



Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER

WINE IN THE WILDERNESS

FEB 5 - 7 2021

ENCORE VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

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Northwestern University's
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts

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proudly present

WINE IN THE WILDERNESS

Written by Alice Childress

DIRECTED BY
JASMINE B. GUNTER

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager
LUCY HARRINGTON

Associate Producer
ISMAEL LARA

Production and Costume Designer
DAVID AREVALO

Lighting and Scenic Designer
DAPHNE AGOSIN ORELLANA

CAST

Sonny Man
KEVIN AOUSSOU

Old Timer
STAN BROWN

Tommy
JAZZLYN K. LUCKETT

Cynthia
MAYA SCHNAKE

Bill
ELLIOT SIMS

Stage Direction Reader
MATTHEW THREADGILL

February 5–7
Virtual Performance
Available On-Demand

The running time for this production is 2 hours and 45 minutes
with a post show discussion to follow.

The Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts is a member of
Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for
the American Theatre.

Program Cover & Promotional Artwork by Collin Quinn Rice
Program Editors: Owen Kiley, Chris Wych

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The term Intersectionality wasn't coined until 1989 by Kimberlé Crenshaw. *Wine in the Wilderness* was written in 1969, twenty years beforehand, and yet Alice Childress's play was already talking about this idea of the overlap between our oppressed or privileged identities that shape the person we are and how the world interacts with us.

Childress expertly uses discussions of race, sex, and class to show how all of these factors contribute to the oppression of Black women.

Bill Jameson, a male artist, hopes to capture the essence of Black womanhood in his latest triptych. His first image depicts a little girl: the representation of childhood innocence. In the second painting, there is *Wine in the Wilderness*, an impossibly beautiful African Queen and the epitome of what the Black woman should strive to be. Bill's third canvas is blank as he searches for the perfect model to represent "the messed up chick" that society has created. She is coarse, vulgar, ignorant, and the opposite of everything *Wine in the Wilderness* represents. In comes Tommy, who destroys all of Bill's pre-perceived notions on blackness, womanhood, and who in our community is deserving of dignity. This play becomes a real conversation amongst the Black community about the vast identities that it holds and our perceptions of each other. With this play, I'm interested in having a dialogue about what is blackness, what are our unique perspectives on blackness, where do we overlap, where is there room for all of us to learn from each other's perspectives, and how do we give each other a little more dignity as the days pass by.

JASMINE B. GUNTER

LUCY HARRINGTON (Stage Manager) is a sophomore studying Gender Studies and Theatre with a focus on Theatre Management. Last year she co-produced *Catch Me if You Can* and served as an ASM for *Fun Home*; and this year is serving as the producer for Arts Alliance's Spring Lakefill show, the Associate Production Manager of The Dolphin Show, the Special Events Director for Waa-Mu, and the business manager of WAVE Productions. She's thrilled to get to join this group of artists in collaborating on this show!

JASMINE B. GUNTER (Director) is a first-year MFA directing candidate at Northwestern University. She is a 2021 recipient of the Hangar Directing Drama League fellowship and a proud associate member of the Stage Director and Choreographers Society. Recent directing credits include *Intimate Apparel* (SUNY Brockport), *Ghost Story* (Kane Repertory Theatre), *Lines in the Dust* (Geva Theatre Center), *Reroute* (24 Hour Plays: Nationals). Assistant directing: *Nina Simone: Four Women* (Arena Stage), *In the Heights* (Seattle Rep), *Quixote Nuevo* (Hartford Stage/Huntington Theatre Company), and *The Luckiest People* (Actors Theatre of Charlotte/NNPN). As well as being a free-lance director, Jasmine has a wealth of experience as a teaching artist. She taught for the Berkshire Theatre Group and the Redhouse Arts Center in Syracuse NY.

DAPHNE AGOSIN (Lighting Designer) is a third-year MFA Stage Design Candidate at Northwestern University. Originally from Santiago, Chile, she earned her BA in Architecture. She has worked in architectural lighting design, urban design, and most recently theater and dance (*THE CONDUCT OF LIFE* [2019] at Yale Cab, *DANCEWORKS* [2019], *EURYDICE* [2020] and *DIE FLEDERMAUS* [2020] at Wirtz).

DAVID AREVALO (Costume Designer). David is thrilled to be collaborating on this first ever *Visions and Voices* Black Playwrights' Reading Series. Recent NU credits include Costume Designer for *Eurydice* and *Machinal*. Outside of NU credits include Assistant Costume Designer for Hartford Stage's production of *Quixote Nuevo*, Costume Designer for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park (*Pinnocchio*, *Rapunzel*) in 2018, and Associate Costume Designer for Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's 2017 production of *Pelleas Et Melisande*. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and a 3rd year MFA candidate in Costume Design at Northwestern.

MATTHEW THREADGILL is a senior pursuing a degree in theatre with a minor in business institutions and certificate in integrated marketing communications. An actor and writer, Matthew has been seen in various Northwestern productions including Wirtz's *A Chorus Line* and Sit & Spin's *The Visit* and served as a writing coordinator of last year's Waa Mu Show, *State of the Art*. He is so excited to work with such a talented group of artists on this production and looks forward to sharing such a special piece with the audience.

MAYA SCHNAKE (Cynthia) is a junior majoring in Theatre and Psychology and is so excited to be in *Wine in the Wilderness*! Aside from acting, she enjoys all kinds of art and has done graphic design for numerous groups and plays on campus. She's so grateful to help tell this story that focuses on the strength and beauty of Black women. She'd like to thank her loved ones for being so supportive of everything she does!

JAZZLYN K. LUCKETT (Tommy) is honored to be a part of *Wine in the Wilderness*. Previous credits include *The Piano Lesson*, *The Bluest Eye*, *The Time of Your Life*, *Tragic Ecstasy of Girlhood* (premiere), and *Diana of Dobson's*. Jazzlyn has created for the Hollywood Fringe Festival, is an Associate Artist at Third Culture Theatre Company and a company member of Antaeus Theatre. She holds a BA in Theatre from University of Illinois—Chicago.

ELLIOT MARVIN SIMS (Bill) Elliot, is excited to be working on his first production with Northwestern as a first year MFA Acting student. Born and raised in Dallas, Texas where his love for the stage originated as early as ten years old, he would later gain a rare acceptance by his Junior year to attend and graduate from the prestigious school that churned the likes of Erykah Badu and Nora Jones at; Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. However, not stopping his educational pursuits there, Elliot attended The University of North Texas where he received his Bachelors of Arts in Theatre/Performance and played a vast array of memorable roles in shows such as; *Fabulation or the Re-education of Undine*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *The Philadelphia Story*. Elliot's most acclaimed performance was the lead character in a World Premiere Play written by Regina Taylor called, *BREAD*, at the Water Tower Theatre in Dallas, Texas. This work garnered Elliot's first theatre award; an 2018 Irma P. Hall Black Theater Award for Best Leading Actor in a Play.

KEVIN AOUSSOU (Sonny-man) is a first year Acting MFA. An alumnus of Winthrop University and the National Theater Institutes Moscow Art Theatre Semester. From Charlotte, NC he's performed with Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Actors Theatre of Charlotte, and Shakespeare Carolina. Past credits include Hedgerow Theater's *Moby Dick*, and *Game of Love and Chance*, Theater at Monmouth's productions of *Measure for Measure*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Sense and Sensibility*. Grateful For this Opportunity.

STAN BROWN (Oldtimer) is the Inaugural W. Rockwell Wirtz Professor and Director of Graduate Studies of the MFA in Acting program at the School of Communication. Stan earned his MFA in Acting from the University of South Carolina in 1989. While there, Stan was named a graduate acting fellow at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington D.C., where he received the core of his classical actor training. Stan began his work in university teaching at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England, where he taught acting and was a postgraduate researcher in Contemporary Shakespearean Performance (exploring director Peter Brook's body of work with the Royal Shakespeare Company). In the U.K., Stan was invited to work with the voice department at the RSC by Cicely Berry, RSC Director of Voice and the author of internationally renowned books *Voice and the Actor*, *The Actor and His Text*, and *Text in Action*. This training and experience initiated Stan's ongoing explorations into perceptions and impacts of 'culture' on voice and speech training for the actor. He maintained an active professional relationship with the RSC's voice department and, specifically, Ms. Berry and her work until her retirement and passing in 2018. Apart from his work as a teacher, voice/dialect coach, and director, Stan has worked as a professional actor for over 30 years in American and British theatre, film, television and radio. Some of his credits include featured roles on NBC's *Homicide: Life in the Streets* and recurring roles on *In the Heat of the Night* and the critically acclaimed *I'll Fly Away*. In film, Stan co-starred in Robby Benson's *Modern Love* and the cult film *Getting In* opposite Calista Flockhart, Matthew Perry, Dave Chapelle, and Christine Baranski. The film was the directorial debut of Doug Liman, who would later direct *Swingers*, *Bourne Identity*, and *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. In 2015 Stan played the lead in the short film *The Bespoke Tailoring of Mr. Bellamy*. The film won the prestigious Louisiana Film Prize—the largest monetary prize in the world for short film—and was shortlisted for the Academy Award ballot. Stan also won the Louisiana Film Prize Best Actor award for his work.

ISMAEL LARA, JR. (Associate Producer) is a Latine director, educator, organizer, and producer from Southeast Texas and is currently an MFA Directing candidate at Northwestern. He is focused on championing work that aids the fight against injustice, creating a bridge between underrepresented communities and the theatrical institution. Ismael is a recipient of the 2019 Hangar Drama League Fellowship.

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**THE DEATH OF THE
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AKA
THE NEGRO
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FEB 12-14 2021

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