



# NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

**New Village Arts Presents Holiday Musical  
1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS  
Written by San Diego Playwright Dea Hurston  
Directed by Kandace Crystal  
With Original Music by Milena (Sellers) Phillips  
December 2 - December 24, 2023**

*For immediate release: October 30, 2023*

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Carlsbad, CA—[New Village Arts \(NVA\)](#), North County’s cultural hub, creates a new holiday tradition with the return of the hit musical, 1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS. Written by San Diego playwright Dea Hurston and devised by Frankie Alicea, Kevin “Blax” Burroughs, Milena (Sellers) Phillips, and Dea Hurston, critics raved about this funny and heart-warming show. Performances at New Village Arts in Carlsbad will run from December 2 to December 24 with Previews on November 30 and December 1.

Featuring lively songs, an eclectic and lovable cast of characters, and lots of seasonal cheer, 1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS is a celebration of Black culture, family and love. Meant for audiences of all backgrounds and identities, 1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS reminds us that the holiday spirit has the power to unite us together in love, song and joy.

This original musical invites us into the home of Dorothy Black's family on the Carlsbad coast, purchased during a time when a culture of discrimination and exclusion was heavily practiced in the area. The approaching Christmas holidays brings the return of Dorothy's sons, her sister and a few surprise guests. Coming together to sing several familiar holiday songs including "Go Tell It On the Mountain" and "Silent Night," the family celebrates the past and future.

Directed by Kandace Crystal, this season's production will feature a completely new design with set design by Reiko Huffman and costumes by Zoë Trautmann. Returning cast members include Milena (Sellers) Phillips as Dorothy Black; Portia Gregory-Burnette as Lizzie; Victor Morris as James Sr./Victor; and Halin Morris as James Jr.. Kiara Hudlin, last seen in NVA's hit musical SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, joins the cast as Aadya. Jacob James has also been cast as Brian, after performing in last season's successful run of JEZ BUTTERWORTH'S THE FERRYMAN, and Matthew Javier will play Javier.

Actor's Equity Member, Victor Morris is thrilled to return for this year's mainstage production in a role created for him by Dea Hurston herself. In a recent San Diego Union Tribune article: " 'I've never had a role written for me,' Morris said. 'That role has made me a celebrity. I can't go to Vons without someone stopping me and asking if I'm Victor the cowboy. I get to do it again this fall and will keep doing it until they get tired of me.'"

"We are thrilled to go back to Dorothy Black's home for Christmas this year. With an all new creative team, fresh music and a dynamic cast, this year proves to be the perfect way to celebrate the holidays in Carlsbad, " says Executive Artistic Director, Kristianne Kurner.

### **Cast and Designers**

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dorothy/Young Dorothy Black | Milena (Sellers) Phillips* |
| Lizzie                      | Portia Gregory-Burnette    |
| James Sr./Victor            | Victor Morris*             |
| Aadya                       | Kiara Hudlin               |
| James Jr.                   | Halin Morris               |
| Javier                      | Matthew Javier             |
| Brian                       | Jacob James                |

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Direction       | Kandace Crystal    |
| Music Direction | Korrie Yamaoka     |
| Stage Manager   | Rosalee Barrientos |
| Scenic Design   | Reiko Huffman      |
| Costume Design  | Zoë Trautmann      |
| Props Designer  | Aria Proctor       |
| Lighting Design | Mashun Tucker      |

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association

## **1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS**

Written by Dea Hurston

Directed by Kandace Crystal

Created by Dea Hurston, Milena (Sellers) Phillips, Frankie Alicea, Kevin "Blax" Burroughs

Original Music by Milena (Sellers) Phillips

Previews November 30 & December 1

Opens December 2

December 2 - December 24

***Named as one of the best shows of 2021 by The San Diego Union-Tribune***

### **Reviews from Past Productions:**

*"1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas' is the unsurpassed, new family holiday musical tradition for our times."*

- Elizabeth Youngman-Westphal, [Theatre Talk](#)

*"This show is chock full of laughs and quirky characters [...] it's a universal tale of how one family adapts to change and creates new holiday traditions."*

- Pam Krage, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

*1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas "reminds us that the holiday spirit has the power to unite us together in love, song, and joy."*

- Chloe Rabinowitz, [Broadway World San Diego](#)

*"With its upbeat story, lively score of new and old holiday songs and humor, "1222 Oceanfront" is a family-friendly show, [with] a touch of sexy humor."*

- Pam Krage, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

## New Village Arts 22<sup>nd</sup> Season 2023-2024

### **A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO**

Written by Herbert Siguenza  
Directed by Todd Salovey  
Set and Costume Design by Giulio Perrone  
Projection Design by Victoria Petrovich  
Original Musical Score by Bruno Louchoaurn  
Previews: August 4-11  
Opening Night: August 12  
August 12 to September 3

***A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO played to sold out houses across the country.***

### **DOUBT: A PARABLE**

Written by John Patrick Shanley  
Directed by Executive Artistic Director Kristianne Kurner  
Previews: September 22-29  
Opening Night: September 30  
September 30 to October 22

***Recipient of The Tony Award for Best Play and Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama***

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Original Music by Milena (Sellers) Phillips  
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### **FUN HOME**

Music by Jeanine Tesori  
Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron  
Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel  
Directed by Kym Pappas  
Featuring Rae Henderson-Gray  
Previews: January 26 – Feb 2  
Opening Night: February 3  
February 3 to March 3

***Recipient of the 2015 Tony Award for Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Original Score.***

## **THE 39 STEPS**

Adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan

From the movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Directed by Dr. AJ Knox

Previews: April 5-12

Opening Night: April 13

April 13 – May 12

***Olivier Award for Best Comedy and Tony Award for Best Play***

## **THE COLOR PURPLE**

Based on the novel by Alice Walker

Book by Marsha Norman

Music and Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray

Directed by Kandace Crystal

Previews: June 7-14

Opening Night: June 15

June 15 - July 21

***A Pulitzer Prize. A National Book Award. Eleven Academy Award Nominations. Four Golden Globe Nominations. Three Tony Awards.***

## **Performance Days and Times**

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2:00 pm

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7:30 pm

## **Tickets and Subscriptions**

Subscriptions for the 3 Show Package range from \$81 to \$158

Subscribers receive a 15% discount on all tickets to 1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS.

Single tickets range from \$25 to \$55 for plays and \$25 to \$60 for musicals.

## **About New Village Arts**

Celebrating 22 years of award-winning professional theatre and thriving education and outreach programs, New Village Arts (NVA) has truly become the cultural hub of North County San Diego.

NVA attracts more than 30,000 patrons each year to experience professional theatre, music and art events in the heart of Carlsbad Village. In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. New this year, the White Family Next Stage in the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center presents a series of music and spoken word events throughout the year. NVA offers robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools and strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to all people, becoming a recognized leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from

the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. In turn NVA prioritizes serving its community by presenting works that respect its diversity, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

New Village Arts is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization listed under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS

New Village Arts, Inc.

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