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COMPANY
ALAN PAUL **MEREDITH LYNSEY SCHADE**
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MANAGING DIRECTOR

AND
Ed and Carla Slomin
PRESENT

BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY

BY
Pearl Cleage

FEATURING
Brandon Alvi3n Tsilala Brock DeLeon Dallas
Ryan George Jasminn Johnson

SCENIC DESIGNER
Sydney Lynne

COSTUME DESIGNER
Danielle Preston

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Adam Honor3

SOUND DESIGNER
Fabian Obispo

HAIR, WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER
Earon Chew Nealey

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Hope Villanueva

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Merit Glover

BSC FOUNDING
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Julianne Boyd

CASTING
Pat McCorkle, CSA;
Rebecca Weiss, CSA

BERKSHIRES PRESS
REPRESENTATIVE
Charlie Siedenburg

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The Press Room

DIRECTED BY
Candis C. Jones

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BOYD-QUINSON STAGE
JULY 18-AUG 5, 2023



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Cultural
Council



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SHUBERT
FOUNDATION

TIME & PLACE

Summer of 1930. Harlem, New York.

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Angel Allen.....	Tsilala Brock
Guy Jacobs	Brandon Alvi6n
Leland Cunningham.....	DeLeon Dallas
Delia Patterson	Jasminn Johnson
Dr. Sam Thomas.....	Ryan George

STAFF

Production Stage Manager.....	Hope Villanueva
Assistant Stage Manager	Merit Glover
Intimacy Coach	Ann James
Vocal Coach.....	Wanda Houston
Cultural Consultant.....	Melle Powers
Boyd-Quinson Head Electrician/Board Operator	Jemma Kepner
Boyd-Quinson Sound Engineer/Board Operator.....	Mack Miller
Sound Technician	Margaret Waite
Boyd-Quinson Wardrobe Supervisor/Wig Runner	Madeline Winter
Wardrobe Technician	Emily Knapp
Boyd-Quinson Crew Chief.....	Sarah Greenberg
Stage Crew.....	Justice Orrand

SPECIAL THANKS

Dialect Coach Madeleine Bernatchez, Warren Dews Jr. and the Firehouse Caf6
& Bistro, Kira Harris, Gretchen Long, Aimee Dupont, Maddie Dustin,
Krispy Perroni Lutteroth, Berkshire Theatre Group

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PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATES TO THE SEASON PLAYBILL

Staff Electrician.....	Charlie Nieman
Costume Shop Supervisor.....	Matthew Torbett
Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor	Jonathan Tovar
Costume Shop Assistant.....	Amie J. Winfield

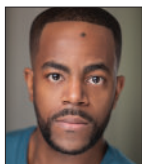


The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

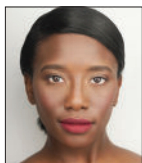


The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

CAST



BRANDON ALVI3N (Guy Jacobs) BSC Debut. Select theater: *A Soldier's Play*, *The Color Purple* (National Tour), *The Mountaintop* (Hope Rep), *Chicken & Biscuits* (Virginia Rep), *The Little Prince* (Flint Rep). Film: *Groom Lake* (2019). MFA in Acting (Wayne State Univ). Rep: Hell's Kitchen Agency. @iactwright



TSILALA BROCK (Angel Allen) BSC Debut. Last spring Tsilala originated the role of Dudley Malone in the world premiere production of *Suffs* at The Public. Other theater: *The Book of Mormon* (2nd National Tour), *Parable of the Sower* (The Public), *Satchel Paige and the Kansas City Swing* (Cincinnati Playhouse/St. Louis Repertory). Film and television: *Mysteries of Laura*, *Happyish*, *Broad City*. Cheers to Saks and KMR. For Mommy and Aunt Merle. Carnegie Mellon Grad. @TsilalaBrock



DELEON DALLAS (Leland Cunningham) BSC Debut. Theater: *To The Yellow House* (La Jolla Playhouse). Film and television: *The Inheritance*, *New Amsterdam*, *Power Book III: Raising Kanan* and *The Blacklist*. MFA in Acting, UC San Diego. @deleondallas



RYAN GEORGE (Dr. Sam Thomas) BSC Debut. Theater: *The Liar* (Arvada Center), *The Brothers Size* (Gablestage), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Repertory Theater of St. Louis), *Midwives* (George Street Playhouse), *The Royale*, *The Tempest* (Hippodrome Theater). Film and television: *Law & Order: SVU*. BFA in Theater Performance (University of Florida).

lamryangeorge.com



JASMINN JOHNSON (Delia Patterson) BSC Debut. Theater: *Ain't No Mo* (Broadway), *Freedom Rider* (Crossroads Theater), *King Lear* (New York Classical Theater), *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Keen Company), *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare on The Sound). Film and television: *The Equalizer* and *The Politician*. She is a proud graduate of The Juilliard School where she also directs and teaches. Endless gratitude to her family, friends, students and mentors.

CREATIVE TEAM

PEARL CLEAGE (Playwright) is an Atlanta-based writer whose plays include *Pointing at the Moon*, *What I Learned in Paris*, *Flyin' West*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky* and *Bourbon at the Border*, commissioned and directed by Kenny Leon at the Alliance Theatre. She is also the author of *A Song for Coretta*, written in 2007 during Cleage's time as Cosby Professor in Women's Studies at Spelman College. Her play, *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years*, was commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and premiered in 2010, in a joint production by the ASF and Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, directed by

Susan Booth. Her plays have also been performed at Arena Stage, Hartford Stage, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Huntington Theatre, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Long Wharf Theatre, Just US Theatre, True Colors Theatre, Bushfire Theatre, the Intiman Theatre, St. Louis Black Repertory Company and Seven Stages. She is also an accomplished performance artist, often working in collaboration with her husband, writer Zaron W. Burnett, Jr. They have performed at the National Black Arts Festival, the National Black Theatre Festival and colleges and universities across the country. Cleage and Burnett also collaborated with performance artists Idris Ackamoor and Rhodessa Jones on the script for *The Love Project*, which premiered at the National Black Theatre Festival in 2008, and is currently touring the country. Cleage is also an accomplished novelist. Her novels include *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, a *New York Times* bestseller and an Oprah Book Club selection, *I Wish I Had a Red Dress*, *Some Things I Never Thought I'd Do*, *Babylon Sisters*, *Baby Brother's Blues*, *Seen It All and Done the Rest* and *Till You Hear from Me*. She is also the author of *Mad at Miles: A Blackwoman's Guide to Truth*, a groundbreaking work of race and gender, and "We Speak Your Names," a praise poem commissioned by Oprah Winfrey for her 2005 celebration of legendary African American women and written in collaboration with Zaron Burnett. Cleage has also written for magazines, including *Essence*, *Vibe*, *Rap Pages* and *Ms.* In addition to her work as the founding editor of *Catalyst* magazine, a literary journal, she was a regular columnist for the *Atlanta Tribune* for ten years, winning many awards for her thought-provoking columns. She has also written for TheDefendersOnLine.com. Cleage has been awarded grants in support of her work from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fulton County Arts Council, the Georgia Council on the Arts, the Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs and the Coca-Cola Foundation. Her work has earned her many awards and honors, including an NAACP Image Award for fiction in 2008. Pearl Cleage is represented by Ron Gwiazda at Abrams Artists Agency in New York City. Her website is PearlCleage.net. She also maintains a Facebook fan page.

CANDIS C. JONES (Director) BSC Debut. Theater: *Clyde's* (Studio Theater), *shadow/land*, *cullud wattah* (The Public), *Unf*kwithable* (Old Globe), *School Girls...* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *My Name is Beatrice* (Atlantic Theater MixFest), *Detroit '67* (D.C. Signature), *The Black Radical Imagination* (Williamstown), *53% Of* (Alliance Theater), *B*tch* (Page73), *Everybody* (NYU), *House of the Negro Insane* (Bay Area Playwrights Festival), *Pipeline* (Detroit Public Theater), *Nike* (A.C.T.), *The Wolves* (American Academy), *Brother Rabbit* (New Black Fest), *Name Calling* (Kennedy Center), *Morning in America* (Primary Stages), *TEMBO!* (Zanzibar International Film Fest). 2016 Lilly Award winner, WP Theater Lab member 2018–2020, Drama League Alum, Duke Ellington School of the Arts Alum. BFA in Directing, NYU Tisch School of Drama.

SYDNEY LYNNE (Scenic Designer) BSC Debut. Theater: *Good People* (Maltz Jupiter Theater), *How to Catch Creation* (Geva Theater Center), *Dino!* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), *cullud wattah* (Victory Gardens Theater), *What To Send Up When It Goes Down* (Lookingglass Theater + Congo Square Theater). BFA Northwestern University (Theatrical Design). @sydneylynndesign / Sydneylynndesign.com

DANIELLE PRESTON (Costume Designer) BSC Debut. Theater: *Passing Strange* (Signature Theatre), *Clyde's*, *P.Y.G. The Miseducation of Dorian Belle* (Studio Theatre); *A Nice Indian Boy*, *The Joy That Carries You* (Olney Theatre Center); *One Jewish Boy*, *Roz & Ray*, *The Christians* (Theater J); *Locomotion* (Children's Theatre Company), *Schoolgirls*; *Or the African Mean Girls Play*, *The Realness* (Hangar Theatre Company); *B.R.O.K.E.N. Code B.I.R.D. Switching* (Berkshire Theatre Group), *The Till Trilogy* (Mosaic Theater Company), *Where Words Once Were* (Lincoln Center). MFA in Costume Design (North Carolina School of the Arts) @daniellepreston design www.daniellepreston.com

ADAM HONORÉ (Lighting Designer) BSC Debut. Broadway: *Purlie Victorious*, *Ain't No Mo'*, *Chicken & Biscuits*. Select Off Broadway: *Black Odyssey*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Carmen Jones* (Classic Stage Company); *Flex* (Lincoln Center), *This Land Was Made* (Vineyard), *Patience* (Second Stage), *Ain't No Mo'* (The Public). Nominations: Drama Desk, Elliot Norton, Henry Hewes, Helen Hayes. @itsadamhonore

FABIAN OBISPO (Sound Designer) BSC: *ABCD*, *American Underground*, *The Chinese Lady* (Berkie Award). Off Broadway: *Out of Time*, *Sea Wall/A Life*, *Oedipus El Rey*, *Teenage Dick*, *The Chinese Lady* (Lucille Lortel Nomination). Regional: *Angels in America*, *Agamemnon and His Daughters* (Arena Stage, Helen Hayes nomination), *Black Starline* (Goodman Theatre), *Black No More* (Guthrie Theater), *Bina's Six Apples* (Alliance Theater), *Tiger Style!* (South Coast Repertory), *The Life of Galileo* (Cleveland Play House), *Julius Caesar* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Ah, Wilderness!* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *A Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare Theatre Company). Film and television: *Vancouver* (Original Score), *20 Years of Asian American Playwriting* (Original Music, PBS Documentary).

EARON CHEW NEALEY (Hair, Wig & Makeup Designer) BSC Debut. Broadway: *Fat Ham* (Assistant Designer), *Macbeth*, *Chicken & Biscuits*, *Sweat*. The Public: *shadow/land*, *The Harder They Come*, *Baldwin & Buckley...*, *Fat Ham*, *cullud wattah*, *Mojada*. Other design: *Dames at Sea*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Last Supper*, *Twelfth Night*, *On Killing*, *Little Girl Blue*, ...*Meet Vera Stark*, *Matilda*, *On Sugarland*, *Nina Simone: Four Women*, *Little Women*, *Cadillac Crew*. @earonnealey

HOPE VILLANUEVA (Production Stage Manager) BSC Debut. Theater: *Who's Your Baghdaddy?* (Off Broadway); *Rock of Ages*, *My Fair Lady*, *Ringling Bros. Bellobration* (National Tours); *The Day You Begin* (Kennedy Center TYA); *Rock of Ages Hollywood* (The Bourbon Room); *WILD: A Musical Becoming* (ART); *BLKS* (Woolly Mammoth); *Twist Your Dickens* (Second City/Kennedy Center); *Hand to God*, *Choir Boy* (Studio Theatre); *Our Town*, *A Nice Indian Boy* (Olney Theatre Center); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Idaho Shakespeare); *The Vagrant Trilogy*, *Paper Dolls*, *Queens Girl in Africa* (Mosaic Theatre).

MERIT GLOVER he/him (Assistant Stage Manager) BSC: 10x10 2023. Theater: *Stones In His Pockets, It Came From Outer Space, Tiger Style!, Marie & Rosetta* (TheatreSquared); *Primating, Marie & Rosetta, Million Dollar Quartet* (Arkansas Repertory Theater); *Sojourner, A Little Princess* (Quintessence Theatre Group); *Charlotte's Web* (Flat Rock Playhouse). BA Case Western Reserve University (Theatre Arts & Spanish).

MCCORKLE CASTING: PAT MCCORKLE, CSA; REBECCA WEISS, CSA (Casting) Casting actors for Barrington Stage for 21 years. Pat McCorkle is pleased to be an Associate Artist at BSC. Broadway: Over 50 productions including *On the Town, Amazing Grace, End of the Rainbow, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Amadeus, She Loves Me, A Few Good Men*. Off Broadway highlights: *Clever Little Lies; Sheer Madness; Tribes; Our Town* (Barrow Street); *Freud's Last Session; Toxic Avenger; Almost, Maine; Driving Miss Daisy*. Feature film: *Premium Rush, Ghost Town, The Thomas Crown Affair, Die Hard with a Vengeance, School Ties*, etc. Television: *Twisted, St. George, Sesame Street, Hack, Californication, Max Bickford, Chappelle's Show, Strangers with Candy, Barbershop*, etc. mccorklecasting.com



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***When Harlem Was In Vogue* by David Levering Lewis**

This historical look at Harlem in the 1920s explores the excitement of a time full of great art and great hope for Black Americans in New York and beyond.

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Revered by the characters in *Blues...*, poet Langston Hughes explores the Black experience in America through his poetry. This collection contains some of his most powerful work.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston**

One of the most well-known pieces of literature, this Southern love story, led by a strong Black female protagonist, showcases Hurston's insightful talent and voice that led an era.

***Zora and Langston* by Yuval Taylor**

Two bright lights in the Harlem Renaissance, writers Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes were good friends and collaborators, until tensions arose and their relationship changed forever. Unpack their volatile dynamic in this deep dive of their complex relationship.

***The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* by James Weldon Johnson**

This fictional story centers on a young biracial man, referred to only as the “Ex-Colored Man,” living in post Reconstruction era America. An insightful exploration of race, told through the lens of the main character’s connection to both his Black heritage and his white privilege.

***God’s Trombones* by James Weldon Johnson**

Written by one the Harlem Renaissance legends, Weldon Johnson takes inspirational sermons of African American preachers and reimagines them as poetry, using the musicality and heightened language of the spirituals to inform his writing.

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