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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
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

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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

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.

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TEAM BIOS CONT.

**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), *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.

**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*.

**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.

**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.

**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.
**NEW HAZLETT STAFF**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**..................................................RENÉ CONRAD
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**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING**....................................KRISTIN HELFRICH
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**...............................................DYLAN BAKER
**PROGRAM AND EVENTS MANAGER**..............................JENNA WILKIN
**DIGITAL MARKETING/BOX OFFICE**.................................PHOEBE ORR
**VIDEO PRODUCER**..........................................................MILES LEVRI
**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
**COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICERS**............................DAVID BALINT, SANDY SAVKO, LINDA WORTHAM

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12. 40 North Bar and Restaurant
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13. Fig & Ash
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THE NEW HAZLETT

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NORTHSIDE GUIDE

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15 Chateau Café & Cakery
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