



Ensemble Theatre

Great Scripts. Cleveland Artists

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



Ensemble Theatre

Presents a **staged reading** of

THE LIGHT POST

A new play by **India Nicole Burton**

June 18th, 2022 @7pm

Notre Dame College | Regina Auditorium

1857 S. Green Rd. | South Euclid, OH 44121

"The Light Post follows the story of the McClain Family, through the vantage point of Randi McClain, a lesbian Black woman, who is questioning her identity as a Queer, Black woman in the world and her relationships with predominately white women. At the same time, she is dealing with the patriarch of the family, Kevin McClain, who is losing his mind and the family bar, in an attempt to get him to sell his bar to white business owners. Mr. McClain can not seem to part ways with the bar primarily because he believes the spirit of his dead grandson (Cecile), who was murdered by police, lives in the jukebox he inherited from his father. Things start to climax when a mysterious women wanders into The Light Post (Bar), on the night of one of the biggest snow storms in Riverdale Michigan's history."

As part of Ensemble's mission, our **Stagewrights Unit** fosters the development of new works for the stage. Staged readings offer playwrights the platform to have their work presented to an audience with local artists. We encourage audiences to **participate in survey questions** provided by the playwright as well. Audiences are fundamental to our work! Thank you for being a part of the new play process!

Please visit this link :: <https://forms.gle/tPcck7gtGcCqh5yAA>:: to fill out a short survey if you are able!



:: Presents a staged reading of **India Nicole Burton's** new play
:: THE LIGHT POST ::

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Sydney Smith as Randi McClain **Greg White** as Kevin "Pops" McClain
Drew Pope :: as Steven "Steely" McClain **Samantha Cocco** :: as Sarah Brantley
Tyler Whidden as Bradley Brantley

PLACE :: A dilapidated bar, which some might call a whole in the wall. **TIME** :: The year is 2020.

PRODUCTION & CREW

Playwright :: India Nicole Burton :: **Director** :: Jeannine Gaskin
Stage Manager/Reading Stage Directions :: Becca Moseley

Reading run time: 1hr 30min. There will be no intermission
Please Note: There are **ADULT THEMES** and **ADULT LANGUAGE** in the reading.

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:: Meet The Artists ::




India Nicole Burton (*Playwright*) is an actress, director, playwright, deviser and producer. She is a native of Akron, OH and graduated from The University of Akron in 2011 with a BA in Theatre Arts with an emphasis on performance. Upon graduating, India founded Ma'Sue Productions, an African American theatre company located in Akron, Ohio. She has directed, produced, and performed in several of Ma'Sue's plays and was co-artistic director until 2015. India recently ended a virtual national tour of *American Dreams* by Leila Buck in 2020, where she played the role of Briana Coffman. She originated this character when it had its world premiere at Cleveland Public Theatre in 2018. India's directing credits include *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf* (Heads Up Productions), *The Laramie Project* (Heads Up Productions), *Daybreak's Children* (Ma'Sue Productions), *A Happening on Imperial* (Ma'Sue Productions) *Fire on the Water* (Cleveland Public Theatre, co-directed; *Panther Women: An Army for the Liberation* (in development at Cleveland Public Theatre), *"inside out"* by Francisca Da Silveira (Company One, as part of their C1: Inauguration project) *Welcome to the Taj Mahal (Motel)* by Riti Sachdeva, The Playwrights Center (Workshop). India's assistant directing credits include the 2014 production of *The Color Purple* at Karamu House, *A brownsville song (b-side for tray)* at Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre's *Barbecue* and *Good at Heart*, featured in BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe Festival. India is a board member for New World Performance Lab, a two-year recipient of the NNPN Producer in Residence program for Cleveland Public Theatre and a 2021 recipient of the NNPN Bridge Program grant. She was also a cast member of *American Dreams*, which was nominated for a Drama League Award in 2021. India is currently receiving her MFA in playwriting from The University of Nebraska's Creative writing program. She is also the recipient of The National New Play Networks Rolling World Premiere for her play *Panther Women: An Army for the Liberation*. Her 10 minute play *Trade Flowers for Salt* had its World Premiere as part of Ensemble's *In Our Own Words* this past March!




Jeannine Gaskin (*Director*) Jeannine Gaskin is a Cleveland based actress and director. She directed India Burton's short play "*Trade Flowers for Salt*" at Ensemble Theatre for the *In Our Own Words Our Stories Our Voices* Series. She directed "*Devised Blues: Uncut & Funky*" at Baldwin - Wallace University and co-directed "*Until the Flood*" by Dael Orlandersmith at Malone University with Craig Joseph & Lynn Nottage's "*Intimate Apparel*" with Sarah May also at Ensemble Theatre. Jeannine is excited to be returning to Ensemble to direct the staged reading of India Burton's next great play "*The Light Post*".




Sydney Smith (*Randi McClain*) is extremely excited to be involved in her first production with Ensemble Theatre! She will be playing Randi in tonight's reading. She is a graduate from Kent State University with a BA in Theatre. She was last seen on stage in *Panther Women: Army for the Liberation* (Women 6) . Some of her other credits include *Toxic Avenger* (Black Duet), *1776* (Dr. Josiah Bartlett), *Hairspray* (Ensemble/ Motormouth u/s), *Harriet Tubman Visits a Therapist* (Harriet Tubman), and *For Colored Girls...* (Lady In Orange). She would like to thank this extremely talented cast and crew for making this such a great experience and her family and friends for their constant support.




Greg White (*Kevin "Pops" McClain*) is an actor and director who has been performing in the Cleveland area for a decades. He was last seen as Chuttes & Ladders in *Water by the Spoonful*, as Mr Macon in *East of Eden*, and the title character in *Jelly Belly*, all at Ensemble. Before that, he played two characters at Cleveland Public Theatre in Lisa Langford's *The Art of Longing*. He played the role of Willy Loman twice in *Death of a Salesman* at Ensemble Theatre and then at True North Theater. Greg has also directed at Ensemble: *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*. In 2015, he was recognized as Best Actor in Scene Magazine for his performance of Thurgood Marshall in *Thurgood* and for Superior Achievement by the Cleveland Critics Circle for his performance of Chris Christopherson in Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*, both for Ensemble Theatre. He most recently finished the run of *Sunset Baby* as Kenyatta at Dobama and *The Exonerated* as Delbert at Beck. Greg received his training at the Ohio University's School of Theatre.



Drew Pope (*Steven "Steely" McClain*) is a graduate from the B.F.A. Acting and Directing program from Baldwin Wallace University and currently teaches Drama at Dike School of the Arts. He has toured with Great Lakes Theatre for *Macbeth* and he has also portrayed Tom Robinson in *TKAM*, Doc Gibbs in *Our Town*, George Armstrong in *Intimate Apparel*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, P-Sam in *Paradise Blue*, Jimmy Jones in "*Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed*", and Bill Wynnfield in *Enemy of the People*. All love to my family and friends, and to those that support me, thank you.



Samantha Cocco (*Sarah Brantley*) is working with Ensemble Theatre for the first time since 2017! 2022 marks her fifth year on Cleveland stages and screens, including two appearances at Playhouse Square in 2019. Favorite roles include Melissa in *Love Letters*, Phyllis in *Double Indemnity*, and Sunny Jacobs in *The Exonerated*. Recent shows include *The Exonerated* at Beck, *Bedroom Culture* at CPT, and the NEOMFA festival and Log Cabin at convergence-continuum. By day she is the Administrator for the Social Justice Institute at Case Western Reserve University; by night and weekend an avid kayaker and cyclist and dog connoisseur. Thank you for supporting local theater.



Tyler Whidden (*Bradley Brantley*) is a Cleveland-based playwright, director and actor. His plays include *Dancing with NED*, *Kingsbury*, and *Occupation: Dad*. As an educator and artist, Tyler's focus is on the creation and promotion of new work. Tyler has taught playwriting and theater at Ohio University, College of Wooster, Columbia College, and Southern New Hampshire University. Tyler is proud to enter his 13th straight season of working with Ensemble who have long been championing the work of Cleveland artists. You can find him at TylerJCWhidden.com and New Play Exchange.

:: AND MEET THE ENSEMBLE CREW ::



Becca Moseley (*Stage Manager/General Manager*) is excited to be back for another Ensemble production. She has served as the Resident Production Stage Manager/Assistant stage manager for many Ensemble shows, including both parts of *Angels in America*, *Radio Golf*, *The Penelopiad*, *Intimate Apparel*, *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *the Iceman Cometh*, *Knock Me A Kiss*, *Anna Christie*, *Thurgood*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*. She co-directed *Run, Kingsbury, Run* and Assistant Directed *East of Eden*. She was onstage in past seasons at Ensemble as a chorus leader/puppeteer in *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Pea in Jerusalem*, the Childlike Empress/company in *The Never Ending Story*, *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Princess Rhyme/Ensemble,) 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)*, *Maggie (A Chorus Line)*, and *Ophelia (The Horatio Project)*. 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 her husband Kyle for always believing in the magic.



Celeste Cosentino (*Executive Artistic Director*) has served as an artistic associate and operations manager or in some "role" for Ensemble Theatre since she could walk. She has served in one capacity or another for local Cleveland theaters her entire life, spending many formative years "in the house" while her mother, Lucia Colombi, was interim artistic director for Karamu in the early to mid 80's, the same years her mother spent founding Ensemble Theatre. She is well known and respected in the Cleveland Theatre Community having worked with The Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Clague Play House, Cain Park, Bang & Clatter, Willoughby Fine Arts and Weathervane Playhouse. She is a graduate of the Ohio University School of Theatre and returned to Cleveland in 2008, after living and working in New York City. Some of her favorite acting credits are *Marela in Anna in the Tropics*, *Alice in Closer*, *Desdemona in Othello*, and *Kayleen in Gruesome Playgound Injuries*. Favorite directing credits include *The Gospel According to James*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Lower Ninth*, *Animals out of Paper*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *The North Pool*, both parts of Tony Kushner's epic *Angels in America*, and most recently *A Raisin in the Sun*, *By The Bog of Cats*, and *The Penelopiad*! Celeste also spent some time in the corporate/business management world and worked for the Cleveland Museum of Art in their groundbreaking ARTLENS technology gallery for almost a decade. She has also recently stepped into the role of Interim Director of Theatre Studies at Notre Dame College in South Euclid! Celeste is the daughter of Ensemble Founder, Lucia Colombi and has returned home to support her mother's mission by providing a fresh perspective as the next Artistic Director. She was raised by Ensemble Theatre and has special dedication to its continuation for many years to come.

Consider some of the many ways **you** can help us here at Ensemble!

A significant portion of our funding are matching grants. Please consider a **matching donation**.

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You can also donate your time! Please contact us if you would like to donate your time!
216.321.2930 :: volunteer@ensemble-theatre.org :: We would love to have you!

Email us regarding how you can help with benefits, matching grants, sponsorships, volunteering and more!

A heartfelt Thank you and continued gratitude to those who have supported us through the COVID-19 pandemic!
Stay tuned for updates on programming as we continue to navigate getting back to "normal".

Please continue to stay safe, stay healthy and take care of one antoher!!

Thank you for joining us virtually tonight and we look foward when we can all meeting again in person!

:: Just a reminder (again) for our staged reading ::

Please if you can **visit this link** :: <https://forms.gle/tPcck7gtGcCqh5yAA> :: to fill out a short survey if you are able!

Ensemble Theatre

is excited to announce a 22/23 season in a new home!

Stay tuned for this exciting announcement!



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