

2018

CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE
at the University of Tennessee

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For Immediate Release
 Contact: Robin Conklin
rconkl1@utk.edu

Dominique Morisseau's "Detroit '67"

to play in the Carousel Theatre February 27- March 17

Dominique Morisseau's drama "Detroit '67" will play in the Carousel Theatre February 27 – March 17, 2019. A Pay What You Can Preview performance, where patrons can name their own price, will be Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 pm. A talk back with the artists will take place March 10 following the 2:00 pm matinee. The open captioned performance will be held Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 pm. This powerful, tuneful drama about a family caught in an explosive moment in American history contains adult language and themes that make it most appropriate for patrons 14 years and older. The production is sponsored by WUOT, WUTK, the Daily Beacon, and the Knoxville News Sentinel.

In the summer of 1967, the songs of Motown are breaking records and breaking barriers. Chelle and her brother, Lank, are running an unlicensed after-hours bar in their Detroit basement – risky business – especially during a brutal police crackdown that has set off riots throughout the city. When Lank offers refuge to an injured white woman, tensions erupt in their home and their city, and they find themselves caught in the middle of the '67 riots.

One of the most produced playwrights in the country, **Dominique Morisseau** (Playwright) is a playwright/actress and alumni of the Public Theater Emerging Writer's Group, Women's Project Lab, and Lark Playwrights Workshop. Her 3-play cycle, entitled "The Detroit Projects" include "Detroit '67," "Paradise Blue," and "Skeleton Crew." Her work has been seen at Sundance, The Classical Theatre of Harlem, and LABYRINTH Theatre, among many more. She has produced other original works with the Hip Hop Theater Festival, Penn State University, American Theatre of Harlem and The New Group. A few of her many awards include the MacArthur Genius Award, two NAACP Image Awards, and the Graham F. Smith Peace Foundation Award. Morisseau is currently the Story Editor on the Showtime series "Shameless" and she also wrote the book for the jukebox musical "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" which will premiere on Broadway in March of 2019.

Lisa Gaye Dixon (Director) began her professional career with the Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago and has since been seen on the stages of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the New Globe Theatre in London, and regionally at the Attic Theatre (Detroit), Performance Network (Ann Arbor), Lost Nation Theatre (Vermont), The Kitchen Theatre (Ithaca), Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Milwaukee Shakespeare. She has also appeared in the west coast premiere of her one-woman show "My Case Is Altered: Tales of a 21st Century Roaring Girl." She is currently the interim chair of the acting program and associate professor of theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The production features visiting guest actors, UT faculty, graduate and undergraduate Theatre students.

Dee Dee Batteast (Chelle) is a native of South Bend, Indiana. Dee Dee is currently a Chicago based actress, director and teacher. Previous productions include "In The Next Room," "A Raisin in the Sun,"

“Henry V,” “Shakespeare In Love,” “Merry Wives of Windsor,” and “The Parchmen Hour.” She has also performed at The Illinois Shakespeare Festival (Bloomington), Virginia Stage (Norfolk), and PlayMakers Repertory Company (Chapel Hill). TV: “Chicago Fire.” Dee Dee received her undergraduate degree from Ball State University and her MFA from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Gerrard James (Lank) currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. His theater credits include “Funnyhouse of a Negro,” (Actors Studio Drama School Rep) “King Henry VI: Part II & III,” (Irondale Theater) “Exposure,” (Workshop Theater) “What’s in Your Fridge?” (IRT) “Mad Cool,” (Kraine Theater) and “Is This a Graveyard?” (Brick Theatre). He can also be seen in the upcoming Emmy produced digital series, “Pillow Talk.” He received his MFA from The Actors Studio Drama School and has also studied abroad at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Jade Arnold (Sly) is a second-year MFA Acting candidate who hails from Durham, N.C. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. His CBT credits include “Candide” as the Captain, “Urinetown: The Musical” as Bobby Strong, and “Alabama Story” as Joshua.

Brittany Marie Pirozzoli (Caroline) is a second-year MFA Acting candidate. Previously at the CBT, Brittany performed in “Alabama Story,” (Lily Whitfield) “Urinetown: The Musical,” (Hope Cladwell) “Candide,” and “A Christmas Carol” (Ghost of Christmas Past). She is originally from Cleveland, Ohio where she worked on Great Lakes Theatre Company’s production of “Hamlet.” Brittany received her BA degree in Theatre from Baldwin Wallace University, where she performed in: “Quality Street,” (Miss Susan) “Big Love,” (Lydia) “The Two Noble Kinsmen,” (Emilia) “Dark of the Moon,” “Henry IV,” “Part 2,” (Shallow) and “Romeo and Juliet.”

Aleah Vassell (Bunny) is a second-year MFA Acting candidate pursuing her master’s degree. You may have seen her in “Urinetown: The Musical,” and as Catherine in CBT’s 2018 production of “A Christmas Carol.” Other roles performed include Jo in “The Legend of Georgia McBride,” (Flying Anvil Theatre) Deloris in “Sister Act,” (Charleston Stage Company) Judy Haynes in “White Christmas,” (Charleston Stage Company) and self-produced show, “The Submission” (Hear Me Roar Theatre).

The creative team for this production includes: **John Merritt** (Costume Designer); **Katie Stepanek** (Scenic Designer); **Jordan Vera** (Lighting Designer); **Chandler Oppenheimer** (Sound Designer). Also contributing on the creative team is **Caleb Thomas Cook** (Stage Manager); **Anna Heneise** and **Riley Klucher** (Stage Management Assistants).

The Previews for “Detroit ‘67” are Wednesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 28 followed by Opening Night Friday, March 1. The production runs through March 17. The Clarence Brown Theatre only sells tickets online through Knoxville Tickets. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre Box Office at 865-974-5161 or order online 24/7 at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee Knoxville is one of only 12 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Managing Director Tom Cervone, the CBT season runs from September through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

For more information, tickets or accessibility accommodation requests including Open Captioning, American Sign Language, and assistive technologies, please call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at clarencebrowntheatre.com/access. Stay Connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown), and Instagram (@clarencebrowntheatre).

