USC School of Dramatic Arts McClintock Theatre November 17–20, 2016



USC School of Dramatic Arts

MAGNOLIA

By Regina Taylor

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Carol Antoinette Fallon Boles Bayley Ellenburg Miles Fowler Alexandra Hensley Michael Iluma Michael Kaczkowski Camille Langston Quincy Nkwonta Harrison Poe Chevaughan St. Clare Jens Sweaney

SCENIC DESIGN COSTUME DESIGN LIGHTING DESIGN
Kaitlin Chang Julie Gongwer Abby Light

sound design stage manager Ethan Zeitman Simon Chau

> DIRECTED BY Khanisha Foster

McClintock Theatre November 17–20, 2016

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Maya Lily

Camille Langston Alexandra Hensley

Thomas William

Michael Iluma Harrison Poe

Meshach Beau

Chevaughan St. Clare Jens Sweaney

Carlotta Anna

Carol Antoinette Bayley Ellenburg

Cain Ariel

Miles Fowler Fallon Boles

Samuel Paul

Quincy Nkwonta Michael Kaczkowski

TIME: 1963

PLACE: Atlanta, Georgia

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER Edgar Landa | VOCAL DIRECTOR Anne Burk
ASST. STAGE MANAGER Layla Shahabi | ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Carla Rubio
SCENIC PAINTER Bessie M. Lebeda | COSTUME DESIGN PA Derek Christiansen
CREW Tyler Ellis, Taylor Kass, Evan Macedo, Ellen Murray, Christina Oti,
Sabrina Sawyer, Alexander Walter, Milan Williams

Magnolia

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Do you float up in the air or stay firmly planted into the ground? Perhaps you are like me, and you work to find your way in the inbetween. Perhaps you are like our characters and you're holding on for dear life. *Magnolia* is an adaption of Anton Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*. Playwright Regina Taylor brings the story of the early 20th Century Russian classic into Atlanta, Georgia, 1963, amidst the Civil Rights Movement in America. Taking the class themes that were so imbedded in Chekov's work, Taylor breaks them open as the Forrest Family is about to lose their family estate to foreclosure, an estate embedded with the haunting memories of slave ownership. It highlights the roots and truths of cultural collisions and human heartbreak.

The play takes a deep look at how we face our own realities; and asks the question, what are the consequences if we do nothing? Embedded with music and joyful exploration Taylor's play ignites us to face the past and the present, and to take actions towards the future. Thank you dearly for joining us. Stop me after to tell me if you're a dreamer, a realist, or somewhere in between. Enjoy the show.

SPECIAL THANKS

My thank you is simple. Thank you to this warm and inspiring department and all of the people in it. The miraculous generosity and presence of mind of the students, the gifted and caring staff and faculty, and the creative fire that meets in-between. I was moved to tears during student orientation when I saw how truly dedicated each and every one of you are to each other and to the work. That belief was strengthened everyday with our incredible *Magnolia* team. Thank you with everything I have to give. —*Kbanisha Foster*

Additional thanks to Ross Weiner and Regina Taylor

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Khanisha Foster is a mixed race writer, performer, director, the Associate Artistic Director of 2nd Story, ensemble member of Teatro Vista, a TCGYoung Leader of Color, a Resident Teaching Artist at Center Theatre Group, and has collaborated with the Citizens Theatre in Scotland. She has directed Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye, the adaption of Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, and will be directing Intimate Apparel in the spring. Her writing can be found in the anthologies Briefly Knocked Unconscious By A Low Flying Duck and A Mixtape of Words; in the latter, she chronicles an attempt to learn all of Beyoncé's dances. She was also a featured storyteller on NPR's The Dinner Party Download. She is currently working on a show called Code Switching and hosts the podcast How I Wrote That, which focuses on women who write for TV and film, www.howiwrotethat.com. You can see more of her work at http://2ndstory.com/people/khanisha-foster and check out her blog Black, White, and Awesome.

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Located in Los Angeles, a city synonymous with artistic innovation and excellence, the top-ranked USC School of Dramatic Arts is a leader in dramatic arts education. The School uniquely blends artistic training in a conservatory environment with world-class faculty artists and the full academic experience found only within a major research university. This close-knit, supportive environment offers students the freedom to explore their artistic passions. Through programs of the highest caliber, as well as initiatives that provide access to professional experience, students are prepared for leadership in every facet of dramatic arts. For more information, please visit dramaticarts.usc.edu.

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The USC School of Dramatic Arts would like to recognize the generosity of the following individuals and organizations who have supported the School with a gift over the past fiscal year towards core programs such as production, guest artists, scholarship and the Dean's Strategic Fund. We recognize at the visionary level those donors whose tremendous generosity has reached the cumulative giving level of \$1 million+. Their extraordinary commitment has built the foundation for our continued prominence and future achievements.

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USC School of Dramatic Arts 2016/17 Season of Plays

A Lie of the Mind

By Sam Shepard Directed by Alan Freeman SDT Sept 29 — Oct 2, 2016

Mockingbird

By Julie Jensen Directed by Andi Chapman MT Sept 29 — Oct 2, 2016

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare Directed by Jeanette Harrison BT Oct 6-9, 2016

Escape from Happiness

By George F. Walker
Directed by Christopher Shaw **SDT** Oct 20-23, 2016

Side Show

Book and Lyrics by Bill Russell Music and Lyrics by Henry Krieger Directed by VP Boyle MT Oct 27-30, 2016

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare Directed by Kelly Ward BT Nov 3-6, 2016

Magnolia

By Regina Taylor Directed by Khanisha Foster **MT** Nov 17-20, 2016

Middletown

By Will Eno Directed by Andrei Belgrader **SDT** Nov 17-20, 2016

MFA Acting Repertory

SDT Feb 3-Mar 5, 2017

Uncle Vanya

By Anton Chekhov Translated by Sharon Marie Carnicke Directed by Gregg T. Daniel

Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches

By Tony Kushner Directed by John Rubinstein

Antigone X

By Paula Cizmar Based on the play by Sophocles Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks

The Rivals

By Richard Brinsley Sheridan Directed by Andy Robinson **BT** Feb 23-26, 2017

The Kentucky Cycle

By Robert Schenkkan Directed by Stephanie Shroyer MT Mar 2-7, 2017

Facing Our Truth: Ten Minute Plays on Trayvon, Race and Privilege

By A. Rey Pamatmat, Dan O'Brien, Dominique Morisseau, Mona Mansour, Winter Miller, Marcus Gardley, Tala Manassah, Quetzal Flores Directed by Shirley Jo Finney SDT March 30-April 2, 2017

Evita

Lyrics by Tim Rice Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber Directed by Tim Dang **BT** March 30- April 9, 2017

Mr. Burns, a post-electric play

By Anne Washburn Score by Michael Friedman Lyrics by Anne Washburn Directed by John DeMita SDT April 20-23, 2017

Spring Awakening

By Frank Wedekind Translated by Edward Bond Directed by Laura Flanagan **MT** April 20-23, 2017

New Works Festivals

YEAR 1 New Play Readings

Parkside International Residential College, Room 1016 | May 1, 2017

YEAR 2 Playwrights Workshop

Massman Theatre Apr 7–23, 2017

YEAR 3 Play Project

Carrie Hamilton Theatre at The Pasadena Playhouse May 19-20, 2017

KEY: SDT = Scene Dock Theatre BT = Bing Theatre MT = McClintock Theatre

TICKET PRICES

General \$10, Seniors or Faculty/Staff \$8, Students \$5 MUSICALS: General \$15, Seniors or Faculty/Staff \$10, Students \$6

PERFORMANCES

Thurs & Fri at 7 p.m., Sat at 2:30 & 8 p.m. and Sun at 2:30 p.m. (Unless noted otherwise)

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