lead Actress), Jeff Award (Best Supporting Actress nom), Suzi Bass (Best Lead Actress nom). Broadway: ***Shuffle Along*** (Josephine Baker), ***Motown*** (Diana Ross), ***Memphis*** (Felicia Farrell). Nat'l Tour: ***Memphis*** (Felicia Farrell), ***Dreamgirls*** (Deena). Off Broadway: ***Emojiland*** (Police Officer), ***Little Rock*** (Minniejean Brown). TV: *Power* (Melissa) STARZ, *The Good Fight* (Lace) CBS, *Evil* (Paramount+), Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (Diana Ross, ***Motown***), *Last Week Tonight w/John Oliver*. Regional highlights: ***The Color Purple*** (Celie) Portland Center Stage, ***Jelly's Last Jam*** (Anita) Signature Theatre ,and many more.

JAMES HARKNESS

(George Johnson & Other Vocals)

Born in El Paso, Texas, James has been on a diverse journey from dancer to choreographer to director to singer/songwriter and other stuff in between. His career has taken him from the West Coast to the East as well as several continents around this world. From non-paying jobs to the bright starry lights of the Broadway stage, with film and TV in between, he is happy to be a working artist. Credits include: Broadway – ***Ain't Too Proud*** (Grammy nominee), ***Aida***, ***The Color Purple***; Film – *North*, *The Mend*; TV – *Blue Bloods*, *Law & Order*, *Le James Café*; Creative – ***The Color Purple*** (regional), Best Director nominee.

DARIUS ANTHONY HARPER

(Noble Johnson & Other Vocals)

Originally a New Hampshire native, Darius would attend the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC. He would go on to work for the Disney company both nationally and in Tokyo, Japan. Darius was an original cast member in both T***he Book of Mormon*** (Chicago), and the ***Kinky Boots*** First National Tour (Lola). Other credits include: ***Kinky Boots*** (Fulton), ***Smokey Joe's Cafe*** (Arkansas Rep), ***A Grand Night for Singing*** (Goodspeed), and ***Grease*** (Merry Go Round). Most recently Darius originated a role with Cirque Du Soleil (Volta).

TAYLOR SYMONE JACKSON

(Alice B. Russell & Other Vocals)

Taylor Symone Jackson was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She began taking dance, acting, and violin lessons at Spelman College at the age of five. She began teaching tap jazz and ballet in middle school and later started dancing at the Atlanta Ballet. She then went on to attend Carver School of the Arts for the majors of Dance and Theater. After graduating High School, she attended AMDA in New York City. Shortly after graduating she worked at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for six months and finally booked her first original Broadway show, ***Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations.***

JELANI REMY

(Oscar Micheaux)

Jelani Remy is a New Jersey native who attended Montclair State University. He was last seen on Broadway playing the role of Eddie Kendricks in ***Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations***! Jelani made his Broadway debut playing the role Simba in Disney's ***The Lion King*** as well as on the National Tour and Las Vegas productions. Prior shows include ***High School Musical*** (National Tour), ***High School Musical 2!*** (Fox Theater), ***Smokey Joe's Cafe*** (Off Broadway), ***The Apple Boys*** (Off Broadway), ***Anjou: The Musical Horror Tale***, and is a Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star alumni. When not performing, he enjoys directing, choreographing, and teaching musical theater to schools, aspiring performers, and arts programs.

ALPHONSO HORNE

(Music, Orchestrations, Bandleader, Trumpet)

Juilliard Graduate and Multi-GRAMMY Award nominee Alphonso Horne thrills audiences with his soulful sound and dramatic sensibility. He has collaborated with artists from all genres and disciplines including Wynton Marsalis, Patti LaBelle, and Rihanna, and has performed in several Broadway shows including **After Midnight** and ***Shuffle Along***. Currently Horne is involved with many projects including playing with Sammy Miller and the Congregation (residency at Ars Nova, 2017). He is the bandleader of an early jazz band: Gotham Kings, which performs regularly at Jazz at Lincoln Center, and is writing / producing his original show ***Mother Kofi: The Tale of An African Princess***. He is the recipient of a 2022 NYSCA Composer Commissioning Grant for T***he Oscar Micheaux Project***.

JESSE L. KEARNEY, JR.

(Lyrics)

Jesse L. Kearney, Jr. is an award-winning playwright. Honors include the ASCAP Musical Theater Workshop, and the Jonathan Larson Musical Theater Fellowship through the Dramatist Guild, and the Lazarus Family Musical Theater Award. His musical, ***The Little Playhouse***, received a workshop production at Lincoln Center Theater Director's Lab / American Living Room Series. He wrote book and lyrics for ***The Lion In Love*** (music: Brian Feinstein), and book for ***The Blind Man*** (lyrics: Peter Mills / music: Deborah Abramson) based on a story by D.H. Lawrence. His songs have been featured at cabaret venues around NYC, including Joe's Pub. J.D.: New York Law School. MFA: NYU Musical Theater Writing Program. BA: Dartmouth. Member: Dramatists Guild. 2022 participant in The Johnny Mercer Writers Grove at Goodspeed Musicals.

PETER MILLS

(Lyrics, Additional Music)

A celebrated lyricist, composer, and bookwriter, Peter Mills has been honored to receive the Kleban Prize for lyrics, the Cole Porter Award from ASCAP, and the Fred Ebb Award, among other recognition of his work. He received 2019 Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations for his original score for the Off Broadway hit, ***The Hello Girls***, which premiered with Prospect Theater Company at 59E59. He has penned more than a dozen musicals, and his shows have been performed at regional venues across the U.S., and internationally. He also wrote lyrics for ***The Honeymooners***, which premiered at the Paper Mill Playhouse.

KIMILLE HOWARD

(Director)

Kimille Howard is an Assistant Stage Director at the Metropolitan Opera, Artistic Director of the Lucille Lortel Theatre's NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, and co-founder of the Black Classical Music Archive. Recent directing credits: ***Night Trip*** (Opera NexGen), ***The Visit*** (ECU), ***The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson*** (Glimmerglass), ***L'Amant Anonyme*** (Wolf Trap Opera), ***Death By Life: a live virtual opera*** (White Snake Projects), ***In The Open*** (WCSU), ***Soil Beneath*** (Primary Stages/59E59), ***$#!thole Country Clapback*** (Loading Dock Theatre), ***The Fellowship Plays*** (Lucille Lortel Theatre Foundation), ***Low Power*** (EST), ***Skeleton Crew*** (TheatreSquared), and ***TRIGGERED*** (Cherry Lane Theatre). Broadway: ***Ain't Too Proud*** (Assistant Director). Met Opera: ***Porgy And Bess and Tosca*** (Assistant Stage Director). NYTW 2050 Fellowship, MTC Jonathan Alper Directing Fellowship, current member of The New Georges Directors Jam, and a participant in New York Stage and Film's inaugural NYSAF NEXUS project.

SHANNON CLARKE

(Lighting Designer)

Shannon Clarke is a New York based lighting designer and she is thrilled to be working with Prospect Theatre Company again. Her previous designs for Prospect include ***Rule of Three***, ***Reignite***, ***MoveMEANT*** and ***Ship in a Bottle***. Her other design credits include ***Broadway Holiday Spectacular*** for Transendence Theatre Company; ***The Ballroom***, ***Almost Ritual***, and ***Any/Which/Way*** for Co • Lab Dance. She recently made her Broadway debut as the associate lighting designer on ***Chicken & Biscuits***.

ELIZABETH ANN GOODMAN

(Production Stage Manager)

For Prospect: ***Einstein's Dreams***, ***One Thousand Nights***, and ***One Day***. Broadway: ***Misery***, ***Romeo and Juliet***, ***The Testament of Mary***. Off Broadway: ***Freddie Falls In Love*** (The Joyce), ***About Love***, ***All Our Children***, ***Pushkin*** (Sheen Center), ***A Blanket of Dust*** (Tom Smedes Productions), ***Hindle Wakes*** (Mint Theater), ***The View UpStairs*** (Invisible Wall Productions), ***Martin Luther on Trial*** (FPA), ***The Total Bent*** (The Public Theater), ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (CSC), ***At The Table*** (Fault Line Theatre). National Tours: ***Pippin***. Education: MFA Columbia University.

KIM M. JONES

(Company Manager) (She/Her)

Kim M. Jones is an NYC based Director and Producer, proud Member of Actors' Equity Association, and Associate Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Kim is on the Board of Directors of The League of Professional Theatre Women for the 2021-2022 season. Member of Planet Connections Theatre Festivity, Workshop Theatre Company, and TRU (Theatre Resources Unlimited). Alumni of St. John's University and The American Academy of Dramatic Arts/NY.

Social media tags include: FB: @KM Jones; Twitter: @ nyfit; LinkedIn: Kim-Marie-Jones

MEGHAN McVANN

(Production Manager) (they/them)

Most recently they Production Stage Managed Trash at IRT Theatre and JACK. Meghan was the COVID Safety Manager for Prospect Theatre's ***Reignite*** and ***Rule of Three***. Meghan was the Production Manager for ***Jump*** (Astoria Performing Arts Center), Associate Production Manager for ***Einstein's Dreams*** (Prospect), Production Manager for ***Mary Stuart*** (Olney Theatre Company), and Co-Production Manager for ***Elf the Musical*** (Olney Theatre Company).

RIW RAKKULCHON

(Scenic Designer)

Riw Rakkulchon is a Set & Costume Designer, Animator, and Chef from Bangkok, Thailand. Selected credits: Associate Set Designer (***Pass Over*** on Broadway). He/They has worked at Yale Repertory Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Drury Lane Theatre, Asolo Rep, The Acting Company, 59E59, Edinburgh Fringe, Primary Stages, The Public Theater, amongst others. He/They also works with designers Wilson Chin, Riccardo Hernandez, Jason Ardizzone-West, Donyale Werle, Santo Loquasto, Rachel Hauck, Clint Ramos and Walt Spangler. Board member of WithAll, a non-profit organization that fights to end eating disorders. BFA Ithaca College, MFA Yale School of Drama (Donald & Zorca Oenslager Fellowship Award in Design Recipient). Member of United Scenic Artist 829.

@riwrdesign

BEN SCHEFF

(Sound Designer)

Off Broadway: ***Kennedy: Bobby's Last Crusade***, ***Only Human***, ***Red Roses, Green Gold***. Regional/Touring: ***Twas the Night Before...*** (Cirque du Soleil), ***Stars Above*** (Hideaway Circus), ***Hurricane Diane*** (The Huntington Theater), ***No Room for Wishing*** (Company One/Central Square Theater); ***The Secret in the Wings, A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (South Coast Rep YC). Associate/Assistant Design: Roundabout Theater Company, Cherry Lane Theater, Primary Stages, Manhattan Theatre Club, New York Theater Workshop, Playwright's Realm, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Rep, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Member IATSE USA 829 - United Scenic Artists. www.scheffsound.com

MELISSA HUBER

(Managing Director)

Melissa Huber is a founding member of Prospect Theater Company. She holds an AB in History from Princeton University and an MFA in Theater Management from the Yale School of Drama where she received The Morris J. Kaplan Award. Melissa has previously worked at the Guthrie Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Magic Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, and Ensemble Theatre Company. She is also the Director of Artistic Planning & Operations at the International Festival of Arts & Ideas in New Haven, CT and is a member of the League of Professional Theatre Women.

CARA REICHEL

(Producing Artistic Director / Curator & Creative Producer)

Cara Reichel is a founding member of Prospect, and is a leader in the field of new musical development. Recent Prospect projects as director/author: ***The Hello Girls*** (Outer Critics Circle Award Nomination), ***The Flood***, ***Death for Five Voices***. As director: ***Einstein's Dreams*** @ 59E59. More info: CaraReichel.com

Prospect Theater Company is dedicated to fostering and showcasing today's new voices shaping tomorrow's musicals. The company has fully produced more than 35 premiere musicals in NYC in addition to new plays and numerous reinventions of classic works. Reflecting its investment in the future of the field, Prospect leads a variety of developmental initiatives, including an annual Musical Theater Lab for emerging writers, the IGNITE Series of concerts, and the VISION Series of new music theater on film. In recognition of its enterprising and risk-taking new musical theater, the company received a 2016 OBIE Award grant. Notable recent 59E59 productions include: ***Einstein's Dreams*** (2019), ***The Hello Girls*** (2018), and ***The Mad Ones*** (2017). www.ProspectTheater.org.

PROSPECT THEATER COMPANY

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(January 1, 2021 - February 5, 2022)

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NEXT IN THEATER A — APRIL 26 - JUNE 12



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.

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