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LEWIS UNIVERSITY
FALL 2021

PERFORMING
ARTS SERIES



By: David Alex

“N”

OCTOBER 12, 2021 • 7:30P

Philip Lynch Theatre

CAST

Renee Lockett	Mrs. Page
Ryan Smetana	Eddy
Reginald Hemphil	Deshawn

World Premiere directed by TaRon Patton produced by GLP Productions and Chicago's Greenhouse Theater Center in 2019.

“N” is made possible by generous support from the Illinois Arts Council



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BIOGRAPHIES



David Alex (*Playwright*) has written fourteen full-length and eighteen one-acts plays. Following it's 2019 Chicago Premiere, "**N**" was staged by Black Sheep Productions (Sharon PA) in 2021. Future productions of "**N**" include the Angel Wing Project (Glen Burnie MD) in February 2022 and The Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate New York (Albany NY) in April 2022. He has received three grants from the Illinois Arts Council and one from the Pilgrim Foundation, an award for plays that deal with issues of moral significance. Recent full-length productions include **N**, Greenhouse Theater Center, **Eroica**, Azusa Productions i/a/w Redtwist Theatre; **Ends**, an African-American Theatre Festival Award Winner (Univ. of Louisville), at New Jersey Repertory Company and Bowen Park Theatre Co.; **Adrift**, Polarity Ensemble, **Corpus Delicti**, MadKap Productions; **Onto Infinity**, Azusa Productions Bowen Park Theatre Company; **The Second-Oldest Profession** (musical book), Tesseract Theatre, and **By the Rivers of Babylon**, Chicago Playwrights' Center. Dramatic Publishing has published two of his plays and one monologue. Reviews and synopses of his fourteen full length and eighteen one act plays are available on his website; davidalex.net



TaRon Patton (*Producer/Director*) is excited to bring a GLP production to Lewis University. Producer credits: **N** (Greenhouse Theatre), **Misty Tanner** (Q&A Productions). Directing credits: **N** (Greenhouse Theatre) **Saturday Night**, **Sunday Morning** (Steppenwolf Garage Rep), **Bulrush** (Congo Square Theatre), **Nativity Tribute** (Congo Square Theatre). Acting credits: **Meet Vera Stark** (Goodman Theater), **Hot L Baltimore** (Steppenwolf); **The Bluest Eye** (Steppenwolf and New Victory), **King Hedley II** (Congo Square Theatre Company), and **Joe Turner's Come and Gone** (Goodman Theater). Television credits: **The Chi**, **Empire**, **Chicago PD**, **Chicago Fire**, **Chicago Med**, **A Different World**.

CAST



Renee Lockett (*Mrs Page*) is a "seasoned" Chicago actor who is feeling incredibly blessed to still be an active part of this business. Last seen on a live stage in **Her Honor Jane Byrne** at Lookingglass Theatre, Renee is also a recipient of a 2020 Jeff Award for her performance in **Sugar In Our Wounds** at First Floor Theatre. She also has worked at Victory Gardens, Steppenwolf, Court theatre, Black Ensemble, ETA, Fleetwood Jourdain, 3 Cat, MPAACT, Redtwist, and Babes with Blades. Most recent film credits include **The Plow**, **Freelancers Anonymous**, **Ageusia**, and **Otis' Dream**. Television credits include **The Chi** and a recurring role as Dorothy Lorene Brown on the HBO Max series **South Side**. Renee is proud to be represented by DDO Artist's Agency. Thanks for attending this evening!



Ryan Smetana (*Eddy*) is a Chicago based actor, singer, and musician. He is excited to be reprising the role of Eddy in this production on **N**. He was last seen in **Pride and Prejudice** at The Macklanburg Playhouse in Missouri. Other Chicago and regional credits include **Macbeth**, **Boy Gets Girl**, **The Pirates of Penzance**, **4.48 Psychosis**, **In the Soundless Awe** (Saltbox Theatre), **A Christmas Carol** (Drury Lane), **Pericles**, **The Tempest** (Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival), **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** (Citadel Theatre), **Two Days In Court** (City Lit), **The 30th Annual Young Playwrights Festival** (Pegasus Theatre), and **A Fabulous 50's Christmas** (Towle Theatre). BFA in acting from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. www.ryansmetana.com



Reginald Hemphill (*Deshawn*) is a Chicago based actor excited to work with TaRon Patton and David Alex again on this production of **N**. His recent credits include **Roast** (Keith Cross) (The Comrades), **Calorie Counters** (Charlie *Understudy*) (Cuckoo's Theatre) **Superman! The Musical** (Perry White) (Cincinnati Children's Theatre), **Failure: A Love Story** (Henry Fail) (Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati), and **Dreamgirls** (C.C. White.) (Carnegie in Covington KY.)

Reginald is represented by Actors Talent Group.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Razor Wintercastle (*Production Manager/Props Manager*) has worked in the Chicago area for quite some time as well as Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, South America, all over the place with various theatre companies, concerts, dance companies, film projects, festivals, Expos, Cruises, etc. Some Chicago area companies include Writers' Theatre, Congo Square Theatre, Deeply Rooted, Muntu, Shattered Globe, The Black Ensemble, Teatro Vista, American Blues Theatre, MPAACT Theatre, West Side Theater Guild. When not working on productions, Razor mentors youth to get more involved working backstage. It is a pleasure to work on this project.

Ashley Coney (*Stage Manager*) hails from Louisville, Ky where she attended the Youth Performing Arts School. Passionate about theatre, she obtained her BA in Theatre Arts from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pa. Ashley relocated to Chicago where she served in arts education at ETA during the production of **Summer on the Nile**. Ashley has performed in various shows around the city and has discovered a calling for the technical side of theater in stage management and directing. She is thrilled and thankful for the opportunity to stage manage this production of **N** and would like to thank cast and crew for embarking on this journey with her

Kayla Satcher (*Stagehand*) majored in Acting at Lookingglass Theater's summer camp for many years where she thrived as a performer but found her passion working backstage during the first production of **N** at the Greenhouse Theater. She is excited to return to this production at Lewis University.

DESIGNERS CREDIT

Shawn Wallace (*Sound Design*) is overjoyed to be working with TaRon Patton again at Lewis University. Shawn also was Sound Designer for her Spring 2019 production of **Single Black Female** (Congo Square Theatre). A multi-talented musical artist in styles ranging from Gospel to Jazz to Hip-Hop and beyond; as keyboardist, Shawn Wallace has worked with luminary artists such as Common, Ice Cube, Bobby Brown, Dwele, Johnny Gill, Jon B., Bilal, Estelle, Julie Dexter, Erykah Badu, Rene Neufville, Rakim, Eric Roberson, Maggie Brown, Ugochi, and Cherisse Scott. Arrangement and composition for theatre include Ifa Bayeza's Amistad Voices (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Kid Zero (Chicago Center for Performing Arts), and Charleston Olio (National Black Theatre Festival).

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

MATTHEW MCCRIGHT

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3 • 7:30 PM
St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall

Matthew McCright's performs a piano concert, "Forward Looking Back," at Lewis University. Recently performed by McCright at Carnegie Hall, the titular work by Dorothy Hindman serves as the anchor point to this program that explores the cycles of time —both of the future and our collective pasts. Andrea Mazzariello's *As Far As You Can Stretch a Web* visits his remembered past in relation to the piano while Mike McFerron loops us through the infinite series in *...apprehension of the eternal will*. The pianist's own past and current love of jazz swirls through works by Terry Riley and Laura Caviani, flanked by the persistence of Rob Voisey's work and the 25th Anniversary of Paul Dresher's masterpiece *Blue Diamonds*.



ART GALLERY SHOW

CHICAGO SOCIETY OF ARTISTS – AS WE SEE IT
 OCTOBER 1 – 22

ART RECEPTION & GALLERY TALK

Thursday, October 21 – 7 pm
Wadsworth Family Gallery

The Nation's oldest, continually programming art society is well into its second century of exhibiting art. CSA's exhibitions are sought by galleries due to the artists' ability to interpret the real and imaginary world via artistic versatility and eclectic styles across a variety of art mediums.

PEACE TEACH-IN SERIES

FROM FEAR TO COMPASSION:

Growing Connections, Changing Narratives, Deepening Empathy

Through the annual Peace Teach-In, we grow mindful of our intrinsic longing for community, even as the pandemic continues. We hear the cries of the poor and of the Earth to craft and tell more truthful and inclusive stories. Our capacity to deeply care for one another awakens.

Learning How to Be a Community Organizer	Wednesday, Oct. 13 – 11am <i>Online</i>
Creating Peace: A Zine-Making Workshop	Wednesday, Oct. 13 – 1 pm <i>D'Arcy Great Room</i>
Peace Circle	Wednesday, Oct. 13 – 3pm <i>D'Arcy Great Room</i>
Continuous Evolution	Wednesday, Oct. 13 – 6 pm <i>Online</i>
Peace Circle	Thursday, Oct. 14 – 9:30 am <i>D'Arcy Great Room</i>
The Courage to Listen	Thursday, Oct. 14 – 12:30 pm <i>Online</i>
Understanding and Confronting Re-entry Challenges	Thursday, Oct. 14 – 2 pm <i>D'Arcy Great Room</i>
Waking in Oak Creek: Confronting Hate through Interfaith Kinship	Thursday, Oct. 14 – 3:30 pm <i>D'Arcy Great Room</i>
The Gift of Our Wounds	Thursday, Oct. 14 – 7 pm <i>Online</i>
Putting Human Flourishing at the Center of All Knowledge Acquisition	Friday, Oct. 15 – 11am <i>D'Arcy Great Room</i>
Peace Circle	Friday, Oct. 15 – 1 pm <i>D'Arcy Great Room</i>
Targeting Injustice	Friday, Oct. 15 – 3 pm <i>Archery Field (behind Cody Hall)</i>