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Contemporary
Theatre of Ohio**
(formerly CATCO)

**FEB 29-
MARCH 17**

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**BY DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU
DIRECTED BY RAYMOND O. CALDWELL+**

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Theatre of Ohio

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 NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I feel so deeply connected to this play because my grandparents spent years working in a factory on an assembly line together. Their work on those lines not only afforded me the opportunity to go to college, but it also gave them the opportunity to retire. The American Dream.

I attended OSU during the start of the first Great Recession. I made friends with students whose families were just beginning to feel the effects of the weakening economy. Little did we know as we collected our diplomas how our American dream would be compromised. We watched as the automotive industry (and several other industries) collapsed around us, limiting employment, displacing folk, and gutting communities throughout the Midwest.

What we didn't have capacity to discuss then were the ways in which the dreams of those laid off employees were also displaced. Dominique Morisseau so poignantly reminds us in *Skeleton Crew* that companies are not people. Companies don't have capacity for empathy and love. Companies don't know your dreams and often don't even know your son's name. But those companies hire people, and those people have power.

My grandparents built a community within the factory they worked. To this day they have a set of lifelong friends that they call family. "It's the only way we survived," they've often said. So, as we navigate capitalism, how do we hold on to our shared humanity and dreams? How do we hold onto and respect one another while navigating systems that are not humane? My grandparents' answer: "people."

Raymond O. Caldwell+

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**The
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Theatre** of Ohio

presents

Leda Hoffmann
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Christy Farnbauch
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SKELETON CREW

BY DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU
DIRECTED BY RAYMOND O. CALDWELL+

Isaac Ramsey
SCENIC DESIGNER

Kelsey Gallagher
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Lonelle Yoder
PROPS DESIGNER

Hannah Hahn*
STAGE MANAGER

Mary Yaw McMullen
COSTUME DESIGNER

Jesse Charles
SOUND DESIGNER

Dr. Aviva Helena Neff
INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Skyler Kyser
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

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

**SKELETON
CREW**

CAST



FAYE

**WILMA
HATTON**
she/her



DEZ

**RICO ROMALUS
PARKER***
he/him



SHANITA

**CLARISSA
RAI**
she/her



REGGIE

**ALAN
TYSON**
he/him

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Tony Koehler
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Rowan Winterwood
MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Augusta Kinzel
COSTUME COORDINATOR & WARDROBE

Set built by CCT Scenic

SPECIAL THANKS

Filmmaker Steven Bognar, Studio35



*Actors and Stage Managers appear courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association.

+ Directors appear courtesy of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

CAST BIOS

WILMA HATTON [SHE/HER] (Faye) has been part of the Columbus theatre community for over twenty-five years. She has performed in productions such as *Company and Curtains!* with Gallery Players, *Hairspray* with Weathervane Playhouse, *How We Got On* as well as several productions with Available Light Theater, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* with Short North Stage. She was seen in *School Girls; or The African Mean Girls Play* with The Contemporary Theater of Ohio, and *King Hedley II* with Actors' Theatre of Columbus. She was also seen in Julie Whitney Scott's *Snowville Cafe*. Wilma has done several commercials, short films, and stage readings. She is more than delighted to be performing as Faye in this production of *Skeleton Crew*. Thank you to God, my family, coworkers, and everyone for their support!!

RICO ROMALUS PARKER* [HE/HIM] (Dez) is excited to return to The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio stage! Proud member of Actor's Equity, he was born and raised in Dayton, OH. Favorite theatre credits include *Reindeer Sessions*, *Barbecue*, *TopDog/Underdog*, *Belleville*, *Colossal*, *The Brothers Size*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Blue Orange*, *King Hedley II*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Stagger Lee*, *Every Tongue Confess*, *Passing Strange*, and *The Exonerated*. He will be making his film debut as Evan in HBO Max's *Turtles All the Way Down*.

CLARISSA RAI [SHE/HER] (Shanita) Tantrum Theater: *Hotel Berry* (Ada Woodson). Vibrancy Theater: *Yerma* (Girl 2/ Yerma u/s perf.), *Absentia* (Diana). Ohio University Theater: *Medea* (Medea), *Everybody* (Usher/God/Understanding). The Black Theatrical Ensemble: *A Raisin in the Sun* (Beneatha). Clarissa is a 3rd Year MFA in the Professional Actor's Training Program at Ohio University. She's excited for her debut at The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio. IG: @clarissarai

ALAN TYSON [HE/HIM] (Reggie) is thrilled to share this wonderful stage with this beautiful cast and crew. He wants to thank his loving God, because without Him none of this would be possible, his amazing friends, and his loving and supportive family. His most recent acting credits include *Charity/Business Man* in *A Christmas Carol* with Short North Stage & CAPA, *Walter Lee Younger* in *A Raisin in the Sun* with Actors Theatre of Columbus, *Eddie* in *...but you could've held my hand* by Jucoby Johnson with The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, *Gary* (Cover) in *Slave Play* with Short North Stage, *Frank Thorney* in *Witch* by Jen Silverman with Available Light Theatre Company and *King* in August Wilson's *King Hedley II* with Actors Theatre of Columbus. He is so grateful to The Contemporary for allowing him to be able to create in this beautiful world and he thanks all involved for this opportunity. Remember to live your life, love yourself and others, and laugh like no one is watching – one day at a time!

All socials: @AlanETyson / Website: www.Alan-Tyson.com

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

RAYMOND O. CALDWELL+ [HE/HIM] (Director) Born in Wiesbaden, Germany and raised all over the world, Raymond O. Caldwell is an award-winning director and producer who led Washington, DC's Theater Alliance as Producing Artistic Director from 2018 – 2024. He is the most recent recipient of the SDCF Zelda Fichandler award. Raymond is committed to using theatre as a tool to transform communities, and has partnered and worked with artists, activists, non-profits and NGOs throughout the world. In October 2022—in partnership with the US Department of State— he developed a play (*A GLOBAL I.D.E.A.*) with 23 artists and activists from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and the US that explored what Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility mean on the global stage. He has done similar work throughout the US, India, Ukraine, and Croatia. MFA, Acting/New Play Development: The Ohio State University; BFA, Acting: University of Florida. For more information visit www.raymondocaldwell.com

ISAAC RAMSEY [HE/HIM] (Scenic Designer) is a scenic designer, muralist, and educator and is happy to be based in central Ohio after working the past decade in Georgia. He is Associate Professor of Scenic Design at Otterbein University and has designed and painted dozens of productions along the East Coast and Midwest. He is excited to work with The Contemporary for the first time on *Skeleton Crew*. Favorite credits include *Fun Home* (Actor's Express ATL), *Macbeth* and *The Threepenny Opera* (The CT Rep). www.isaacramsey.net

MARY YAW MCMULLEN [SHE/HER] (Costume Designer) is honored to be working with The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio as Costume Designer for *Skeleton Crew*. She works as a freelance Costume Designer and Instructor. Mary is currently the Musical Theatre Director for the River View High School in Warsaw, Ohio. Some of her more recent costume design work has been *Mamma Mia* and *Footloose* with Grandstreet Theatre in Helena, Montana, *School of Rock* and *The Sleepwalker of Holstenwall* with Columbus Children's Theatre, *Luchadora* and *Indecent* with The Contemporary, and *The Old Man and The Old Moon* and *As You Like It* with Door

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CONT'D)

Shakespeare.. Mary holds a B.A. in Theatre and M.F.A in Theatrical Design and Production from The Ohio State University. She thanks her parents, husband, Kyle, and children, Cora and Brek, for their support and excitement for all things theatre. Enjoy the show!

KELSEY GALLAGHER [SHE/HER] (**Lighting Designer**) is a local lighting designer out of Dayton Ohio, she originally from Kansas City has worked in theatres all over the United States. She currently spends her days designing exhibit lighting at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

JESSE CHARLES [HE/HIM] (**Sound Designer**) Born from a love of music, Jesse developed an interest in audio production. In high school, Jesse experimented with and learned how to use the school's audio equipment. Following an internship at WOSU, Jesse earned a certificate from The Recording Workshop in Chillicothe, OH. Since then, he has freelanced all over Columbus, Ohio. Working for Vaud Villities, Imagine Productions, Actor's Theater (Shakespeare In The Park), and The Kings Avenue Players, CCT, The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, and Red Herring Productions.

LONELLE YODER [SHE/HER] (**Props Designer**) has been loitering about the Columbus theatre scene, in various capacities, for many years – first at the Phoenix Theatre for Children and BlueForms Theatre Group, and, more recently, at Available Light Theatre Company, The Contemporary, Opera Columbus, and Columbus Children's Theatre. When she's not having fun building food props, Lonelle gardens, dabbles in wildlife rehab, and makes jam out of foraged wild fruits.

DR. AVIVA HELENA NEFF [SHE/HER] (**Intimacy Director**) is the Director of Youth & Community Learning at Columbus College of Art & Design and an adjunct faculty member with Otterbein University Department of Theatre and Dance. An honors graduate of Goldsmiths College (MA, Applied Theatre), Dr. Neff enjoys working in devised theatre and theatre for social change with participants aged 1-100. She is an ensemble member with Teatro Travieso, which premiered her solo performance, *Blood, Earth, Water* in 2021, written as part of a practice-as-research Ph.D. at the Ohio State University. Dr. Neff has recently published works on mediatized race and identity, mixed-Black women in Reconstruction-era New Orleans, and inclusive theatre pedagogy. Dr. Neff is very fortunate to serve as a freelance intimacy coordinator and director within the incredible theatre community in Columbus.

SKELETON CREW

HANNAH HAHN* [SHE/HER] (**Stage Manager**) is excited to be returning to The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio! She holds a BFA Theatre Design & Technology from Otterbein University where she studied stage management and costume construction. She has worked professionally with Opera Columbus, Columbus Children's Theatre, Weathervane Playhouse, BalletMet, Opera Project Columbus, Saugatuck Center for the Art, Orlando Rep, and the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando. Currently, Hannah is the Production Manager and Stage Management Mentor at Otterbein University. She'd like to thank her husband, Nick, and their cats, Spooky & Pippin, for their continuous support.

SKYLAR KYSER [SHE/HER] (**Assistant Stage Manager**) is thrilled to be making her debut with The Contemporary Theater of Ohio! She received her BA in theatre and African-American & African studies from The Ohio State University. During her time there she focused her studies on stage management and stage managed through multiple seasons of productions with OSU, as well as numerous Columbus community theater productions. Recent credits include the *Marquee Awards Showcase* (Columbus Association for the Performing Arts), *Cabaret* (Imagine Productions), and *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (The Sound Company).

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION BIOS

TONY KOEHLER [HE/HIM] (**Production Manager**) is teaching artist, actor, director, and designer, most recently was production manager at GALA Hispanic Theatre in Washington, D.C., and a teaching artist at The Theatre Lab School of Dramatic Arts also in Washington, D.C. Other positions include properties master at The Folger Shakespeare Theatre, and theatre credits at Constellation Theatre Company and Rainbow Theater Project in Washington, D.C., and Piven Theatre Workshop, Redmoon Theatre, and Northwestern University in Chicago. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a BA in theatre, he has received numerous awards including a 2019 Helen Hayes Award for Best Musical and Best Ensemble and Broadway World's 2019 regional award for Best Musical in the Small Professional Theatre Category for *FAME: The Musical*, and a 2017 Helen Hayes Award for the Spanish language premiere of *In the Heights*. In addition to his theatre background, he also has several years of business management experience as an operational manager at JCrew.

ROWAN WINTERWOOD [SHE/HER] (**Master Electrician**) is a lighting designer, director, stage manager, artist educator and aerialist. She is the Associate Artistic Director and Lighting Designer/Engineer for Actors' Theatre of Columbus, where she will be directed *Love's Labours Lost* this past July. Selected lighting design credits include Available Light Theatre (*Everybody, Witch*), Actors' Theatre of Columbus (*Hamlet 1603, Eurydice*), Columbus Children's Theatre (*A Christmas Story*), The Contemporary (*Luchadora!, Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*), and Denison University (*You On The Moors Now*; co-design: *Pippin, Company*)

AUGUSTA KINZEL [SHE/HER] (**Costume Coordinator & Wardrobe**) is a Coshocton, Ohio native. She is a recent grad from Muskingum University, where she received her B.A. in history and theatre. During her time at Muskingum, Augusta acted, designed, and worked on tech staff. Her favorite shows at Muskingum were *The Gypsy Woman* and *Seussical*. She is excited to be working at The Contemporary this season. Enjoy the show!

THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS

LEDA HOFFMANN [SHE/HER] (**Artistic Director**) is in her fourth season as The Contemporary's Artistic Director. Directing credits at The Contemporary include *POTUS*, *9 to 5 The Musical*, *Indecent*, *Head Over Heels*, *Mr Burns: a post-electric play*, *An Iliad*, the reading of *George and the Hidden Dragon*, and the virtual production of *A Columbus Christmas Carol*. Previously, Leda was Artistic Director at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago. Before that, 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. Also in Milwaukee, as the Artistic Director of Luminous Theatre, Leda produced and directed site-specific productions of *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play* and *The Penelopiad*. Leda's work as a director has been seen across the country at Milwaukee Rep, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, University of Miami, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Northbrook Theatre, The Alchemist Theatre, Max and Louie Productions, and Riverside Theater Iowa City. Leda has also been a teaching artist for over ten years, directing youth and teaching with Hartford Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Mudlark Theater, Northbrook Park District, and Skyline Studios. 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.

CHRISTY FARNBAUCH [SHE/HER] (**Executive Director**) became The Contemporary's executive director in April 2020. She is a highly respected leader in central Ohio's arts and cultural sector, as well as nationwide. Her professional journey has included managing funding and programs for the Ohio Arts Council, building community partnerships for Hilliard City Schools, managing a first-of-its-kind national study of jazz audiences, and serving as executive director of an association for women business owners. She founded her consulting business in 2006 to support nonprofits and small businesses through strategic planning, board development, and fundraising. Her entrepreneurial and innovative mindset has led to the creative transformation of organizations while strengthening their governance structures. Christy holds degrees from Otterbein University in music performance and business administration.

THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

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.

BETH GRAHAM [SHE/HER] (**Development Manager**) is a Columbus native and longtime fan of The Contemporary. She has served in various fundraising roles with arts organizations in town including the Columbus Symphony and most recently the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) where she has been a partner to The Contemporary for the last three years. Beth also held a fellowship with the Ohio Arts Council following graduation from Miami University with a degree in Arts Management and Media Culture Studies. She loves supporting local and has even worked for a local jewelry store, Red Giraffe Designs. In her free time, she likes to read, take walks in her neighborhood of Harrison West, and spend time with her rescue cat, Ivy.

SUMMIT J STARR [SHE/THEY] (**Administrative & Casting Coordinator**) is a Columbus-based artist with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre & Dance from The College of Wooster. She is the lyricist/vocalist for FOX+RAM and lead singer for the cover bands Boombox Riot & Level Up!. Additionally, she is the COO of Photography for RockDaddyDesign and was previously the Assistant to the Vocal Director at ShadowboxLive. As of 2013, she has been a member of Teatro Travieso/Troublemaker Theatre and has performed internationally with their social justice production *Women of Ciudad Juárez*.

THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS *(CON'TD)*

JOY HEINO [SHE/HER] (**Education Coordinator**) is a highly skilled artist educator, with more than five years' experience facilitating after-school learning, pre-school, and early age childcare programs. Additionally, she works in various elementary and middle schools in central Ohio as the director of their school musicals. Joy has worked in the Columbus theatre scene with companies such as CCT, The Actor's Theatre of Columbus, and Short North Stage. She is a member of the Actor's Equity Association as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager. Prior to joining The Contemporary as Education Coordinator, Joy has worked as a sound designer on recent productions. Joy also serves as the Founder and Producing Director of Free Range Productions, whose mission is to educate and introduce young people living in rural communities to the arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wittenberg University in Theatre, Technical Theatre, and Music.

LESLIE WRIGHT [SHE/HER] (**House Manager**) joins The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio team with previous experience in customer service and hospitality. She is the Owner and Creative Director for Whimsical Designs, a bakery and custom event decor shop in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Leslie holds a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from Southern New Hampshire University and a Culinary Arts Degree specializing in pastry arts. She is a Columbus native, currently residing in Reynoldsburg with her husband, seven children, and two fur babies. Being an active member of various organizations helped shape and develop her passion for working with others.

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