

LAVENDER TERRACE
EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF BLACK LIFE IN AMERICA
BY NATASHA THOMPSON

DEC
2-3

LAVENDER TERRACE



new
Hazzlett
theater

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NATASHA THOMPSON'S **LAVENDER TERRACE**

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF BLACK LIFE IN AMERICA

DECEMBER 2-3 | NEW HAZLETT THEATER

THE TEAM

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NATASHA THOMPSON..... | PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR |
| JASMINE BATTLE..... | SOUND DESIGNER |
| CHERISH MORGAN..... | RUNTY/SARIAH, CHOREOGRAPHER |
| KONTARA MORPHIS | CORNERSTONE/KAMARIA |
| SIMON PHILLIPS..... | FINEST BLOOD/ SWEET |
| DAMIAN E. DOMINGUEZ | COSTUME DESIGNER |
| RIANNE LINDSEY..... | LIGHTING DESIGNER |
| AUDREY MEDRANO..... | FILM ENGINEER/VIDEOGRAPHER |
| NINA GABRIELLE STUMPF..... | SCENIC DESIGNER |
| JOSH HINKLE..... | PROJECT MANAGER |



A lot of *Lavender Terrace* is about experimenting using it [Marita Bonner's *Purple Flower*] as a foundation... In light of the events and protests that have happened over the past year, this felt like good material to engage with. My goal is to push Marita's original allegory forward and to capture the essence of Black life in America over the past 100 years."

— NATASHA THOMPSON

SCENES

ACT I

SCENE I.....FRAMING THE GENESIS

ACT II

SCENE I.....BREAKING THROUGH
(RUNTY/SARIAH)

SCENE II.....GETTING UP THE HILL
(CORNERSTONE/ KAMARIA)

SCENE III.....ARRIVING
(FINEST BLOOD/SWEET)

ACT III

SCENE I.....LAVENDER TERRACE

SCENE II.....GO LAY DOWN

ABOUT *LAVENDER TERRACE*

Lavender Terrace is a multi-media performance that explores Marita Bonner's *The Purple Flower*, published in 1928. This new play tells the story of marginalized and oppressed people fighting for the right to live life to the fullest over the last eighty years in America. *Lavender Terrace* progresses through time, beginning in the late 1920s and landing in an obscured but familiar representation of the present day.

SPECIAL THANKS

Vocalist – Serena Wiley (Runty/Sariah), Sierra Smith (Cornerstone/Kamaria), Natorious Douglas (Finest Blood/Sweet)

Composition Contributor – Ariel Cherry, Michael Battle

Percussion Contributor -Howard Artis

Tenor Sax Contributor- Serena Wiley

NHT 21/22

ARTIST STATEMENT

I have been honored to develop this project over the past year and a half and would like to take this space to share this work's iterative history.



PRODUCTION HISTORY

Lavender Terrace is inspired by Marita Bonner's *The Purple Flower*. Initially published in 1928 in the *Crisis Magazine*, *The Purple Flower* addresses racial tension in the U.S. *Lavender Terrace* experiments with Movement, Poetry and Narrative storytelling to frame and interpret the last 100 years of Black life in the U.S.

FIRST ITERATION

In response to the global health pandemic, the first iteration was developed virtually with support from The STUDIO for Creative Inquiry's Residency-In-Your-Room Fellowship. This is archived on Vimeo via the following link: tiny.cc/lavender-1st

Director.....NaTasha Thompson
Visual Designer.....Petra Floyd
Musicians.....Daryl Miles, Mattie Justice,
... Jessica Fuquay
Voice Actors.....Sierra Smith, Rayven Bailey,
Dylan T. Jackson
Additional Footage....Skylar Bush, Marilyn Bush

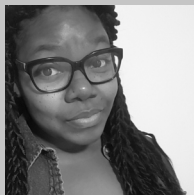
SECOND ITERATION

An experimental movement workshop, this iteration was both prerecorded and live broadcast. This performance was made possible through Kelly-Strayhorn Theatre's Freshworks Residency as well as support from CMU College of Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Award. This performance is archived on Vimeo via the following link: tiny.cc/lavender-2nd

Artistic Leads.....Petra Floyd &
NaTasha Thompson
Choreographer.....Cherish Morgan
Dancers.....Tyler Randolph- Humpheries,
& AJ Libert
Sound Design.....CPE Studios (Jasmine Battle)
Videography.....Audrey Medrano
Costuming.....Damian Dominguez

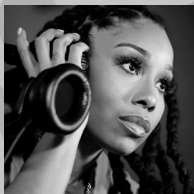


TEAM BIOS



NATASHA THOMPSON (*Playwright/Director*)

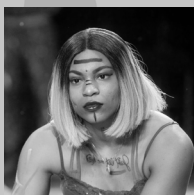
is a director, playwright, and North Carolina native. Much of her inspiration comes from her southern roots. She creates work that offers opportunity for productive discourse. As a result, underrepresented voices are amplified and education/awareness is increased. NaTasha holds an M.F.A in Directing from Carnegie Mellon University.



JASMINE BATTLE (*Sound Designer*)

is a producer and audio engineer based out of North Carolina. She produces under the name JDmL. She is an NCCU alumnus (Music Business) and audio certified from Living Arts College. She is a head engineer and co-manages CPE Music Group LLC for both studio, with composition, arrangement, mixing and mastering and stage production as a monitor and front of house engineer. She also works for Live Nation, Sonic

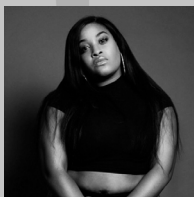
Pie Productions and a few other local crews. She enjoys management and new artist development with local artists. Her hobbies include fitness, travel and posting videos on her YouTube channel music vlog, all things audio.



CHERISH MORGAN (*Runty/Sariah, Choreographer*)

is a choreographer and performing artist. She is a choreographer for Alumni Theater Company (ATC), has taught at propel charter schools, Hill Dance Academy Theater (HDAT), and Alloy Studios. In February of 2019, Cherish created and performed in a dance show called REVEAL. In 2016 Cherish was featured in the Kelly Strayhorn Theater's New Moves Dance Festival. Cherish is a part of ATC's professional ensemble where

she sings, dances, and acts. Cherish's goals are to create an adult dance company in the future that focuses on mental health issues, overcoming insecurities and celebrating life.



KONTARA MORPHIS (*Cornerstone/Kamaria*)

is a native of Pittsburgh, PA with an undying passion for the arts. Kontara is the Artistic Director of K-Theatre Dance Complex, a Dance Academy that provides quality dance instruction in several major areas of dance. Kontara has choreographed works for The Kelly Strayhorn Theater, The Dance Alloy, Propel Schools, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, The University of Dayton, Wright State University,

and more. Currently, Kontara is a dance instructor at Propel Charter Schools and pursuing her bachelor's degree at La Roche University.



SIMON PHILLIPS (*Finest Blood/Sweet*)

is inspired by the nature of sensation and physiological responses to movement. Originally from Macon, GA, he began dance training primarily for recreation. Simon received Bachelor degrees in Psychology and Dance before transitioning to Pittsburgh in 2017, where he has since worked as a professional dancer, teaching artist, and education coordinator. He is passionate about service in arts & health administration to promote holistic wellbeing for all. Simon

is a certified personal trainer and group fitness instructor serving several local institutions including Art In Motion Pittsburgh, Lua Dance Club, and The Alloy School.

TEAM BIOS CONT.



DAMIAN E. DOMINGUEZ (*Costume Designer*)

is a Mexican American costume designer based out of Pittsburgh, PA. Damian holds a double B.A in Music and Theater from the University of Georgia and an M.F.A. in Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University. His recent design credits include *Guadalupe in the Guest Room*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Marisol*, and *Dutchman*. He recently finished work as a costume production assistant on the Showtime series *American Rust* and is currently costumer and stitcher on the upcoming Netflix film *Rustin*.



RIANNE LINDSEY (*Lighting Designer*) is a local freelance lighting designer and recent graduate from Point Park University with a BFA in Theatre Production: Design. She has worked at the Pittsburgh Playhouse and New London Barn Playhouse in New Hampshire. Design credits include *Good Grief* (2019), *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* (2019), *Student Choreography Project* (2018), and *The Raymond Laine One Acts Festival* (2018). Rianne would like

to thank NaTasha for bringing her on board and giving her the opportunity to grow as a professional. She also thanks her friends, family, and partner for their continued love and support.



AUDREY MEDRANO (*Film Engineer/Videographer*)

is a photographer and filmmaker from Houston, TX who is currently pursuing a B.F.A. in Film Production at Point Park University. Drawing from a lifelong love of film history, her experimental approach to lighting and cinematography heightens the everyday horror of routine, mundane actions.



NINA GABRIEL STUMPF (*Scenic Designer*) is

so honored to be designing at the New Hazlett once again! Their most recent works include scenic design for *Kalopsia The Musical* at the New Hazlett and co-scenic design for *Passing Strange* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Much thanks to Alex for her support and Logan for his love.



JOSH HINKLE (*Project Manager*) known as JB to most,

has worked in NC, NY, and LA on numerous projects within Film, Television, and Theatre. Originally from Charlotte, NC, he has spent most of his time in Los Angeles, CA, working as an Assistant Producer, Consulting Producer and Project Manager. There's no task he can't take on. Favorite credits include *Lieutenant Sparrow* (Actor, Stage), *Lower Nighth* (Project Manager, Stage), *The Denouement* (Actor, Stage), *TAP* (Actor, Film), *Lucky* (Actor, Film), and *Von Boyage "Dreaming"* (Production Manager, Music Video). Congrats to this amazing team of artists and designers.

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DIGITAL MARKETING/BOX OFFICE.....PHOEBE ORR
VIDEO PRODUCER.....MILES LEVRIO
SOUND TECHNICIAN.....AUSTIN PASCARELLI
CAMERA OPERATOR.....PAT ULIE
CAMERA OPERATOR.....TREY DUPLAIN
FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF.....TRAYCEE IMAI, BOB JUNGKUNZ,
TOM POOLE, ALEXIS RETCOFSKY,
NATHAN WAGNER
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1100 Galveston Avenue
- 4 Lillen's Restaurant
535 East Ohio Street
- 5 Siempre Algo
414 East Ohio Street
- 6 Hook Fish & Chicken
1221 Federal Street
- 7 Penn Brewery
800 Vinial Street
- 8 Scratch Food & Beverage
1720 Lowrie Street
- 9 Leo. a public house
1207 Allegheny Avenue
- 10 Threadbare Cider House
1291 Spring Garden Avenue
- 11 Refucilo Winery
907 Western Avenue
- 12 40 North Bar and Restaurant
40 W. North Avenue
- 13 Fig & Ash
514 E Ohio Street

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- 14 California Coffee Bar
3619 California Avenue
- 15 Chateau Café & Cakery
1501 Preble Ave
- 16 Lindo's Café
947 Western Avenue
- 17 Yinz Coffee
2 East North Ave
- 18 Bistro to Go
415 East Ohio Street
- 19 Priory Fine Pastries
528 East Ohio Street
- 20 The Garden Café
1022 Chestnut Street

RESTAURANTS
OPEN ALL DAY

- 21 Federal Galley
200 Children's Way
- 22 Giorgio's Place
908 Western Avenue
- 23 El Burro
1108 Federal Street
- 24 Max's Allegheny Tavern
537 Suismon Street
- 25 SoHo
203 Federal Street
- 26 Hog's Head Bar and Grill
3433 Spring Garden Avenue
- 27 The Coop Chicken & Waffles
401 E Ohio Street

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