

22/23 USC School  
of Dramatic Arts

# Wedlock of the Gods

By Zulu Sofola

Bing Theatre

September 29–October 2, 2022

USC School of Dramatic Arts

presents

# Wedlock of the Gods

By **Zulu Sofola**

With

**Dara Adedara**

**Dami Adeyina**

**Jordan Anderson**

**Nia Baker**

**Jordan Cooper**

**KJ Dawson**

**Mylah Eaton**

**Corey Giff**

**Levonte Herbert**

**Olivia Nicholson**

**Shyhiem Parker**

**Landon Robinson**

**Maya Sta. Ana**

**John Stephens**

**Summer Young**

Scenic Design

**Selby Souza**

Costume Design

**Ann Closs-Farley** and **MJ Adamson**

*BFA Design, Junior*

Lighting Design

**Brandon Baruch**

Sound Design

**Renata Finamore**

*BFA Design, Junior*

Stage Manager

**Marcus Maia**

*BFA Stage Management, Junior*

Technical Director

**Lizzy Lourenco**

*BFA Design, Junior*

Choreography

**Shannon Grayson**

Directed by **Bayo Akinfemi**

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**Bing Theatre**

**September 29–October 2, 2022**

Produced by special arrangement with Zulu Sofola Productions LLC for The Zulu Sofola Estate.

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**CAST** (In alphabetical order)



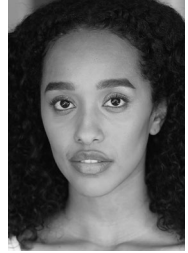
**Dara Adedara  
Odibe**  
B.A., Emphasis in Acting, Senior



**Damii Adeyina  
Anwasia**  
B.A., Emphasis in Acting,  
Sophomore



**Jordan Anderson  
Okolie**  
BFA Acting for Stage, Screen  
& New Media, Sophomore



**Nia Baker  
Nneka**  
Bachelor of Arts, Junior



**Jordan Cooper  
Ogoli**  
BFA Acting for Stage, Screen  
& New Media, Sophomore



**KJ Dawson  
Diokpa Ata**  
BFA Acting for Stage, Screen  
& New Media, Sophomore



**Mylah Eaton  
Ensemble**  
B.A., Emphasis in Acting,  
Senior



**Corey Giffit  
Ike**  
B.A., Emphasis in Acting,  
Junior



**Levonte Herbert  
Ibekwe**  
MFA in Acting, Year 3



**Olivia Nicholson  
Ensemble, u/s Ogwama**  
Bachelor of Arts, Senior



**Shyhiem Parker  
Uloko, u/s Ibekwe**  
MFA Acting, Year 3



**Landon Robinson  
Ensemble, u/s Diokpa Ata, Udo, Ike**  
BFA Acting for Stage, Screen  
& New Media, Sophomore



**Maya Sta. Ana  
Otubo**  
BFA Acting for Stage, Screen  
& New Media, Sophomore



**John Stephens  
Udo, u/s Uloko**  
MFA in Acting, '22



**Summer Young  
Ogwoma**  
MFA in Acting, Year 3

# Wedlock of the Gods

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This production is performed without an intermission.

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**PLEASE NOTE**

Please be advised that this production contains depictions of self-harm, pregnancy, suicide and blood, as well as suggestions of violence. This production also contains the use of theatrical haze.

**ADDITIONAL WEDLOCK OF THE GODS PRODUCTION STAFF**

*Musicians* **Dr. Adekunle Pinmiloye (K Sticks), Samson Olawale, Festus Abiola, Tolu Bankole**  
*Vocal/Dialect Coach* **Peter Marciano** | *Intimacy Director*  
**Margaret Kemp** | *Assistant Stage Manager* **Hannah Baker**  
*Stage Management Mentor* **Scott Faris** | *Scenic Design*  
*Assistant* **Maya Channer** | *Costume Assistant* **JJ Javier**  
*Hair & Makeup Consultant* **Gary Domasin** | *Sound Design*  
*Mentor* **Phil Allen** | *Assistant Technical Director* **Alex Muir**  
*Technical Director Mentor* **Duncan Mahoney**  
*Technical Crew* **Dario Alatorre, Sun Jin, Ethan Kaiser, Collette McCurdy, Lillian Mollo, Alex Muir, Emily Nobel, Adrian Quinonez, Virginia Richardson, Victor Robb Martin, Riley Skinner, Jakob Alon Tatoy, Stefan Vujnovic, Presley Wexelman, Glen Wong**

## NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC TEAM

**Set in nineteenth** century mid-western Nigeria, the thematic pre-occupations of *Wedlock of the Gods* is still as relevant today. Written by Zulu Sofola; Africa's first female Professor of Theatre Arts and a true embodiment of the essence of African womanhood, the play advances an unflinching critique of the inequitable treatment of women within a society. It questions an oppressive tradition that reduces women to chattels and challenges a burdensome patriarchal belief that "a man's daughter is his source of wealth."

Zulu Sofola—popularly known by her students as "Mama"—enjoyed the enviable distinction of being the matriarch of Nigerian theatre. She was a celebrated international scholar, a prolific theatre director, and the first female head of a theatre arts department in Africa: The Performing Arts Department of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria.

Zulu's fifteen published plays tackle injustice, corruption, inequality, and other societal ills. This production of *Wedlock of the Gods* underlines gender inequality as one of the topical issues plaguing American society where its manifestations take different forms in gender pay gap and reproduction rights amongst others.

Our gratitude also goes to the Zulu Sofola family for collaborating with the USC School of Dramatic Arts to make this project a reality. To our audience, particularly the Nigerian community and Africans in the Diaspora, thank you for your support.

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*Costume Technicians Carissa Dickerson, Charlotte Stratton*

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

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. Through an interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial education students develop the skills necessary to discover their unique voice and are exposed to diverse styles and multiple media. Students and recent alumni are supported by the School's unique Professional Development Center which offers career services and professionalization opportunities to help students establish and sustain successful careers as creators, performers and cultural innovators.

For more information, please visit [dramaticarts.usc.edu](http://dramaticarts.usc.edu).

## SUPPORTERS OF DRAMATIC ARTS

The USC School of Dramatic Arts would like to recognize the generosity of the following individuals and organizations who have supported the School over the past year towards core programs such as production, professional development, scholarship, Dean's Strategic Fund and our new Drama Center. 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 ascent and future achievements.

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\*Represents multi-year pledge



We hope you will consider becoming a member. For more information about giving to the School of Dramatic Arts, please contact Sara Fousekis at 213-821-4047 or [fousekis@usc.edu](mailto:fousekis@usc.edu).





Season of Plays

SDA 22/23

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### Wedlock of the Gods

By Zulu Sofola  
BT Sept 29-Oct 2, 2022

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### Nora: A Doll's House

By Stef Smith  
SDT Oct 6-12, 2022

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### Carrie: The Musical

Music by Michael Gore  
Lyrics by Dean Pitchford  
Book by Lawrence D. Cohen  
Based on the novel by  
Stephen King  
MT Oct 6-9, 2022

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### Into the Woods

Music and Lyrics  
by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by James Lapine  
BT Oct 27-Nov 3, 2022

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### Wintertime

By Charles L. Mee  
MT Oct 27-30, 2022

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### The Aliens

By Annie Baker  
KDT Nov 10-12, 2022

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### The Conduct of Life

By María Irene Fornés  
KDT Nov 17-19, 2022

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### we, the invisibles

By Susan Soon He Stanton  
SDT Nov 10-20, 2022

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### Passage

By Christopher Chen  
MT Nov 17-20, 2022

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### Buried Child

By Sam Shepard  
SDT Jan 26-30, 2023

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### The Winter's Tale

By William Shakespeare  
BT Feb 23-26, 2023

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### Urinetown

Music by Mark Hollman  
Lyrics by Mark Hollmann  
and Greg Kotis  
Book by Greg Kotis  
BT Mar 30-Apr 5, 2023

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### The Belle's Stragem

By Hannah Cowley  
SDT Apr 6-9, 2023

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### MFA Dramatic Writing Year 2 New Works Festival

Apr 6-9, 2023

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### MFA Dramatic Writing Year 3 New Works Festival

MT Apr 20-27, 2023

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### Company

Music and Lyrics  
by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by George Furth  
BT Apr 20-26, 2023

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KEY: SDT = Scene Dock Theatre / BT = Bing Theatre / MT = McClintock Theatre / KDT = Kirk Douglas Theatre

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For more information about our shows, visit

← [dramaticarts.usc.edu](http://dramaticarts.usc.edu)

Plays:  
General \$17, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$10  
Musicals:  
General \$22, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$15

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