



# PRIMARY TRUST

APR 23—MAY 10

The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio

A *NEW* AMERICAN CLASSIC BY EBONI BOOTH

DIRECTED BY LEDA HOFFMANN

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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We seek to inspire a community of empathy and have a responsibility to recognize the ways in which we benefit from colonization, both historical and ongoing. A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and celebrates the resilience and strength that all Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

We acknowledge that in Central Ohio, we are on the traditional homelands of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe, and Cherokee Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

We recognize generations who contributed their traditions, hopes, and spirit to make the history that led to this moment. While some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted, others arrived here hoping for a better life, while others were forcibly taken and brought here against their will. Acknowledging the truth of these realities is critical to building mutual respect and connection.

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A close-up photograph of a man and a woman. The man, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a red and white checkered shirt. The woman, on the right, is wearing a green top and has a white string bracelet on her wrist. They are both smiling and looking towards each other, appearing to be in conversation.

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Theatre** of Ohio

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
**LEDA HOFFMANN**

PRESENTS

# PRIMARY TRUST

BY EBONI BOOTH

DIRECTED BY LEDA HOFFMANN

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## PRODUCTION STAFF

Katherine Simon  
**SCENIC AND PROPS DESIGNER**

Kelsey Gallagher  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Angelina Herin  
**COSTUME DESIGNER**

Dave Wallingford  
**SOUND DESIGNER**

Jaclyn Benedict\*  
**STAGE MANAGER**

Ellie Price  
**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

---

## ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Lonelle Yoder  
**PROPS CONSULTANT**

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

# CAST



**KENNETH  
JABARI  
IKENNA  
JOHNSON**  
he/him



**BERT  
BRIAN C.  
GRAY**  
he/him



**CORINNA/  
WALLY'S WAITER/  
BANK CUSTOMERS**  
**BROOKLYNN  
GRACE**  
she/her



**CLAY/SAM/  
LE POUSSELET  
BARTENDER**  
**GEOFFREY  
NELSON\***  
he/him

*FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR*

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The Captain's Quarters, Tabatay Theatrical Props and CWRU Costume Shop

Set Built by CCT Scenic

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"Primary Trust" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

PRIMARY TRUST was developed at the 2021 Ojai Playwrights Conference: Robert Egan, Artistic Director

Developed By Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago, Illinois. Ken-Matt Martin, Artistic Director. Roxanna Conner, Acting Managing Director, as part of IGNITE CHICAGO Festival of New Plays 2021. Originally Produced in New York City by Roundabout Theatre Company

At the Harold and Miriam Steinberg Center for Theatre / Laura Pels Theatre on May 4th, 2023



\*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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## CAST BIOS

**JABARI IKENNA JOHNSON** [HE/HIM] (**KENNETH**) is a Columbus native who's been performing locally for fourteen years, dating back to this company's production of *Encyclopedia Brown* in 2011. From there he's continued to share the stage with numerous Columbus theatre companies, most recently being Available Light Theatre's *Rock Egg Spoon* by Noah Diaz. In addition to acting on the stage, Jabari also helps educate theatre for children in school with the likes of Actors' Theatre of Columbus. Jabari would like to thank all of his friends of the arts community as well as his family for their unending support.

**BRIAN C GRAY** [HE/HIM] (**BERT**) is an East Side Columbus-based singer/actor/director with music degrees from Otterbein and Oklahoma City University's. He has performed with Playhouse on the Square, Lexington Children's Theatre, and the Springer Opera House. Locally, Brian has appeared in productions with The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, Columbus Children's Theatre, Available Light Theatre, and Opera Columbus. He also directs the OutLoud BIPOC Theatre Collective at Olentangy Orange High School. Follow him on social media @BrianGraySings.

**BROOKLYNN GRACE** [SHE/HER] (**CORINNA/WALLY'S WAITER/BANK CUSTOMERS**) holds a BA in Vocal Music Performance from Capital University. She has performed in a variety of leading and supporting roles in productions including *Disaster!*, *Chicken & Biscuits*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Color Purple*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Parade*. Brooklynn is thrilled to be making her debut with The Contemporary and extends heartfelt thanks to God for this opportunity and to her loved ones for their constant support.

**GEOFFREY NELSON\*** [HE/HIM] (**CLAY/SAM/LE POUSSELET BARTENDER**) last graced The Contemporary stage as Lady Enid in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, a performance that one critic hailed as "almost dainty." CATCO roles include Mr. Lockhart (aka Satan) in *The Seafarer*—a challenge because the character had no sense of humor; Teach in *American Buffalo* (wherein he suffered from stage fright before every single performance); Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*; and Vanya in *Uncle Vanya*. A brave and bold performer, Geoff permed and dyed his hair jet black to play Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross* in a valiant but ultimately fruitless attempt to look Italian.

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

**LEDA HOFFMANN** [SHE/HER] (**Producing Artistic Director/Director**) is in her sixth season at The Contemporary. The Contemporary directing credits include *Alice by Heart*, *Wife of a Salesman*, *Big Fish*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *POTUS*, *9 to 5*, *Indecent*, *Head Over Heels*, *Mr Burns: a post-electric play*, and *An Iliad*. Leda's work as a director has been seen across the country at Milwaukee Rep, Provincetown Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Northbrook Theatre, The Alchemist Theatre, Max and Louie Productions, Riverside Theater Iowa City, Case Western, Ohio State, and University of Miami. Before moving to Columbus, Leda was Artistic Director at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago and Leda served on Milwaukee Rep's artistic staff for seven years, working in the Education and Literary departments and founding Milwaukee Rep's Community Engagement Department. Leda is a proud graduate of Grinnell College, a former Milwaukee Rep directing resident, Hartford Stage apprentice, SDCF Observer and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. Upcoming: *The Jack of Hearts Club* (Provincetown Theater), *Jagged Little Pill* (The Contemporary), *A Christmas Carol* (The Contemporary), and *John Proctor is the Villain* (The Contemporary). [www.ledahoffmann.com](http://www.ledahoffmann.com)

**KATHERINE SIMON** [SHE/THEY] (**Scenic and Props Designer**) is a Columbus based scenic designer. Previous scenic design work includes *Good Grief*, *Fat Ham*, *Last Five Years*, and *Alice by Heart* (The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio); *You Will Get Sick* (Available Light); *The Moors* and *She Kills Monsters* (OSU); *The Grown-Up* and *Lucky Stiff* (Denison University). Katherine has been on staff at theatres such as Milwaukee Rep, Shattered Globe Theatre in Chicago, and Waukesha Civic Theatre. Katherine holds an MFA in Scenic Design from OSU and is a proud alumna of Vassar College. Upcoming and current set designs: *Guys and Dolls* (CCT) and *Spring Awakening* (Denison University). [katherinesimondesign.com](http://katherinesimondesign.com)

**KELSEY GALLAGHER** [SHE/HER] (**Lighting Designer**) is a lighting designer originally from Overland Park, Kansas. She received her BFA in theatre design and technology from Avila University in Kansas City, MO. She continued her studies with a Masters of Fine Arts in Lighting Design from The Ohio State University. As an artist she values communication and collaboration most of all and has worked with theatre artists, visual artists, digital artists, animators, musicians, and dancers. You may have seen her works with the Contemporary in shows such as *Alice by Heart*, *Big Fish*, *Fat Ham*, and *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*. She works locally and is currently the Exhibit Lighting Designer for The National Museum of the United States Air Force.

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

**ANGELINA HERIN** [she/her] (**Costume Designer**) is a Cleveland, Ohio based costume, wig, and makeup designer with roots in the Pacific Northwest. She is pleased to have her work presented at many venues, including Cleveland Play House, the Seattle Opera, Cleveland Public Theatre, Northern Sky Theatre, Montana Repertory Theatre, Texas Shakespeare Festival, The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, and Theater at Monmouth. In addition, Angelina has worked with several television/production companies as a makeup artist and stylist for national and regional programming. Since 2011, she has been the Resident Costume Designer and an Associate Professor of Theater at Case Western Reserve University. As an educator, Angelina has received numerous nominations for her teaching and mentorship. [www.angelinaherin.com](http://www.angelinaherin.com)

**DAVE WALLINGFORD** [HE/HIM] (**Sound Designer**) is a freelance sound designer, audio engineer, and founding company member of Available Light Theatre. When not in a theatre, he can be found either running sound in a TV production truck at a professional sports arena for the likes of Fox Sports, CBS, NBC, Bally Sports, FanDuel Sports, Red Bull, ESPN, and Apple TV; or in a race car. Some shows he has designed at The Contemporary include *Alice by Heart*, *The Last Five Years*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *9 to 5*, *Head Over Heels*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Avenue Q*, *Story of My Life*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and *The Last Smoker in America*.

**JACLYN BENEDICT\*** [SHE/HER] (**Stage Manager**) is excited to be a part of The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio's *Primary Trust*. Recent stage management credits include *Alice By Heart* (The Contemporary), *The Last Five Years* (The Contemporary), *Into the Woods* (Butterfly Guild), *Big Fish* (The Contemporary), *Ride the Cyclone* (The Contemporary), *Beauty and Beast* (Butterfly Guild), and three seasons of *A Christmas Carol* (The Contemporary).

**ELLIE PRICE** [SHE/THEY] (**Assistant Stage Manager**) is excited to work with the Contemporary once again! They are a recent graduate from the Ohio State University with a BA in Theater. Some favorite credits include The Contemporary's productions of *Alice by Heart* and *Ride The Cyclone*, as well as Noah Bennett's *The Phil Mitchell Radio Hour* at the Atlanta Fringe Festival.

**\*ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (Equity)** founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

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## THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS

**STEVE HILLER [HE/HIM] (Education Director)** became The Contemporary's education director in April 2023. He has over 15 years experience working in non-profit with a focus on youth and family programming and development, training and leadership and fostering community partnerships. Steve has chaired and served on different advisory boards and currently serves as a board member for a Columbus non-profit organization. He also has over 10 years of experience working in secondary and post-secondary education. Steve was born in Seoul, Korea and has lived most of his life in Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree in education from Ohio State and is a buckeye for life. In his free time, Steve enjoys playing piano and acoustic guitar, various outdoor activities, trying new foods and spending time with family and friends.

**MAUREEN PENKO [SHE/HER] (Production Manager)** is a production manager and theatre administrator with a focus on safe, inclusive, and engaging art. She brings experience from various organizations throughout Ohio, New York, and Vermont. Maureen was born and raised in Northeast Ohio, always enjoying the ability to engage with the arts community she has called home. She holds a bachelor's degree in theatre production from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA. In her free time, Maureen enjoys exploring various libraries, walking, cooking, and spending time with her cat, family, and friends.

**ALEXA BAKER [SHE/HER] (Marketing Manager)** is a Columbus-based multi-hyphenate artist. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Gettysburg College and a Masters in Classical Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She is currently on faculty at Ohio Dominican University, teaching theatre and acting, and is an active teaching artist. As a performer, she has been seen on stage throughout Columbus with companies such as The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, Available Light Theatre, CCT, and Actors' Theatre of Columbus. Prior to moving to Columbus, Alexa was the Associate Director of Youth Programs at Steps on Broadway dance studio in New York, NY. In addition to her arts background, she was the Events Coordinator for two-Michelin Starred restaurant Aquavit and managed social media for brands that include Zaftig Brewing Company and The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.



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This season, we are reinvesting in our promise to inspire change with contemporary stories.

Your investment in The Contemporary allows us to:

- Produce contemporary stories that **inspire empathy,**
- **Spark change** and fuel the academic, social, and emotional growth of young people,
- Employ more than 100 actors, directors, designers, technicians, and artist educators each season – with strong ties to central Ohio; and
- **Be a vital space** where creativity thrives, empathy grows, and conversations happen.

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