SS 4728 APRIL 14-23

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WRITTEN BY ANTOINETTE CHINONYE NWANDU DIRECTED BY DR. LUNDEANA M. THOMAS



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WRITTEN BY ANTOINETTE CHINONYE

DIRECTED BY DR. LUNDEANA M. THOMAS

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CAST

Moses	Bobby Brown
Kitch	Jibril Jackson
Mister/Ossifer	Paul Dahman

SETTING

Right Now - East Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 1855 - A Plantation 13th Century BCE - Egypt, a city built by slaves

RUNNING TIME

90 Minutes, No intermission

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Dr. Lundeana M. Thomas
Scenic	Dr. Thomas Copeland
Lighting Design	Leslie Brown
Stage Manager	Caitlyn N. Santiago
Costumes	Emelia Sherin
Movement Coach	Dr. Jaiette Jackson
Hair & Make-up	David Brown
Props & Technical Director	Johnny Pecano
Set Builders	Johnny Pecano & Isabel Foltz

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Thomas Copeland, Winston E. Higgins, Sr., Bernard W. Thomas, Sr., Angela Tellis, Jackie Parkins, The Youngstown Chapter of the Links, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Matthew Mazuroski, Jeff Infante, Dr. John Cox, Sign & Signal Shop, Madonna Chism Pinkard (WFMJ), and GOD

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I have always thought that respecting humanity is respecting life. The Creator has lent one life to each of us, a life that is the Creator's alone to take away. Human law allows for self-defense, capital punishment, even assisted suicide—a maze of special cases—but I can imagine no justification for today's apparently casual racial slaughter here in America.

Antoinette Nwandu's Pass Over powerfully demonstrates how the curse of racial inequality is destroying a generation of young Black men by Whites, police, and Black-on-Black crime. It calls into question citizens' very humanity, not only in each other's eyes but in their own. The playwright started writing this play when Trayvon Martin was killed and finished it after the death of George Floyd. Many more have been killed since then.

It is not enough to learn more about the problem; we must look for answers. Therefore, we will be having Talkback Sessions after each performance. Our answers will be sent to US Attorney Kenneth L. Parker, Southern District of Ohio, and subsequently to Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General of the US Department of Justice.

Please accept the playwright's challenge to become part of the solution, so feel free to stay a while after the show and join in our conversations.

- Dr. Lundeana M. Thomas

ARTIST PROFILES

Dr. Lundeana M. Thomas (Director) is an actress, poet, director, scholar, writer and professor of Theatre who graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education and taught Speech and Drama at East High School. In 1981, she attended the University of Michigan, receiving her Master of Arts in 1982 and Ph.D. in 1993. Dr. Thomas has taught at Spelman College, Bowling Green State University and in 1996 arrived at the University of Louisville to teach in the Theatre Arts Department and direct the African American Theatre Program. This program is significant for granting undergraduate minors and Graduate Certificates in the study of Black Theatre. Thomas authored Barbara Ann Teer and the National Black Theatre: Transformational Forces in Harlem and has written more than twenty articles and book chapters. Known as a "Doer," under her direction she brought three shows to the National Black Theatre Festival in (1999, 2005, 2011,) where last year she received a Living Legend Award. Dr. Thomas took three shows to the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts in Beijing (2007), and took The Orphan of Chao production to the Nanyang Fine Arts Academy in Singapore (2014). She and her students from the University of Louisville program performed at the Grahamstown Festival in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa (2003). Additionally, she was a founder and Past President of the Black Theatre Network, Dr. Thomas presented papers in Ghana, Australia, China, Spain, and Singapore and then retired with Full Professor Emerita status in 2014. She is a Lifetime Member of the NAACP, the COD (Consortium of Doctors). the Black Theatre Network, and later this year will be installed as a Golden Member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Dr. Thomas has just directed American Menu at the New Horizon's Theater in Pittsburgh and is so happy to have recently joined the Board of the Youngstown Playhouse.

ARTIST PROFILES

Caitlyn N. Santiago (Stage Manager) is very excited to be involved with yet another Playhouse production. Although she's never acted on the main stage, she has been involved in many productions, working as crew, starting with *A Christmas Carol* back in 2017. She considers the Youngstown Playhouse to be her home theatre and is fortunate to have the opportunity to work on shows. She's incredibly privileged to have worked with Dr. Lundeana M. Thomas and to have worked with such a wonderful and talented cast. As always, Caitlyn would like to thank her Playhouse mentors, as well as her friends and family for their love and support during every production she works on.



Bobby Brown (Moses) loves art and storytelling. He has been in healthcare for over a decade and loves making others feel better. If he can put a smile on one person's face, it's totally worth it. He is thrilled to be a part of this brilliant production and has enjoyed this experience so much. He hopes this play helps bring joy and happiness to the community. He is a son, nephew, and a brother who lives and loves his family and community. He does this for them

and hopes to make them proud of him.

PROGRAM Pass over

ARTIST PROFILES



Jibril Jackson (Kitch) is a 10th grade student at Cardinal Mooney High School. He began his acting career on the Youngstown Playhouse stage in the main role of Pinocchio. He continued to grace the Playhouse stage in *The Frog Prince* and *Treasure Island*. Jibril then took to the main stage at his high school in *Into the Woods, Clue,* and *the Wizard of Oz.* Jibril's other artistic endeavors include tap dancing with LRDT Dance Company, playing the violin with YSYO, and Speech Team. Jibril thanks

first and foremost God for giving him his acting talent. And his mom for being his number one supporter. And his supportive friends and family. He would also like to thank his director for believing in him. And the awesome stage manager and crew.



Paul Dahman (Mister/Ossifer) is thrilled to be back at the Youngstown Playhouse for the first time since 2020. He has been seen at the Playhouse in *Noises Off, Elephant Man, Young Frankenstein,* and many others. You may have seen Paul in *The Play That Goes Wrong* at Trumbull New Theatre; *Boeing Boeing, Spamalot,* and many others at Stage Left in Lisbon. Paul just recently directed *At This Evening's Performance* at Stage Left in March. Working with Dr. Thomas, this

talented cast, and creative team has been incredible. This part has challenged him in many ways but is glad to be able to help tell this powerful story. He would like to thank his partner, Makenna, family, friends, and you for the continued support.

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MISSION STATEMENT

As we anticipate our 100th Anniversary Season, The Youngstown Playhouse remains committed to our mission of presenting quality theatre arts performances, providing educational initiatives, and establishing and maintaining community partnerships while supporting and participating in the revitalization of the City of Youngstown.

ABOUT THE PLAYHOUSE

The Youngstown Playhouse, founded in 1924, has sustained a legacy of quality live performance theatre in Northeast Ohio by staging innovative, unique, and accessible theatrical performances of both classic and modern productions. Located in Youngstown's Glenwood Avenue Corridor, the Youngstown Playhouse annually serves over 9,000 guests of all ages with a full season of musicals and plays complemented by workshops, readings, and concerts. The Playhouse facility houses a mainstage theatre of 400 seats and The Moyer Room an intimate blackbox space seating 75. The Youth Theatre Program serves nearly 150 participants through classes, workshops, and fully staged productions attended by over 1,000 local public school students annually. With the 100th Anniversary Season approaching, The Youngstown Playhouse remains committed to its mission of presenting quality theatre arts performances, providing educational initiatives, and establishing and maintaining community partnerships while supporting and participating in the revitalization of the City of Youngstown.

Learn more at youngstownplayhouse.org

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The Joseph E. Scarvell Youth Theatre Endowment Fund was established in May 2021 under the stewardship of The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley to honor Joe's lifelong commitment to arts education. It is our hope that the fund, which began with an initial investment of \$20,000 supported by a major anonymous gift, will support our educational programming in perpetuity as we seek to cultivate the next generation of theatre professionals and patrons.

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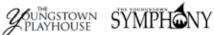
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