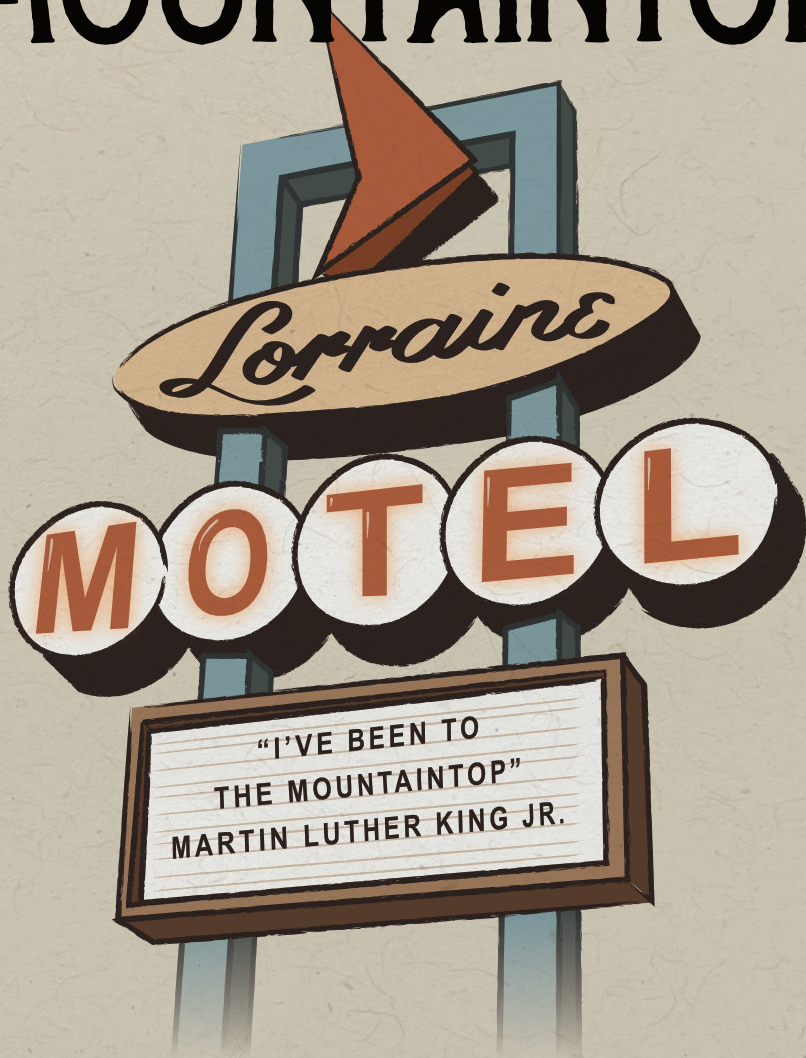


THE MOUNTAINTOP



MAR. 21 – APR. 23, 2023



VAGABOND PLAYERS



VAGABOND PLAYERS

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VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENT

THE MOUNTAINTOP

By Katori Hall

Directed by Dwight R.B. Cook

Cast

Martin Luther King, Jr. Troy Jennings

Camae Azure Grimes

Setting

The Lorraine Motel - Room 306

Memphis, Tennessee

April 3, 1968

THE MOUNTAINTOP is presented through special arrangement with The Dramatist Play Service, Inc.

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).

Cast and Crew Biographies

Azure Grimes (Camae), a West Baltimore actor, was last seen at Vagabond Players as Sara in *Stop Kiss*. She has trained with The Shakespeare Theatre Company and The Actor's Place; with an emphasis on voice-over work. Her recent voice-over credits include Commercial Narration for Hunt a Killer: Royal Street and eLearning Narration for the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Azure is thrilled to return to Vagabond Players as Camae in *The Mountaintop*!

Troy Jennings (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.) previously appeared in Vagabond Players' production of *God of Carnage*. He is the Education Manager of Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's education program. This robust program serves thousands of students annually with classes, residencies, school matinees, and summer camps. Selected theatre credits: *Detroit '67* (Strand Theater Company), *Othello*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Baltimore Shakespeare Factory), *Two Trains Running* (Spotlighters Theatre), *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse* (Adventure Theatre), *Rabbit Hole* (Everyman Theatre). Film: *What Happens Next Will Scare You*, *The Call Girl of Cthulhu*, *Witch's Brew* (Midnight Crew Studios). Teaching: Drama Kids International. Education: B.A. in Theatre, Towson University.

Dwight R.B. Cook (Director), making his directorial debut at Vagabond Players, serves as the production manager for the Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center of Morgan State University and Adjunct Professor in the theatre department teaching Stage Management. A transplant from NYC, he is a playwright as well as a Broadway and Off-Broadway actor and stage manager. While in New York, he directed productions for the New Federal Theatre, the National Black Theatre, the Apollo Theatre, the Roger Furman Theatre, the Crossroads Theatre Company (NJ), Stonewall Repertory Company, the Harlem Theatre Company, and Blue River Productions, to name a few. In Baltimore, he has directed for Center Stage (50th Anniversary; Expanding the Cycle Play Reading Festival; *First Look*; and Play Lab Series); Theatre of the Rising Sun; Run of the Mill Theatre (*Fear*, *Justice* & *Power*); Orpheus Music Global; Arena Players (*Variations on Secrets 10 Minute Play Festival*). During his tenure at MSU he has directed for Theatre Morgan and Opera at Morgan. DRBC, a member of the Baltimore Playwrights Group, has held memberships with the Dramatists Guild, AEA, DGA and is an alum of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Dwight gives honor to God and thanks for that 'First Breath of Life', and thanks to his family for their love and support.

Preston Coleman (Stage Manager) is a graduating senior at Morgan State University, studying theatre and English. At Morgan, he has performed in *Dream and Disconnect* (2022), *Pipeline* (2021), and *Marisol* (2020). He has also staged managed Theatre Morgan's production of *Our Town* (2021). He also worked as cast and production team member for City at Peace, a DC non-profit youth group which provides a safe, collaborative, and nurturing space outside of school and other environments where youth can examine issues and conditions that divide them. This is Preston's first production working with Vagabond Players and he is very excited about the work that has been put in this production and being a part of its process.

Andrea Blanchard (Fight Choreographer) is thrilled to have choreographed her first fight sequence for *The Mountaintop*, directed by Dwight Cook. She graduated from Morgan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. She has experience working in multiple departments of theatre from stage management to design. Recently, she has been accomplishing skills proficiency assessments recognized by The Society of American Fight Directors in multiple forms of stage combat ranging from unarmed to rapier and dagger. She is very thankful for this opportunity.

Tylar Hinton (Costume Designer) is thankful for the opportunity to be designing with Vagabond Players for the first time. Some of her previous credits include: *Antigone*, *Sweat*, *Miss Electricity*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike*, *The Wiz*, and *Home*. Tylar graduated from Morgan State University in 2018, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts. In 2021, she earned her Master of Fine Arts Degree in Theatre Arts, with a concentration in Costume Design. Tylar has since returned to Morgan State, where she is currently serving as an adjunct professor within the theatre department.

Martin Smith (Sound & Video Designer) is a recent graduate of Morgan State University. He has designed lights, sound, and projections for numerous shows at the Turpin-Lamb Theatre. Most recently, he was the lighting designer for *Variations on Change* with Rapid Lemon Productions. He is also a playwright and directed his original work *Dream and Disconnect* at the Turpin-Lamb Theatre. Currently, Martin is a sound technician/board operator for Everyman Theatre.

Special Thanks

Vagabond Players gratefully acknowledges support from The Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts at Morgan State University for allowing the cast and crew to make use of Room 222 as a rehearsal space for THE MOUNTAINTOP.

Production Staff

Director	Dwight R.B. Cook
Stage Manager	Preston Coleman
Assistant Stage Manager	Janell Hill
Lighting Design	Pamela Hobson
Sound & Video Design	Martin Smith
Costume Design	Tylar Hinton
Set Design	Moe Conn
Set Construction	Moe Conn Jay DeMarco
Fight Choreographer	Andrea Blanchard
Intimacy Choreographer	Sierra Young
Photographer	Nicolle Walker
Marketing/PR	Audra M. Mullen Kerry Simons
Graphic Design	Sarah Hepworth
Box Office/Front of House	Michael Kranick
Producers	Thomas Peter Isabel Cooke

Director's Note

To have the opportunity to work on Katori Hall's *THE MOUNTAINTOP* was truly an honor. To be responsible for presenting a play about Martin Luther King, Jr. was daunting in nature, because Ms. Hall chose to touch on aspects of Dr. King's personal life, which may be common knowledge, but is also a subject matter that is not necessary discussed publicly in 'mixed' company. Our process was to honor the historic and iconic nature of his life and being. As a director, I am always searching for the 'soul' of the piece of theatre or character. We have all been exposed to the personage of Dr. King in some way, but we are not necessarily privy to the 'man' and his foibles. Even though the portrayals in the play come from historical public knowledge, the playwright has also taken liberties on a personal level to portray her thoughts about Dr. King's private life. I hope that Ms. Hall and I have been true to the life and memory of this great man. Of course, you will be the judge.

I dedicate this directorial project to the memory of my son, D'Roderick B. Jefferson-Cook, whose 10th 'Angel-versary' of his crossing is March 31. He was a beautiful soul who epitomized the beliefs and nature of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace, Power and Love ... and Ashe!

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Vagabond Players is a recipient of grants from the Abell Foundation
and the Maryland States Arts Council



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