

THE MOUNTAINTOP

WRITTEN BY
KATORI
HALL

DIRECTED BY
DURWOOD
MURRAY JR.

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THE MOUNTAINTOP

CAST

DeAndre Simmons DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
Taylor Renee Henderson CAMAE
Allyce Calloway CAMAE UNDERSTUDY

CREATIVE TEAM

Director DURWOOD MURRAY JR.
Stage Manager NATHAN WAITS
Scenic Designer CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO+
Projections Designer MICHAEL WOGULIS
Props Designer CARTER VICKERS
Costume & Wig Designer KEVANE LA'MARR COLEMAN
Lighting Designer MASHUN TUCKER
Sound Designer ANDRE BUCK JR.
Sound Design Consultant NATHAN WAITS
Intimacy Coordinator ABBY HUFFSTETLER
Assistant Stage Manager BECCA MOORE
Costume Assistant MARYKATE REEVES HOCHÉ
Master Carpenter GREG ERTEL
Scenic Painter ZACHARY ELLIOT

WRITTEN BY
KATORI HALL

DIRECTED BY
DURWOOD MURRAY JR.

SHOW DATES
MAY 23-JUNE 22, 2025

PRODUCTION SPONSOR:
K.A. Keller

SETTING:
April 3rd, 1968 in Room 306 at
the Lorraine Motel in Memphis,
Tennessee

APPROXIMATE RUN TIME:
90 minutes with no intermission.

Original Broadway production produced by Jean Doumanian, Sonia Friedman Productions, Ambassador Theatre Group, Raise the Roof 7, Ted Snowdon, Alhadeff Productions/Lauren Doll, B Square + 4 Productions/Broadway Across America, Jacki Barlia Florin/Cooper Federman, Ronnie Planalp/Moellenberg Taylor and Marla Rubin Productions/Blumenthal Performing Arts, in association with Scott Delman.

THE MOUNTAINTOP was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City, and was first produced by Theatre 503 in June 2009 and further produced at Trafalgar Studio One in July 2009 by Sonia Friedman Productions and Jean Doumanian, Tali Pelman for Ambassador Theatre Group, Bob Bartner, Freddy DeMann, Jerry Frankel, Ted Snowdon and Marla Rubin Productions Ltd.

THE MOUNTAINTOP was developed at the 2008 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a program of the Playwrights Foundation (Amy L. Mueller, Artistic Director).

+ Member of IATSE, United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

NEW VILLAGE ARTS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC
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BRENDA BECKETT (she/her)
GENERAL MANAGER

KALI BOSTON (she/her)
ARTISTIC PRODUCER

BRE EUGENIO (she/her)
PATRON SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER

OLIVIA PENCE (she/her)
MANAGER OF MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS

LENA CEJA (she/her)
SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING ASSISTANT

LANETTE GRANGER (she/her)
BOOKKEEPER

**BRYTTNEY-MISCHELE
SALVANT (she/her)**
FELLOWSHIP MANAGER

MARCUS RICO (he/him)
TECHNICAL MANAGER

TOM AGOSTA (he/him)
BAR & FACILITIES MANAGER

PAIGE CHADWICK (she/her)
DAYTIME BOX OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

pug lee (they/them)
NEXT STAGE SOUND ENGINEER

NICK TIMM (he/him)
MASTER ELECTRICIAN & MASTER RIGGER

CALEB WATERS (he/him)
FACILITY AND SCENIC ASSISTANT*

FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

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BELLE DEVINS
RENEE FEGAN

MCKENNA FOOTE
TORI JONES
JAC MANNION
DAVINA VAN DUSEN

PRODUCTION STAFF

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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
please contact Kristianne
Kurner, Founder and
Executive Artistic
Director at [kristianne@
newvillagearts.org](mailto:kristianne@newvillagearts.org).

*Through his participation in Designing Creative Futures, an arts-focused reentry program by California Lawyers for the Arts.

We acknowledge that The Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center operates on the unceded land of the Payómkawichum (Pye-om-ko-wi-chom) (Luiseño) and Kumeyaay peoples. We further acknowledge that NVA was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those who are the traditional Custodians and First people of the land on which we work, play, gather, share, and learn. New Village Arts honors the over 20,000 current tribal members living in the San Diego area, and promises to create a safe space for the local Native Communities to share the art, accomplishments, and history of their peoples. This is a starting point in our efforts to be more active in our local communities and we acknowledge that we have much further to go.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



DURWOOD MURRAY JR.
DIRECTOR

In November of 2016, I felt compelled to take action. I was tired of just standing by as time marched on. In that moment, I felt powerless. What could I do? I'm just a normal person. Who would listen to me? Sometimes, taking a step back can give us the proper perspective to see exactly how powerful we are; even as just normal people. When I stepped back, I realized that being an artist was my power.

I feel privileged to use that power to present this play, showcasing the extraordinary and honorably revered Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who at one point, was also a normal person. We see a day in his life, as he is in the depths of the Civil Rights Movement. The struggle, the pride, the passion. It all started in his local church, because he felt compelled to take action. Whether he knew it or not, every journey starts with one step. I like to think that what truly made him extraordinary isn't just the extraordinary things he did, but that he took that first step. And after that first step, he took another. . .

Hopefully, this play will offer you some perspective, help you discover your power, and encourage you to take that first step.

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CAST & CREATIVES



DEANDRE SIMMONS (he/him),
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

DeAndre is thrilled to be making his debut with New Village Arts portraying the extraordinary man that was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! Like Dr. King, he is a proud life member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Regional credits: Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd* (SDMT), Ken in *Ain't Misbehavin'* directed by the late Ken Page, Boatman in *Sunday in the Park with George* and Narrator in *Every Brilliant Thing* (CCAETheatricals), Montrellous in *Clyde's* and Professor Bhaer in *Little Women* (Moxie Theatre), Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Kerchak in *Tarzan* (Moonlight Theatre), Father in *Children of Eden* (Chicagoland Theatre), Al Calinda in *Working* (Philadelphia Theatre Co.), Big Daddy u/s and ensemble in *Sweet Charity* (Sledgehammer Theatre), Grand Inquisitor in *Candide* (Los Angeles Philharmonic). DeAndre is a recipient of the 2024 Craig Noel Award for Actor of the Year, given by the San Diego Critics Circle, for his body of work in the season and especially for his portrayal of Sweeney Todd. As a protege of the great Barbara Cook, he regularly appears in American Songbook concerts and performs a wide array of composers — Berlin to Rodgers and Hammerstein to Arlen to Sondheim and more. DeAndre is an international opera singer and works with symphonies and opera houses around the globe. Upcoming: Seti in *Prince of Egypt* (Moonlight Theatre), a songbook cabaret in Palm Springs and Chicago, and pops concerts on the East Coast. IG: @DeAndresVoice / www.deandresimmons.com



TAYLOR RENEE HENDERSON (she/her),
Camae

Taylor is delighted to be back at New Village Arts after making her debut here last season as Nettie in *The Color Purple*. Taylor is a multi-hyphenate artist and performer that has been working professionally on and offstage for an upwards of 10 years in both San Diego and Las Vegas. Recent credits include *The Pros and Cons of Feeding Stray Cats* (Playwrights Project at The Old Globe), *Manny & The Wise Queens*, *Chicken & Biscuits* (Oceanside Theatre Company), *BottleShock! The Musical* (CCAET), *The Savoyard Murders* (Roustabouts Theatre Co), *Xanadu* (SDMT), and the American premiere of *The High Table* (Diversiónary). She also serves as the narrator of the Family Concert Series at The San Diego Symphony. You can catch her next performance in Karaoke Dreams later this summer with Blindspot Collective. Thank you for supporting the conversation and live theatre. Inspire. Aspire! IG: @tay.renee.onstage



ALLYCE CALLOWAY (she/her),
Camae Understudy

Allyce Calloway is grateful to be returning to the NVA stage. She was last seen here as Margot in *Legally Blonde*. As a long time performer, Calloway has spent many years singing at LEGOLAND CA Resort, competing in scholarship pageants, being a party princess, and even taking to social media to grow her passion for all things beauty. Now with over 75 thousand followers on TikTok, Calloway finds joy in creating community online. @allycenotalice to follow her journey. You can even catch her this July as the Leading Player in Star Theatre's production of *Pippin!* Calloway gives special thanks to this team as well as her friends and family for all of their support.

CREATIVES

DURWOOD MURRAY JR. (he/him), Director

Durwood is ecstatic to make his directorial debut here at New Village Arts, the theatre he calls home. He has been previously seen in *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play*, *The Servant of Two Masters* and *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas*. He was also seen in *The Savoyard Murders* with The Roustabouts Theatre Co.; *Handbagged* and *Our Lady of Kibeho* at Moxie Theatre, and at Diversiónary Theatre in *The High Table*, *Well* and *One in Two*. Durwood is currently the President of The San Diego Black Artists Collective whose mission is to amplify the voices of local black artists. He would like to thank The Usual Suspects, Wondrous Strange, and "The Corporation" for their love and support.

NATHAN WAITS (he/him), Stage Manager & Sound Design Consultant

Nathan has been stage managing and building sets for productions around San Diego for about 10 years. Previously, he has served as the master carpenter for *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas* and *Fun Home*, and stage manager for *Desert Rock Garden*, Jez Butterworth's *The Ferryman*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Doubt*, *Fun Home*, *The 39 Steps*, *8Track: The Sounds of the 70's*, *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play*, *The Half Life of Marie Curie*, and *La Havana Madrid* (New Village Arts). He previously served as the resident set builder for Scripps Ranch Theatre (*Lucky Stiff*, *Extreme Home Makeover*, *The Outsider*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *The Taming*, and more), the master carpenter for The Roustabouts (*Guntopia*, *Hand to God*, *True West*), and the resident set builder/designer for Sage Creek High School (*Les Miserables*, *Chicago*, *Legally Blonde*, *Into the Woods*, *Shakespeare in Love* and many more). He thanks you for coming to see the show and hopes you enjoy!

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO+ (he/him), Scenic Designer

Christopher Scott Murillo is a scenic designer, artist, and educator based in Los Angeles, CA. He is thrilled to be collaborating with New Village Arts once again. Since 2016, he has designed over fifteen productions here at New Village Arts. Recently, his stage designs have been seen at Antaeus Theatre Company, Sierra Madre Playhouse, Chance Theater, IAMA Theatre Company, Latino Theatre Company, and East West Players. As a production designer for television, his work can be seen on Paramount+ on *The Ready Room* with Wil Wheaton and *Halo the Series: Declassified*. He is a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Foundation Theater Fellowship. Currently, he is on faculty at UC RIVERSIDE in the Department of Theatre, Film and Digital Production. @csmdesign97 +Member of IATSE, United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

MICHAEL WOGULIS (he/him), Projections Designer

Michael Wogulis is a projection and scenic designer based in San Diego. He is thrilled to be back at New Village Arts after creating the projection design for *La Havana Madrid*, and the scenic designs for *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play* and *The Thanksgiving Play* earlier this season. Other projection design credits include: *Once on this Island* (Oceanside Theatre Company), *Cleopatra* (Moxie Theatre, Craig Noel nomination), and *blu* (UCSD). Scenic Design credits include: *The Prom* (San Diego Musical Theatre), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Loud Fridge Theatre Group), *Once on this Island* (Oceanside Theatre Company), *Macbeth* (CSULA), *Clyde's* (Moxie Theatre), *The Glass Menagerie* (Diversiónary Theatre), *The Four Note Opera* (Kallisti Ensemble), *Ariodante* (Opera Neo), *blu*, *Machinal*, *Hells Canyon*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* (UCSD). Michael is a double alumnus of UC San Diego, having received both a BA in Theatre and an MFA in Scenic Design from the university. michaelwogulis.com

CARTER VICKERS (he/him), Props Designer

Carter is super excited to be working on *The Mountaintop!* He is primarily a scenic, props, & production designer, having recently worked as an Assistant Scenic Designer here at New Village Arts (*La Havana Madrid* & *The Half-Life of Marie Curie*). He's also worked with The Antaeus Theatre Company, IAMA Theatre Company, Chance Theater, Theatricum Botanicum, and The Muny. He holds a degree in Theatre Arts and Film, Television, and Media Studies from Loyola Marymount University. Many thanks to Christopher Scott Murillo and the rest of the wonderful production team! @carter.vickers

KEVANE LA'MARR COLEMAN (he/him), Costume & Wig Designer

Kevane is thrilled to work on another Katori Hall production, this time behind the scenes. He was last seen as Isom Faciane in *The Hot Wing King* (Cygnet Theatre). Passionate about telling Black and Brown

CREATIVES

stories, Kevane continues to expand his artistry in design. Recent credits include: Wig Designer, *8-TRACK: The Sounds of the '70s* (New Village Arts); Costume Designer, *DOUBT: A Parable* (New Village Arts); Wig Designer, *The 39 Steps* (New Village Arts); Assistant Wig Designer/Wig Maintenance & Reset, *The Color Purple* (New Village Arts).

MASHUN TUCKER (he/him), Lighting Designer

Mashun is an Artist based in San Diego. Recent design credits include *Curtains*, *The Mountain Song* (Coronado Playhouse) & *Bright Star* (Lamplighters Community Theatre). Past NVA credits include *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas* (2023). Mashun is grateful to be returning to NVA to bring this special work to your eye view.

ANDRE BUCK JR. (he/him), Sound Designer

Andre is a sound and lighting designer for theater arts and is proud to be debuting at NVA. Buck loves to work in the San Diego community and has previously worked with Oceanside Theater Company, La

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ABBY HUFFSTETLER (they/them), Intimacy Coordinator

Abby Leigh Huffstetler thrives within the intersections of creative expression, arts education and physical storytelling. They are an actor, educator, intimacy choreographer, actor-combatant and clown. Education: MFA in Theatre & Dance from UC San Diego, BFA in Performing Arts from SCAD. Abby holds certifications in multiple weapons within The Society of American Fight Directors. Intimacy Choreography credits: *TL;DR* (Diversionary); *The Wolves* (Company 157); *900 Years* (UCSD); *Two Kids That Blow Shit Up* (UCSD); Fight Choreography credits: *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Moxie); *Feywild* (UCSD); Abby is an Actors Theatre Professional Training Company alum. There is no space for the perpetuation of white supremacy in their process and exploration.

BECCA MOORE (she/her), Assistant Stage Manager

Becca Moore graduated with her BA in Theatre at UCSD in June 2024. UCSD credits: *Orlando* (PA), *WinterWorks24* (ASM), and *The Half-Sibling Play* (ASM). La Jolla Playhouse credits: *DNA: New Work*

Series (PA) and *WOW Festival*; *American Dream Casino* (PSM). New Village Arts credits: *The Thanksgiving Play* (PSM). She is happy to return and continue working with New Village Arts!

MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE (she/her), Costume Assistant

Volunteer within the costume team permanently assigned to the theater. A retired scientist with a passion for textiles.

ZACHARY ELLIOTT (he/him), Scenic Painter

Zachary is an award winning scenic artist who has worked at venues all around San Diego county. He is happy to be continuing to work alongside all of the talented artists at New Village Arts!

KATORI HALL (she/her), Playwright

Pulitzer Prize-winning and two time Tony Award-nominated Memphis-native Katori Hall is the book writer and co-producer of the West End and Broadway hit *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*. She's also the creator and showrunner of *P-Valley*, the breakout Starz drama based on her play *Pussy Valley*. Katori's latest theatrical piece, *The Hot Wing King*, premiered in Spring 2020 at the Signature Theatre and won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Her play *The Mountaintop*, which

vividly reimagines the final night of Martin Luther King's life, won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2010 before opening on Broadway to critical acclaim. Katori's other works include the award-winning *Hurt Village*, *Hoodoo Love*, *Saturday Night/ Sunday Morning*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, *Children of Killers*, and *The Blood Quilt*. She is also the director of the award-winning short, *Arkabutla*. Katori is an alumna of Columbia University, ART at Harvard University, and Juilliard. She's a graduate of the Sundance Episodic Lab's inaugural class, the Sundance Screenwriting Lab, and Ryan Murphy's Half Foundation Directing Program. Katori's other awards include a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, two Lecomte du Nouy Prizes from Lincoln Center, National Black Theatre's August Wilson Playwriting Award, NAACP Image Award for Best Television Drama, the Columbia University Medal of Excellence, and many more. @katorihall www.katorihall.com

KRISTIANNE KURNER (she/her), Founder & Executive Artistic Director

Kristianne founded New Village Arts in 2001, and she has grown the organization from a starting budget of \$2,500 with two employees to a current budget of \$1.6 million with over 20 employees. Trained as an actor and director, she has worked on every NVA theatrical

production. Her directing credits include *Awake & Sing! The Weir*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *True West*, *Sailor's Song*, *The Waverly Gallery*, *A Lie of the Mind*, and the premiere outside of Broadway and London of Jez Butterworth's *The Ferryman*. Her work has received numerous awards, including San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and KPBS Awards for Theatre Excellence. She is the recipient of the Clare Rose Sabbatical Award from Fieldstone Leadership Network and serves on the Board of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. Education: BFA Theatre, College of William & Mary; MFA Acting, the Actors Studio/New School.

KALI BOSTON (she/her), Artistic Producer

Originally from Massachusetts, Kali moved to California to pursue her passion in producing and directing. After graduating from the University of California, San Diego with a BA in Theatre, Kali has been a part of many different theaters and festivals including: *La Havana Madrid*, *The Half-Life of Marie Curie*, *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play*, *8-TRACK: The Sounds of the '70s*, *The Color Purple*, *The 39 Steps*, *Fun Home*, (Producer, NVA), Jewish Arts Festival 2024 (Production Manager), *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* (Assistant Director, NVA), *Heathers: The Musical* (Producer/Director, Zorina Productions).



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ABOUT THE PREBYS CHALLENGE GRANT: In October of 2024, Prebys Foundation awarded NVA with an incredible opportunity: a **\$625,000 challenge grant** to complete the investment in our center. So far, NVA has raised \$230,000 towards this goal. We need to raise an additional **\$145,000 by June 30th** and the final **\$250,000 by December 31st, 2025**. Your support, in any amount, would mean the world to us and instantly be matched by Prebys.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! Two other couples, the Myers and the Kerrs, have offered an **ADDITIONAL \$45,000 CHALLENGE GRANT!** This means that any gift you make before June 30th will be matched by the Myers and Kerrs up to \$45,000 and then that combined gift is matched by Prebys! **YOUR GIFT INSTANTLY QUADRUPLES!**

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New Village Arts has created a village of caring, generous, and forward-thinking people over the years and we are honored to have YOU as a crucial part of that Village.

THANK YOU TO OUR BRIDGE CAMPAIGN DONORS!

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MAY 15, 1951 – JULY 7, 2024

ANNOUNCING THE 2024-2025 DEA HURSTON FELLOWS



Miss Dea, as she was affectionately known by our staff, was one of the strongest and most inspirational women we've ever known. The world has lost an incredible light. She had an indelible impact in the San Diego theatre community: mentoring, encouraging, supporting, loving, and always, telling her truth. We feel so fortunate to have shared in Dea's extraordinary life.



The Dea Hurston Fellowship was created to address the lack of paid opportunities for women, BIPOC, and other underserved theater administrators, artists, and students in our region.

As a young girl, Dea was denied access to dance lessons and other artistic ventures due to the prevailing racist attitudes, politics, and laws. The Dea Hurston Fellowship has been her way to ensure that young women of color not only have access to the arts, but paid training, mentorship, and exposure to all aspects and vocations within the arts industry.

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To Learn More about the
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2024 2025 DEA HURSTON PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS



Lilea Alvarez

Mentored by Delicia Turner-Sonnenberg



Bryttney-Mischele Salvant

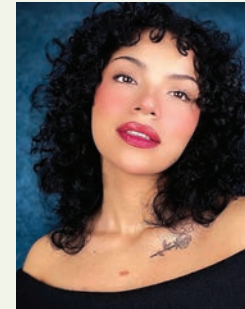
Mentored by Eric Tippeconnic



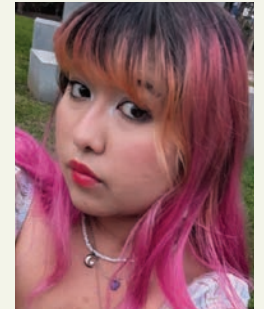
Miki Vale

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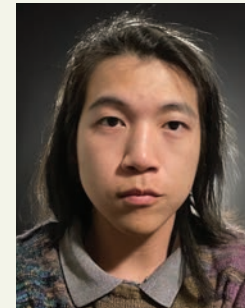
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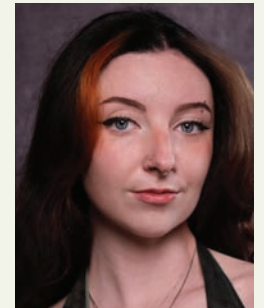
Lena Ceja



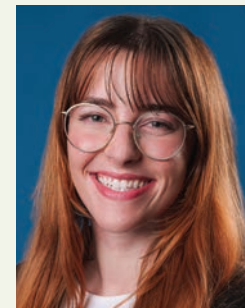
Liberty-Belle Garza-Omae



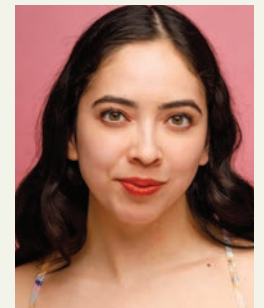
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