

USC School of Dramatic Arts
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PRESENTS



MISS JULIE
FREEDOM SUMMER

By Stephen Sachs
from the play by August Strindberg
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel

SCENIC DESIGN
Jenny Guthrie

COSTUME DESIGN
Sophia Grose

LIGHTING DESIGN
Omar Madkour

SOUND DESIGN
David B. Marling

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Isabella Gomez

CAST OF CHARACTERS *(In order of appearance)*

Summer Young
Christine

Levonte Herbert
John

Lindsey Esch
Miss Julie

TIME The night of July 4th, 1964.

PLACE The large kitchen of a country estate in Greenwood, Mississippi.

There will be no intermission.

WARNING Please be advised that this production contains mature language and themes and the theatrical depiction of sexual acts and violence as well as a gunshot.

Miss Julie: Freedom Summer is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.
The world premiere of *Miss Julie: Freedom Summer* was originally developed and produced by the Fountain Theatre, Los Angeles, directed by Stephen Sachs.

November 4-7, 2021 | Bing Theatre

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager Sarah Costigan | **Assistant Technical Director** Monica Kosmos
Dialect Coach Lauren Murphy Yeoman | **Choreography** Emily-Mae Kamp
Fight Choreography Dawn Alden | **Intimacy Coordinator** Stephanie Shroyer
Costume Design Mentor Ann Closs-Farley | **Crew** Nico Abesamis, Nick Bennett,
Kali Bissanti, Aaliyah Brathwaite, Kealey Busch, Hao Chen, Greta Donnelly,
Meehee Park, Tess Patton, Jackson Quinn, Derek Rabin, Ashley Tobias
Radio Announcer Alex Prout

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Freedom Summer, or the Mississippi Summer Project, was a 1964 voter registration drive aimed at increasing the number of registered Black voters in Mississippi. Over 700 mostly white volunteers joined African Americans in Mississippi to fight against voter intimidation and discrimination at the polls. The movement was organized by civil rights organizations like the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and run by the local Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). Freedom Summer volunteers were met with violent resistance from the Ku Klux Klan and members of state and local law enforcement. News coverage of beatings, false arrests and even murder drew international attention to the civil rights movement. The increased awareness it brought to voter discrimination helped lead to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Playwright Stephen Sachs has created a bold, re-imagined adaptation of August Strindberg's classic, set in Mississippi on the night of July 4, 1964, two days after the signing of the Civil Rights Act amidst the hope and violence of the Freedom Summer of the Civil Rights Era. As our nation struggles to overturn systems of racism, intolerance and injustice, let us lift up the words of representative John Lewis: "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Gregg T. Daniel recently directed *End of the Line* by Peppur Chambers (Antaeus, Zip Code Plays, Season 2) and The Road Theatre Co's. season premiere of Harrison Davis Rivers' *This Bitter Earth* (recorded on multiple cameras). Other credits include August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* at A Noise Within (2020 Ovation Nominee, Best Production of a Play), Lanie Robertson's *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* and Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop* at Garry Marshall Theatre; west coast premieres of Mfoniso Udofia's *Her Portmanteau* at Boston Court Theatre and Terrance Arvelle Chisolm's *Br'er Cotton* at Lower Depth Theatre; with Rogue Machine, Lorraine Hansberry's *Les Blancs* (Ovation-nominated, Best Director), the L.A. premiere of Greg Kalleres' *Honky* (nominated Best Director, Comedy), Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* at A Noise Within (Ovation nominated, Best Director) and a revival of Alice Childress' *Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White* with Antaeus (Winner, Stage Raw Awards, Best Revival and Best Ensemble). Gregg is the Artistic Director and a founding member of Lower Depth Theatre (Lower-Depth.com).

SPECIAL THANKS

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Shirley Jo Finney, Veralyn Jones, Natsuko Ohama, Scott Faris