

**MFA Dramatic Writing | Year 3**  
*New Work Festival*

**Kept Men**

By Grafton Reyes Doyle  
Directed by Luis Alfaro

**Seven Stage Circle**

By Zharia O'Neal  
Directed by Jennifer Chang

**Strollin' in the Dark**

By Katrina D. RiChard  
Directed by Andi Chapman

**FOR PASADENA PLAYHOUSE**

*Artistic Director* Danny Feldman  
*Artistic Project Coordinator* Katharine McDonough  
*Operations Manager* J. Bailey Burcham

Pasadena Playhouse is a place where people have gathered for over 100 years to experience bold and important theater. As the State Theater of California, our mission is to enrich people's lives through theater, community programs, and learning.

**FOR USC SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS**

*Interim Director of MFA Dramatic Writing* Oliver Mayer  
*Festival Supervisor* Leia S. Crawford  
*Producer, USC* Elsbeth M. Collins  
*Casting* Nicole Arbusto  
*Virtual Tech Lead* Joe Shea

The USC School of Dramatic Arts fosters the talents of artist-scholars who are dramatically different — who are willing to imagine the future of the entertainment industry and bring it to life.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

These productions use the Artist Engagement Services of the University Resident Theatre Association.  
We wish to express our gratitude to ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION.

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

**Kept Men**  
Friday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m.

**Seven Stage Circle**  
Saturday, May 21, at 2:30 p.m.

**Strollin' in the Dark**  
Saturday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m.

**May 20-21, 2002 | The Pasadena Playhouse's Carrie Hamilton Theatre**

# Kept Men

By Grafton Reyes Doyle  
Directed by Luis Alfaro

**CAST OF CHARACTERS** *(in alphabetical order)*

Michael Sturgis\*  
**Quentin**

Peter Mendoza\*  
**Royce**

Gabby Weltman\*  
**Stage Directions**

**STAGE MANAGER**  
Harrison Newton\*

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**  
Tina Archer\*

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**TIME** Present

**PLACE** Palm Springs, CA

*1st Act* – A home in Old Las Palmas

*2nd Act* – Room at The Vagabond Inn

**CONTENT WARNING** Sexuality and violence exist in this play.

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**PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE**

This play is about the roles we choose to play and the roles in which we seem destined for. Thank you for listening.

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**PLAYWRIGHT'S BIO**

**Grafton Reyes Doyle** is a playwright and filmmaker from Los Angeles. His work lingers on the duality of incarceration, addiction, and queer love. He adapted his most recent play, *Dope Queens* (STAGE RAW Recommended, Broadway World Nominated Best Play 2020), to film which also serves as his feature directorial debut. It was shot on location in the famed San Francisco Tenderloin, also known as the first legally recognized trans district in the United States. Education: University of Southern California, MFA Dramatic Writing and The National Theater Institute at The Eugene O'Neill Center. Grafton would like to thank his husband and their two children for supporting him through his artistic journey.

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**SPECIAL THANKS** *from Grafton Reyes Doyle*

Velina Hasu Houston, Oliver Mayer, Paula Cizmar, and Boni Alvarez. Thank you! Also, Zharia and Katrina...we did it!

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**DIRECTOR'S BIO**

**Luis Alfaro** is the associate artistic director of Center Theatre Group, the resident theatre company of the Music Center of Los Angeles County, home of the Mark Taper Forum, Ahmanson Theatre and Kirk Douglas Theatre. A Chicano playwright born and raised in downtown Los Angeles, he has received fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; United States Artist; Ford Foundation's Art of Change; Joyce Foundation; Mellon Foundation and is the recipient of the PEN America/Laura Pels International Foundation Theater Award for a Master Dramatist. He was the inaugural Playwright-in-Residence for six seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (2013-2019); Playwright's Ensemble at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theatre (2013-2020); Inaugural Latinx Playwrights at the Los Angeles Theatre Center (2021); and Ojai Playwrights Conference member since 2002. His plays include *Electricidad*, *Oedipus El Rey*, *Mojada*, *Delano*, *Body of Faith*, *Straight as a Line*, and have been seen at regional theatres throughout the United States and Europe. Luis spent two decades in the Los Angeles Poetry and Performance Art communities. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Southern California (USC).

# Seven Stage Circle

By Zharia O'Neal  
Directed by Jennifer Chang

## CAST OF CHARACTERS *(in alphabetical order)*

Nigel Sudarkasa\*  
*The Kid/The Worker*

Sola Bamis\*  
*Yaya*

Denise Yolén\*  
*Ocean*

Jalen Stewart\*  
*Tai*

Jeremy Tardy\*  
*Kehi*

Aric Floyd\*  
*Dijon*

Alex Prout\*  
*Stage Directions*

STAGE MANAGER  
Marcus Maia\*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER  
Tina Archer\*

when: now, and sometimes before.

where: los angeles, and sometimes the Other Space.

**CONTENT WARNING** To my nephew Tyler, cover your eyes and ears during scenes two and seven.

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### PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

This is the funeral.  
This is the wake.  
My thread in the shroud.  
The pamphlet  
The paper fan  
The heady flowers

This is my Jesus, help me.  
My swan dive into the silty grave -  
My crumbling at the casket -

This is my "he was..."  
My "his smile lit up the" -  
This is my barefoot jog through the cemetery  
My quickening in the pew,

This is my pall bear.  
my Black dress, my frilly stockings  
the forked tongue I speak in.

I have not had enough grief.  
I did not finish mine at supper,  
And now I must take it by the tablespoon  
each morning.  
This is how I swallow.

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### PLAYWRIGHT'S BIO

**Zharia O'Neal** is a playwright, poet, and multi-medium storyteller hailing from the British Virgin Islands. Her work, seasoned with fistfuls of fish, fungi, and B/black comedy tends to explore liminal spaces between places, nationalities, languages, and genres, and has been recognized and commissioned by HUMANITAS PLAY LA and the Association of Los Angeles Playwrights. O'Neal is currently an International Artists' Fellow and third-year candidate for an MFA in Dramatic Writing at the University of Southern California. She is also Associate Literary Manager at Playwrights' Arena, and has worked in association with the Ojai Playwrights' Conference.

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### DIRECTOR'S BIO

**Jennifer Chang**, Select directing credits include Round House Theatre: Lauren Yee's *The Great Leap*; LA Opera: *On Gold Mountain*; South Coast Rep: Min Kahng's *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*; Fountain Theatre: Jiehae Park's *Hannah and the Dread Gazebo*; East West Players: Qui Nguyen's *Vietgone* and Rajiv Joseph's *Animals Out of Paper*, Chalk Rep: Eric Reyes Loo's *Death and Cockroaches*; Artists at Play: *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*; Japanese American National Museum: *Our American Story and Residence Elsewhere* (commissioned for the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066). She loves developing new plays and has done so with Ashland New Plays Festival, Center Theatre Group, Boston Court, The Geffen Playhouse, the Chance Theatre, Echo Theatre Company, Circle X Theatre Company, EST-LA, Playwrights Arena, Chalk Rep, and East West Players. Other: 2020 APAFT Award Outstanding Direction, Alumnus Directors Lab West, Drama League NY Fellowship. She is currently on faculty as Head of Undergraduate Acting at UCSD's Department of Theatre and Dance. She is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographer's Society (SDC), Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA), and Actor's Equity Association (AEA). BFA NYU, MFA UCSD. Learn more at changinator.com.

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### SPECIAL THANKS *from Zharia O'Neal*

The Kid. And Velina Hasu Houston, Oliver Mayer, Paula Cizmar, and my wonderful cohort.

# Strollin' in the Dark

By Katrina D. RiChard  
Directed by Andi Chapman

## CAST OF CHARACTERS *(in alphabetical order)*

Bryce Charles\*      Kamal Bolden\*      Mildred Langford\*  
*Willie*                      *Marvin*                      *Andrea*

Cashae Monya\*      Tony von Halle\*  
*Lady D.M.*                      *University*

John Stephens\*  
*Stage Directions*

STAGE MANAGER  
MJ Adamson\*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER  
Tina Archer\*

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TIME AND PLACE Chicago, 1954

**CONTENT WARNING** Please be advised that this production includes the use of mature language and the depiction of violence.

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### PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

Systemic racism continues to affect the lives of generations of Black and Indigenous groups in our society. One of the most egregious areas has been in the name of "medical research." Projects like MK Ultra, that were CIA Funded and supported by the U.S. Government, did harm to countless individuals and families and have never been atoned for. While in recent years, offenses that could be "proven," have been acknowledged, but acknowledgment is not atonement, especially when there are still so many nameless ones who never were heard, or heard and not believed, or believed but quickly silenced. This play is for them.

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### PLAYWRIGHT'S BIO

**Katrina D. RiChard** is a multi-hyphenate artist that hails from the South Side of Chicago. She has performed with or worked behind the scenes at several theater companies in and around Chicago. While working on her MFA at USC, Katrina was awarded the Joan Beber Playwriting Award. Additionally, her play *Call for the Wailing Women*, a play she wrote during her 2nd year in the program, was produced by Black Lives, Black Words International in 2020. Katrina's mission as an artist is to illuminate marginalized voices, tell stories that have never been told before, and tell classic stories with fresh perspective. Psalms 46:5

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### DIRECTOR'S BIO

**Andi Chapman** is a director, actor, educator. She is the Associate Artistic Director of The Ebony Repertory Theatre. Her directing credits include: Theatre: *Both And* (currently running at The Boston Court Theatre; the critically-acclaimed *Native Son* (Antaeus and Kirk Douglas Theatres, which garnered nominations for best director); and *The Gospel at Colonus* which garnered 14 Ovation Award nominations, including Best Play and Best Play Direction, and won NAACP Theatre Awards including Best Production. Others credits include *The Abuelas*, *Winters Tale*, *Mockingbird*, *As it is in Heaven*, *The Ninth Wave*, Film: The award-winning shorts *Memorial Street*, *Elijah's Song* and *Why?*. Chapman is an adjunct professor for film/theatre acting at Azusa Pacific University. Education: M.F.A./ The Yale School of Drama. The American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women. A Selected Participant of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Andi is a proud member of The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).

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### SPECIAL THANKS *from Katrina D. RiChard*

I would like to first give honor to God for the gifts I've been blessed with and for continuing to move me toward realizing my divine purpose. Thank you to my Mom and Dad, family, and friends who have supported and encouraged me on this journey. Shout out to my Cohort mates, Zharia and Grafton, you all are the best ever, WE MADE IT!! Last but not least, thank you to all the USC professors who helped me along the way but I must give special thanks to Rodney To, Boni Alvarez, Paula Cizmar, and my Hanai Mom and forever mentor, Dr. Velina Hasu Houston. Each of you hold a special place in my heart and I thank you for always demonstrating a standard of excellence and holding me accountable while encouraging me to play, think, and stretch. I am a stronger writer and better person for having worked with each of you. Thank You.