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Cleveland Public Theatre's
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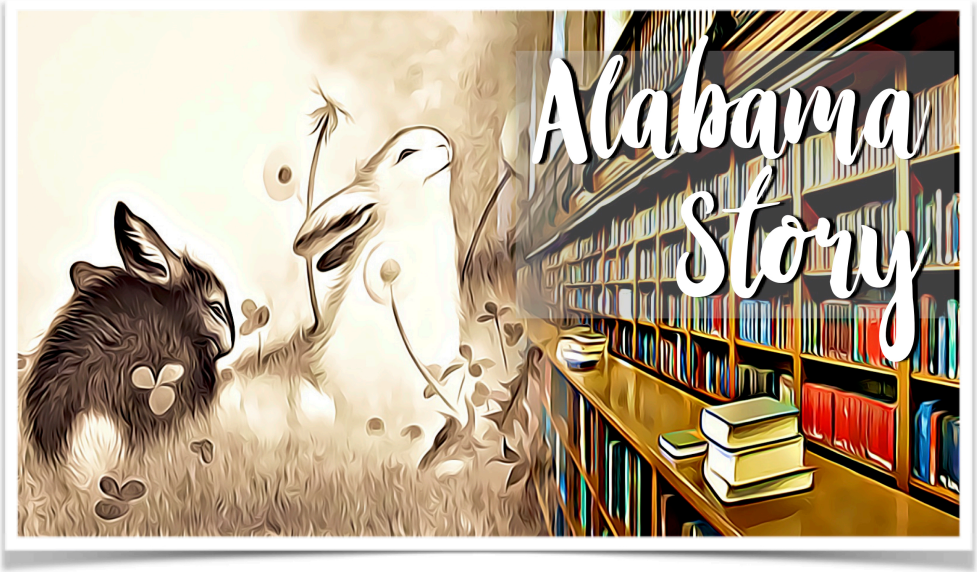
Ensemble Theatre

www.ensembletheatrecle.org

Lucia Colombi, *Founder* **Celeste Cosentino**, *Executive Artistic Director*



by **Kenneth Jones** | Sept **7-30**, 2018

Directed by **Tyler Whidden** | **MainStage**Theatre
Assistant Director **Janna M. Haywood**

Ensemble Theatre | 2843 Washington Blvd. | Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

Fridays & Saturdays @ 8pm. Sundays @ 2pm.
Talkback with Heights Library Director **Nancy Levin** on **September 22nd.**
Talkback with **Kenneth Jones** *(via Skype)* on **September 23rd.**
Other surrounding events with our partners @ Heights Libraries!
Check our website for updates on talkbacks and surrounding events!

216.321.2930 | **www.ensembletheatrecle.org**

A Message from the Artistic Director

Dear Friends,

Ensemble Theatre's future is bright! As the first and now the largest anchor tenant of the **Coventry PEACE Campus**. From an empty school to a vibrant arts hub, the last 7 years have been both challenging and rewarding! Thanks to grass roots efforts and the community's overwhelming presence in support of the work we do at various city council, school board, and library board meetings we open our 39th season this September! Our 8th at Coventry! We are thankful for each petition signature, every email and phone call! Our first show speaks to the power of how a Public Library can be an organization that fosters community! **We are excited to partner with the Heights Libraries, not just on this show, but also to make Coventry PEACE a unique corner in the region and a long lasting community asset!**

Please consider a donation this season and continued support! The next two years will be crucial in developing our long term plan and unique vision as a regional arts destination.

For more information on how to support, give, and how to get involved:
Email: info@ensemble-theatre.org | Call Our Staff Line: 216-202-0894 |
Visit the Support Tab on our website!
If you have ANY questions about Ensemble Theatre and our role as an anchor tenant, please do not hesitate to contact us!
We are here to answer ANY questions! Join The Ensemble Today!
All the best to you and yours! Enjoy the show!

Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director

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Tell your friends about us! Like us on **Facebook**!
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Call/Email us for more information on how to volunteer or help spread the word!
216.321.2930. volunteer@emsemble-theatre.org

coventrypeacecampus.org
CREATE SHOW LEARN GROW
COVENTRY P.E.A.C.E. CAMPUS

Ensemble Theatre has been working with an amazing group of Cleveland Heights and non Cleveland Heights residents, the Cleveland Heights University Heights School District, The City of Cleveland Heights, and the Heights Libraries, for the last few months, dedicating a lot of time to figuring out the future of this unique corner we have called home for the last 7 seasons! Please, if you can, take a moment and visit

coventrypeacecampus.org

to learn more about the unique organizations that make up what we hope will be a thriving arts campus and a invaluable asset to our fine city!

CAST MEMBER($0-$99)

Joanne C. Mortimer MD
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Peter Plumb
Barbara S. Robinson
Jay G. Siegel
Kimyatta S. Snowden
Dana Snyder & James Slivkoff
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Howard & Judith VanKleef
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Lucia Colombi, *Founder* | **Celeste Cosentino**, *Executive Artistic Director*
Presents the OHIO PREMIERE of

Alabama Story

By Kenneth Jones

Director Tyler Whidden
Assistant Director: Janna Haywood
Light Design: Ian Hinz **Set Design:** Walter Boswell
Costume Design Meg Parish
Technical Director: August Scarpelli
Production Stage Manager/Props Becca Moseley
Sound Design Tyler Whidden & Becca Moseley

The Cast:

Anne McEvoy | Emily Reed
Cody Kilpatrick Steele | Thomas Franklin
Eugene Sumlin | Josh Moore
Adrienne Jones | Lily Whitfield
Craig Joseph | Garth Williams *(and others)*
Joseph Milan | Senator Higgins

Show Run Time: Act One: 1hr Act Two: 1hr
There will be one **TEN MINUTE** intermission.

Time: 1959
Place: Montgomery, Alabama; The Deep South; and Beyond.

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Who's who in the Cast:

Anne McEvoy *(Emily Reed)* is pleased to finally be back on stage at Ensemble where she's previously appeared in *The Gospel According to James* by Charles Smith and *Miracle and Wonder* by Jonathan Wilhelm. Elsewhere, Anne's performed at the Beck Center, Blank Canvas, Cleveland Playhouse, CPT, Convergence Continuum, Dobama, Great Lakes Theatre, Karamu, Mamai, None Too Fragile, and others. A published children's author, Anne feels especially grateful to be part of *Alabama Story*.

Cody Kilpatrick Steele *(Thomas Franklin)* is a local actor who has performed on stages throughout Northeast Ohio and in independent films nationwide. Notable theatrical works include: *The Tempest* (Sebastian) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo) at the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, and *Angels in America* (Prior Walter) at Playhouse Square. Most recently he portrayed Valmont in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at Weathervane Playhouse. In 2016, he took home the award for Best Actor in a Feature Film at the Hollywood Boulevard Film Festival for *Sincerely, Me*. His next film, Viscera, premieres this fall on the East Coast. Cody would like to thank all of you for supporting live theatre and keeping art alive in our

Eugene Sumlin (Josh Moore) is excited to to be making his Ensemble debut in *Alabama Story*. Recent credits include: Jesse/ensemble in *Minton's Place* (Cleveland Playhouse), Adam/Noah in *Children of Eden* (French Creek Theatre), Jim Conley in *Parade* (French Creek) Ken in *Ain"t Misbehavin'* (Porthouse Theatre), Capt. Scott in Peter and the *Starcatcher (*Dobama Theatre), King Triton in *The Little Mermaid* (Mercury Theatre Company), Ken in *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Cain Park), Papa Ge in *Once On This Island* (Orchard Arts Project), Donkey in *Shrek The Musical* (Fine Arts Association and Beachwood Community Theatre). Next, Eugene will be appearing in *Ella Enchanted* at Dobama this winter. He will be returning to the Ensemble stage in January for *A Raisin in the Sun*. He would like to thank God, from whom all blessings flow, and to Nicole, Easton and August, for their love and support.

Adrienne Jones (Lily Whitfield) is delighted to be making her Ensemble Theatre debut. She is a graduate of DePaul University's Theatre School. While in Chicago, some of her favorite productions were *The Rivals*, *Trust*, and T*he Kid Thing*. Since returning to Ohio, her credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* with Weathervane Playhouse, *Scotland Road* at Western Reserve Playhouse, and *Lend Me A Tenor* with Coach House Theatre. She sends a special thank you to her family for their support and love.

Craig Joseph *(Garth Williams)* is excited to return to Ensemble this season after last season's appearances in *Well* and *Angels in America*. Other favorite acting credits include: Karl / Steve in *Clybourne Park*, Charles Guiteau in *Assassins*, Sideway / Collins in *Our Country's Good*, and Kerr in *Chesapeake*. Craig's primary theatrical work is as a director; recent credits include *The Christians*, *Bus Stop*, *The Flick*, *The Best Man*, Les *Liaisons Dangereuses*, and *Doubt*. By day, Craig is a creative freelancer, writing for a variety of clients and curating art exhibits around Ohio. He's also the Artistic Director of Seat of the Pants Productions, next producing *Molly Sweeney* this November at Weathervane in Akron. Look for more acting and directing this year from Craig at the Canton and Akron symphonies, Dobama, Playwrights Local, and more. Thanks for your support of live theatre.

Joseph Milan *(Senator Higgins)* is fresh off a go at Sir Toby Belch in The Bard's *Twelfth Night* for Cleve Shakes after spending the winter speaking proto gaelic as Flanagan's mother. You may have last caught him at Ensemble Theatre as "Yank" in Eugene O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*, or stampeding the boards at ConCon for Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*. He is honored to help tell an *Alabama Story*, a story with important lessons to teach and to keep close in today's world.

Meet the Playwright :

Kenneth Jones is a playwright, librettist and lyricist. Alabama Story was a 2016 nominee for the Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award and a 2014 Finalist in the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. It has been seen in more than 20 cities in the U.S. following its world premiere by Pioneer Theatre Company in 2015. Other plays: Two Henrys (two-time Semi-Finalist in the O'Neill NPC, developed by Pioneer Theatre Company, Hudson Stage Company and Pacific Resident Theatre); Hollywood, Nebraska (developed in Off-Broadway's 2016 NewTACTics New Play Festival; workshopped by Wyoming Theater Festival, 2017); Circa 1976 (2018 O'Neill NPC Semi-Finalist); Ten Minutes on a Bench; Tortilla Messiah. Musicals: It Happened One Christmas, co-conceived with Karen Azenberg (Pioneer Theatre, 2015); Naughty/Nice, with composer Gerald Stockstill (published by stagerights.com); Voice of the City, with composer Elaine Chelton (developed by York Theatre Company and Human Race Theatre Company). He is a member of the Dramatists Guild, BMI and The 72nd Street Gang Playwrights Collective. He writes about his work and advocates for other theater makers at **ByKennethJones.com.**

Up Next on the MainStage:

by **Frank Galati** | Directed by **Ian Wolfgang Hinz**

Oct 19- Nov 11, 2018 | MainstageTheatre

www.ensembletheatrecle.org

Join Us for our 39th Season!

Who's who in the Crew:

Tyler Whidden (Director) has been working with Ensemble since 2009 including as an actor (Sexual Perversity in Chicago, Waiting for Lefty, The Iceman Cometh), a playwright (Dancing With N.E.D., Run Kingsbury Run, Occupation: Dad) and as the head of the StageWrights writing workshop. Born in Cleveland, Tyler has lived and traveled all over the country as a stand-up comedian and earned an MFA in Playwriting from Ohio University. His collection of short plays, F*ck It, is available on Amazon and questionable bookstores nearby. He'll direct the premier of David Hansen's The Way I Danced With You as part of the 2019 Columbi New Plays Festival this Spring. Tyler lives in Lakewood with his incredible wife Angie and their two kids Booker and Claribel.

Becca Moseley (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be back for another season at Ensemble Theatre! She has served as the Resident Production Stage Manager/assistant stage manager for many Ensemble shows, including *Well, The Hairy Ape, Radio Golf,The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail, Margin of Error,Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, the Iceman Cometh, Animals out of Paper, Knock Me A Kiss, Beyond the Horizon, Anna Christie, Thurgood, The Chairs, Death of a Salesman, Slow Dance on the Killing Ground, and Ages of the Moon. She co-directed Run, Kingsbury, Run*. She was onstage in past seasons at Ensemble as Pea in *Jerusalem*, the Childlike Empress/company in *The Never Ending Story*, and as Daisy Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*. Other favorite credits not at Ensemble include Rosalind (*As You Like It*) Fabiana Cunningham (*The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*) Dorine (*Tartuffe*) and Maggie (*A Chorus Line*). Most recently, Becca played Ophelia in Hiram College's alumni inclusive production of Hamlet, and was part of Ensemble's production of *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Princess Rhyme/ Ensemble). She thanks Ian and Celeste for building and nurturing a theatre that provides a constant supply of great scripts and people to bring them to life, her family for their love and support, and Kyle for always believing in the magic.

Walter Boswell (Set Design) Walter is no stranger to Ensemble theatre, beginning with *The Great God Brown* in 1985. He served as a frequent designer up till 2004, designing one of the last shows the Ensemble did at the Cleveland Playhouse Space. His past designs for Ensemble have been *Jerusalem*, *Margin of Error, Radio Golf, Well,* and *The Hairy Ape (winner of Cleveland Critics Circle Award for Best Set Design)*. His designs have also been seen at Dobama Theatre, Baldwin Wallace College, and Lorain County Community College. Walter received the Cleveland Critics Circle Award for his Scenic Design of The Adding Machine at LCCC in 1984.

August Scarpelli (Technical Director) has been seen on stage at Ensemble in The Hairy Ape, *Death of a Salesman , The Lion, the Witch , and the Wardrobe*, *Jerusalem,* and *The Phantom Tollbooth*. He has also been lucky enough to work as Assistant Technical Director/Artistic associate with Ensemble. His set designs so far include *The Phantom Tollbooth, The Litte Prince, This is Our Youth*! He is happy to step into his new role as Technical Director for Ensemble!

Meg Parish (Costumer) When not on stage, Meg spends much of her time designing, creating and coordinating costumes for Clague Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre and Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, with occasional side trips to Cleveland School of the Arts. Her secret ambition is to stumble into one lucrative role in a major motion picture and retire to open her own milliner's shop. She dedicates The Hairy Ape to her fur children, Pongo and WeeTina.

Ensemble welcomes our newest Sponsor:

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A Message from the Director:

Like many parents, I read to my children nightly (when not in rehearsal, of course). Cuddled under Lego bed sheets and Star Wars lamplight, it's a sacred ritual handed down from generations of parents providing a chance for their children to imagine other worlds or people before they dream the night away. And, as parents, we provide them that opportunity with the hopes they will continue this tradition with their own kids. I have collected all of my books for the past 30 years, refusing to let them go whether by garage sale or a loan to a friend. In every inside cover is my name, the date I bought the book, and the town in which I bought it. Every book is a snapshot into who I was the moment that particular book became mine. My kids will inherit those books, and with each one, a window into who their father was – even if briefly.

Alabama Story isn't just a play about the battle between a real-life librarian and the state senator trying to control the books in her care. It's not just a play about two star-crossed lovers who reunite by chance many years after a traumatic separation. It is also a play about legacy, because in the end, our legacy is really our story. In this play, parents play a large role in each of the characters' story and how those characters became who they are in the play. As parents, we can choose how our stories continue – handed down to our children through the system of values we instill in them. For some, those values extend to reading to them before bed, or providing a sense of respect for new ideals, or simply giving them a book – the gift of other peoples' stories.

When our children say, "tell me a story," what they're really requesting is a piece of us that they may carry with them as a means of becoming better; more like us. At it's heart, Alabama Story is a play about the power of legacy and the how we choose to wield it.

We hope you enjoy our play and carry it with you, continuing the legacy of providing for others what we have all been seeking since childhood: a story.

JOIN US FOR TALKBACKS SURROUNDING THE SHOW!

Saturday **September 22nd, Nancy Levin, (Dir. of Heights Libraries)**
Sunday **September 23rd, Kenneth Jones, (Playwright 'Alabama Story')**
Sunday September 30th, James Kosmatka, (Exec. Assoc., OHIO ACLU)

Visit the SPECIAL EVENTS tab of our website for more information & complete schedule of talkbacks & surrounding events! www.ensembletheatrecle.org.

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There are addressed envelopes in the lobby as you exit the theatre.

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You can also donate online visit :
www.ensembletheatrecle.org - Support Tab

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216.321.2930 | volunteer@ensemble-theatre.org
We would love to have you!

Ask an usher, a staff member, or email us regarding how you can help with benefits, matching grants, sponsorships, volunteering and more!

Ensemble Theatre Space: Phase 1

The space you are currently in began as a gym. Ensemble is profoundly lucky to have the support of dedicated volunteers who volunteered thousands of dollars worth of labor to create what you see before you. Your labor is sacred. Thank you!

Stephen Vasse-Hansell, Alan Branstein, Martin Cosentino, Coventry P.E.A.C.E volunteers, Ian Hinz, Robert Hagaman, James Rankin, Katie Nabors, Andrew Strong, Bill Goff, Jeff Beard, Kelly McFarland, Austin Hinz, Megan McCorkle, Jane Adams, Gail Stephanie, Megan Keough, HunterVasse-Hansell, & Stephen Celeste.

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