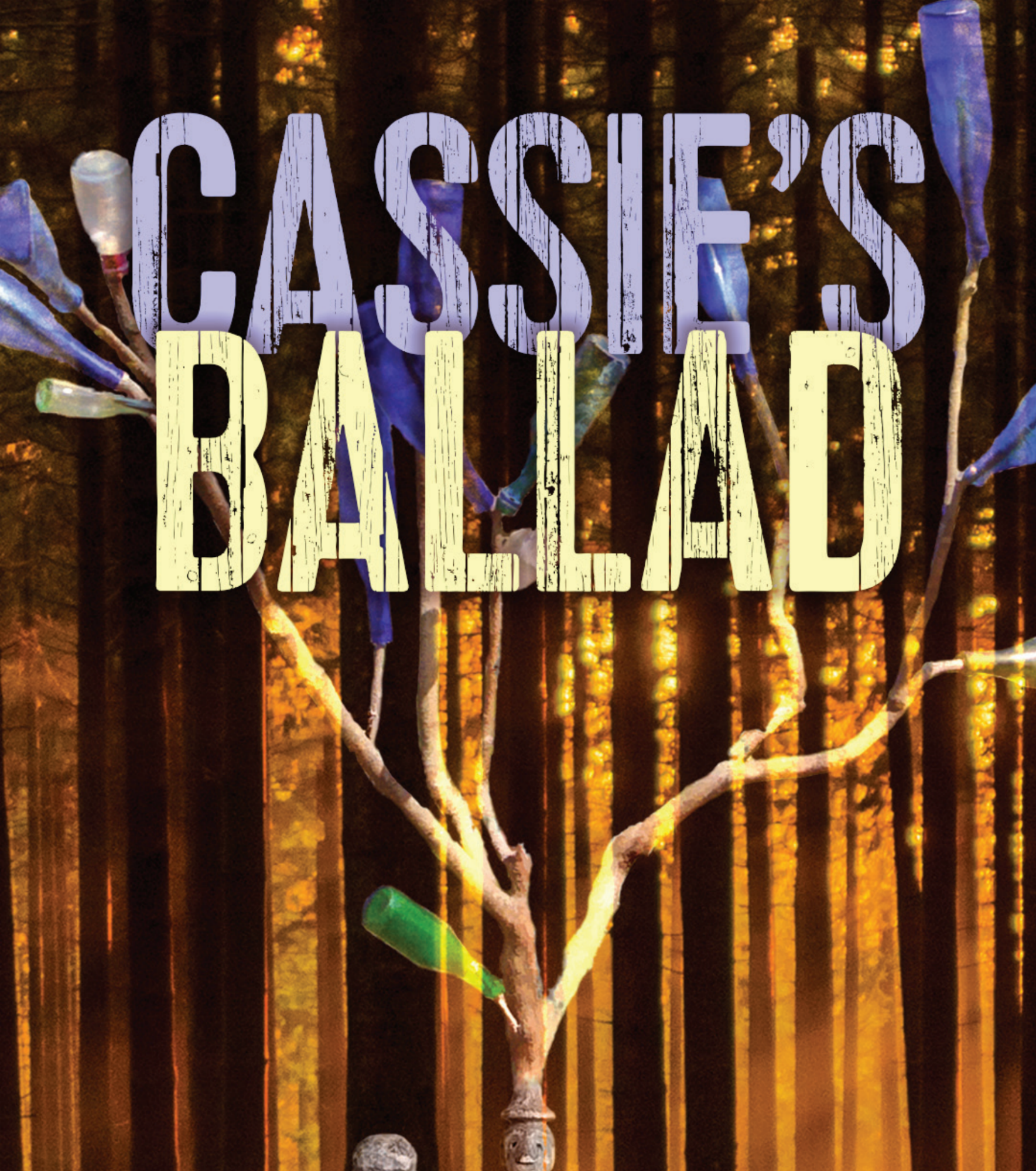
CASSIE'S BALLAD



PRODUCED BY
FOUND STAGES,
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
HUSH HARBOR LAB.

LEAD PRODUCER - NICHOLE PALMIETTO
PRODUCER - NEELEY GOSSETT
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER - AMINA MCINTYRE
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER - ADDAE MOON
CREATIVE PRODUCER - LYDIA FORT

PLAYWRIGHT - ADDAE MOON
DIRECTOR - LYDIA FORT

ASST DIRECTOR/DRAMATURG - KAYLA PARKER

SET DESIGNER - MASUD OLUFANI
LIGHTING DESIGNER - JOEY SWIFT
SOUND DESIGNER - WINSTON JOHNSON
COSTUME DESIGNER - NYROBI MOSS
PROPS DESIGNER - RACHEL GRAF EVANS
CHOREOGRAPHER - ANGELA HARRIS

PRODUCTION MANAGER - JENNIFER KIMBALL
STAGE MANAGER - MAHALA DAWN
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER - LIZ CONNELL
RUN CREW - KAILEE WANG
RUN CREW AND CHILD WRANGLER - T.J. RUTH

HOUSE MANAGER AND BOX OFFICE MANAGER
ANTERIOR LEVERETT
ASST HOUSE MANAGER - VERONICA SANDERS
HOUSE MANAGEMENT TEAM MEMBER
HILLARY HEATH

MARKETING MANAGER - PRECIOUS WEST
GRAPHIC DESIGNER - CHRISTOPHER FAIRCHILD
WEB DESIGNER - JOSH AKEMAN
PHOTOGRAPHER - CASEY GARDNER FORD
VIDEOGRAPHERS - EVAN WILLIAMS AND ALAN GOLDMAN OF GASLIGHT PICTUREHOUSE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR
CANDI DUGAS
GRAPHIC DESIGNER (COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS)
MARMIX GRAPHIC DESIGNS

BRANDON (ALTERNATING NIGHTS)

KCAJ WALKER SMITH
BRANDON (ALTERNATING NIGHTS)
KYRUN WALKER SMITH
MRS. JEFFERS - ANTONIA LACHE'
TERRANCE - ANTHONY NASH
ANCESTOR (MAVIS) - MIA KRISTIN SMITH
ANCESTOR UNDERSTUDY (MARVIN) - T.J. RUTH
CASSIE - YAKINI HORN

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
NA'TAKI OSBORNE JELKS AND THE WAWA STAFF, CHARLES STEPHENS OF THE COUNTER NARRATIVE PROJECT, DOUGLAS SCOTT OF FULL RADIUS DANCE, AIJCAST AND MUDEIF PRODUCTIONS, SYNCHRONICITY THEATRE, EMORY UNIVERSITY, AND THE FOUND STAGES BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CASSIE'S BALLAD WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH THE REISER ATLANTA ARTISTS LAB AT ALLIANCE THEATRE, ATLANTA, GA; SUSAN V. BOOTH, JENNINGS HERTZ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR; MIKE SCHLEIFER, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

This world premiere production of *Cassie's Ballad* is produced by **Found Stages**, in partnership with **Hush Harbor Lab.**

FOUND STAGES LEADERSHIP

CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
NICHOLE PALMIETTO

CO-FOUNDER AND RESIDENT PLAYWRIGHT

NEELEY GOSSETT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JAMES A. ALEXANDER, JR. (CHAIR);
DR. HELEN BAKER (VICE CHAIR);
ALISON HUDSON HARRELL (SECRETARY);
EVAN SCOTT (TREASURER); SLAY ROWE

HUSH HARBOR LAB LEADERSHIP

CO-FOUNDER
AMINA MCINTYRE

CO-FOUNDER
ADDAE MOON

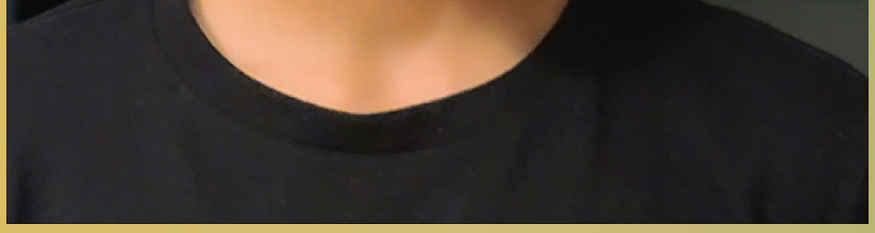
FOUND STAGES builds community through innovative storytelling. Since 2014, **Found Stages** has been taking plays out of the theater and into real world spaces throughout Metro Atlanta. In 2015-16, **Found Stages** was part of the second round of the prestigious and highly competitive **Alliance Theatre Reiser Atlanta Artists LAB.** In 2019, the company presented the groundbreaking ***Frankenstein's Funeral*** (named as one of the best plays of 2019 by ArtsATL) throughout the Gothic campus of St. John's Lutheran Church in Druid Hills. Learn more at **foundstages.org.**

HUSH HARBOR LAB is a brave space for the development and production of new and innovative digi-

tal, live and multi-media performance work by Black Atlanta-based artists. **Hush Harbor** strives to be a space that promotes wellness, self-care and the sacred within the Black arts community with the recognition that caring for the full person (body, mind, spirit) encourages better art. Learn more at **hushharborlab.com**.

CAST BIOS

KCAJ WALKER-SMITH *(BRANDON)* is a young actor and singer. He has done work Atlanta and surrounding areas. Atlanta: as an actor he can be seen in KEPT; a staged reading of Bitter Fruit, as well as a podcast for Actor's Express titled Crossroads...Kcaj also had the privilege of starring as Rooster MSGA stage presentation of JUNIOR ANNIE. Regional: He had the pleasure of portraying Boy in Only Some of God's Children and EJ in Brave New World Repertory Theatre's production of The Killing of Kings. Kcaj strives to give his very best and works hard at fulfilling his dreams. and thanks God and his family for always standing with him.



KYRUN WALKER-SMITH *(BRANDON)* is an up and coming young actor and singer. He will have the privilege of starring as KRISTOFF in MSGA's production of Frozen. Kyrun is excited about making his professional debut with Found Stages. He thanks God and his family for holding him up and pushing him forward.

MIA KRISTIN SMITH *(ANCESTOR MAVIS)* is a professional Director, Actor, Writer, Producer and Dramaturg. She holds an MFA from the New School of Drama in NYC, a BA focused on media studies

and playwriting, and an AA in Theater Production. She has also studied at HB Studios in NYC where she focused on the Meisner technique. Mia is also a drama instructor, stage combat choreographer, and works by using drama for therapy. Her company, Karibu Performing Arts, LLC where she is the Former Artistic Director, has produced several thought provoking, socioeconomic, plays in the city of Atlanta and its surrounding areas. She has performed on many stages in cities such as New Orleans, Los Angeles, New York, and Atlanta. She has directed and produced TOPDOG/UNDERDOG and BreaTHe; and written, directed and produced, KEPT. She also Directed and Performed for Black Theater Festival, Circle of Women, New African Grove, Rising Stage, and Out of Box Theaters. Additionally, she has Stage Managed for Theatre du Rêve; Directed, Stage Managed, or Dramaturg Staged Readings for Working Title Playwrights and Out Of Hand Theater. Mia is extremely humbled and excited for this opportunity and looks forward to a long lasting relationship with Found Stages. Blessings.

ANTONIA LACHÉ *(MRS JEFFERS)* Is proud to be making her debut with Found Stages! These stories should be told, and she is learning through the sharing of each story. Currently, she holds the position of the 2021-2022 Working Title Playwright Apprentice. Select Performance credits include Atlanta: Crossroads (Actor's Express); Acting Ensemble 2020-2021 (Working Title Playwrights); Macbeth (Synchronicity Theatre); Romeo & Juliet (Atlanta Shakespeare Company); Regional: The Colored Museum, Stop Kiss, A Flea In Her Ear, Clybourne Park, Dracula, Underpants (Hilberry Theatre); National Players Tour 65: Macbeth, Comedy of Errors, Odyssey (Olney Theatre Center). Education: MFA in Acting from Wayne State University. https://antonialache.wixsite.com/mysite IG: @antonialache

ANTHONY JEREMIAH NASH *(TERRANCE)* is a Georgia native

who received much of his training at the University of Georgia where he obtained a B.A. in Theatre. He has continued growing and learning during his time as a member of the Atlanta Theatre community and has worked with companies including the Aurora Theatre, Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern, Dad's Garage, Destination Theatre and most recently with Essential Theatre in their production of Calming The Man. He has been thoroughly blessed by working with Found Stages on Cassie's Ballad and hopes that you all get as much out of it as he has...especially the fresh air.

TJ RUTH ***(ANCESTOR UNDERSTUDY MARVIN)*** is an Atlanta based artist, originally from Chesapeake, Virginia. You may recognize TJ from Out Front Theatre's production of Golden Girls. TJ also served as an intern with Actors Express for the 2019-2020 Season, and has also been seen in Vernal & Sere Theatre's production of "The Exterminating Angel." TJ is happy to be working

with Found Stages again after his performance of Wyatt with "The Shift" last year!

YAKINI HORN *(CASSIE)* is always honored to be able to use her voice and body for the purpose of performance. She has been on hiatus for years from theatre and is happy to come out of retirement for such a unique project. You may have seen her last on stage in Colored Museum, for colored girls who've considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf., or dancing with Giwayen mata. More recently she's been doing more television and film.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

ADDAE MOON *(PLAYWRIGHT)* Addae is an Atlanta based playwright, dramaturg, director and teaching artist. He is the Director of Museum Theater at the Atlanta History Center, and Artistic Associate with Found Stages Theatre and a resident playwright with Maat Productions of Afrikan Centered Theatre (MPAACT) based out of Chicago, IL. He has served as a resident dramaturg with Working Title Playwright's Ethel Woolson Lab working on development projects with local playwrights Neely Gossett, Johnny Drago and many others. He is the recipient of the 2015 International Ibsen Award for his dramaturgical work on the project Master Comic and the 2014 John Lipsky Award from the International Museum Theatre Alliance (IMTAL) for his immersive play Four Days of Fury: Atlanta 1906. Addae was also a member of Alliance Theatre's 2015-2016 Reiser Artists' Lab as co-writer on the immersive project Third Council of Lyons with Found Stages Theatre.

LYDIA FORT ***(DIRECTOR)*** is the co-founder and artistic director of AkadEmeia Theatre Company; and has penned two performance pieces, Welcome to My Body and S/HE, which explore identity, culture, the body and illness. She was a member of the US delegation to the International Theatre Institute's World Congress in China in 2011.

KAYLA PARKER ***(ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & DRAMATURG)*** is a dynamic theatre maven. She attended Howard University, as a student of their Theatre Arts program, concentrating in acting. In addition to her curriculum, Parker was afforded the opportunity to work in the D.C. theatre community where she really began to tap into writing and the power of storytelling. Now residing in Atlanta, GA, Parker is proud to use her gifts to be of service to her community and strives to be a part of the change that will revolutionize the next generation. Parker was a 2021 DK Fellow with True Colors Theatre Company as well as a writer for the serialized podcast drama, Crossroads, produced by Actor's Express. "Either You Got It Or You Don't," was produced as a short film, commissioned by Theater Alliance in Washington, D.C.

ANGELA HARRIS ***(CHOREOGRAPHER)*** is a choreographer, Director and the Executive Artistic Director of Dance Canvas, Inc., a career development organization for emerging professional choreographers and youth. Angela is originally from Baltimore, MD and a graduate of The Baltimore School for the Arts. She trained at Dance Theater of Harlem, School of the Hartford Ballet & Eglevsky Ballet. She attended Mercyhurst College and City College of New York, earning a B.A. in Journalism, while dancing on a full ballet scholarship at Steps on Broadway in NYC. Angela danced professionally with The Georgia Ballet, Columbia City Ballet and Urban Ballet Theater. She has choreographed for companies and academies, including The Georgia Ballet, Steps on Broadway, Ballet Lubbock and Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute. Her theater choreographic credits include Frankenstein's Funeral (Found Stage);

Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Song & Dance' (Aurora Theatre); 110 in the Shade (Theatrical Outfit); The First Noel (True Colors Theater Company); Bridges of Madison County (Aurora Theatre). Angela was one of five Inaugural National Visiting Fellows at the School of American Ballet. In 2017, she received a SDCF Observership and worked with Tony Award winning director/choreographer, Susan Stroman, on the new musical, Little Dancer, during its Broadway Lab. As a director and through Dance Canvas, Angela has been a catalyst, consultant, and resource for numerous new dance organizations and artists. Angela has developed programs for the City of Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs, Usher's New Look Foundation, and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation. Angela served on the national Emerging Leaders Council for Americans for the Arts and was a member of the 2014 class of Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta. She received the National Emerging Leader Award from Americans for the Arts and American Express. Most recently, Angela was a 2021 Women in the Arts and Business Honoree through Synchronicity Theater. Angela is currently on faculty at Emory University, Spelman College, Brenau University and is a ballet instructor at Dekalb School for the Arts & Academy of Ballet.

MAHALA DAWN ***(STAGE MANAGER)*** Atlanta: Heathers, Crossroads, Fun Home, Downstairs, Skintight (Actor's Express). Educational: Lysistrata, Sense and Sensibility, Pericles: Prince of Tyre, and A Flea In Her Ear (University of South Alabama).

RACHEL GRAF EVANS (SHE/HER) ***(PROPS DESIGNER)*** is an award-winning writer and theatre artist recently returned to Atlanta. She has designed props for NYC companies such as New Georges and PowerOutNYC, as well as assisted for props with Kathy Fabian/Propstar! and LCT3 at Lincoln Center. She currently works as the Technical Director at Synchronicity Theatre and an Education Associate for Essential Theatre. RGE's new play CHERISHED was recently named the winner of the David Shelton Award for KCACTF Region IV. She is a proud member of the Dramatists

Guild and Working Title Playwrights. M.F.A. Musical Theater Collaboration; Graduate Certificates: Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies; Teaching in Higher Education (Temple University). M.F.A. Playwriting Candidate (Hollins University, est. 2022). B.A. with High Honors: Theatre/Gender, Sexuality, & Feminist Studies (Oberlin College). Stay tuned at www.rachelgrafevans.com

JENNIFER KIMBALL *(PRODUCTION MANAGER)* has been a production and stage manager and general organizer-at-large in the Atlanta area for over 20 years. During that time, she has been fortunate to build relationships with a host of incredible artists, theatres and dance companies. She is currently the Managing Director at Essential Theatre (www.EssentialTheatre.com) and Production Manager for Théâtre du Rêve, as well as co-producing Synchronicity Theatre's Stripped Bare Arts Incubator Project with Jessenia Ingram. This is Jennifer's second production with Found Stages.

DR. L. NYROBI N. MOSS *(COSTUME DESIGNER; GODDESS COMPLEX COSTUMES & STYLING, LLC.)* Dr. Nyrobi is an award-winning costume designer with more than 30 years of experience in theatre and entertainment. Cassie's Ballad marks Nyrobi's first engagement with Found Stages. Nyrobi's work has appeared across Atlanta at Actors' Express, The Alliance Theatre, The Aurora Theatre, Horizons Theatre, 7 Stages Theatre, The Fox Theatre, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre, Academy Theatre, Art Station Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Clayton State University, and Georgia State University. Her costume design work has also appeared in theatres regionally and nationally across Orlando, New York, Virginia, Las Vegas, and Dallas, as well as, internationally in Holland, West Africa, South Africa, and Dubai. Nyrobi won two awards for Outstanding Costume Design in a Play for Eclipsed at Synchronicity Theatre and Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery at Horizon Theatre. Additionally, her list of costume award nominations includes Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical for Five Guys Named

Moe at Theatrical Outfit; Outstanding Design Team TYA for Bob Marley's Three Little Birds at Synchronicity Theatre; Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical for The Color Purple at Actors' Express and Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical for Blackberry Daze at Horizon Theatre. In addition to costume design, Nyrobi is a Certified Relationship Specialist, and Business Consultant for non-profit organizations, entrepreneurs, artists, start-ups, and small businesses.
www.instagram.com/drnyrobi
www.instagram.com/goddesscomplexcostumes
www.facebook.com/iamdrnyrobi

JOEY SWIFT *(LIGHTING DESIGNER)* grew up involved in theatre around Atlanta and is the current TD for the Atlanta Lyric Theatre. Previous shows that he has designed lights for include title of show, The Ghosts of Little 5 Points: A Halloween Virtual Experience, OFTC 2021 Virtual Winter Cabarets, Black Women Speak, and The Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes. He is thrilled to be a part of such a dedicated team of artists to bring this work to life.

MASUD ASHLEY OLUFANI *(SET DESIGNER)* is an Atlanta based actor, mixed media artist, and writer. He is a graduate of Morehouse College, and The Savannah College of Art and Design where he earned an M.F.A. in sculpture in 2013. Masud has exhibited his work in group and solo shows nationally and internationally. He is a 2021 Artadia Awardee for the city of Atlanta. He is the 2021-22' inaugural Visual Arts Fellow at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. The artist has completed residencies at The Vermont Studio Center; The Hambidge Center for Arts and Sciences; and Creative Currents in Portobello, Panama. He is a 2017 Southern Arts Prize State Fellow; a recipient of a 2015 and 2018 Idea Capital Grant; a Southwest Airlines Art and Social Engagement grant; and a recipient of 2015-16' MOCA GA Working Artist Project Grant.

LIZ CONNELL (SHE/HER) *(ASSITANT STAGE MANAGER)* is a third-

year Business Management major at Kennesaw State University (KSU). Although a business major, her love for theater has been present with her since her sophomore year of High School. She has since stage managed six productions within her High School career and five productions with KSU: Polaroid Stories, 10 Minute Play Festival, Wondrous Strange, KSU Tellers Showcase, and assistant stage managed the 9th Annual Coming-Out Monologues. Separate from Stage Management, she was the Assistant Sound Designer for KSU's Mother Road and Sound Designer for Genesis Redux. She is grateful for the experience and knowledge she is gaining through working with such wonderful people while creating and performing Cassie's Ballad.

TJ RUTH ***(RUN CREW & CHILD WRANGLER)*** is an Atlanta based artist, originally from Chesapeake, Virginia. You may recognize TJ from Out Front Theatre's production of Golden Girls. TJ also served as an intern with Actors Express for the 2019-2020 Season, and has also been seen in Vernal & Sere Theatre's production of "The Exterminating Angel." TJ is happy to be working with Found Stages again after his performance of Wyatt with "The Shift" last year!

KAILEE WANG ***(RUN CREW)*** is a 1st year Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration of Design and Technology. She is excited to be a part of her first local theater show Cassie's ballad (2022), hosted by Found Stages. She just finished doing run crew for Genesis Redux (2022) for Kennesaw State University. She was previously an assistant stage manager for Mother road (2022) by Octavio Solis and run crew for Everybody(2021) by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, also hosted by Kennesaw State University. She has previous experience with lighting design and light board operator in high school. She plans to broaden her technical experience all while having fun. She would like to thank those that believed in her and gave her opportunities to move forward with her career.

HUSH HARBOR LAB LEADERSHIP

AMINA MCINTYRE ***(CO-FOUNDER)*** is an Atlanta born and based playwright whose work has been produced at Actor's Express, Vanguard Repertory Theatre, Out of Hand Theatre, Oakland Cemetery and Vanderbilt University. She holds degrees from Colby College, Indiana University, Spalding University. She is currently in Horizon Theatre's Emerging Black Women Speaks Playwright cohort, a Ph.D student at Vanderbilt University, and Co-Founder of Hush Harbor Lab, a new play development company for Black artists in Atlanta.

ADDAE MOON ***(CO-FOUNDER)***

SEASON SPONSORS

AEC Trust

Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

PROJECT SPONSORS

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

A Healthy Environment = A Healthy Community

CNP

Georgia COUNCIL for the Arts

ATL

Moving Atlanta Forward

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

candi dugas & associates

changing conversations to compel complete freedom™

GASLIGHT PICTUREHOUSE

aij

art inspiration justice

MUDEIF PRODUCTIONS

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE CITY OF ATLANTA MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS THROUGH THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY. GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS ALSO RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM ITS PARTNER AGENCY – THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.