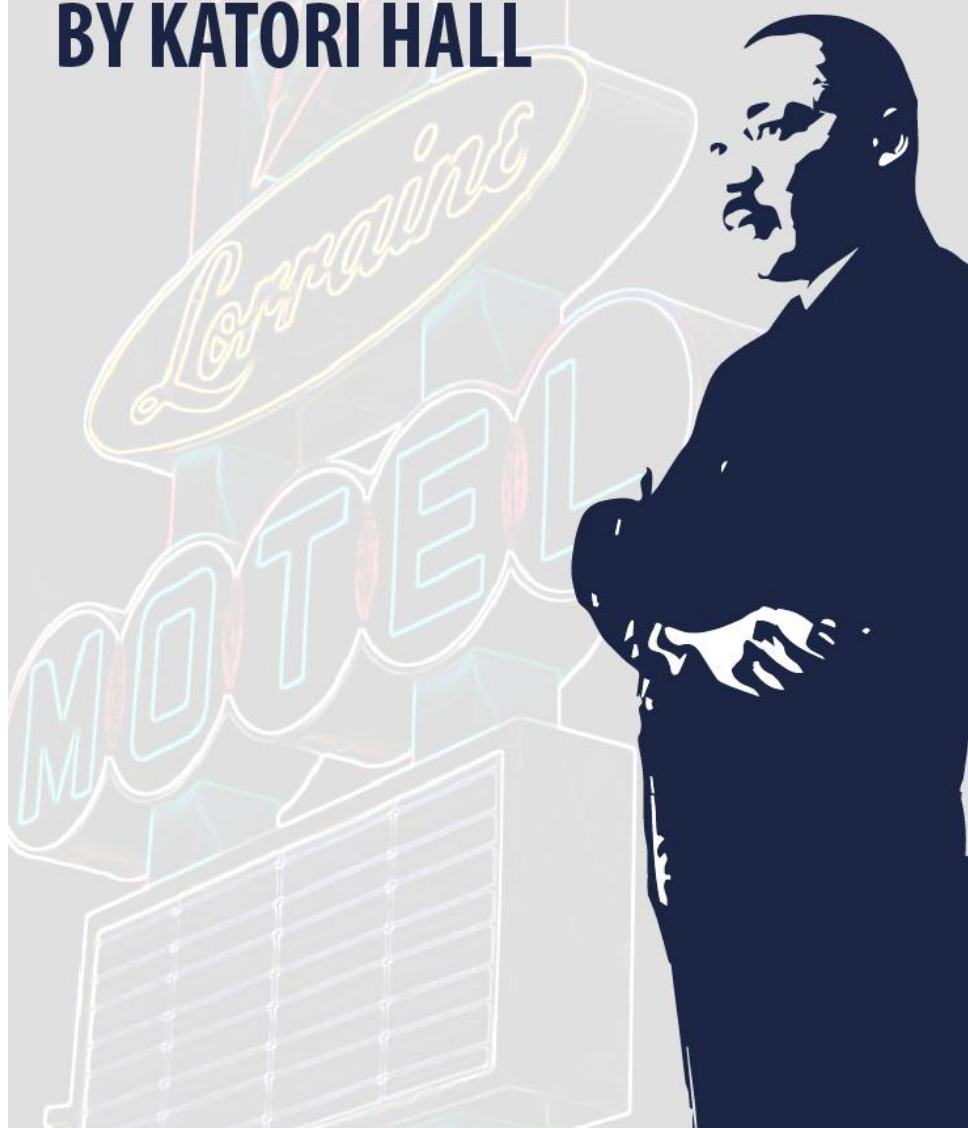


Greenbelt Arts Center presents

THE MOUNTAINTOP

BY KATORI HALL



The Mountaintop

by Katori Hall

Directed by Rikki Howie Lacwell
Produced by Pamela Northrup

Cast

Martin _____ **Ryan Willis**
Camae _____ **Lydia West**

Original Broadway production produced by
Jean Doumanian, Sonia Friedman Productions,
Ambassador Theatre Group, Raise the Roof 7, Ted Snowdon,
Alhadeff Productions/Lauren Doll, B Square + 4 Productions/Broadway Across America,
Jacki Barlia Florin/Cooper Federman,
Ronnie Planalp/Moellenberg Taylor and Marla Rubin Productions/Blumenthal Performing
Arts, in association with Scott Delman.

THE MOUNTAINTOP was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York
City, and was first produced by Theatre 503 in June 2009 and further produced at
Trafalgar Studio One in July 2009 by Sonia Friedman Productions and Jean Doumanian,
Tali Pelman for Ambassador Theatre Group, Bob Bartner, Freddy DeMann, Jerry Frankel,
Ted Snowdon and Marla Rubin Productions Ltd.

THE MOUNTAINTOP was developed at the 2008 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a
program of the Playwrights Foundation (Amy L. Mueller, Artistic Director).

Setting:

April 3, 1968

**Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, Memphis
Tennessee**

After delivering one of his most memorable speeches, an exhausted Dr. King retires to his room at the Lorraine Motel while a storm rages outside.

The performance will run approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

**Please join the cast and crew after the matinee on April 23 for a
30-minute talkback about the show.**

The Mountaintop is presented through arrangement with Dramatist Play Service. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by Dramatist Play Service. www.dramatists.com

Production Staff

Director _____ Rikki Howie Lacewell
Producer _____ Pamela Northrup
Stage Manager _____ Sally Dodson
Asst. Stage Manager _____ Nic Adams
Lighting Design _____ TJ Lukacsina
Sound Design _____ Jim Adams
Projection Design _____ Richard Atha-Nicholls
Set Design _____ Rikki Howie Lacewell
Set Construction _____ Gregory Lacewell
Adam Caldwell, Sally Dodson, Rikki Howie Lacewell, Ryan Willis
Set Painting _____ R. Anne Hull
Set Decoration _____ Anne Lowe-Barrett, Cheramie Jackson
Costume Design _____ Deana Cruz-Conner
Properties Design _____ Cheramie Jackson
Hair and Makeup Design _____ Shemika Renée
Photography _____ Kris Northrup, Nathan Jackson

Greenbelt Arts Center

Front of House Manager _____ Carol Shaw
Gallery Manager _____ Linda Thompson
Website Team Lead _____ Bob Kleinberg
Webmaster _____ Kris Northrup
General Manager _____ Sian MacAdam

Director's Notes

The baton passes on. I may have re-written this many times as I want to make it clear the reason why I chose to direct this piece. To be honest every day a new reason appears in my mind. I chose it because it's a story that needs to be told. I chose it because it has a message that we often forget. I chose this piece as at its core it makes you think, question, laugh, cry and it makes you uncomfortable. The baton passes on. We all question things in our lives but imagine being someone who is on a path to be a martyr for the world that constantly says "no" to them, yet they continue. Someone who outreaches to others with love, acceptance, understanding and assistance to only be silenced. Why did this have to happen and what did those men on that balcony have to see it? - "because crucifixions must have witnesses," said Rev. Kyles. The baton passes on. Sometimes when it comes to the story of MLK you can't "make it pretty", it is what it is, raw and real and I hope you get that from these performers. RAW and REAL. I do hope however, that by the end of this piece you are moved to pick up the baton that we have all let slip out of our grasp and carry it forward. A simple act of kindness, acceptance and understanding can change the world and hopefully one day we can "make it pretty". We may have lost the dreamer but we have NOT lost the dream ... or have we? The baton...

- Rikki Howie Lacewell
Director, *The Mountaintop*

Producer's Note

When Rikki asks me to join her for a show, the only possible answer I can give is "yes - when and where?". Every experience I have with her stretches my boundaries and opens my eyes. I've been waiting for this show since before the pandemic, and I am grateful to finally have it in front of an audience. May your eyes, hearts, and minds be opened by the work of Rikki, Lydia, and Ryan as mine have been.

- Pamela Northrup
Producer, *The Mountaintop*

Did you know?

A timeline of the life of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1929

- January 15, born at noon in Atlanta GA

1944

- Graduates from Booker T. Washington High School and is admitted to Morehouse College at 15.

1948

- Graduates from Morehouse College and enters Crozer Theological Seminary.
 - February 15, is ordained to the Baptist ministry at 19.

1951

- Enters Boston University for graduate studies.

1953

- Marries Coretta Scott and settles in Montgomery, Alabama.

1955

- June 5, receives Doctorate of Philosophy in Systematic Theology from Boston University, Boston, MA
 - December 1, joins the bus boycott after Rosa Parks is arrested.
- December 5, is elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, making him the official spokesperson for the boycott.

1956

- November 13, the Supreme Court rules that bus segregation is illegal, ensuring victory for the boycott.

1957

- Forms the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight segregation and achieve civil rights.
 - May 17, speaks to a crowd of 15,000 in Washington, D.C.

1958

- The U.S. Congress passed the first Civil Rights Act since reconstruction.
 - First book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, is published.
- Is nearly killed when stabbed by an assailant in Harlem while on a speaking tour.
- Meets with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, along with Roy Wilkins, A. Philip Randolph, and Lester Grange on problems affecting black Americans.

1959

- Visits India to study Mohandas Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence.
- Resigns as pastor from the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to concentrate on civil rights full time.

1960

- Becomes co-pastor with his father at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.
 - Lunch counter sit-ins begin in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- Is arrested during a sit-in in Atlanta, GA waiting to be served at a restaurant. Is sentenced to four months in jail, but after intervention by John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, is released.

1961

- November, the Interstate Commerce Commission bans segregation in interstate travel due to the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Riders.
- Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) begins the first Freedom Ride through the South, in a Greyhound bus.

1962

- July 27, is arrested and jailed during the unsuccessful Albany, Georgia movement

1963

- April 12, Good Friday, is arrested with Ralph Abernathy by Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor for demonstrating without a permit.
- April 13, the Birmingham campaign launches. This would prove to be the turning point in the war to end segregation in the South.
- During the eleven days he spent in jail, writes his famous Letter from a Birmingham Jail.
- May 10, the Birmingham Agreement is announced. The stores, restaurants, and schools will be desegregated, hiring of blacks implemented, and charges dropped.
 - June 23, leads 125,000 people on a Freedom Walk in Detroit.
 - August 28, the March on Washington becomes the largest civil rights demonstration in history with nearly 250,000 people in attendance and King makes his famous I Have a Dream speech.

1964

- January 3, appears on the cover of Time magazine as its Man of the Year.
- July 2, attends the signing ceremony of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 at the White House
- Summer, experiences his first hurtful rejection by black people when he is stoned by Black Muslims in Harlem.
- December 10, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. At age 35, he is the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1965

- February 2, is arrested in Selma, Alabama during a voting rights demonstration.
 - After President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act into law, turns to socioeconomic problems.

1966

- January 22, moves into a Chicago slum tenement to attract attention to the living condition of the poor.
 - June, King and others begin the March Against Fear through the South.
- July 10, King initiates a campaign to end discrimination in housing, employment, and schools in Chicago.

1967

- The Supreme Court upholds a conviction of MLK by a Birmingham court for demonstrating without a permit.
 - Spends four days in a Birmingham jail.
- November 27, King announces the inception of the Poor People's Campaign focusing on jobs and freedom for the poor of all races.
 - Marches in support of sanitation workers on strike in Memphis, Tennessee.
- March 28, leads a march that turns violent. This is the first time one of his events turns violent.
 - Delivers "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech.
 - Announces that the Poor People's Campaign will culminate in a March on Washington demanding a \$12 billion Economic Bill of Rights guaranteeing employment to the able-bodied, income to those unable to work, and an end to housing discrimination.

1968

- Asks Ben Branch, musician, "I want you to play 'Precious Lord' for me and play it real pretty." from the balcony of the Lorraine Motel minutes before he was fatally shot.
- April 4, at sunset, Martin Luther King, Jr. is fatally shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Baton passes on

- There are riots and disturbances in 130 American cities. There are twenty thousand arrests. King's funeral on April 9 is an international event. Within a week of the assassination, the Open Housing Act is passed by Congress.

The Baton passes on

1986

- November 2, a national holiday is proclaimed in King's honor.

The Baton...

Cast



Lydia West
Camae



Ryan Willis
Martin

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Lydia West (Camae) is thrilled to make her GAC debut, especially in what is now her favorite role to date, and to have finally worked with Rikki! Lydia has been acting, singing, and directing in Baltimore and DMV over 13 years, and serves on the board for Artistic Synergy of Baltimore (ASoB). Other favorite recent acting credits include: "Charlaine" in *Ain't Misbehavin'* (ASoB), "Gertrude" in *Hamlet* (Arena Players), and "Xavia Jones" in *PUFFS* (ASoB). Recent directing credits include: ASoB's performances of *Captain Hook: My Story...*, and she is currently directing *Squirrel Girl Goes to College* at Randallstown High School, where she serves as Theatre Sponsor. As always, she is so appreciative of her husband's support in all of her endeavors! Love you, babe!

Ryan Willis (Martin) is honored and humbled to have the opportunity to bring one of the most iconic and important figures in American history to life in this production. Ryan began acting 13 years ago and *The Mountaintop* is his seventh performance at Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC). He has previously appeared as Lyons in *Fences* (Bowie Community Theatre); East/Chad/Dave in *Almost, Maine* (GAC); Walter Lee Younger in *Raisin in the Sun* (GAC); Albert/Kevin in *Clybourne Park* (GAC); Mad Hatter/Caterpillar/Mouse/ Frogman in *Alice in Wonderland* (GAC); John Braschi in *Young Turg* (GAC); and *It Takes a Village* monologue in Greenbelt Voices (GAC). Visual artist and photographer by trade, Ryan also pursues his passion for music as a music producer and one of the founding members of the label Mystery Sound Recordings.

Production Team (in alphabetical order)

Jim Adams (Sound Design) has been seen frequently on stage at area theaters pre-COVID, and is still wondering when he may feel comfortable treading the boards again. In the meantime, he's been keeping busy with the techies having fun with sound files and foley, having last designed and run sound for the *Last Five Years*, also at GAC. He hopes to return and see your smiling faces from under the lights rather than behind them. Until then, love y'all. xoxo to his polycule, Kale Pajamas.

Nic Adams (Asst. Stage Manager) is delighted to be back at GAC for yet another show after the shortest of breaks. Growing up in the city of

Greenbelt, and being raised in a theatrical family, he has been working in and around the dramatic world for as long as he can remember. While originally discovering his love of the art onstage, in more recent years he's found home behind the scenes. Fresh after coming off of GAC's *Arcadia* as assistant stage manager, he has a long history with GAC, working costumes and as a member of the crew in *The Tempest* (TSSI in partnership with GAC), and anticipating to be back this summer to work as crew in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Richard Atha-Nicholls (Projection Design) was thrilled to be asked to design the projections for The Mountaintop. He is usually found in the tech booth at Colonial Players designing sound/projections or designing and programming the stream camera cuts. His sound design has garnered multiple WATCH nominations. Richard has appeared on area stages and in his spare time helps run Discworld™ conventions. He recently directed Colonial Players' production of *The Book of Will*. Love to C, A, P, K & I. Always in my heart, O.

Deana Cruz-Conner (Costume Design) is thrilled to be part of this wonderful production at Greenbelt Arts Center. Her credits include performing onstage in productions such as *The Color Purple*, *Dreamgirls*, *Sister Act*, and *La Cage Aux Folles*. In the last few years, Deana has been blessed to expand her talents to Costume Design. Her work has been seen in productions of *We are Proud*, *RENT* at ArtsCentric in Baltimore, *She Loves Me*, *Cinderella*, *The Lightning Thief* and most recently *The Wedding Singer* at Silhouette Stages and at Spotlighters Theatre in *Zanna Don't* and *title of show*. Deana is delighted to be a member of this great production team and thanks her family and friends for their unwavering love and support.

Sally Dodson (Stage Manager) is happy to return to GAC. Before the pandemic, she stage managed *Motherhood Out Loud* and was assistant stage manager for *Quadrille* at GAC plus stage managed *Last Night of Ballyhoo* for BCT. Previously at GAC, Sally stage managed *Perfect Arrangement* and *The Honey Trap* and ran sound and lights for the Rude Mechanicals' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. She served in many positions from set designer to lighting crew on various productions for the University of Maryland at College Park. Sally has also designed and built shows for the Follow Spot Children's Theatre in Fairfax and Adventure Theatre at Glen

Echo Park. She was the assistant stage manager for BCT's *Becky's New Car*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *Women of Lockerbie*, and *Absolutely Dead*. Sally was also PGLT's assistant stage manager for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

Anne Hull (Scenic Design/Painting) is a community theatre fan in all aspects of stagecraft, especially slinging paint. She has painted many sets in NoVa, for LMP, BCT and others. Favorite onstage roles include a tap-dancing showgirl in *Follies* (GSFC MAD), 'Granny Weatherwax' in *Wyrld Sisters* (GSFC MAD), 'Ouiser' in *Steel Magnolias* (Heritage Players & GSFC MAD), sleuthing as 'Miss Marple' in *A Murder is Announced*, (LMP), Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*, (UA), Mrs. Peacock in *Clue* (SUFT) and as the raging 'Abbess Agatha' in *Incorruptible* (GAC). She's still not behaving. Come join us in making the magic of the theatre!

Cheramie J. Jackson (Props) is a native of the DMV area, attending Howard University and UMD for Musical Theatre/Drama. She is an actress, producer, and dancer. She has been working in community theatre since 2004. Her favorite performances include A Chorus line, Secret Garden, Oklahoma, and The Color Purple. As a producer, her favorites are A Soldier's Play, 12 Angry Men and Crowns. All of her gratitude goes to God, her four amazing children, and stellar husband! Special thanks to Rikki the director, one of the greatest, and Doreen Roberts for her help gathering props. XO cast, crew, and Greenbelt Arts staff!! ~

Rikki Howie Lacewell (Director) is ecstatic to be directing again at GAC. She is a Performer, Choreographer, Director and Theatrical Diversity Consultant with over 105 shows under her belt. Lacewell's 2023-24 is "the" year of shows that challenge diversity in theater and beyond. Next up, *The Color Purple*, *How I Learned What I Learned*, *Wednesdays in Mississippi*, *Once on This Island*, *Dreamgirls* and a few more not yet under contract. Thanks to this cast and crew for sharing your time, talent and truth to tell this amazing story. Uber thanks to my hubby for holding down everything while I live out my theatrical journey.

#LoveNikki #LoveSelfFirst #TellingOurStories #MakeItPretty #MLK #TheBatonPassesOn

TJ Lukacsina (Lighting Design) is honored to be working with such a talented and dedicated cast and production team. He is the current Artistic Director for Silhouette Stages and recently won the 2019 WATCH Award for Outstanding Light Design for a Musical (*Cabaret*). LIGHTING: *The Lightning Thief, The Drowning Girls, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Jekyll & Hyde: An Immersive Experience, Striking 12, Always Patsy Cline, Murder Ballad, Cabaret, 'Night, Mother, Into the Woods, and Sweeney Todd*. DIRECTING: *The Lightning Thief, Cinderella, Hairspray, Big Fish, Legally Blonde, Into the Woods, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Sweeney Todd, White Christmas*. Many thanks to his friends and family who have continuously inspired him to do and be better.

Pamela Northrup (Producer) is more often performing rather than producing, but will pretty much do anything that Rikki asks her to do. Most recently seen as Tracey in *Sweat* with 2nd Star Productions, she has appeared on the GAC stage in nine productions since 2013 and will get to share the stage with her kid for the first time in GAC's June production of *The Patchwork Girl of Oz* as the Nightingale to Zoe's Ojo the Unlucky. She has served as the Vice President of Programs on the GAC Board of Directors since 2019. Love to my 'Qule, Kris, Laura, and Jim, and as always to my kiddo Zoe. I love you, Monkey.

Shemika Renée (Makeup and Hair) is an award winning makeup artist (WATCH 2013) and award nominated hair/makeup designer. She is delighted to collaborate on this beautiful production honoring one of our great Civil Rights leaders. With over 15 yrs design experience, she previously designed for *The Color Purple, A Raisin in the Sun, August Osage County, The Wiz, Ragtime* and *Seven Guitars* to name a few. She would like to thank her theatre family for their love, support and opportunities to create.

Coming Up At Greenbelt Arts Center

May 19 - June 3, 2023: ***The Children's Hour***

- Directed by Pauline Griller-Mitchell and John Bartkowiak

June 16 - July 8, 2023: ***The Patchwork Girl of Oz***

- Directed by Eliot Malumuth

July 21 - August 12, 2023: ***Merrily We Roll Along***

- Directed by Roy Hammond

Special thanks to

Dorreen Roberts

Ann Lowe-Barrett

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GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

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All events subject to change