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# ***DIESEL HEART***

Written by **Brian Grandison**

in collaboration with Melvin Carter Jr.

Directed by **Warren C. Bowles**

**MARCH 11 - APRIL 2, 2023**

**h**istory theatre

historytheatre.com | 651-292-4323

# A Historic Night Out!

*a Toast to What's Next*

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APRIL 15, 2023

ANNUAL BENEFIT

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## Land Acknowledgement

History Theatre sits on the ancestral, traditional and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, and political significance. We recognize and honor the Dakota people, ancestors, and descendants, as well as the land itself, and all the sovereign Native nations in Minnesota and beyond. We recognize that this acknowledgement itself is not enough, and only serves as a first step towards decolonization.



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to History Theatre,

I am honored and humbled to have been chosen to lead History Theatre into its next chapter by building on the theatre's legacy of success to continue to make it a vital and celebrated part of the lives of the people of Minnesota.

I am looking forward to working together with Managing Director Karen Mueller to see the rest of the current season through and begin planning for next season. History Theatre's mission speaks directly to my heart. I appreciate the company's passion for bringing historical events and iconic figures to life in ways that touch our hearts and move us to action. History at its essence is about our shared stories, ideas, hopes and dreams and creating theatre that draws on our collective past allows us to reflect our world and illuminate our present in ways that enlighten, educate, and entertain our audiences.

I have been part of the History Theatre community for many years and directed productions including *The Meeting* (1991-92), *The Brotherhood* (1995-96), *Summer in the Shadows* (2001-02), *Joe* (2003-04), *Nellie* (2012-13), and just last season *Not in our Neighborhood!* (2021-22). In the time I've been associated with History Theatre, I've truly come to treasure the amazing work and the spectacular community of theatre professionals who have built and sustained it. I look forward to working in my new role with the talented staff and artists who have worked with History Theatre in the past, as well as engaging new and emerging artists from the theatre community.

Enjoy *Diesel Heart* and I hope to see you at the theatre again soon!

*Richard D. Thompson*



FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Welcome to the History Theatre's production of *Diesel Heart* by Brian Grandison. Based on his autobiography, Melvin Carter Jr.'s story is full of grit, perseverance, and joy. Born and raised in the Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul, Melvin's larger-than-life character still makes an impact in his community. I've experienced it first-hand, whether at the check-out line at the Co-op or at the local YWCA. No matter where I run into him, he knows everybody and their families, and everybody knows him! He and his amazing wife Toni Carter (Ramsey County Commissioner) are active residents of Rondo who give back to the neighborhood and the city. So, we invite you to take in this tale of a real son of St. Paul. And we're glad to introduce him to you.

Join us on April 15 at the St. Paul Event Center for the History Theatre's annual benefit, "A Historic Night Out." Prepare for some springtime fun in April to benefit the theater. And, consider purchasing your tickets for *The Defeat of Jesse James*, a not-to-be-missed new musical by *Glensheen* creators Chan Poling and Jeffrey Hatcher. Opening night is April 29.

Thanks for your support of History Theatre and see you soon at one of these great events.

*Karen Mueller*

**To make a donation, visit  
[www.HistoryTheatre.com/donate](http://www.HistoryTheatre.com/donate)  
or call the Box Office at 651-292-4323.**

*Thank you for your support!*



SCAN ME

SUPPORT HISTORY THEATRE  
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FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I got a call from Ron in the early part of 2019. I remember because I was just about to leave town to fly to Jamaica to co-lead a workshop at the University of the West Indies in Kingston. He wanted to talk about the book *Diesel Heart* by Melvin Carter Jr., which he'd just read. He said, I think you know Melvin and Toni. I said, I do. I said, we've been friends for a long time. I'm also friends with Anika, Melvin III, and Alanna, their children. And I know their grandchildren from doing summer arts camps and directing them in plays at Steppingstone Theater. So, we go wa-ay back.

Ron gave me his copy of the book, which I took with me to Jamaica. After the workshop and meetings in Kingston, I knew I'd have time to sit on a beach and decompress. And that's where I planned to read Melvin's book.

I am sure some of the people on the beach thought I'd lost my mind, or that I'd ingested some of the local product because I kept laughing out loud and talking back to the book. I'd walk along the beach and talk back to the characters in the book. I'd empathize with his parents and wonder over and over, how is Melvin still alive? And if you ask Melvin, he will tell you, it was "grace."

After I got back in town, Ron set up a meeting in his office. It was Ron, Melvin, Laurie Flanigan Hegge, and me. Melvin showed up and started telling stories. This made Laurie laugh out loud and for a very long time. That "inspired" Melvin to tell more stories. And that just made Laurie lose her mind and laugh even more. Deep belly laughs. Turning sideways, laughing. We all agreed there was a play that needed to be written.

Melvin and I started to meet regularly. We'd sit at the table in his house. We meet at coffee shops in town. Or he'd take me for a drive in his car around the city and talk about what St. Paul was like back in the day. He would tell me stories that didn't make it into the book. He would talk reverentially about his parents, and his family, and the community that is/was Rondo.

And I tried to listen. I tried to pay attention. I tried to include all of what I learned and find a place for those thoughts and people in this play, *Diesel Heart*. I hope you like what I've done. I also hope it will inspire you to want to get and read the book. I highly recommend reading it on a beach in Jamaica. Just kidding. Read it when and wherever you can. You won't regret it.

*Brian Grandison*



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Director, playwright, artistic director program notes often start by telling you what drew them to the story. I came to this project in the middle of the process of development. Decisions had been made and I had to catch up, keep up. One reading of the book, *Diesel Heart*, let me know that I was being welcomed in to the telling of a wonderful story. I admonished the actors to, “Read the book. Read the book! Read the Book!!” I encourage you, the audience, to do the same when you leave the theater.

Know, however, that even reading the book does not tell the whole story. In the rehearsal room Seitu Jones and Rick Thompson shared stories of their experiences with the Carter family and the Rondo neighborhood. Brian Grandison shared stories drawn from countless hours spent with Melvin and other people we meet in the play. Then there is Melvin, himself, who came into the room and not only told us stories, but laid bare his fears and weaknesses. Melvin, who has said he felt at one time, “so insignificant, unworthy of even a fundamental simple courtesy. Okay, God! My soul screamed. I face the towering treetops and shouted, ‘I just wanna know if I’m going to make it, or not!... just give me some kind of sign! Am I gonna survive this?’” A strong wind blew, and from the treetops Melvin received his message from God.

Read the book. But first enjoy our production.

Thank you Melvin, Rick, Brian, and Ron Peluso for inviting me onboard.

*Warren C. Bowles*

# DIESEL HEART

Written by Brian Grandison  
Directed by Warren C. Bowles

## TIME/PLACE

### Act One

Bouknadel, US Naval Base, Morocco, North Africa, 1969,  
and then back in time to 1954.

### Act Two

Sunday, April 28, 1974. St. Paul, and then it moves forward in time.

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There will be one 15 minute intermission.

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## THE CAST

**Melvin Carter Jr.**..... Mikell Sapp\*  
**Young Melvin**..... Calvin Zimmerman  
**Ensemble**..... Pearce Bunting\*, Ron Collier, Peyton Dixon\*,  
..... Darius Dotch\*, Camrin King, Eric Knutson,  
..... Ninchai Nok-Chiclana, Monica E. Scott\*

**SPECIAL THANKS**  
The Costume Collective



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The Director is a member of the  
STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

^ United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829  
of the IATSE is the union representing  
Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound and  
Projection Designers in Live Performance.

\* denotes a Member of Actors' Equity Association  
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and Choreographers Society, Inc.  
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of Musicians Local #3073



## ARTISTIC TEAM

**Director**..... Warren C. Bowles  
**Stage Manager** ..... Laura Topham\*  
**Costume Designer** ..... Joe Burch  
**Scenic Designer** ..... Seitu Jones  
**Lighting/Video Designer**..... Kathy Maxwell  
**Properties Designer**..... Abbee Warmboe  
**Sound Designer** ..... Katharine Horowitz  
**Assistant Stage Manager** ..... Jason Clusman\*  
**Associate Video Designer** ..... Leslie Ritenour  
**Fight Choreographer**..... Annie Enneking  
**Intimacy Coach**..... Elizabeth M. Desotelle\*

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Light Board Programmer**..... Noah Davis  
**Stage Electricians** ..... Dante Benjegerdes, Sasha Blinnikoa, Noah Davis,  
 ..... Shannon Elliot, Kurt Jung, Andrew Norfolk  
**Master Carpenter**..... Zachary Morgan  
**Carpenters** ..... Brian Hesser, Evan Sima  
**Apprentice Carpenter** ..... Ian Iosso  
**Scenic Artist**..... Erika Soukup  
**Costume Assistant**..... Meghan Kent  
**Open Captioner** ..... Sheila Bland



This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.



**Please turn off cell phones.**



**No recording, tapping, photography is allowed.**

Thank you!

**We Need YOU!**

Volunteers are vital in helping us create and stage new work.

Email [volunteer@historytheatre.com](mailto:volunteer@historytheatre.com)



FROM THE EDUCATION MANAGER

Welcome to History Theatre. Whether you're a first timer or a veteran supporter, we're glad you're here to celebrate the extraordinary life of Melvin Carter Jr. and what an amazing life it has been and continues to be!

Celebrating the journey of a life is the guiding principle behind all of our educational programming: whether working with young people just beginning to understand the story of their lives or with folks who have already walked a long road, we honor the histories carried inside.

This spring we are thrilled to be continuing a number of longstanding partnerships we have in the community.

We've just begun our winter and spring residency at Vail Place, working with members there who generously and bravely share the stories of their lives living with a mental health diagnosis. There will be a public sharing in May to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Month, and you can expect generous doses of heart and humor on our stage that evening.

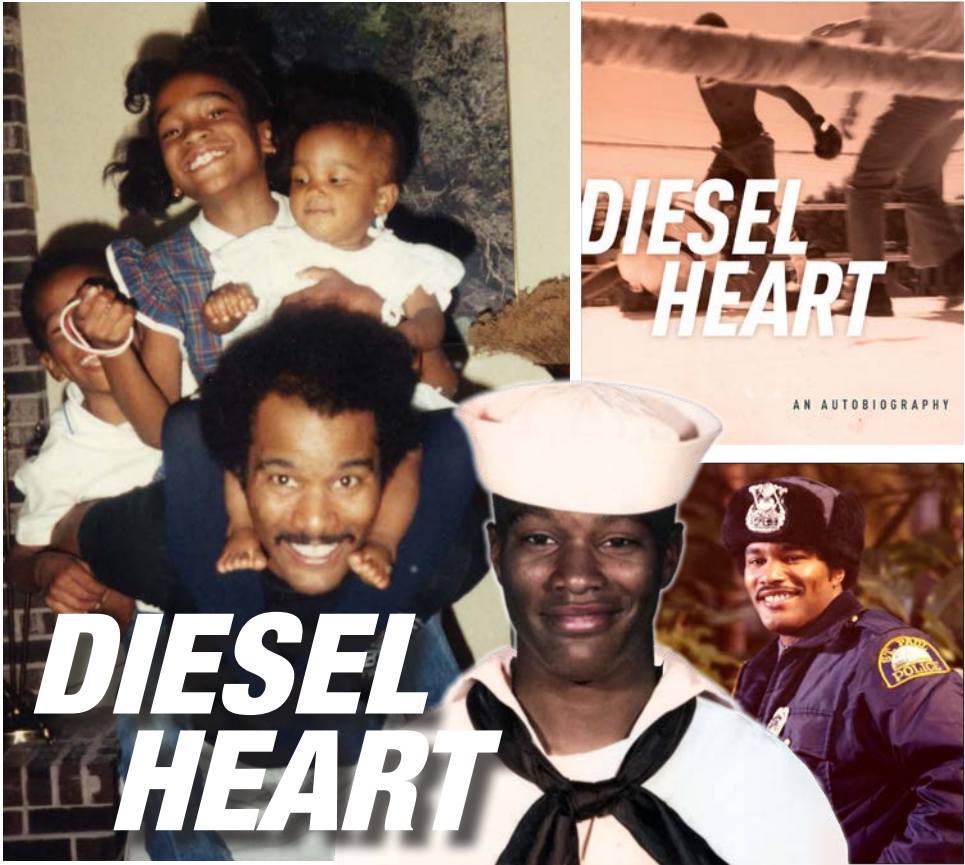
We are also working again with Minnesota Independence College and Community (MICC) to guide these post-secondary students toward discovering and claiming their stories. MICC serves the neurodiverse community, and so the stories they share are full of the unique perspective they bring.

Finally, we are proud to enter our 11th consecutive year of taking our Seats to Stage program into metro high schools in the spring. Our goal of encouraging young people to think of their lives as a story that they -- and they alone can tell starts here. We will have more information soon, but we look forward to continuing the journey.

And now, enjoy the show!

*Paul de Cordova*





# DIESEL HEART

(above) Melvin Carter Jr. with his three children, Alanna, Anika, and the future St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter III, at home in St. Paul. (center) Melvin Carter Jr. served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. (right) Melvin Whitfield Carter Jr. served as an officer in the St. Paul Police Department for 28 years. (Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society Press)



Melvin Carter Jr., center, visits with Robert Crump, left, and Larry Hamilton, two men Carter's Save Our Sons program mentored when they were youths, at a fundraiser for the organization in St. Paul in 2009. (Chris Polydoroff / Pioneer Press)



Courtesy: Save Our Sons

From Save Our Sons

**T**he Diesel Heart story is still being written.

*Diesel Heart*, the play and the book, are just a

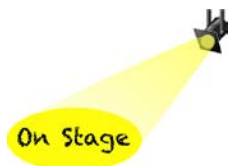
small part of the story of Melvin Carter Jr.

Ever since the 1974 murders of his cousins Henry and Gregory, Melvin Carter Jr.'s life mission has been to prevent other families from getting "that phone call" in the middle of the night. To that end, in the early 1990s he created

SAVE OUR SONS with other men in our community. They started by offering a Saturday Academy and made regular night raid intercessions into the homes of young men at the request of frightened single mothers. Through these and other SOS programs hundreds of east metro young men have been mentored into leaving gang life and becoming proud productive members of the community.

Melvin Carter Jr., now a retired Sargent from the St. Paul Police Department, continues the work of SAVE OUR SONS. He does that with weekly visits to the Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), where over the years he has visited with over 2500 young men who most need de-escalation coaching. Particularly at the JDC, Melvin Carter Jr. has developed a particular communication wave link with the most troubled, vulnerable amongst us, the ones most likely to become victims or the victimizers. He also makes regular

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



12

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onstagemn.com



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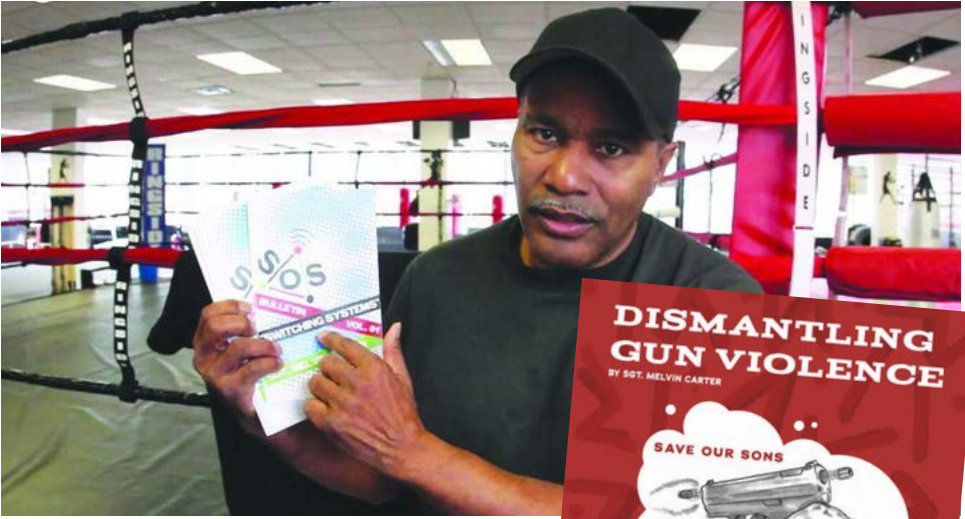
East Side Freedom Library  
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eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
St. Paul

YWCA  
ywcastpaul.org



Rondo Community  
Land Trust  
rondocl.org



mentoring visits to local schools, boxing gyms and other community locations where he meets with and mentors at-risk young men and women. We believe that his contacts have had a direct effect of reducing crime in the east metro area.

With students at Gordon Parks High School, Melvin is developing the SOS GUN SANITY project with written materials, a gun violence avoidance video for parents, elders, clergy, and ultimately schools, tools to provide youth with avoidance and de-escalation skills. Over the past 20 years, he has already prepared and produced booklets and videos on violence avoidance. In our next stage of work SOS is focused on developing, and producing stronger, higher quality materials, humanizing victims, families, especially highlighting the painful price, the regrets of having taken a human life.

Melvin Carter's storytelling is rooted in challenging gun glorification language, presumptions and conclusions. His leadership skill is the power of reaching the unreachable and teaching the unteachable, through the power of story and storyteller.



## SUPPORT SAVE OUR SONS!

Make a donation at [saveoursonsmn.com](http://saveoursonsmn.com)

Attend our annual fundraiser  
June 16, 2023

405 North Western Ave, St. Paul  
(home of Melvin and Toni Carter)

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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Save Our Sons  
[saveoursonsmn.com](http://saveoursonsmn.com)



ArtsUs  
[arts-us.org](http://arts-us.org)

# On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater

History Theatre is thrilled to be partnering with *On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater*. On Stage, a fiscally-sponsored program through Springboard for the Arts, brings actors and teaching artists to college classrooms around the Twin Cities. Local actors and students read scenes from a play in current local production followed by a lively discussion of the themes tying in current events, personal values and narratives, and stimulating critical thinking. Subsequently attending the full play is encouraged.

Since On Stage was launched in the fall of 2016, they have partnered with 12 theater companies in the Twin Cities, covering 26 plays. Over 6500 students have been introduced to new theater and new theater venues through the plays that On Stage has promoted and discussed in classrooms, and more than 29 percent of these students paid to



On Stage

see the performance that we've promoted and discussed. On Stage continues to focus on partnering with small/mid-sized theaters that don't have the resources for their own outreach efforts.

Over the course of two weeks in March, On Stage teaching artists will facilitate in-class discussions about "Mlima's Tale" with over 400+ students in 18 classes at University of Minnesota, Augsburg University, Macalester College, University of St. Thomas, St. Catherine University, MCTC, Century College, Hennepin Technical College, Normandale Community College, and Inver Hills Community College.

For more information about On Stage, visit: [onstagemn.org](http://onstagemn.org).

## FOR SALE AT CONCESSIONS

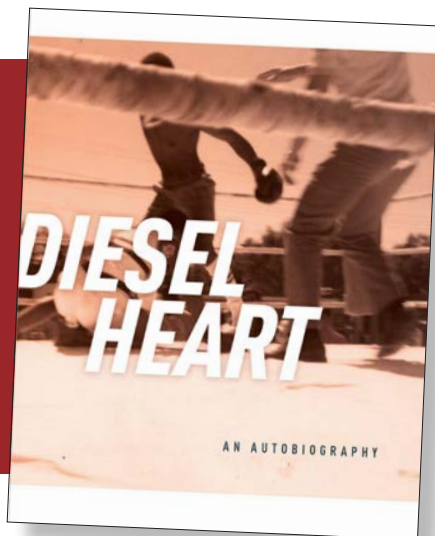
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# DIESEL HEART

## \$17

(tax included)

Learn more about the stories that inspired the honest, no-holds-barred play, *Diesel Heart*.



# The Cast



## PEARCE BUNTING\* (he/him)

Ensemble

**History Theatre:** *Parks, Dance 'Til You Drop, All The Way, The Great Society, The Things They Carried, Radio Man.*

**Theater:** The Illusion Theater: *Five Minutes of Heaven; Park Square Theatre: Holmes and Watson, Riddle Puzzle Plot; Open Eye Theatre: The*

*Holiday Pageant, Cabinet of Wonders; Ten Thousand Things Theater: As You Like It, Pericles; Theater Latté Da: Peter and The Starcatcher; Theatre Novi Most: The Seagull, The Master Builder, Rehearsal Failure; Points of View: The Life and Loves of Sinclair Lewis; Children's Theatre Company: A Wrinkle in Time. Other: Mamma Mia (Broadway, national tour), Boardwalk Empire (HBO). Training: Yale School of Drama.*



## RON COLLIER (he/him)

Ensemble

**History Theatre:** *Not For Sale, The Great Society, All The Way, Nellie, Baby Case. Theater:* Ron is a seasoned actor, musician, writer, and all-around performer with more than 35 years on many stages around the country.



## PEYTON DIXON\* (he/him)

Ensemble

**History Theatre:** *Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, Runestone!, Christmas of Swing, Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story. Theater:* Ten Thousand Things Theater: *Thunder Knocking on the Door; Transatlantic Love Affair: Promise Land.*

*Artistry: Hairspray. Stages Theatre Company: Little Mermaid, Jr.; Paul Bunyan Playhouse: Smokey Joe's Café; Morris Park Players: Shrek, The Musical; Actors Theater of Minnesota: A Miracle on Christmas Lake; The Rochester Civic Theatre: Jesus Christ Superstar, Elf; CCP: 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee; Theatre L'Homme Dieu: Clue. IG: dixon\_peyton*



## DARIUS DOTCH\* (he/him)

Ensemble

**History Theatre:** *Parks, Not in Our Neighborhood!, Lombardi, A Civil War Christmas. Theater:* Guthrie Theater: *Sweat, A Raisin in the Sun; Dark & Stormy Productions: Jacuzzi; Yellow Tree Theatre: Skeleton Crew; Penumbra Theatre: Pipeline, Wedding*

*Band, Detroit '67; Park Square Theatre: A Raisin in the Sun, The Color Purple, Stick Fly; Ten Thousand Things Theater: Intimate Apparel; Jungle Theater: Bars and Measures; Children's Theatre Company: Akeelah and the Bee; Mixed Blood: Colossal; Pillsbury House Theatre: Marcus, or the Secret of Sweet (Ivey Award for Best Ensemble), The Road Weeps, the Well Runs Dry, Broke-ology. Other: ESPN Final Four, The Influencer, Black Star; Hip-hop artist-Streaming on all platforms. Training: B.A., St. Cloud State University. Upcoming: Music and podcast: linktr.ee/DariusDotch ; IG @dariusdotch*



## CAMRIN KING (she/her)

Ensemble

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:**

Minnesota Fringe: *Black Wall St.; Dreamland Theatre MCTC: Redemption; Lyric Arts: A Raisin in the Sun; Steppingstone Theatre: Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters; Fridley Community*

*Theatre: The Dining Room. Other: Web series - Hidden Falls; Commercials/Ads - Cenex, Best Buy, Royal Casino, General Mills and Carousel Motor Group; Dance - Afrocontigbo (professional dance company) and Afrobrates fitness instructor. Training: Bachelor of Arts in Theater, University of Northwestern in St. Paul. Upcoming: Nimbus Theatre: The Burning of Greenwood*



## ERIC KNUTSON (he/him)

Ensemble

**History Theatre:** *Not for Sale, Great Society, All the Way, Orphan Train, George Bonga: Black Voyageur, River Road Boogie: The Augie Garcia Story, This Side of Paradise, Lombardi, Capital Crimes, 1968: The Year That Rocked*

*the World, The Christmas Schooner. Theater:* Park Square Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Theatre Unbound, Theatre in the Round, Jungle Theatre, Girl Friday, Artistry, Lyric Arts and Commonweal Theatre Company. Training: Moorhead State University and Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London.



## NINCHAI NOK-CHICLANA (she/her)

Ensemble

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:**

Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol. Lyric Arts: The Girl on the Train. Exposed Brick Theatre: Freeing Assata. Theatre Pro Rata: Top Girls, Orlando. Lakeshore Players Theatre: The Little Mermaid.*

**Other:** Played Tituba in 'I Was There' (The History Channel), Bomba (Afro-Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance/Music) teacher. IG/Website: @ninchaitea / www.ninchai.me



## MIKELL SAPP\* (he/him)

Melvin Carter Jr.

**History Theatre:** *A Crack In The Sky, Parks. Theater:* Pillsbury House Theatre: *Charlie Black; Penumbra Theatre: Ballad of Emmett Till; Yellow Tree Theatre: Skeleton Crew; Children's Theatre Company: The Snowy Day,*

*Mixed Blood Theatre: Pussy Valley. Awards:* 2015 Ivey Award for Emerging Artist. Training: Bachelor of Arts, Alabama State University. Upcoming: Guthrie Theater: *Shane.*



## MONICA E. SCOTT\* (she/her)

Ensemble

**History Theatre:** *Buddy! The Buddy Holly Story, Parks: Portrait of a Young Artist, Not for Sale. Theater:* Children's Theatre Company, Illusion Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, Guthrie Theater. **Other:** *Take Care of Yourself* (short film). Training: BFA,

North Carolina A&T State University; MFA, U of M Twin Cities.

BIOS continued, page 14



National  
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The Director is a member of the  
STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

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BIOS continued from page 13



**CALVIN ZIMMERMAN (he/him)**

*Young Melvin*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Children's Theater Company: *How The Grinch Stole Christmas, Last Stop on Market Street, Something Happened In Our Town*. Park Square Theatre: *A Raisin In The Sun*.

## The Creative Team

**WARREN C. BOWLES (he/him)**

*Director*

This is Warren's History Theatre debut. He has directed *Permanent Collection, The Boys Next Door* (Mixed Blood Theatre), *As You Like It* (Kingsmen Shakespeare Company), *The Tale Of The Allergist's Wife* (Six Points Theatre), *Constant Star* (Park Square Theatre), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Hope Summer Repertory Theatre), and others around the country. His degrees come from the University of Minnesota and the University of Notre Dame, with studies at l'Université Catholique de l'Ouest (Angers, France). He received a 2016 Ivey Award for directing and a 2005 McKnight Fellowship for Theater Artists.

**BRIAN GRANDISON (he/him)**

*Playwright*

Brian has worked as an actor, writer, director, educator, and artist-in-residence locally, around the country, and internationally. For History Theatre, Brian wrote a section for *Under the Stars & Stripes: Stories of WWII* about the Tuskegee Airman. His play, *Adrift on the Mississippi* premiered in 2011. Besides working on *Diesel Heart*, Brian wrote and helped produce *Redemption*. He has worked as an actor at History Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, Illusion Theater, Pillsbury House Theater, Theater Latté Da and Full Circle Theater. In Chicago he worked at the Goodman Theater and in NYC, Brooklyn Academy of Music. As an educator, Brian teaches at Minneapolis College and has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul. Also, he travelled as a Fulbright Specialist teaching in the communities of Bethabra, Bellefield, and Granville, Jamaica. Finally, for the past 8 years, he's had the pleasure of working on a theater workshop between the History Theatre and Vail Place in Minneapolis.

**LAURA TOPHAM\* (she/her)**

*Stage Manager*

**History Theatre:** *Parks, Not for Sale*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *The Little Prince, A Raisin in the Sun*. Yellow Tree Theatre: *A Streetcar Named Desire, Another Miracle on Christmas Lake, Sherwood*. Park Square Theatre: Over 25 productions including *Holmes and Watson, The Rocky Horror Show, Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant, The Diary of Anne Frank*. Theatre Latté Da: *Candide, Beautiful Thing*. Collide Theatrical Dance Company: *Romeo and Juliet*. Artistry: *Follies*. **Training:** BA Theatre Arts, University of Minnesota. **Upcoming:** Guthrie Theater: *Murder on the Orient Express*.

**JASON CLUSMAN\* (he/him)**

*Assistant Stage Manager*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *Stage Manager: Twelfth Night, Steel Magnolias, Metamorphoses, The Great Leap, The Legend of Georgia McBride, Indecent, Refugia, Disgraced, Stage Kiss, Joe Dowling's Tribute Gala, The Crucible, Crimes of the Heart, Pride and Prejudice, The Birds, A Christmas Carol*; Assistant Stage Manager: *Guys and Dolls, Noises Off, An Enemy of the People, Native Gardens,*

*King Lear, Trouble in Mind, The Critic/The Real Inspector Hound, A Christmas Carol, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Nice Fish, Roman Holiday, Much Ado About Nothing, Arsenic and Old Lace, The Master Butchers Singing Club, M. Butterfly, When We Are Married, Caroline, or Change, The Government Inspector, Third, 1776, The Merchant of Venice*; Production Assistant: *The Sex Habits of American Women*. Ten Thousand Things: *Iphigenia at Aulis*. Shapiro & Smith Dance, Quicksilver Productions, Three Legged Race Productions, Playwrights' Center, Penumbra Theatre, Minnesota Centennial Showboat, Walker Art Center: *Ocean*. **Other:** North Star events: COVID-19 testing and vaccinations for the State of Minnesota, One Minnesota Inauguration celebrations for Gov. Walz administration. **Training:** B.A., University of Minnesota.

**SEITU JONES (he/him)**

*Scenic Designer*

**History Theatre:** *Parks*. **Theater:** Penumbra Theater (company member), Children's Theater Company, Guthrie Theater, Illusion Theater, Ananya Dance Theatre, Pangea World Theater, and Park Square Theatre. **Other:** Working on his own or in collaboration with other artists or communities, Seitu has created over 40 large-scale public artworks. **Awards:** Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship, a McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship, a Bush Artist Fellowship, a Bush Leadership Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts/Theater Communication Group (NEA/TCG) Designer Fellowship, a McKnight Distinguished Artist Award and a Loeb Fellowship at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Seitu was millennium artist-in-residence for 651 Arts, in Brooklyn, NY and was the first Artist-in-Residence for the City of Minneapolis and created artwork for three stations for the new Greenline Light Rail Transit system in the Twin Cities. **Upcoming:** A 2013 Joyce Award, from Chicago's Joyce Foundation allowed Seitu to develop CREATE: The Community Meal, a dinner for 2000 people at a table ½ mile long that will focus on access to healthy food. In addition, he is working with members of his neighborhood to create a 5-acre farm in a new city park in Frogtown, St. Paul. **Training:** B.S. Landscape Design, MLS Environmental History, University of Minnesota.

BIOS continued, page 19

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## BIOS from page 14

### KATHY MAXWELL (she/her)

*Lighting/Video Designer*

**History Theatre:** *Parks, Not in Our Neighborhood, Not For Sale, All the Way.* **Theater:** Penumbra Theatre: *Benevolence, White Card.* Children's Theatre Company: *Locomotion.* **Jungle Theatre:** *Ride the Cyclone, The Nether.* **Training:** MFA University of Minnesota

### KATHARINE HOROWITZ (she/her)

*Sound Designer*

**History Theatre:** *The Root Beer Lady, Superman Becomes Lois Lane, Stewardess!, A Crack in the Sky, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin.* **Theater:** Guthrie Theater, Creede Repertory Theatre, Jungle Theater, Theater Mu, Mixed Blood Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Second City Theatricals, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, Walking Shadow Theatre, Gremlin Theatre, and many others. **Awards:** 2017 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow. **Training:** B.A., Theatre Arts, University of Iowa. **Upcoming:** *Bakersfield Mist, Gremlin Theatre; An American Tail, Children's Theatre Company.* **Info:** katsound.com

### ABBEE WARMBOE (she/her)

*Properties Designer*

**History Theatre:** *The Root Beer Lady, Runestone! A Rock Musical, Parks: Portrait of a Young Artist, Gloria: A Life, Lord Gordon Gordon, The Highwaymen, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin,* among others. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Hello Dolly!, Christmas at the Local, Merrily We Roll Along.* Pillsbury House Theatre: *Bull- Jean Stories, What to Send Up.* Guthrie Theater: *The Little Prince, Emma, Sweat, Vietgone;* among others. **Awards:** 2020-21

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### ELIZABETH M. DESOTELLE (she/her)

*Intimacy Coach*

**History Theatre:** *Intimacy Direction Debut, understudy Not For Sale, ASM for Glensheen, and Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story.* **Training:** Consent Forward Artist certification from Intimacy Directors and Coordinators in New York City. Her credits include over 100 hours of combined studies in workshops and classes at Intimacy Directors and Coordinators in NYC, and Theatrical Intimacy Education in North Carolina. **Info:** bethdesotelle.com

### LESLIE RITENOUR (she/her)

*Associate Video Designer*

**History Theatre:** *The Root Beer Lady.* **Theater:** University of Minnesota, Video Designer: *She Kills Monsters, Silent Sky.* **Training:** B.S. Psychology & B.A. Theatre Arts, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. **IG:** @Babybeanlettuce\_art

### JOE BURCH (he/him)

*Costume Designer*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Ten-Thousand Things Theatre Company: *Mlima's Tale.* **Ordway:** *Beauty & the Beast.* Park Square Theatre: *Snowy Day.* Penumbra Theatre: *Black Nativity, Weathering.* **Artistry:** Memphis. Buffalo Community Theatre. **Other:** Dillard University's 150th Anniversary Commercial (May 2019- Nov. 2021) **Training:** Theatre Technology, Dillard University Current. **Upcoming:** Penumbra Theatre: *Sugar in Our Wounds* **Info:** Bit.ly/jb3portfolio

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