



HOMEGROWN STORIES
August 6, 2020

Producers

Drew Martorella..... Managing Director of the Pittsburgh Playhouse
 Steven Breese..... Artistic Director and Dean of the Conservatory of Performing Arts
 Kim Martin..... General Manager and Producer of the Pittsburgh Playhouse
 Marc MastersonArtistic Director of City Theatre
 Clare Drobot.....Associate Artistic Director of City Theatre
 Monteze Freeland.....Associate Producer of City Theatre

Production Team

Sound Design Howard Patterson
 Scenic Design.....Britton Mauk
 Production Manager..... James Ogden II*

1. *I Wanna Say* by Ngozi Anyanwu
 Directed by Raecine Singletary
 1- Melessie Clark*
 2- Hope Anthony*

4. *Under* by Mark Clayton Southers.
 Director – Kyle Haden
 David – Richard McBride
 Mildred – Caroline Nicolian*

2. *When Things Get Bad, At Least We Have Each Other* by Matt Pelfrey
 Directed by Kyle Haden
 Mom- Hazel Leroy
 Son- Quinn Patrick Shannon*
 Woman- Caroline Nicolian*

3. *Helicopters* by Tammy Ryan
 Directed by Rachel Stevens
 Maureen- Daina Michelle Griffith*
 Jim- Daniel Krell*
 Kat- Zoey Myers

5. *In the Macro* by Marcus Stevens
 Directed by Rachel Stevens
 Alex – Hope Anthony*
 Cantor Jessie – Quinn Patrick Shannon*
 Leslie – Melessie Clark*
 *Member of Actors' Equity

Ngozi Anyanwu (*Playwright*) Education: University of California, San Diego (MFA in Acting), Point Park University (BA). Acting: The Pittsburgh Public Theatre, The City Theatre, Barrington Stage, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and The Mark Taper Forum. Television credits include “Limitless,” “Deadbeat,” “The Affair,” “Law & Order: SVU,” “The Mysteries of Laura,” and “The Deuce.” *Good Grief, Victory Is Ours, The Homecoming Queen*, and *Nike or We Don’t Need Another Hero*. Film credits include *Split* and *Women Who Kill*. *Good Grief* (kilroys list 2016, semi finalist *Princess Grace, Humanitas Award*) was produced at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles in Spring 2017 which Anyanwu also starred in. *NIKE* (kilroys list 2017) was recently workshopped at The New Black Fest in conjunction with The Lark and The Strand Festival in conjunction with A.C.T and Space on Ryder Farm. *The Homecoming Queen* (kilroys list 2017, Leah Ryan Finalist) recently had its world premiere at The Atlantic theater which also had a sold out run. Anyanwu has also received residencies from LCT3, Space on Ryder Farm, and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, The New Harmony Project, New York Stage and Film and Page 73. She is also commissioned with NYU, The Old Globe and The Atlantic Theatre.

Matt Pelfrey's plays include *The Alligator Gospels, An Impending Rupture of the Belly, Freak Storm, Pure Shock Value, Terminus Americana*, and an adaptation of John Ball's *In the Heat of the Night*. Creative collaborators include Artists Rep (Portland, OR), The Shattered Globe (CHI), Pittsburgh Playwrights, Seven Devils, and the Actors Theatre of Louisville, where he won the National 10-Minute play award. Matt's plays are published by Samuel French and Broadway Play Publishing. He is the Program Director for Point Park's MFA in Writing for Screen & Stage.

Marcus Stevens is a proud graduate of Point Park University and no stranger to Pittsburgh Theater. He has worked as an actor at the Pittsburgh Playhouse (*Floyd Collins, A New Brain, Eastburn Avenue*), City Theatre (*Honus and Me*), Pittsburgh CLO (*Forever Plaid*), and Pittsburgh Public Theater (*An Act of God*), among others. Much of his writing was first produced on Pittsburgh stages, including his musicals *Red* (Richard Rodgers Award winner, music by Brian Lowdermilk), *Yo, Vikings!* (published by Samuel French Inc, music by Sam Willmott), *Eastburn Avenue* (music by Douglas Levine), and *Game On* (music by David Dabbon). In New York, Marcus performed in the cast of two editions of *Forbidden Broadway* and contributed writing material to the family show, *Dragons Love Tacos and Other Stories* for Theaterworks USA. Most recently, Marcus wrote the book and lyrics to *Mythic* (music by Oran Eldor), which had its world premiere in London in 2018 and its North American premiere in Montreal in 2019. *Mythic* was a National Alliance for Musical Theater Festival Winner and its Original London Cast Recording is available on all streaming platforms. Marcus's proudest creation to date is his almost 3-year-old son, Ari - lovingly produced with his wife Julia. Marcus-Stevens.com

Mark Clayton Southers and his family reside in Pittsburgh's historic Hill District. He is an award-winning playwright, stage director, scenic designer, photographer and theatrical producer. He is the founder and producing Artistic Director of the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company where he has produced well over 160 full length and one act plays, including August Wilson's complete 10 play Pittsburgh Century Cycle. As a Playwright his very first play *When the Water Turns Clear* was produced at Chicago's ETA Theater. His second play *Ashes to Africa* was a finalist at the 2001 Dayton Playhouse Future Fest. His third play *Ma Noah* was the recipient of the 2004 Theodore Ward prize at Columbia College, Chicago. He has written over 20 full length and One-Act plays including the poem play *Angry Black Man Poetry* aka *End Angered Species* which had a successful run at Teatr Śląski in Katowice, Poland in 2009 and *Miss Julie, Clarissa and John* which ran at the 2017 National Black Theatre Festival and also had a three week run in 2017 at Scotlands prestigious Edinburg Fringe Festival. His current playwriting projects include two plays for his 19th Century Cycle *Wise Art & The Igbo Landing* as well as *Cyril* about the well known Forensic Pathologist Dr. Cyril Wecht. Mark is a member of the Dramatist Guild of America, and the former

Artistic Director of both the August Wilson African-American Cultural Center in Pittsburgh PA and the Short North Stage August Wilson Festival in Columbus Ohio. For additional info please visit: markclaytonsouthers.com

TAMMY RYAN is a resident playwright of New Dramatists class of 2025 and a Playpenn Haas Fellow. Her award-winning plays have been performed, commissioned and developed across the United States and internationally at such theaters as The Alliance Theater, Florida Stage, Marin Theater, People's Light and Theater Company, Premiere Stages, City Theatre Company, The Pittsburgh Playhouse, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, The Dorset Theater Festival, Portland Stage Company and 29th Street Rep among many others. Her play, *The Wake* was the 2019 winner of Premiere Stages Play Festival and further developed by Orlando Shakespeare Theater's Playfest in the fall of 2019. Playpenn named Ryan as one of this year's 2020 Haas Fellows to develop her new play, *Take My Hand And Wave Goodbye* at their New Play Conference in Philadelphia in July. Her play *Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods*, (Premiere Stages) was awarded the ATCA Francesca Primus Prize in 2012 and featured at NNPN's national showcase. Other plays include *Molly's Hammer* (Repertory Theater of St. Louis) nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the ATCA Steinberg New Play Award and a St. Louis Theater Critics Circle Award; *Tar Beach* (Luna Stage) also nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and included on the Kilroy's List. *Soldier's Heart*, *A Confluence of Dreaming*, *FBI Girl* (Pittsburgh Playhouse) *Lindsey's Oyster* (Garag Istanbul, Kitchen Theater) and *Baby's Blues* which was performed at the National Center for Performing Arts in Mumbai, India in 2019. Her work for young audiences includes a devised adaptation, *We Are Antigone*, commissioned as part of the Alliance Theater Company's Collision Project, is published by Playscripts and continues to be produced at high schools across the United States and in Australia. *The Music Lesson*, commissioned by Prime Stage, professionally premiered at Florida Stage in 2000, was awarded the AATE Distinguished New Play Award in 2004 and has since had well over fifty productions nationally and in Canada. Ryan's plays have been named finalist or semi-finalist for numerous awards including the The Terrence McNally Playwriting Award, Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, Heideman Award, David Mark Cohen Award, Interact Theatre's 2020 Commission Award and the National Playwrights Conference. She is the recipient of many fellowships, residencies and grants and is grateful for the support she has received from the New Harmony Project, the Sewanee Writer's Conference, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council and the Sprout Fund. Ryan is on faculty with the Dramatists Guild Institute's Plays in Progress program. Her plays are published Dramatists Play Service, Broadway Play Publishing, Inc., Dramatic Publishing Company and Playscripts. For more information: tammyryan.net

Raecine Singletary is blessed to be serving as a director with City Theatre and Point Park University with *I Wanna Say*. Raecine is a Baltimore native who is currently pursuing her BA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in directing at Point Park University. She recently made her Pittsburgh Playhouse directorial debut with *The Bomb* in the Raymond Laine One Acts Festival. She has also recently made her Point Park Conservatory debut in Helen Edmundson's *Coram Boy* directed by Tomé Cousin. As well as her Prime Stage debut as Fabianne/Sea Captain in *Twelfth Night* directed by Andy Kirtland. She is so grateful to her cast and design team for sharing their talents with her, and to Ngozi and Monteze for entrusting her with this powerful piece. She is honored to share the zoom "stage" with such amazing artists and colleagues. Raecine dedicates this performance to her late grandfather. 4:44

A Pittsburgh native, **Kyle Haden** is a director, educator, and Equity actor. He is in his sixth season as the artistic director of the Ashland New Plays Festival in Oregon, and is also an Assistant Professor of Acting at Carnegie Mellon University. Kyle has directed various productions across the country, including the award-winning world premiere of *Hazardous Materials* (Creede Repertory Theatre), *A Brief History of America* (Hangar Theatre Company), *Hamlet* and *The Winter's Tale* (Island Shakespeare Festival) and *The Tens* (Actor's Theatre of Louisville). He was named a 2018 Drama League Directing Fellow. BA: Wake Forest University, MFA: Columbia University

RACHEL M. STEVENS is a New York City based director and educator. Select credits include: (Assistant Director) director Rachel Chavkin, *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*, Broadway and A.R.T; *Preludes*, Lincoln Center Theater, LCT3; (Associate Director) director Peter Flynn, *Smart Blonde*, 59E59 Off Broadway premiere; (Assistant Director) director Andy Blankenbuehler, *The Bandstand*, Paper Mill Playhouse; (Director) New York Film Academy; SheNYC Arts; NYMF and TheaterWorksUSA. A Point Park Alumna, Rachel is always proud to return home to work in the Pittsburgh community. Pittsburgh credits include: The Pittsburgh Playhouse; Quantum Theatre of Pittsburgh; City Theatre of Pittsburgh and Front Porch Theatricals. Rachel is a monologue coach for MTCA (Musical Theater College Auditions) and most recently directed a virtual summer theater program for Upper Darby Summer Stage of Philadelphia. She holds her MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School in Directing and is a proud SDC Associate. Thank you to Monteze and Clare for bringing her on board for this wonderful project, to Tammy and Marcus for sharing your powerful stories and to the rest of the cast and design team for your generosity and heart.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS
AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS
SAG-AFTRA

through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.