Fulton County Southwest Arts Center Performance Theatre presents

A MUSICAL INSPIRED BY TUPAC SHAKUR

Directed by Kenny Leon

HOLLER
IF YA HEAR ME

BOOK BY TODD KREIDLER

Sept. 12 - Oct. 8, 2017

Southwest Arts Center | 915 New Hope Road | Atlanta, GA 30331
Tickets: www.truecolorstheatre.org or 1.877.725.8849
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HOLLER IF YA HEAR ME

by Todd Kreidler
Music by Tupac Shakur
Directed by Kenny Leon
Musical Director Matt Head
Choreographer Jared Grimes

Set Design by Kat Conley
Costume Design by Shilla Benning
Lighting Design by Andre C. Allen
illustrations by Carlisle Devonish
Sound / Projection Design by Bobby Johnston
Stage Manager lark hackshaw *
Production Manager Lisa L. Watson *
Casting Jody Feldman

Season Partners:

Production Partners:

Major funding is provided by the Fulton County Commissioners
This program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly. GCA is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

true colors theatre company 2017-2018 season
Plus ca change, plus c’est la meme chose – the French epigram that translates to “the more things change, the more they stay the same” – has become the cynic’s refrain. The stunning events of the past few months have people fighting on campuses, shouting on the airwaves, and demonstrating in the streets.

The current atmosphere brings to mind the upheavals of the 60s and 70s, when historically oppressed and marginalized groups, including African Americans and women, began raising their voices for equal rights and access. While incredible progress has been made, what remains in the shadows is the plight of the inner cities, where those without voices still struggle. It seems that the only light that shines on “the ‘hood” comes from news cameras covering the latest crime scene. These news stories paint a desolate and dangerous picture of life in the inner city.

Using the poetry of Tupac Shakur, Holler If Ya Hear Me paints a different picture. While his words illuminate the pain of being imprisoned by economic circumstance, they highlight the power of family and the beauty to be found where you least expect it. The voices, words, and movement of this talented cast will change the way you listen to Tupac Shakur. If you don’t already listen to him, you will be inspired to do so.

We are thrilled to open this very special 15th anniversary season with Kenny Leon directing the Regional Premiere of Holler If Ya Hear Me. It is fitting that the first city to produce this show since it left New York is Atlanta, where Kenny makes his home.

The momentum continues for the rest of the season. In December, we welcome Jasmine Guy back to direct and choreograph our new holiday musical, The First Noel, in partnership with Georgia Tech at the Ferst Center. February marks the Atlanta directorial debut of our new Associate Artistic Director, Jamil Jude, with August Wilson’s King Hedley II, starring Neal Ghant in the title role. We close the season in July with Dot by Colman Domingo, a play about family and caring for aging parents.

Thank you for your support! We would not be celebrating 15 years of making an impact without you!

Peace and Love,

Kenny Leon  
Artistic Director

Chandra Stephens-Albright  
Managing Director
Bronner Bros. is proud to support True Colors Theatre and all of the beauty professionals who bring the stage to life!

bronnerbros.com
Mid-Winter Show Dates: Feb. 10-12, 2018
Act One

“My Block” ................................................... John, Ensemble
“I Ain’t Mad at Cha” ................................. Vertus, John, Ensemble
“Dopefiend’s Diner” .................................. Vertus, Ensemble
“I Get Around/Keep Ya Head Up” ....... Darius, Reggie, Lemar, Corinne, Kamilah, Ensemble

“Please Wake Me When I’m Free/
The Rose That Grew From Concrete” .......... Corinne, Kamilah
“Me Against the World” .............................. John, Corinne
“Whatz Next” ........................................... Vertus, Darius, Anthony, Corinne, Ensemble
“Dear Mama” ......................................... Vertus, Ensemble
“Holler If Ya Hear Me” ......................... John, Anthony, Darius, Ensemble

Act Two

“My Block” (Reprise) ................................. Anthony, Darius
“Changes” .............................. John, Griffy, Vertus, Anthony, Ensemble
“Resist the Temptation/Dear Mama” (Reprise) .... Vertus, Mrs. Weston
“Hail Mary” ......................................... John, Darius, Anthony, Young Souljas
“Unconditional Love” .............................. John, Corinne
“I Ain’t Mad at Cha” (Reprise) ................. John, Street Preacher
“If I Die 2Nite” .......................... Anthony, Darius, Reggie, Lemar, Young Souljas
“Only God Can Judge Me” ...................... Anthony
“Thugz Mansion” ................................. John, Vertus, Griffy
“California Love” ........................... Reggie, Lemar, Young Souljas, Ensemble
“Ghetto Gospel” ................................ Ensemble

The Time is NOW on MY BLOCK, a Midwestern industrial city.
There will be one 15 minute intermission.

Musicians
Jacob Washington-Lacey (Keyboards)
William Sullivan (Guitar)
Delevante Tabor (Drums)
Robert Dixon (Keyboards)
Kenneth Harris II (Bass)
**Cast** (in alphabetical order)

* Eddie Bradley Jr. .................. Street Preacher
* Rob Demery ........................ John
* Markelle Gay ..................... Darius
  Theresa Hightower ................ Mrs. Weston
* Wonza Johnson .................. Anthony
* Rob Lawhon ...................... Griffy
  Durrell Lyons .................. Nunn
* Garrett Turner ................. Vertus
* D. Woods ....................... Corinne

**Production Team**

Jarrood Barnes ......................... Wardrobe
* lark hackshaw ....................... Stage Manager
Malek Mayo ........................ Assistant to the Director
Cynthia McCoy ......................... Props
Tracy Thomas ......................... Assistant Stage Manager
* Lisa Watson ...................... Production Manager
Michael David Young .............. Technical Director
Kat Cole ........................ Associate Lighting Designer
Julia Jordan ......................... Master Electrician / Board Op
Joanelle Poke ......................... Video Op
Kacey Grogan-Wallace ............ Assistant Musical Director
Victoria Jordan .................. Production Assistant
Keith Bolden, Eric Little ........ Assistant Directors
Gary Beauford ..................... Dance Captain
Robert Hannon ...................... Sound Engineer
Mike Sal ........................ A2

Carpenters: Colin McCord, Dan Prince, Daniel Lewis,
Dristian Bailey, Javier Diaz, Michael Hernandez
Electricians: Seun Soyemi, Lydia Elmore, Michael Reed,
Harley Gould, Ninti Chance, Mejah Balar
Scenic Artists: Lisa Townsend, Mejah Balams
Interns: Alexis Woodard, Brittany Carmelle, Mejah Balams,
Joanelle Polk, Karina Simmons

*Members appear courtesy of Actors’ Equity, the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*
**EDDIE BRADLEY JR** *(Street Preacher)* is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Spelman College, where he served as Chair of the Department of Drama and Dance from 2008-2016. He has a BFA in Acting/Directing from NC A&T State University and a Ph. D. in Playwriting from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. His professional credits include roles at the Maryland Shakespeare Festival, the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, the North Carolina Theatre for Young People, Chicago Dramatists, The New Jomandi Theatre, Horizon Theatre Company and Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theatre Company. Eddie’s last appearance on the Atlanta stage was in Synchronicity Theatre’s production of *Beyond Reasonable Doubt: The Troy Davis Project*. Eddie thanks his family, his colleagues and students in the Department of Theatre and Performance, and Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theatre Company for their enthusiastic support. He sends a special shout out to the Brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

**ROB DEMERY** *(John)* is thrilled to return to True Colors after his Suzi nominated role as Muhammad Ali in *Fetch Clay, Make Man*. After directing and performing in touring theatre shows in over 40 states, some of his Stage Credits are: *Too Heavy For Your Pocket* (Tony), *Lombardi* (Dave Robinson), *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* (Byron), *SARAFINA* (Silence), *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* (Theo), *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Tom Robinson). Some of his Film/TV credits are: “Bet on Up,” “Underground,” “90 Minutes in Heaven” and the “2nd Generation Wayans.” Rob is the Founder/Artistic Director of Red Light Arts located in Riverdale, GA. “Much Love to my wife and daughter Amber and Leah Demery.” Follow @robdemery and www.redlightarts.com

**MARKELLE GAY** *(Darius)* is a stage veteran, becoming a member of the esteemed Actor’s Equity Association at 11 years old. He has toured in professional productions of Broadway’s *Beauty and the Beast*, *Evita* and *The Music Man*. He’s appeared in the 20th Century Fox film *Dirty Laundry*, CBS television show Kid Nation, and as a member of the first *KidzBop World Tour*. Markelle is currently a drama major at Morehouse College. Thanks to my family, especially my little brothers Malik and Micah. Instagram: @g_markelle

**THERESA HIGHTOWER** *(Mrs. Weston)* is an accomplished and critically acclaimed vocalist, actress and songwriter. She has toured internationally. Her notable theatre credits to date include: *Queen of the Blues*, *Blues in the Night*, *Still Life*, *Love Johnny* and *Head Over Heels* of which she is Associate Producer. She is the proud recipient of numerous awards, including The Diamond Jubilee Award from the Atlanta NAACP, Women in Entertainment Award from National AKA Sorority. Her on screen credits include major roles in “Digital Lives Matter,” “Made in Heaven,” TV One’s “Fatal Attraction” and Aspire TV’s “Mommy Uncensored.” She is thrilled to be making her debut with True Colors.

**WINZA JOHNSON** *(Anthony)* is thrilled to be returning to his hometown of Atlanta, GA to make his debut with True Colors Theater! Thanks to Kenny, True Colors, and Sheri and Leslie at DBA. Previous credits: *Dreamgirls*, *How to Succeed...* (TUTS) *All Shook Up*, *Hairspray*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Mamma Mia*, *Aida* (MUNY), *South Pacific*, *West Side Story*, *Joseph And The...*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *42nd Street* (MTWICHITA). BFA University of Michigan. Insta: @wonza1
*Rob Lawhon (Griffy)
Rob is delighted to make his debut on the True Colors stage! Other credits include: Pooch in Troubadour and Howard in Ghost Brothers of Darkland County (Alliance Theatre). Rob has appeared in Sleepy Hollow (Fox) and Rectify (Sundance Channel). Rob is a proud member of Actor’s Equity.

Durrell Lyons (Nunn)
is a trained all around Artist. Originally from Wichita Falls, TX. Lyons moved to Atlanta, becoming active in stage productions, television projects, and in the big screen, most notably his role on the TV One original “Love Under New Management.” Tupac Shakur biopic “All Eyez On Me,” and is set to appear as a recurring character in Tyler Perry’s “The Haves and Have Nots.” He currently resides in Atlanta, GA with his wife and two children. Follow Durrell @ DurrellLyonsPerforms

*Garrett Turner (Vertus) Garrett is delighted to be making his True Colors debut! Recent credits include Delray in Memphis (Mason Street Warehouse), Chad Deity in The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Asolo Repertory Theatre), Benny in In The Heights (Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit), Jimmy Early in Dreamgirls (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), Mr. Franklin/Mr. Venus in Passing Strange (Playhouse on Park), Simon in Acappella the Musical (Alliance Theatre), and Brave New Works (Theater Emory). A native of Florence, AL, Garrett received his B.A. in Music and Creative Writing from Emory University and M.A. in Music Theatre from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London on a Marshall Scholarship. Shout-out to my family for your unwavering love and support! Psalm 115:1 – www.garrett-turner.com – Insta: @digandbedug

D. Woods (Corinne) is excited to be working with True Colors again after appearing in their production of Shakin’ the Rafters (2013). Some of the experiences that have shaped D. Woods as an artist include her training at Tri Cities High School of Visual & Performing Arts, The Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble of Atlanta, NYU Tisch School of the Arts and The Alvin Ailey School. She has toured as a dancer with various recording artist, and she became a household name on MTV’s Making The Band and multi-platinum selling group Danity Kane. Now D. continues to write and record music through her label Woodgrane Entertainment, and to appear in film and TV such as Blackbird, starring Oscar Award winner Monique and the Fox TV series by Lee Daniels, “STAR.” Follow D. Woods at www.missdwoods.com

Gary Beauford (Ensemble) Detroit native trained in Washington, D.C. as a company dancer, choreographer and captain for the award-winning Culture Shock D.C. dance troupe. He has worked with the likes of Sharaya J/ Missy Elliott, Mya, Keith Sweat, & Demetria McKinney. Gary has also shot two feature Films: Bolden, “Alvin & The Chipmunks: Road Chip. He also assisted with choreography alongside Kiki Ely for the feature film The Founder. You can find Gary in Atlanta training, dancing, teaching, and choreographing.

Kennedy Blanchard (Kamilah/Ensemble) is a senior theatre major at Spelman College. In 2016, Kennedy was featured in an award winning short film at Cannes Film Festival and recently participated in a summer theatre lab with Sundance Institute. This Atlanta native, a passionate singer, actress, and dancer, has performed
locally and internationally with the award-winning Youth Ensemble of Atlanta (YEA), The Christian Magby Company and the Spelman College Drama Department. She is elated to make her debut appearance at True Colors!

**ANTHONY CAMPBELL** *(Ensemble)* is overjoyed to be a part of this musical. Anthony has been acting and dancing since his freshman year of high school. He has previously worked on projects with the Alliance Theatre, such as *Start Down*, and *Slur* as well as internships with the youth at the Alliance Theatre. He will also be performing in a show in November at the Alliance Theatre called *Alice Between*.

**RACQUEL CHARLES** *(Ensemble)* is a recent graduate of Howard University with a B.A in Film/Communications and a minor in Theater Arts. She is excited to be making her debut in *Holler If Ya Hear Me* as a member of the ensemble. Racquel is passionate about mental trauma/illnesses within the black community and aims to make her mark in the world as a creative director, bringing to life true stories that will impact and bring change and healing to the issue. You may follow her on Instagram via @I.AM.RACQUEL

**ANTAVIUS ELLISON** *(Ensemble)* a native of Eatonton, GA, is a graduate of Georgia State University with a B.B.A in Managerial Science. He began his artistic career at the age of 19 training at Gotta Dance Atlanta, Atlanta Dance and Music Academy and many other surrounding studios. Antavius is elated to be embarking on a new journey with True Colors. He has a passion for theatre and the arts, and aspires to further enhance his knowledge and skills in the arts.

**ASHLEE BRIE GILLUM** *(Ensemble)* A Clark Atlanta Alum. Originally from Detroit, she has sung with Nick Jonas, Kandi Burruss, Jennifer Hudson and Iggy Azalea. She is a trained dancer and accomplished actress. She has been in The Alliance Theatre’s *The C.A. Lyons Project* and Mark. E. Swinton’s *U Don’t Know Me The Musical*. Next up she will be starring as Cheryl in the film *Step Sisters*. Follow @ www.iambriemusic.com.

**CORY HARTZOL** *(Ensemble)* is a native of Chicago, Illinois. He began dancing at the age of 16 with Unique Identity, a competition dance group in his Southside community. He has always loved dance, and found his way into dance by competing with groups: Third Dimension, C.O.D.A, and Full Effect Theatrical Dance Company. Cory was invited to join the scholarship program at Gotta Dance Atlanta. Training at GDA and now Dance411 provided foundation and structure to his talent, and eventually led to performance opportunities with Daryl L Foster.

**BRITTANY INGE** *(Ensemble)* is thrilled to be making her True Colors Theatre Company debut! Credits: *Blackberry Daze* (Horizon Theatre Company), *Father Comes Home from the Wars* (Parts 1, 2 & 3), *Significant Other* (Actor’s Express), *Sincerity Forever* (Vernal & Sere Theatre Co.), *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf* (Independent Artists’ Playhouse), *Born For This: The Bebe Winans Story* (U/S, Alliance Theatre). Film/TV credits include: “The Passage”, “Survivor’s Remorse” and “The Have and Have Nots”. Duke Ellington School of the Arts alumna. B.A. from Spelman College. Proud member of Actors’ Equity. Follow @ brittanyinge and brittanyinge.com
*CHANI MAISONET (Ensemble) is so excited to make her debut at True Colors Theatre! She is a proud Vocal Performance/Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business alumna of Kennesaw State University. She was recently seen in her Alliance Debut, The Dancing Granny as Wind, Simply Simone at Theatrical Outfit (Nina 2), the Co-Production of Hunchback (Florika) with The Aurora/Theatrical Outfit, and the Atlanta Lyric production of A Chorus Line (Morales). Next, you will see Chani in her holiday debut performing at The Aurora for their magical Christmas Canteen! Follow her @Chanimaisonet on Instagram.

NADERAH MUNAJJ (Ensemble) a Miami, Florida native and B.S in Accounting graduate from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) is thrilled to make her debut with True Colors Theatre! Fresh off of a three month tour with the nationally renowned 2017 production of “Drumline Live” as principal dancer and lead vocalist, Naderah has recently been featured as a principal dancer in “Drumline: A New Beat,” “The Quad” on BET, “Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road Chip,” and back up dancer for rap artist Trina. To keep up with Naderah follow her on Instagram and Twitter @iam_Naderah or visit www.iamnaderah.com for updates and more!

DERRICK ROBERTSON (Ensemble/Spoken Word) Representing the Bay Area of Pittsburg California, Derrick Robertson is an actor, spoken word artist, and a rising senior at Clark Atlanta University majoring in Theatre arts. This is Derrick’s first production with Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theatre Company. Derrick has done several college productions at Clark Atlanta University including, Hurt Village, Stick Fly, God’s Trombones, and Yellowman. Derrick would like to dedicate his performance to everyone that has and continues to inspire and support him through his journey.

LISA ROZIER (Ensemble/Spoken Word) Lisa “Hollywood” Rozier was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Dancing was always her first passion. Now, as a well-known freestyle dancer, Hollywood has been a part of several dance groups and has expanded her role from dancer to choreographer. Now attending Clark Atlanta University as a Theatre Arts Major, Hollywood continues her educational journey to properly equip the next generation of performers. She travels all over Georgia to teach kids of all ages how to express themselves through creative dance. Follow @helloimhollywood

TODD KREIDLER (Playwright) is thrilled to return to his artistic home of True Colors where he last directed and co-conceived August Wilson’s one man show How I Learned What I Learned. His stage adaptation of the film Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner premiered at True Colors and continues to be produced by theaters around the country. While Associate Artistic Director of True Colors, Todd co-founded the August Wilson Monologue Competition, a national program aimed at integrating August Wilson’s work into high school curriculum. He is currently writing several projects including a musical with Nikki Sixx, based on Sixx’s memoir and music, The Heroin Diaries. Todd’s Broadway credits include Holler If Ya Hear Me (Book Writer), Radio Golf and Gem of the Ocean (Dramaturg) and Fences (Associate Director).
TUPAC SHAKUR (Music)
Born in New York City in 1971, Shakur moved to Baltimore in 1984. He attended the Baltimore School of the Arts excelling academically as well as developing his creative roots in the classics studying theater, ballet, jazz; citing Shakespeare as a leading influence. Relocating again to Oakland, California, where his first big break came in 1991 as a member of Digital Underground, a year later Shakur released his first solo album 2Pacalypse Now. Rolling Stone placed him on its list of The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time and in 2017, Shakur was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His last album to be released during his lifetime, All Eyez on Me, is one of the highest-selling rap albums of all time, being certified 10x platinum as of 2014.

KENNY LEON (Director) is a Tony Award winning Broadway and film director. His Broadway credits include the 2014 revival of A Raisin in the Sun with Sean P. Diddy Combs (Tony Award Winner for Best Direction of a Play and Best Revival), The Mountaintop starring Samuel L. Jackson and Angela Bassett, Stick Fly produced by Alicia Keys, August Wilson’s Fences (which garnered ten Tony nominations and won three Tony Awards including Best Revival), Gem of the Ocean and Radio Golf. Leon’s recent television work includes Hairspray: Live on NBC. Leon was awarded the 2010 Julia Hansen Award for Excellence in Directing by the Drama League of New York. Prior to co-founding True Colors Theatre Company, he served 11 years as Artistic Director of The Alliance Theatre. Mr. Leon is currently developing Children of a Lesser God to take to Broadway next season.

MATT HEAD (Musical Director) is an Emmy Award winning composer, music producer, and arranger. While attending Savannah State University on a football scholarship, he left to pursue his passion for music. Matthew served as the composer for the award winning documentary The Start of Dreams, featuring Broadway director Kenny Leon. Other notable credits include composer for films such as The Man in 3B, Girlfriends’ Getaway, and television series such as Rickey Smiley for Real, Raising Izzie, and In the Meantime. Matthew has received several awards and nominations for his work, including Best Soundtrack at the Motor City International (2007), Stellar Award Nominee (2007) and NAACP Image Award Nominee (2013). In 2015, Matthew received his first Emmy Award for his music composition for the corporate documentary Melissa’s Story. Head is the new music producer for OWN’s hit show Greenleaf.

JARED GRIMES (Choreographer) is a quadruple threat in the world of the arts, where he is heavily making his mark in singing, dancing, acting, and choreographing. He has danced alongside legends such as Wynton Marsalis and Gregory Hines. He also performed for Barack Obama at the Kennedy Center. Jared’s theater credits include After Midnight on Broadway, Twist, Babes in Arms (Goodspeed Opera House) Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (Encores) and Broadway Underground. Grimes made his choreographic debut in Cirque Du Soleil’s Banana Shpeel Off-Broadway and was the choreographer of After Midnight on Broadway. Recently, Jared won the Helen Hayes Award for best choreography in the musical Jelly’s Last Jam at the Signature Theatre in DC.

KEITH ARTHUR BOLDEN (Assistant Director)
Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Keith Arthur Bolden is a multi-talented artist who recently made his True Colors
EliC J. LiTTLe is a tri-coastal actor who currently calls the hottest shows on television, including Underground, Being Mary Jane and Nashville. He is a professor of Theatre at the prestigious Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. He received his MFA in acting from the University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign and has since cut his teeth in every major acting market in the US, including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul and now Atlanta. He is married to the talented Tinashe Kajese-Bolden and they have 3 sons.

ERIC J. LITTLE (Assistant Director) is excited to be a part of this process after recently directing at True Colors Between Riverside and Crazy, and also directing Fetch Clay, Make Man, in Fall 2015. TC audiences may also remember Eric as an actor in Miss Evers’ Boys, Our Town, and Broke-ology. Eric’s previous directing experience includes The Mountaintop, at Aurora Theatre, Thurgood, at Theatrical Outfit, and Chainz for Rising Sage Theater Company. He’s also directed Before It Hits Home, The Brothers Size, and other plays at Clark Atlanta University where he teaches, as well as with the Children’s Museum of Atlanta and Elizabeth Baptist Church. Eric is a proud member of Actors’ Equity. Some of his work at various Atlanta theaters as an actor include: Fly, (Theatrical Outfit-Suzy Award Winner-Best Ensemble); Superior Donuts, (Horizon Theater-Suzy Award Winner-Lead Actor), Clybourne Park, at Aurora Theatre (Suzy Award Winner-Best Ensemble) and many others. His acting Film/TV work includes “Tylers Perry’s House of Payne,” “The Know Better Effect,” “Lottery Ticket,” and as the lead in two short films “Perfect Day” and “A Beautiful Death,” and various commercials. Eric is also a Georgia Lottery Host for WSBTV. His upcoming projects include directing Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill for Theatrical Outfit. Follow him @EricJLittle.

ANDRE C. ALLEN (Lighting Designer) was born and raised in Queens, New York. He moved to Atlanta to attend Morehouse College in 1989. There he discovered the art of storytelling with light. He founded BlackLight Productions Inc. in 1990. He has designed for the Freddie Hendricks’ Youth Ensemble of Atlanta, the Atlanta Lyric Theatre, and India.Arie. He served as Production Manager with the Rialto Center and Operations Manager with the Ferst Center. André teaches lighting design at Spelman College and is the lighting designer for the Atlanta Falcons. BlackLight has been a production partner of True Colors since its founding in 2003. His other True Colors credits include Proof, The Mountaintop, and Fences. www.BlackLightProductions.com

SHILLA BENNING (Costume Design) Her work has been seen in The Alliance Theatre's Shakespeare's R & J, Theatrical Outfit’s Memphis, Fly, Waiting to be Invited; True Colors Theatre Company in Chasin’ Dem Blues, Detroit 67, Steel Magnolias, Stick Fly, Black Nativity, Miss Evers Boys, The Amen Corner, and Blues For An Alabama Sky; at the Horizon Theatre, The Negro Dance Lesson, The Flaming Guns of the Purple Sage, Hambone, Homebody Kabul, The Drawer Boy and In Dafur; as well as Musical Dramatic Arts world premier of I Dream. Shilla has also designed costumes for The Sounds of Blackness, Erykah Badu, Taraji P. Henson and Terrence Howard. Shilla is the recipient of the 2009 Suzi Award for Costume Design for Black Nativity.

KAT CONLEY (Set Designer) is ecstatic to be working with True Colors. Based in Atlanta since 2000, Kat has designed scenery for The Alliance Theatre, Georgia Shakespeare, Marin Theatre Company, the Atlanta Ballet, Actor’s Express, The Center for Puppetry Arts, 7 Stages, Theatrical Outfit, Theatre in the Square, The Springer Opera House, The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center and the Aurora Theater. She is an Associate Artist with Actor’s Express and the Charge Scenic Artist for The Alliance Theater. Whether dramatically challenging, visionary or escapist, all theater and art is important, thank you for supporting it in our community.
*lark hackshaw* (*Stage Manager*) Although lark has celebrated her 27th year of Stage Managing at the Tony Award winning Alliance Theatre, she has worked for many regional theatres across the United States (Indiana Repertory, Maltz Jupiter, Trinity Repertory, Arena Stage, MUNY, North Carolina Black Rep) and has taken out several major tours. Her favorite shows include Broadway’s *Stick Fly*. Some other favorites include: *Anne & Emmett*, *Proof*, *Smart People*, *Black Nativity* (2014 -2017), *Kandi Burruss’ A Mother’s Love*, *Maurice Hines Is Tappin’ Through Life*, *The Nacirema Society*, *Broke*, *Sheddin*, *Duke Ellington’s Sophisticated Ladies*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Good People* and *Wit*. lark is a long time Line Producer/Executive Assistant for Winston-Salem’s National Black Theatre Festival and the proud recipient of Howard University’s 2012 Distinguished Howard Player Award.

*BOBBY JOHNSTON* (*Sound/Projection Designer*) is entering his 15th year in the entertainment industry. In the Atlanta theatre market, Bobby is a 6-time Suzi nominee for Sound Design, including nominations for the musical *I Dream*, and True Color’s *The Colored Museum*, both directed by Jasmine Guy. Other recent sound design credits include the world premier of *Clyde n’ Bonnie*, *Gypsy*, *Aint Misbehavin’*, *Anything Goes*, and *Legally Blonde*.

*CYNTHIA MCCOY* (*Property Mistress*) is from Detroit, Michigan. She began her experience in Performing Arts as a dancer, Costume Designer, Set Dresser and teacher. She has a BA. from the University of Detroit, where she majored in Mass Communications and minored in theatre. Cynthia’s most recent prop and set dressing credits include True Colors Exit Strategy, Between Riverside and Crazy, Georgia State University’s The Rose Tattoo, and Dominion Entertainment Groups’s production of A Lesson Before Dying. She is excited to once again join the production team at True Colors Theatre Company.

*LISA L. WATSON* (*Production Manager*), an Atlanta native, received her undergraduate degree from Clark Atlanta University and went on to pursue graduate studies at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts in Scenic Design. While in NY she worked with the Negro Ensemble Company, New Federal Theatre, Crossroads Theatre and Diane McIntyre’s Sounds in Motions among others. Returning to Atlanta in 1992 she joined Jomandi Productions as Production Manager, a position she held for 10 years before joining the True Colors team in 2003.

*CHANDRA STEPHENS-ALBRIGHT* (*Managing Director*) comes to True Colors Theatre Company from C5 Georgia, where she served as Executive Director from 2014 - 2017. During her time there, she re-energized the program, improved community awareness, and engaged parents and alumni as volunteers and donors. Chandra joined the nonprofit sector following a successful 22-year career at The Coca-Cola Company, where she built a reputation for directing productive teams, tackling tough challenges, and leading strategic initiatives. Her crowning achievement there was leading consumer research and marketing efforts for the development and launch of Coca-Cola Freestyle® the game-changing fountain dispenser named a World-Changing Brand by Interbrand in 2011. Chandra Stephens-Albright is a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2005. A native of Atlanta, Chandra is proud and honored to call True Colors home.
DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Diversity has been True Colors’ focus since its inception in 2002. We are a diverse theatre company, grounded in preserving African American classics and presenting plays by all Americans, for a diverse audience. Year-round commitment to programming of this nature is an industry void we must fill; we are committed to sharing stories of other cultures, and exploring a variety of ages, generations, religions, and sexual orientations. Our internal diversity goals include striving for the following across our organization:

Together we acknowledge systems of oppression and structural/institutional barriers based on racial, ethnic, gender, cultural, class, and other differences.

Together we understand race, gender, and other aspects of identity to be socially constructed, tied to complex histories, and playing significant roles in how resources and power are distributed.

We acknowledge the existence of privilege (advantages, access, favors, and benefits to members of dominant groups at the expense of members of marginalized groups), and the opportunity to challenge oppression from a place of privilege—as an ally.

Together we are committed to an ongoing process of self-education and coalition-building in order to create open and supportive environments and to take collective, collaborative action for systemic change. (True Colors Strategic Plan FY/2015-16 –FY2017-18, Reference artEquity)
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The Jane Bishop Legacy Circle was created to honor the work and vision of True Colors Theatre Company’s Co-founder. It was Jane’s vision along with Kenny Leon to create a theatre that looks like the world and that encouraged people of different cultures to sit side by side and bring their unique perspective to the art on the stage.

With this in mind, in 2002, Jane Bishop and Kenny Leon began True Colors Theatre Company, Atlanta’s first truly diverse professional theater company. Jane’s contributions to both True Colors and Atlanta’s art scene are too many to count, but prior to her passing in 2012, she and her partner Sandra Deer determined that Jane would like to leave a financial gift of $25,000 to True Colors in her will establishing True Colors as Jane’s true legacy left to Atlanta.

To honor Jane Bishop’s spirit and passion for True Colors Theatre Company, we ask that you follow Jane’s path in celebrating the diverse legacy of True Colors. The Jane Bishop Legacy Circle welcomes members who:

- Contribute cash gifts of $10,000 or more annually
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“Jane was a beautiful human. She was more than a colleague, and she continually gave to the artistic vitality of Atlanta.”
- Kenny Leon
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