

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

September 2021

Dear theater family & friends,

Welcome back—we are so happy to return for another live show! We thank you for your willingness to wear a mask to be sure we can remain open and continue to provide live theatre arts opportunities to our community.

Brookfield Theatre is so thankful and grateful for the many people who reached out with their moral and financial support throughout this past year. Please see our thank you page for a list of the many people who make it possible for us to continue our work despite the financial constraints of the pandemic. There are also untold volunteer hours spent behind the scenes. I am continually humbled by the dedication of the actors, and the artistic and production teams in the creating of these shows.

Please be assured that we are taking reasonable precautions concerning the Covid-19 pandemic including cleaning, ventilation, and contact tracing. If you have any questions or concerns, please see the House Manager. We have limited our tickets to allow for patrons to leave space between seats and avoid overcrowding. Please be thoughtful of your fellow patrons throughout the show. Masks are required indoors, even if you are fully vaccinated. We look forward to when we can enjoy live theatre without interruption, in the meantime, please be patient as the protocols change regularly. We are committed to bringing you live performances while keeping audiences and theatre makers safe.

Please watch our web site and emails for information about upcoming shows and special events. We hope you will join us for the rest of our 2021 season. Thank you for supporting our 64th year as an all volunteer non-profit organization, providing a brave space for the arts. Brookfield Theatre relies on our loyal patrons to continue the work of providing a creative center for the Brookfield community.

Enjoy the show,

Lou Okell, President

COMING UP

Love Letters Fundraiser—Oct. 1-3

[title of show]—Oct. 15-23

The Taming of the Shrew—Sept/Oct Virtual

Moon Over Buffalo—November

Dot—December

www.BrookfieldTheatre.org

For the safety of performers, the courtesy of patrons, and in compliance with CDC recommendations, please follow current mask & social distance guidelines. Remain seated throughout the performance and mingle with cast and friends outdoors after the show. Please use all exits.

BLOOD AT THE ROOT

by DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU

directed by RENEE SUTHERSLAND

STARRING

Raylynn Nathaly Abreau
Asha Lizzy Booth
Colin Ben Frazer
De'Andre Trishawn Paul
Justin Kevoy Somerville
Toria Ruby White
DA Kristin Aug
Principal Miller / Police Officer Chris Fay
Students of Cedar High cast

SETTING

Cedar High School, Louisiana, 2006.

There will be no intermission.

“Blood at the Root” was commissioned by the Penn State School of Theatre, and was first produced by Penn State Centre Stage, Dan Carter, Producing Artistic Director.

The New York Premiere of “Blood at the Root” was produced by Penn State Centre Stage and presented by Hi-ARTS and the National Black Theatre, Inc.

“Blood at the Root” is based on the events at Jena High School in Jena, Louisiana in 2006 and the story of the Jena Six.

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS ON ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

BLOOD AT THE ROOT is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

For the safety of performers, the courtesy of patrons, and in compliance with copyright laws, the taking photos or recordings of any kind is strictly prohibited. **PLEASE TURN OFF ALL** non-essential electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons are welcome to text or tweet in the lobby.**

BIOGRAPHIES—CREATIVE



Dominique Morisseau (AUTHOR) is the author of THE DETROIT PROJECT (A 3-Play Cycle) which includes the following plays: SKELETON CREW (Atlantic Theater Company), PARADISE BLUE (Signature Theatre), and DETROIT '67 (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem and NBT). Additional plays include: PIPELINE (Lincoln Center Theatre), SUNSET BABY (LAByrinth Theatre); BLOOD AT THE

ROOT (National Black Theatre) and FOLLOW ME TO NELLIE'S (Premiere Stages). She is also the TONY nominated book writer on the new Broadway musical AIN'T TOO PROUD—THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TEMPTATIONS (Imperial Theatre). Dominique is alumna of The Public Theater Emerging Writer's Group, Women's Project Lab, and Lark Playwrights Workshop and has developed work at Sundance Lab, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Eugene O'Neil Playwrights Conference. She most recently served as Co-Producer on the Showtime series "Shameless" (3 seasons). Additional awards include: Spirit of Detroit Award, PoNY Fellowship, Sky-Cooper Prize, TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBFT August Wilson Playwriting Award, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, OBIE Award (2), Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, Variety's Women of Impact for 2017-18, and a recent MacArthur Genius Grant Fellow.



Renee Sutherland (DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER) is elated to be making her directorial debut at Brookfield Theatre! She has been seen on this stage in THE WILD PARTY and BARE: A POP OPERA. With many acting, dancing, and choreography credits—most recently THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS (Playhouse on Park)—Renee has embraced the challenge of directing this difficult and beautiful script by Dominique Morisseau. Thanks

to Brookfield Theatre for this opportunity and to everyone that has supported her through this show, this dream and this life.

Stephen Cihaneck (LIGHTING DESIGN—2012 Volunteer of the Year) After studying theater and engineering in college, his interest in theater returned while attending the First Baptist Church in Brewster where he took on the role of technical director and lighting/sound designer (and sometimes actor) for many shows. Since then he has designed lights for Brookfield and other local theaters. Shows include AMERICAN IDIOT, LOST IN YONKERS, SWEENEY TODD, FROST/NIXON, DAMN YANKEES, THE FANTASTICKS, COMPANY, GODSPELL, BLITHE SPIRIT, GOD OF CARNAGE, DIVINE SISTER, BE A GOOD LITTLE WIDOW, INTO THE WOODS, BOOK OF LIZ, SPELLING BEE, HARVEY, DIVINERS, DINNER WITH FRIENDS, AS BEES IN HONEY DROWN, PUTTING IT TOGETHER, OUTWARD BOUND, MASTER CLASS, LITTLE RED & THE HOODS, and sound design for THOU SHALT NOT DANCE, TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, and GODSPELL. Steve is also Brookfield Theatre's house photographer. Visit him at Cihaneck.com.

BLOOD AT THE ROOT

by DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU

directed by RENEE SUTHERSLAND

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER. Renee Sutherland
PRODUCER Lou Okell
STAGE MANAGER / PROPS Liz Valencia
SET DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION. Andrew Okell
COSTUME DESIGN Renee, Lou
SOUND DESIGN Renee Sutherland
LIGHTING DESIGN Stephen Cihanek
LIGHTING DESIGN / PROJECTIONS Lou Okell
STAGE CREW / MAKEUP ARTIST Delaney Dempster
LIGHTING TECHNICIAN Tom Heydenburg
PROJECTIONIST. Tim Heydenburg
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER. Stephen Cihanek
POSTER DESIGN. Nathaly Abreau
OPENING NIGHT PARTY. Andrew Okell
GALLERY CURATOR. Jeanne Steers
VOLUNTEER MANAGER Joy Tagliavento
BOX OFFICE MANAGER Danette Bottelsen

Special Thanks

Arketype Graphics, Jessica
Liz Milazzo & Savers

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the **EXIT** sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. In the unlikely event of an emergency, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

Donate To Our 65th Anniversary Season!

We are so excited to share with you our plans for our **65th Anniversary** as Brookfield's community theater! Our shows are being chosen to honor our past, celebrate the present, and share a vision of our future as a creative arts organization. As an all volunteer non-profit, community theatre, we rely on the support of businesses and individuals who share our passion for the arts and our commitment to providing quality programs at affordable prices. We are happy to offer the following benefits to our sponsors, subscribers and members. Please consider sending your donation today.

Front Row Center \$2,500+

- a full page ad in all playbills
 - TBTA Membership
- name recognition in all playbills
 - your logo on our web site
- recognition on all posters and flyers
- recognition in all theatre advertising

Orchestra \$1,000–\$2,499

- a full page ad in all playbills
- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo & name on our web site
 - TBTA Membership

Platinum \$500–\$999

- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo & name on our web site
 - TBTA Membership

Gold \$250–\$499

- name recognition in all playbills
- name recognition on our web site
 - TBTA Membership

Silver \$100–\$249

- name recognition in all playbills
 - TBTA Membership

Bronze \$25–\$99

- name recognition in all playbills

Season Subscriber \$100.00

- one ticket to each regular season show
- name recognition in all playbills

Member \$20.00

- 10% off opening night tickets
- name recognition in all playbills

Donation: Name as you would like it to appear in programs _____

\$ _____

Subscriptions: Subscriber name(s) _____

QTY _____ x \$100.00 = \$ _____

Memberships: Name(s) _____

QTY _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Please contact me about my donation.

TOTAL = \$ _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Logos should be submitted in high resolution for printing. Ad composition is available upon request.

Please mail with your check to: TBTA, PO Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804 or pay at the Box Office.

OUR HISTORY

The Country Players of Brookfield was founded in 1957 by Tillie Cicala and Dot French and their first play was produced in 1958. Plays were initially performed in church halls and school auditoriums. After a school complained about an actor appearing on stage with no shirt, it became clear that the band of players needed a home of its own. After refurbishing this building (originally the Curtis school gym built in 1907), it has been the permanent home of Brookfield's community theater. The organization eventually grew to include a wide range of cultural offerings and, in 2003, changed its name to "The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc." to reflect this commitment. **Thank you for supporting our work!**

BIOGRAPHIES—CREW

Delaney Dempster (STAGE CREW) As the daughter of local theatre alums Billy and Alicia, Delaney has shared in the family obsession earning credits on stage and off. Most recent credits are with PAC @ 32 Below including LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS and many others. She was also the video operator for Brookfield's recent production of AMERICAN IDIOT.

Tim Heydenburg (SOUND TECHNICIAN) is happy to return again to the tech booth after having run sound for RED here at Brookfield. He has previously run tech at Sherman Playhouse and assisted at Shakespeare In Sharon's premiere production this past summer. He thanks his family for their love and support.

Tom Heydenburg (LIGHTING TECHNICIAN) has appeared on stage at Brookfield although he cannot say the name of the show out loud—it's a theatre superstition. Other credits include shows at Sherman Playhouse and in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM with Shakespeare In Sharon. He is happy to lend his talents to the tech booth again after having run lights for RED in August. Enjoy the show!

Andrew Okell (SET DESIGNER/SET BUILDER—2011 Volunteer of the Year) first started in theatre at the tender age of 8 in THE TIME MACHINE. He has been building and designing sets at Brookfield since 2008. Favorites include LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS, MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS (Rose Brand Best Amateur Set Design 2012), STEEL MAGNOLIAS, LION IN WINTER, MOON OVER BUFFALO, and personal favorite NOISES OFF. Thank you to building cohorts Bob Lane, Don Lombardo, and Larry Coleman for enabling me.

Lou Okell (PRODUCER / LIGHTING & PROJECTIONS—2009 Vol. of the Year) currently serves as theatre president. She is so grateful to Renee and this amazing cast and crew for telling such an important story. Love always to Andy and Emma. *Please help us spread the word about the wonderful work being done on the Brookfield stage!*

Jeanne Steers (GALLERY CURATOR) is a professional artist and a graduate of RISD. Known for her dynamic and colorful paintings, Jeanne Steers works mainly in acrylic or wax oil crayon on shaped masonite board. Over the years her work on shaped board has evolved, the shaped canvas adding an additional dimension and element to the meaning of the piece. This third dimension adds depth while providing an unique framework for the art. Find out more at JeanneSteers.com

Liz Valencia (STAGE MANAGER) is a student at Westconn studying Special Education and works as a preschool teacher. She has been a part of the cast of AVENUE Q, has been a stage hand for LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, and helped out for AMERICAN IDIOT here at Brookfield. She is very excited to be stage managing BLOOD AT THE ROOT and to share this important story alongside this wonderful cast and production team.

BIOGRAPHIES—CAST



Nathaly Abreau (RAYLYNN) a newcomer to the Brookfield stage, Nathaly is excited to return to performing with such a challenging script. She thanks Renee for all of her encouragement and support, her amazing fellow actors, and the wonderful crew.



Kristin Aug (DA) is excited to be part of BLOOD AT THE ROOT here at Brookfield. Happy to be performing again after 30 years, she was last seen in An Evening of One Acts at The Ridgefield Theatre Barn this past June as Margie in AT THE WATER'S EDGE. Prior to that, she was a part of One Acts 2019, also at RTB. In 2018 she played the Laundress in A CHRISTMAS CAROL with NewArts (formally 12.14 foundation). Thanks to Brookfield Theatre and the cast for welcoming her and thanks to Renee for her vision.



Lizzy Booth (ASHA) is ecstatic to be back on stage and to perform for the first time at Brookfield Theatre! She is honored to be a part of the powerful, moving masterpiece that is BLOOD AT THE ROOT. Some of Lizzy's recent credits include: Hero in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (JCC in Sherman), Princess Melanie in JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: A VERY BRITISH PANTO (Sherman Playhouse), Theresa in LADIES IN RETIREMENT (Powerhouse Theater), and Miranda in THE TEMPEST (Sherman Playhouse). Lizzy also originated the role of Debbie in YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in Manhattan, and she is looking forward to playing the Governess in THE TURN OF THE SCREW at the Powerhouse Theater in New Canaan, which opens October 15! Finally, Lizzy would like to take this opportunity to thank the cast and everybody involved behind the scenes, especially Renee, for making this experience such a beautiful and rewarding one!



Chris Fay (PRINCIPAL MILLER/POLICE OFFICER) is happy to return to the Brookfield stage, where he first met his wonderful wife, Sarah. He last appeared on our stage as Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd in our production of THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS. He hopes you enjoy tonight's performance and looks forward to entertaining you in the future.



Ben Frazer (COLIN) has been acting for 5 years, starting in college at the University of Rochester before moving to Connecticut where they now work as a teacher. Moving states in the middle of a pandemic has only reinforced the importance of both community and theater, and Ben couldn't be more ecstatic about doing their first post-graduate production with Brookfield!

BIOGRAPHIES—CAST



Trishawn Paul (De'Andre), a graduate of the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts is currently a college freshman studying theatre. He has appeared recently in INTO THE THE WOODS, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Connecticut Shakespeare Festival) and THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS (Playhouse On Park), as well as many open mic events. He is grateful to Renee for her guidance and encouragement and his family for their love and support. Enjoy the show!



Kevoy Somerville (JUSTIN) is excited to make his return to the stage after a two year hiatus. This is his second production with Brookfield Theatre and his first time on this stage. He is a graduate of the NVCC theatre program where he could be seen in previous shows as MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT DREAM, THE LARAMIE PROJECT, GOLDEN BOY, HEARTS LIKE FISTS, CABARET, and GODSPELL. Kevoy has also worn the hats of Director, AD, running crew, set crew, board op, SM, ASM, and puppeteer. He thanks Emily and Murrae for standing by him and his family for their continuing support. He doesn't know where he would be without them. Kevoy is excited to make his theatrical return with such a fantastic Director, amazing cast, and persistent Producer. he is grateful to help tell the story of such an relevant production. That's it. That's what the story is.



Ruby White (TORIA) is thrilled to be part of this production alongside such a talented cast. She was recently seen in THE ELEPHANT MAN in Newtown (Nurse Sandwich/Princess) and AMERICAN IDIOT at Brookfield (Heather). She is grateful for her loved ones for all of their support as she continues to follow her passion of telling stories on the stage.

IN THE GALLERY

NOW SHOWING in our lobby gallery: Photography by Peter Lerman.

Peter Lerman is a native of New York City (Brooklyn) and has been living in the Danbury/Bethel area for the past 25 years. He was an advertising photographer with a studio in Manhattan and taught at the School of Visual Arts for a few years as well. His work has been seen in numerous publications and exhibitions.

The work featured here is a project photographed during the COVID-19 pandemic in the City of Danbury, mostly in ppring 2021. It was shot entirely on 4" x 5" black and white film with a view camera. High resolution scans were made from the negatives to enable digital post-processing and printing.

Peter has also appeared on stage in theatrical productions in this theater and worked on stage lighting up in the tech booth.