

ELIGHT by LOY A. WEBB DIRECTED BY J. PAUL NICHOLAS

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS: GAYLE and DAVID SMITH

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 26, 2023

theatre exile

STUDIO X-HIBITION



Three Readings of Three New Plays of Three Exciting Stories by Three Local Playwrights

Trying
by Alison Scaramella
Monday April 10th, 2023

Maggie and Jamie have been trying to have a baby for... a while. After a recent loss, they are getting back on the not-so-sexy horse, navigating lots of peeing on sticks, friends with babies, and unsolicited advice on their path to building their family.



Without Consent by David Robson Monday May 8th, 2023

Carmen, the wife of an entertainment legend, is interviewing a nurse, Lisa, to supervise the care of her ailing husband, but the tables quickly turn as Carmen is confronted with sexual accusations against her husband and with her complicity in the alleged incidents.



Honey Bee Baby by Erlina Ortiz Monday June 12th, 2023

Honey Bee Baby takes place in the plausible future when the Bees are gone, the resources are scarce, and every one must earn their place in this world where the lines between right and wrong are blurred with blood.

All readings in person at 7pm

Pay what you can:



by LOY A. WEBB DIRECTED BY J. PAUL NICHOLAS

PRODUCED BY theatre exile Associate Producers Gayle and David Smith

Ang(ela) Bey*	Genesis
Abdul Sesav	Rashad

CAST

CREW

Director J. Paul Nicholas

Dramaturg

Dr. Kimmika L. H. Williams-Witherspoon

Set Designer Nick Embree+

Composer Larry Fowler

Assistant Lighting Designer/Master Electrician

Sophie Smyczek

Stage Manager Melody Wong*

Scenic Charge Brian McCann

Lighting Designer Drew Billiau+

Sound Designer/ **Audio Engineer** Natali Merrill

Intimacy Director Eli Lynn

ASM/COVID Compliance Officer Miranda Watkins

Costume Designer

Tiffany Bacon

Props Designer Avista Custom Theatricals

Production Manager Janet Embree

Technical Director Nick Schwasman

Board Operator Casie Weaver





NOTE FROM DEBORAH

Thank you for joining us for our second show of our 26 th season; a year filled with hope, humor and Exile's signature grit. For those of you who have been with us previously, you know that we do not show life through rose-colored glasses nor do we select shows that offer easy answers. However, our selections show a pathway to hope and good-fortune that can be earned. Exile's version of hope shows life's rough journey, and the light that is always within reach when we care for those around us. All of our characters this season *intend* to do the right thing. But we, as witnesses, can feel the harm that is caused when their blinders hide the impact they have on others. Their stories illuminate our failings and strengths and let us find our own pathway to redemption and hope.

As the season selection team was reading and seeing plays, we became drawn to stories about family; the families we choose, the families we are trying to create, and the families that we want to repair. With that, I'm thrilled to be able to present to you *The Light* by Loy A. Webb; two people in a room, in real time, dreaming of their future while navigating painful ramifications of their past.

Thank you for your support by choosing live theater. Nothing touches me more when I am in a room with you, feeling the humanity that only live theater can evoke. It has been a challenging time for all of us in the arts and culture community. I hope that you will encourage those around you to experience the power of live performance at this tenuous time. Your support in any way is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for joining us as we all emerge from Exile.



Deborah Block, Producing Artistic Director

THEATRE EXILE'S 2022-2023 SEASON IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY





























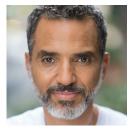
Ang(ela) Bey (Genesis) is a multidisciplinary-artist from Southwest Philadelphia. They are grateful to return to Exile where they performed in *D-Pad*, directed *abSolution* (Studio Xhibition), and assistant-directed *The Ever Present* and *Wolf Play*. Ang is founder of Upstream Performance Collaborative and Co-Artistic Director of Shoe Box Theatre Collective. They are a cohort member of the Echoes Writers Group (Primary Stages) and Rising Writers

(Azuka Theatre). Selected credits - [design] costumes for *A Hit Dog Will Holler* (Azuka) and costumes for *The Medusa Play* (Shoe Box Theatre Collective) [acting] *Fabulation* (Lantern Theater) and *Young Money* (Azuka); [playwriting] *The Medusa Play* (SBTC), MASC. (Rising Writers), and two commissions (Christ Church Neighborhood House and Museum of the American Revolution); [directing] *The Taming!* (Shakespeare in Clark Park) and *Water By the Spoonful* (Eagle Theatre). angbey.com. The 24-hour Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-866-723-3014. All calls are free, confidential and anonymous. You are believed, loved, and not alone.



Abdul Sesay (Rashad) is a graduate from Temple University. While pursuing a degree in Media studies and Production he often found himself hanging around Tomlinson Theater or Annenberg Hall on campus. There he would take acting classes; watch, audition and perform in plays and get to know theater students. He also got involved in the film department and developed an affinity for live and digital sketch comedy. Since graduating, he has had the

opportunity to work with EgoPo Classic Theatre, Delaware Shakespeare, Theatre Ariel and Philadelphia Artist Collective and Theater in the X. He is honored and overjoyed to play Rashad in Theatre Exile's production of *The Light*.



J. Paul Nicholas (Director) is excited to be back home at Theatre Exile, where he has previously worked as an actor and a fight choreographer, and won a Barrymore Award for his performance in Exile's *The Invisible Hand*. He was most recently an Associate Artist with Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota FL. His most prominent directing credits include off-off-Broadway productions of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *The Water Children*, and *Wittenberg and*

Yellowman, both at Henley Street Theatre in Richmond VA. As an actor, Paul has worked at

J. Paul Nicholas, cont. theaters all over the country, and appeared in 8 network TV series, including *Mare of Easttown* opposite Kate Winslet. He is currently playing NYPD Detective Mike Adams on *FBI*. Paul has an MFA from The Academy for Classical Acting at GWU, and is also a proud member of the Lincoln Center Theater's Directors Lab. Please visit www.jpaulnicholas.com

Nick Embree (Scenic Designer) is very pleased to join Exile's team for his first show here! He has designed sets for 150+ productions in Philadelphia and the region – most recently *Travesties* for Lantern Theater Company. Nick is an Associate Professor in the University of the Arts' Theater Design and Technology program, which he initiated in 2004. He also serves as co-head of UARTS' Film Design Program. Nick is a member of USA 829.

Tiffany Bacon (Costume Designer) is a known Philadelphia radio personality and actress who officially began her costume design journey in 2003. Tiffany can be heard on WURD 96.1FM and Classic 107.9FM. Ms. Bacon is the founder of Mo'Tiff Designs, named for "more things that Tiff does" and for its literal definition (a distinctive feature or dominant idea in an artistic or literary composition). Mo'Tiff costume work appeared in *Gem of the Ocean* (The Arden Theatre) (Understudy Run Only); *Purlie Victorious* (Allens Lane Theater), August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* (The Steel River Playhouse) *The Colored Museum and The Prince of Nubia* (Theatre in the X) *Egoli & Master Harold & The Boys* (EgoPo Classic Theatre) *The Little Princess* (Quintessence Theatre) *Trouble in Mind* (Philadelphia Artists' Collective) and Dauphin Island (Passage Theatre).

Drew Billiau (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer based in the Philadelphia area. Recent designs include the Samsung booth for the Consumer Electronics Show, *Travesties* for Lantern Theater, *Rigoletto* for Opera Philadelphia, *Death of A Driver* for Interact Theater and the gallery lighting for *Blood Moon* at The Fabric and Textile Workshop. Drew has designed numerous shows for such companies as Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Jacobs' Pillow, New York Theater Workshop, The Joyce, Vail International Dance Festival, Opera Philadelphia, Vancouver Opera, BalletX, Pennsylvania Ballet, Wilma Theater, Portland Ballet, Lucidity Suitcase, New Paradise Laboratories, Theater Exile, 1812 Productions and The Lantern Theater. Art installation designs include - *The Electric Street, Electric Toronto, Electric Philadelphia, Phoenix Desert Botanical Gardens* and the *Los Angeles Ice Cream Museum*. Drew is currently the Director of Design & Technology at Opera Philadelphia and an Associate Designer with the corporate/industrial lighting firm Fine Design Associates,inc.

Natali Merrill (Sound Designer) is a sound and technology designer and engineer excited to return to Theatre Exile! Based in Philadelphia, she has been the sound designer for productions including *Spring Awakening* (Bryn Mawr College), *High Noon* (Ninth Planet), Shakespeare's *R&J* (New Light Theatre Company), *Fucking A* (Swarthmore College), *Riot Antigone* and *Cabaret* (Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges). She has worked with Theatre Exile, 11th Hour Theatre Company, the Bearded Ladies Cabaret, New Century Theatre Company in Seattle, and the Williamstown Theatre Festival. A graduate of Haverford College with a major in physics, she researched and wrote a thesis on acoustics in performance halls with RWTH Aachen University in Aachen, Germany. She is also a singer and composer. www.nmerrill.com

Larry Fowler (Composer) is a Philadelphia based theater sound designer, radio imaging producer and music producer whose work spans over 20 years. Theater companies Larry has designed for include Arden Theater, Wilma Theater, Azuka Theater, Interact Theater, Theater Horizon, People's Light, New Paradise Labs, Simpatico, Theater Exile, The Lantern Theatre, Denver Center, Trinity Rep, ELeon Dance, Danse4Nia and Khaleah London Dance. He is a three-time Barrymore Award nominee for his work on Blood Wedding (Wilma Theater, 2017), Peter and the Starcatcher (Theater Horizon, 2018), and Hype Man (Interact Theater, 2018).



Avista Custom Theatrical Services, LLC (Properties), owned by Jennifer Burkhart and Amanda Hatch, was founded in 2007. Avista specializes in prop construction, upholstery, drapery and other soft goods construction, and maintains a 10,000 square foot rental warehouse in Norristown. Avista's prop master and design work has been seen locally at Opera Philadelphia, Azuka Theatre, Drexel and Temple Universities, Maukingbird Theatre, EgoPo Classic Theater, Theatre Exile, Inis Nua Theater, and Kimmel Center Education Department. Avista is especially grateful to be back in the theater scene this year, after 18 months of sewing face masks and dog accessories! Welcome back, Philly theater! www.avistacustom.com

Dr. Kimmika L. H. Williams-Witherspoon (Dramaturg) PhD (Cultural Anthropology), M.A. (Anthropology), MFA (Theater), Graduate Certificate) Women's Studies, B.A. (Journalism); is an Associate Professor of Urban Theater and Community Engagement and President of the Faculty Senate at Temple University. Author of *Through Smiles and Tears: The History of African American Theater (From Kemet to the Americas)* (Lambert Academic Publishing, 2011); *The Secret Messages in African American Theater: Hidden Meaning Embedded in Public Discourse"* (Edwin Mellen Publishing, 2006), she has had over 34 productions of her plays, her stage credits include over 20 productions, 8 one-woman shows and she has performed poetry in over 120 national and international venues. A contributing poet to 44 anthologies, 11 books of poetry, 9 book chapters, 10 journal articles and 2 books on African American Theater.

Janet Embree (Production Manager) is thrilled to be part of the team at Theatre Exile. She has managed productions at Lantern Theater Company, Opera Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Ballet and Philadelphia Artists' Collective, among others. She spent several years at the University of the Arts where she taught and managed productions in theater, dance and music. She also does professional upholstery for the stage and screen; one of her favorite projects can be seen in the 2018 Grammy Awards.

Melody Wong* (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with Theater Exile. Recent credits include *Dreamgirls* with Theater in the X, *Di Hati Ku* with Fleisher Art Memorial and Modero & Co, *In Search of the Kitchen Gods* with 1812, Group!, *Janet Wide Awake* and *Ok Trenton* with Passage Theatre. *The Ongoing Plight of the Ferryman* at Plays and Players. Additional credits: SM for; *TURN! Polly Mope, Lashed but not Leashed, Black Light, The Outer Space, The Kinetic Tree*, PIFA 2016 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, *Minorityland* with PowerStreet Theater, *The Wiz* with Theater in the X, *Tiger Style* with Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists, *Master*

Melody Wong* cont. Harold and the Boys, with EgoPo Classic Theater, Barrymore Awards 2018/2019, ASM Whitman! Contradict this! with Bearded Ladies Cabaret, Assistant to the Director for the live capture of La Traviata, Turandot, The Marriage of Figaro with Opera Philadelphia. "

Miranda Watkins (Assistant Stage Manager & COVID Compliance Officer) is thrilled to be working with Theatre Exile for the first time! Their recent stage managing and assistant stage managing credits include Dance Nation with Temple University, Dreamgirls with Theatre in the X, and Reverie with Azuka Theatre. Miranda is currently pursuing their BFA in Technical Production and Management at Temple University.

Nick Schwasman (Technical Director) is theater artist and technician based in Philadelphia, PA. He has a BFA in Musical Theater from The University of the Arts, and a graduate certificate in devised performance from UArts / Pig Iron School. He was a co-founder/co-director of Drip Symphony, a local experimental performance company from 2017-2020. He has worked with Pig Iron Theater Company, Lighting Rod Special, Brian Sanders JUNK, David Gordon, The Renegade Company / Mike Durkin, Arden Theater Company, Lantern Theater Company, Plays & Players, and Philadelphia Scenic Works.

Get our EARLY BIRD Special for Theatre Exile's Spring Virtual Workshop Series



ACTIVATE PROGRESS



WORKSHOP 1 Saturday, June 3rd at 11:30amActivate Progress for administrative, developmental & production teams **With LaNeshe Miller White**

Learn how to create inclusive marketing, outreach, and PR plans and create meaningful partnerships to connect with new audiences



WORKSHOP 2 Saturday, June 10th at 11:30am Activate Progress for creatives from all walks of life With Kalif Troy

Get a new perspective resume building, basic contract review and learn how to highlight your uniqueness in your audition.

Each session is 90 minutes and on Zoom \$25 per session Early Bird Registration \$35 after 5/23/23



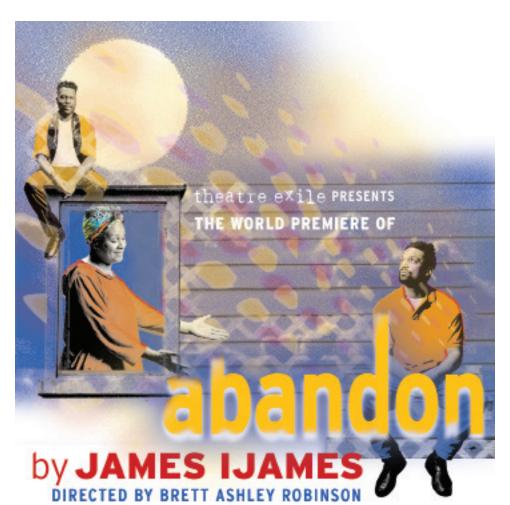
Sophie Smyczek (Assistant Lighting Designer/Master Electrician) is a Philly-based freelance electrician, excited to be back at Exile for her second show. Thanks to Bella and Matt! www.sophiesmyczek.com



Loy A. Webb (Playwright) is a Chicago-born playwright, attorney and theatre journalist. Her plays include *The Light* (MCC Theater 2018/2019, Outer Critics Circle nomination for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play; The New Colony 2017/2018, Joseph Jefferson Award) and *His Shadow* (16th Street Theater 2019/2020). She was an inaugural Tutterow Fellow at Chicago Dramatists, and as theatre journalist she is a member of the Association of Women of Journal-

ist-Chicago, a past mentor with the AWJ-Chicago/Goodman Theatre's Cindy Bandle Young Critics Program, and a contributing theater critic for Newcity. Loy holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. She is currently a writer on the AMC television series NOS4A2.

Deborah Block (Producing Artistic Director) has been a consistent figure in the Philadelphia arts community for over 30 years as a director, dramaturg, producer, curator, choreographer and educator. Deborah has been with Theatre Exile since 2006 and assumed the position of Producing Artistic Director in 2013. Prior to that she was one of the founding organizers of the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe (now FringeArts) and was the program director for ten years. She received her MFA at Temple University where she taught for nine years. Prior to that she taught at Rowan University, University of the Arts, and was a teaching artist in many K-12 programs. She has received much recognition for her professional and educational work including receiving the Independence Fellowship in the Arts and the Albert Benzwie Award for playwriting. She has sat on many local and national panels including Theatre Philadelphia. A sampling of her previous affiliations include Brat Productions, Theatre Ariel, Philadelphia Young Playwrights Festival, The Wilma Theater and the CEC. She has worked on over 60 professional productions. For Theatre Exile she has directed Wolf Play, Extreme Home Makeover, Babel, Among the Dead, Sing the Body Electric, Guards at the Taj, Smoke, Red Speedo, Cock, The English Bride, Gruesome Playground Injuries, Iron, Hunter Gatherers, dark play or stories for boys, Roosters and collaborated on Hearts & Soles and Motherfu**er with the Hat.



APRIL 27 - MAY 21, 2023

HONORARY PRODUCERS: LINDA & DAVID GLICKSTEIN and SUSAN AND EDWARD HOFFMAN ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS: GAYLE & DAVID SMITH and THE BROTHERS NETWORK

FEATURING: CARLO CAMPBELL, MELANYE FINISTER, JOSHUA E. NELSON, BRENSON THOMAS

Luella is alone - haunted by the ghost of her son. Joshua is alone - kicked out of his house by his brother. One winter night these two people collide. Luella is looking for redemption; Joshua is looking for family. By the next morning, these two lonely souls are meshed together into an American Family in its truest sense. A world premiere by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright James Ijames, Abandon is sometimes violent, sometimes healing; with a gossamer veil that separates the worlds of the living and the dead, and shame and acceptance.

Theatre Exile is dedicated to enhancing the cultural experiences of Philadelphians and committed to creating community by sparking dialogue through the development and staging of artistically excellent and provocative contemporary plays that engage the imagination. Founded in 1996 by Joe Canuso and Trish Kelly, Theatre Exile was created by a group of artists who wanted to rattle the gates of the mainstream. In July, 2013 Deborah Block took on the role of Producing Artistic Director. Under her leadership Exile continues to produce plays that explore the complexities of the human condition packed with Philadelphia grit and passion. Exile is the first Philadelphia organization to produce such powerhouse playwrights as Tracy Letts, Lucas Hnath, Annie Baker, Rajiv Joseph, Rona Munro, and Hansol Jung among others. In 2016 Exile was named most fearless theatre by Philly Currents and Best Theater Company by Philadelphia Magazine. Exile received the Time Out Recommended Award 2017. For excellence in producing theatre, Exile has received 92 Barrymore nominations, with 19 awards. In 2017 Theatre Exile left their home to begin a new phase in Exile's life. Following her idea to create a new home in their old location in South Philadelphia, Deborah with the Board of Directors collaborated with Center City Development and Cecil Baker + Partners, and created a vision for a new theater that honors the art and maintains Exile's goals of working in an intimate and flexible environment. They moved into the new facility and produced their first play in 2019. In 2022 Theatre Exile won Best of Philly for Best Theatre Subscription and Best Local Theater Company by Metro Philly.

Actors Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers, and stage managers working in hundreds of theaters across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-ClO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.

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Rose Farrell, Intern
Yuanjun Yao, Intern
Edgimo, Website
Andrew Nelson, IT Consultant

Artistic

Matt Pfeiffer. Artist in Residence

Education

TS Hawkins, Director of Education

External Relations

Denise Cavaliere, Director of Individual Giving Anne Marie Cammarato, Grant Writer En Route Marketing, Tracy Bucholz & Billy Cook

Community Engagement

Sebastienne Mundheim, Producer and Project Manager, Out of Exile

Building and Venue Maintenance

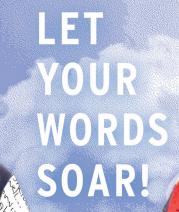
Shane Walsh, Building Manager Rosa Mendez, Housekeeper

Production

Janet Embree, Production and Facilities Manager
Melody Wong, Season Stage Manager
Natalie Merrill, Season Audio Engineer
Nick Schwasman, Technical Director
Sophie Smyczek, Master Electrician
Matthew Bock, Electrics
Isabella Capelli, Electrics
Rose Ferrell, Electrics
Blake Hastings, Carpenter
Stephen Peterson, Carpenter
Jasper West, Carpenter
Casie Weaver, Carpenter

Front of House Staff

Luke Coffey Noah Sturtridge Becca Smith River Von Waldron





MONDAY APRIL 3-FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2023 Students in 6th-12th grade

Price \$350 Registration required Scholarships available

In Person at Theatre Exile 1340 S 13th Street Philadelphia, PA 19147

theatre



eXile