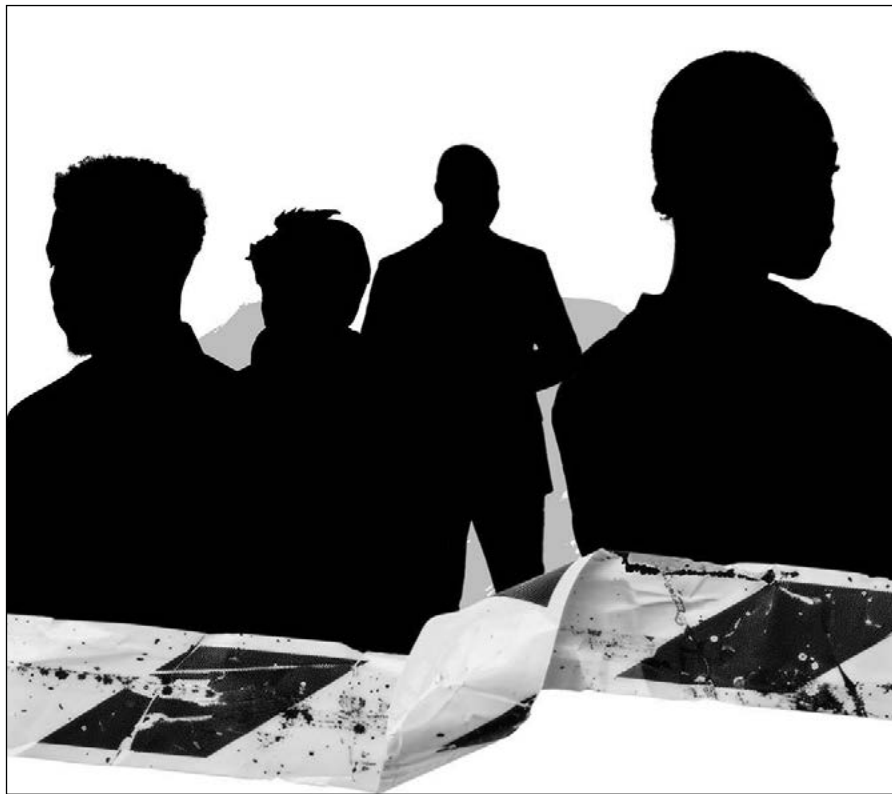


Skeleton Crew

by Dominique Morisseau

Directed by Michele Shay

McClintock Theatre November 15-17, 2024



USC School of Dramatic Arts 24/25

USC School of Dramatic Arts presents

Skeleton Crew

by **Dominique Morisseau**

Directed by **Michele Shay**

With

Chelsea Allison

Izzy Batiste

Christian Johnson

JP Payton

Toni Willis

Costume Design

Mia Murillo *She/Her,*

BFA Theatrical Design Sophomore

Lighting Design

Yiyuan Li

Sound Design

Alma Reyes-Thomas

Production Stage Manager

Jessica Bryan *She/Her,*

BFA Stage Management Senior

Technical Director

Duncan Mahoney

Original Music

James Keys

McClintock Theatre November 15-17, 2024

Skeleton Crew is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com.

Skeleton Crew was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City and the 2014 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort.

Winner of the 2014 Sky Cooper New American Play Prize at Marin Theatre Company, Mill Valley, CA, Artistic Director, Jasson Minadakis; Managing Director, Michael Barker.

World Premiere Presented By Atlantic Theater Company New York City, 2016.

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CAST

(In alphabetical order)



Chelsea Allison *She/They, Faye* • MFA Acting Year 2



Izzy Batiste *He/Him, Dancer*



Christian Johnson *He/Him, Reggie* • MFA Acting Year 2



JP Payton *He/Him, Dez* • MFA Acting Year 2



Toni Willis *She/Her, Shanita* • MFA Acting Year 2

This performance contains a 10-minute intermission.

CONTENT WARNING

Please be advised that this production includes the depiction of a gun, partial nudity, use of tobacco, and adult language and themes.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

USC is built on the unceded land of the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people. We at SDA acknowledge and honor the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people/communities and wish to amplify that they are still here. We encourage everyone to find out whose ancestral land you live on and commit to our shared responsibility to be agents of change, and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization and allyship.

NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Dominique Morriseau was born and raised in Detroit, a city born and raised by the auto industry in the early 20th century.

Her play *Skeleton Crew*, the third in her “Detroit Cycle” of plays, honors the local United Auto Workers (UAW) that showed up, day in and day out, to keep that industry alive during the Great Recession of 2008-09.

As Detroit became a boomtown in the first half of the 20th century, the city’s population increased to 1.8 million people. From 1910-1930, the African-American population specifically skyrocketed to 120,000, even though, predominantly, the only jobs open to non-white individuals were back-breaking custodial or foundry jobs. In 1935, the newly formed UAW began to fight for fair wages, more equal opportunities, and tolerable working conditions. Decades ahead of the Civil Rights Act, African-American UAW

workers found job opportunities building cars; jobs they could build lives and raise families on, in what had become the 4th largest city in the country. The Motor City. Motown.

Starting in the late-1940s, though, the Big 3 Automakers sought out cheaper labor and suburban manufacturing locations. The “white” reaction to the outlawing of redlining was to leave the city. Additionally, the police brutality that led to the riots of 1967 lit literal fires from which the city has taken decades to recover. Yet, there were those who persisted. Those who remained faithful to the idea that what they did mattered even when the entire industry seemed set on giving up on them. They fought for themselves, their families, their city. ●

Additional *Skeleton Crew* Production Staff

*Original Choreographer Adesola Osakalumi | Production Choreographer Izzy Batiste | Intimacy Director Joy DeMichelle | Dramaturg Jason Grasl
Production Deputies Sara Gutierrez, Christian Johnson | Assistant Stage Managers Sara Gutierrez, Alyssa Romero | Production Manager Sarah Costigan
Stage Management Mentor Leia Crawford | Production Management Mentor Tony Shayne | Hair & Makeup Consultant Juliet Black | Costume Mentor Samantha Jones | Technical Crew Mila Bovim, Natalie Bright, Alexandra Everbach, Aime Green, Paige Okey, Liam Pigott, Yara Raymond, Ashawn Rose*

Special Thanks: James Keys, Adesola Osakalumi

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