



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

Ensemble Theatre & SumMedia Productions Presents

IN OUR OWN WORDS

OUR STORIES. OUR VOICES

A VIRTUAL EVENING OF THEATRE & CONVERSATION.
TWO SHORT PLAYS WITH BIG THEMES.

:: March 17-20 2022 ::

The background of this section is a dark purple and blue word cloud. The most prominent words are 'IN OUR OWN WORDS', 'OUR STORIES. OUR VOICES', 'A VIRTUAL EVENING OF THEATRE & CONVERSATION.', 'TWO SHORT PLAYS WITH BIG THEMES.', and ':: March 17-20 2022 ::'. Other words scattered throughout include 'love', 'relationships', 'witness', 'truth', 'questions', 'discover', 'NIGHT VISION', 'TRADE FLOWERS FOR SALT', 'Ensemble Theatre', and 'SumMedia'.

**ACCLAIMED PLAWRIGHTS! NATIONAL & LOCAL!
PRESENTED THROUGH BROADWAY ON DEMAND**

*Short plays taking on big themes of love, relationships, memory, discovery, truth, and so much more. **The second of this series!** Join us for an amazing virtual evening of theatre, celebrating these amazing stories, and these amazing artists!*

**THIS SERIES IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM
THE HARRY K. & EMMA R. FOX CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

NIGHT VISION

::By DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU ::
Directed By **NATHAN HENRY**

CAST

Nicole Sumlin* as Ayanna
Eugene Sumlin* as Ezra

:: Setting ::
Bed Stuy. Brooklyn.

:: Time ::
The Present. A cool autumn night.

:: Run Time ::
Approximately 20 minutes

*"Night Vision" is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com*

TRADE FLOWERS FOR SALT

By **INDIA NICOLE BURTON**
Directed by **JEANNINE GASKIN**

CAST

Corlesia Smith as Lola
Maya Jones as Denver

:: Setting ::
A Small Coffee Shop

:: Time ::
Present Day

:: Run Time ::
Approximately 10 Minutes

*Produced by Special Arrangement with
India Nicole Burton*

**(Members of Actors' Equity Association, The Union of Actors and Stagemanagers in the United States)*

:: Production Crew ::

Stage Manager/Props Design/Sound: Becca Moseley
Filming Crew: Celeste Cosentiino & Becca Moseley
Film Editing: Antonio Harper / West 10G Productions

Total Show Run Time: Approx: 30 minutes.

:: Please Note :: This evening will be a live streaming of a recorded filming of both pieces.
The productions will start promptly at start times. There will be no intermission.

:: CONTENT ADVISORY ::

*These productions contain **adult language and content**, and some **descriptions of violence**.*

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:: Meet The Artists ::



DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU (*Playwright, NIGHT VISION*) is the author of The Detroit Project (A 3-Play Cycle) which includes the following plays: *Skeleton Crew* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Paradise Blue* (Signature Theatre), and *Detroit '67* (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem and NBT). Additional plays include: *Pipeline* (Lincoln Center Theatre), *Sunset Baby* (LAByrinth Theatre); *Blood at the Root* (National Black Theatre) and *Follow Me To Nellie's* (Premiere Stages). She is also the TONY nominated book writer on the new Broadway musical *Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of the Temptations* (Imperial Theatre). Dominique is alumna of The Public Theater Emerging Writer's Group, Women's Project Lab, and Lark Playwrights Workshop and has developed work at Sundance Lab, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Eugene O'Neil Playwrights Conference. She most recently served as Co-Producer on the Showtime series "*Shameless*" (3 seasons). Additional awards include: Spirit of Detroit Award, PoNY Fellowship, Sky-Cooper Prize,

TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBFT August Wilson Playwriting Award, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, OBIE Award (2), Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, Variety's Women of Impact for 2017-18, and a recent MacArthur Genius Grant Fellow..



INDIA NICOLE BURTON (*Playwright, TRADE FLOWERS FOR SALT*) 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*.



NATHAN HENRY (*Director, NIGHT VISION*) is the recipient of the 2018 Cleveland Scene Theatre Award for Best Director for Karamu House's critically acclaimed production of *Passing Strange*. He directed the Cleveland Public Theatre production of *Ya Mama!*, written and performed by Nina Domingue, which appeared at the 2018 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Nathan recently directed James Ijames' *Kill Move Paradise* at Dobama Theatre, Idris Goodwin's *Jacked!* at Cleveland Play House, as well as the world premiere of *White Man's Burden*, a collaboration with Beck Center for the Arts, Baldwin-Wallace University Music Theatre Program, and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre. He has worked in professional theatre as a producer, director, choreographer, educator and arts administrator for over 20 years. Select regional credits for directing include: Nina Domingue's *Sundiata*, Douglas Turner Ward's *Day of Absence*, Eric Coble's *The Velocity of Autumn*, Pearl Cleage's *Flyin' West*, Dael Orlandersmith's *Yellowman*, August Wilson's

Seven Guitars, and Lee Summers' *From My Hometown*. He also served as Line Producer for the regional premiere of Rajiv Joseph's *The Lake Effect*, a co-production between Ensemble Theatre and Karamu House.



JEANNINE GASKIN (*Director, TRADE FLOWERS FOR SALT*) is a Cleveland based actress and director. Her directorial work was last seen in *"Until the Flood"* by Dael Orlandersmith at Malone University where she co-directed with Craig Joseph. She had her directorial debut at Baldwin Wallace University in *"Devised Blues: Uncut & Funky"* and she was the Assistant Director here at Ensemble Theatre for Lynn Nottage's *"Intimate Apparel"*. She was last seen on stage at the Belkin Black Box Theater in Ntozake Shange's *"For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf"*. She also performed at Cleveland Public Theatre in the world premiere of Lisa Langford's *"Rastus and Hattie"* as well as the world premiere of *Central Concern* written by Pandora Robertson. Previous Karamu performances include *"Day of Absence"* by Douglas Turner Ward and *"You Can't Take It With You"* by George Kaufman. She was seen at Convergence Continuum as Hester La Negrita in *"In the Blood"* by Suzan-Lori Parks. Other plays include

the unconventional comedy *"Neighbors"* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and Margaret Alexander in *"The Amen Corner"* by James Baldwin; both shows directed by Terrence Spivey. Film credits include a principal role in the Lifetime film *"With This Ring"*, lead role in the 2016 48hr Film Festival Award Winning short film *"A Sweet Christmas"* and lead role in a local film *"Milkweed"* written by John Dayo-Aliya.



NICOLE SUMLIN* (*Co-Producer, Ayanna in NIGHT VISION*) is an actor, singer, director, writer, producer and arts educator. In 2019, she was awarded Best Actress in a Musical by the Cleveland Critics Circle for her performance as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grille* at Beck Center for the Performing Arts. New York City performances include: *Medusa (Medusa)*, *Zu (Project Tiresias)*, *Judge Jill Joyce (How to Be a Winner)*, and *Columbiner (ReB+VoDkA+ Me)*. Regional performances include: *Breakout Session (or Frogorse)* at Cleveland Public Theatre (Jessica Moore); *Rastus and Hattie*, also at CPT; (Needra); *A Raisin in the Sun* at Ensemble Theatre (Ruth Younger); *Treasure Island* at Ohio Shakespeare Festival (Long John Silver), *Memphis* at Cain Park (Felicia); *Children of Eden* at French Creek Theatre (Eve/Mama Noah); *The Music Man* at Cain Park (Marian Paroo); *Caroline or Change* at Tantrum Theater (The Washing Machine); *Minton's Place* at Cleveland Play House (Jennifer/Ensemble); *Lines in the Dust* at CPT (DenitraMorgan); *Bourbon at the*

Border at The Maltz Museum (May); *Songs for the Asking* at Playhouse Square (Vocalist/Co-Creator); *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* at CPT (Jenny/Bart); *Violet* at Lakeland Civic Theatre (Lula Buffington); and *A Civil War Christmas* at Dobama Theatre (Elizabeth Keckley). Her cabaret show, *Sing It All*, debuted at The Bop Stop in 2018. She and her husband Eugene created *Beauty for Ashes*, a project celebrating several multiple generations of their families, debuted at CPT's Station Hope in 2016 and was remounted at Station Hope 2020. She has also been seen at The Fine Arts Association, Orchard Arts Project, Near West Theatre, Mercury Theatre Company, MOCA-CLE, Nighttown, and Severance Hall. She is a graduate of Wheaton College (IL), and received her vocal training at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music. She currently serves as Education Director at Cleveland Public Theatre. (*Denotes member of the Actor's Equity Association.)



EUGENE SUMLIN* (*Ezra, NIGHT VISION*) is excited to be working with Ensemble Theatre again. Credits include: Conjuror/Servant in *THE ADVENTURES OF A BLACK GIRL IN SEARCH OF GOD* (Borderlight Fringe Festival/Karamu House), Coalhouse Walker Jr. in *RAGTIME* (Cain Park), Walter Lee in *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* (Ensemble Theatre), Sir Peter in *ELLA ENCHANTED* (Dobama Theatre), Joshua Moore in *ALABAMA STORY* (Ensemble Theatre), Jesse/ensemble in *MINTON'S PLACE* (Cleveland Play House), Adam/Noah in *CHILDREN OF EDEN* (French Creek Theatre), Jim Conley in *PARADE* (French Creek) Ken in *AIN'T MISBEHAVIN* (Porthouse Theatre), King Triton in *THE LITTLE MERMAID* (Mercury Theatre Company), Flick in *VIOLET* (Lakeland Civic Theatre), Ken in *SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE* (Cain Park), Donkey in *SHREK THE MUSICAL* (Fine Arts Association and Beachwood Community Theatre). Eugene is also a resident director at Heights Youth Theatre and this past season, he directed productions at Baldwin Wallace University and Cleveland State

University. He would like to thank God, from whom all blessings flow, and to Nicole, Easton and August, for their endless love and support. *(Denotes Member of Actors Equity Association)

:: JOIN US FOR TALKBACKS AFTER THE SHOWS! ::

Visit: www.ensembletheatre.org/in-our-own-words-talkbacks for a schedule of talkback guests and links to register! We look forward to discussing these amazing stories!



CORLESIA SMITH (*Lola, TRADE FLOWERS FOR SALT*) was born in Mississippi, has lived around the country, but calls Cleveland home. You may have recently seen her as Camae in Karamu House's production of *The Mountaintop* and *Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed* as Della. Notable credits include Amina (Alternate) in *Dance Nation* at Dobama Theatre, Carrie Pipperridge in *Carousel* with Mercury Theatre Company, Elizabeth in *In the Next Room* (or the *Vibrator Play*) at Case Western University, Nina 2 in *Simply Simone* and Sherry/Renata/Desi in *Passing Strange* at Karamu House.



MAYA JONES (*Denver, TRADE FLOWERS FOR SALT*) is an actor, writer, activist hailing from the Cleveland area. She is excited to work with Ensemble again where she was last seen in Lisa Kron's *Well* and Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*. She has also worked locally with Dobama (*An Octoroon*), Karamu (*For Colored Girls...*, *Aida*, *Dreamgirls*, *Gods Trombones*), and Cleveland Public Theatre (*Control Her*, *How Blood Go*, *Red Ash Mosaic*). Her time as an actor since graduating Allegheny College has been a tidal wave of learning and growing. She thanks you for supporting theatre in such times.

:: AND MEET THE ENSEMBLE CREW ::



CELESTE COSENTINO (*Executive Artistic Director/Co-Producer*) 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 theater's 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 Marena in *Anna in the Tropics*, Alice in *Closer*,

Desdemona in *Othello*, and Kayleen in *Gruesome Playground 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 S. 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.



BECCA MOSELEY (*Stage Manager/Sound/Props*) Becca is excited to be back (virtually!) 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 recently 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.

Ensemble is graciously supported by:

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

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

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!
This is virtually and ofcourse when we can return to doing theatre in person again!

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".
We are VERY happy to know there are successful vaccines and those are getting into arms!!
We are planning in person prograamming very soon so stay tuned!

Please continue to stay safe, stay healthy and take care of one antoher!!
Thank you for joininging us virtually tonight and we look foward when we can all meeting again in person!

SPEAK UP! COMMUNITY SURVEY!
:: SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US! ::

If you are able, please take a few moments to fill out our
Speak Up Community Survey.
Share your thoughts with us and tell us how we are doing!

You can scan the QR code to the right or you can visit the link below!

<https://forms.gle/q7ttMiQMrSwUzeAf6>

We look foward to hearing your thoughts!!

