

MIZZOU THEATRE

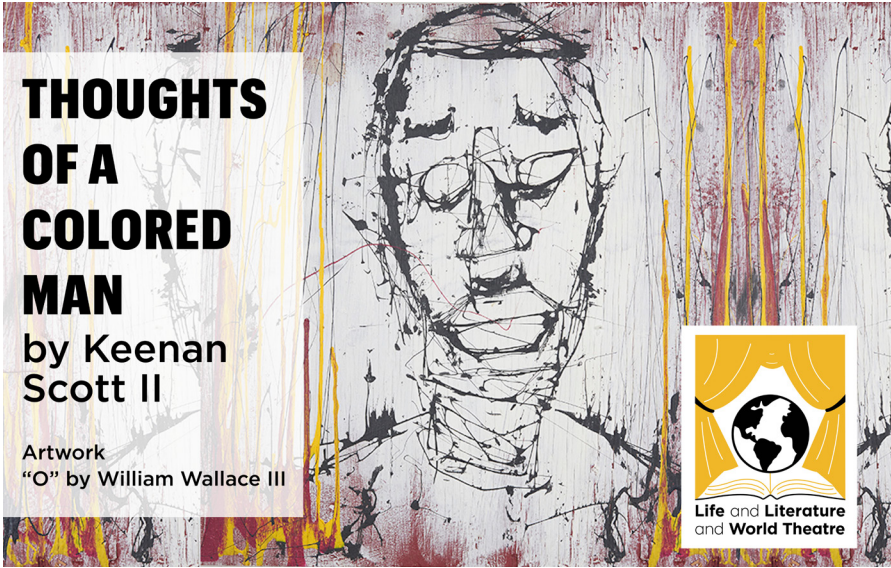
WELCOME TO THE STAGE

THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN

by Keenan
Scott II

Artwork
"O" by William Wallace III





PLAYWRIGHT
Keenan Scott II

DIRECTOR
Dr. Les Gray

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Brandon V. Riley

ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSER AND PRODUCER
Chris Cole

COSTUME COORDINATOR
Marc W. Vital II

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Cedric Singleton III

SCENIC COORDINATOR
Mimi Hedges

SOUND ENGINEERS
Joseph Seevers and
Zachary Alley

STAGE MANAGER
Kaylah Janssen

PROJECTION DESIGNER
Mary Kenny



Theatre

University of Missouri

Welcome to Studio 4 and our production of *Thoughts of a Colored Man*. We are pleased to have you join us for this innovative and striking piece of theatre written and originally performed by Keenan Scott II. Having the playwright in residence for a week this fall, thanks to the Artist in Residence program, is a significant and rewarding benefit to our students and you, our audience.

Our focus on diversity and presenting stories that matter will continue. In early November plan to attend the raucous musical comedy *Something Rotten* on the Rhynsburger Stage. Join us in February for the *Mizzou New Play Series* offering our audiences new works each performance.

In March, we are presenting *Radium Girls* by D.W. Gregory in the Rhynsburger Theatre. In April, we are mounting a production of *Iphigenia Crash Land Falls On The Neon Shell That Was Once Her Heart* here in Studio 4 with the playwright Caridad Svich as Artist in Residence.

Thank you for your continued patronage. Please consider a donation to our Stage Door Club in support of the productions at Mizzou. Your support of this production and the Theatre Department allows us to continue offering important works to our community. Enjoy the show!

Dr. Mimi Hedges
Chair, MU Department of Theatre

PLAYWRIGHT STATEMENT



Back in 2006, feeling like I was on the outside of the art form of theater I was studying while in undergrad, I set out to write a play that I could be a part of. A contemporary story where I felt like the characters spoke and looked like me, and the men of the communities I come from. I also wanted to create this piece for a few of my peers who felt the same. I wanted to showcase the spectrum of the black man outside of the stereotypical monolithic portrayals I saw throughout my life.

So, I started assembling what I thought were my best poems at the time and put them in narrative form. I was a SLAM poet trying to figure out what it meant to be a playwright. I called that play *Thoughts of a Colored Man on a Day When the Sun Set Too Early*. Who thought that idea I started to create in my small dorm room so many years later would blossom into a Broadway play. Then to have young black men around the country in the same position I was as an undergrad now do that play. Saying I am blessed would be an understatement. I am truly grateful for *Thoughts of a Colored Man* to be here at the University of Missouri.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

For non-Black folks: Hi. Glad you could make it.

For the Black folks: This is for you.

For the times you were denied a seat at the table. For the times you were given a chair at the table and realized you would rather lift every chair and swing instead of sitting down. For the times you didn't want to fix your face. For the times you sat with fires inside and said "it's fine."

For Black children and Black childhoods.

For your relentless hope.

For the culture. For the cookout. For the bad Spades partner. For the electric slides into the future. For the future you stay fighting to be a part of. For the times you had to modulate your voice to the key of white supremacy. For the Affirmative Action that benefited you and your children but not your children's children. For the times our successes were met with violence.

For the firsts and for the only's. For the loopholes of the 13th amendment.

For 2023 and for 1923. For Keenan Scott II and James T. Scott.

We see you. We center you. We uplift you. We honor you.

Welcome.

Dr. Les Gray

Director

Special thanks to: Raynesha Green, Ellison Land, William Wallace III, Erika Aaron, Dr. Maurice D. Gipson, David Mitchell and The Middleton Center for Race and Justice



The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

CAST

Love.....	Dana Alexander
Happiness.....	Jeremiah Coleman
Lust.....	Reginald Coleman II
Passion/Singer	Gabriel Levi
Anger	Jojo Patton
Voices/Swing	Derek Porter
Depression.....	Brandon V. Riley
Wisdom.....	Joel Stancer

SETTING

Brooklyn, New York, present day

THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN PRODUCTION STAFF

A.I.R. Coordinator	Heather Carver
Guest Artist Coordinator.....	Joy Powell
Light Board Operator.....	Tyler Borgmeyer
Sound Board Operator	Joseph Seevers
Projections Operator	Shannon Windt
Wardrobe Crew.....	Janiya Jones
Running Crew Head	Riley Clark
Electrics Crew	Alan Chen, Ryan Cohen, Keygan Fox, Josie Glynn, Jasmine Osuji
Scenic Studio Assistants.....	Rachel Bishop, Tyler Borgmeyer, Alan Chen, Jeremiah Coleman, Eliana Eccles, Keygan Fox, Josie Glynn, Aaliyah Jones, Janiya Jones, Maggie McCormick, Maggie Maher, Andrew Marty, Yada, Olson, Jasmine Osuji, Andy Romero- Compain, Joseph Seevers, Ellie Utterson, Tony Voeller, Shannon Windt, Jamie Yelton

MU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE CREW AND STAFF

Artistic/Production Director.....	Mimi Hedges
Technical Director.....	Zachary Alley
Scenic Studio Supervisor.....	Cyan Crockett
Scenic Studio Assistants.....	Carter Davidson, Robert Dresselhaus, Haley Frazer, Cedric Singleton III
Costume Shop Supervisor.....	Manda Apony-Moriarty
Cutter/Draper.....	Mackenzie Miller
Costume Assistant.....	Lydia Taylor
Front of House Director	Jabarbara Jennings
House Manager	Andrew Schulte
Front of House Staff	Cecil Cantrell-Harris, Alex Drury, Delaney Eischen, Bryleigh Giffin, Syed Ali Hashmi, Abigail Henshaw, Jack Kunkel, Gabriella Lacey, Catelynn Liniger, Claire Russell, Shrushti Shah, Tanishka Poal, Sparjan Tharagaturi, Zach Vajda
Academic Advisors	Alex Anderson, Katie Brueggemann
Business Affairs	Pat Garmon
Graphic Design.....	Amanda Long

MU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE FACULTY

Kevin Brown, Associate Professor

M. Heather Carver, Professor

David Crespy, Professor

Les Gray, Assistant Professor

Mimi Hedges, Department Chair, Associate Teaching Professor

Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor

Claire Syler, Associate Professor

Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor



2023-2024

MU THEATRE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Richard + Patricia Wallace Endowment for the Arts

Zach Apony-Moriarty, Brandon Riley

Donovan and Peggy Rhynsburger Scholarship

Haley Frazer, Ariel Hall

Terry Perkins Scholarship for Comedic Acting

Delaney Eischen

Sol Feinstein Technical Theatre Scholarship

Jaeden Knehans, Cedric Singleton

John Ross Berneche Acting Scholarship

Ben Tatum

Tom Berenger Acting Scholarship

Aaliyah Jones

Musical Theatre Scholarship

Chance McKim

Richard Hennessey Scholarship

Elise Hawley

George C. Scott Memorial Acting Scholarship

Gabe Levi

Dan Springer Memorial Scholarship

Wren Miller, Kennedy Rhoades

Freshman Special Talent Scholarship

Daniel Smith

Jon Hamm Scholarship

Jeremiah Coleman

Dr. Marcia Berry Scholarship

Kaylah Janssen

Carla Waal Johns Scholarship

Kasey Lynch

Francis Mccurdy Memorial Scholarship

Irene Gasarah

Curators Scholarships

Zach Apony-
Moriarty
Sophia Axelbaum
Riley Clark
Jeremiah Coleman
Ryan Cohen
Brayden Corniels
Zachary Czarnik
Angelina Derry
Lucian DiPofi
Delaney Eischen

Haley Frazer
Irene Gasarah
Ariel Hall
Elise Hawley
Kaylah Janssen
Aaliyah Jones
Jaeden Knehans
Gabe Levi
Kasey Lynch
Chance McKim
Wren Miller

William Morris
Kennedy Rhoades
Brandon Riley
Andres Romero-
Compain
Daniel Smith
Cedric Singleton
Ben Tatum
Zach Vajda
Sara Wiley

Your generous donation will help keep the curtain rising on live theatre at Mizzou. Scan below to give.



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2023-24 SEASON



**Mi Corazón Español Vive Ahora En Grecia:
Six Plays of Sephardic Spain & Greece**

Dr. David Crespy, Artistic Director
October 2, Studio 4



**SOMETHING
ROTTEN!**

Dr. Joy Powell Director
November 2-5, 9-12, Rhynsburger Theatre

MIZZOU
New Play Series

Dr. David Crespy, Director
February 8, 2024, Studio 4

**RADIUM
GIRLS**
BY D.W. GREGORY

Dr. Claire Syler, Director
March 13-17, Rhynsburger Theatre

IPHIGENIA
Crash Land Falls On
The Neon Shell That
Was Once Her Heart
(A Rave Fable)

Dr. Kevin Brown, Director
April 24-28, Studio 4

**SCAN FOR
TIX AND
SHOW
INFO.**

