Hoodoo Love

By Katori Hall
Music Direction by Ricky Harris
Directed by Wardell Julius Clark

Scenic Design
Sydney Lynne Thomas

Costume Design
Alexis Carrie

Lighting Design
Sim Carpenter

Casting Director
Catherine Miller

Intimacy and Violence Director
Rachel Flesher

Props Design
Dana Macel

Sound Design and Original Music
Jeffrey Levin

Stage Manager
Elizabeth VanHaren

Artistic Producer
Cole von Glahn

Hoodoo Love is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

HOODOO LOVE was developed during Cherry Lane Theatre's 2006 Mentor Project (Angelina Fiordellisi, Artistic Director; James King, Managing Director; Pamela Perrell, Artistic Development Director), opening on April 4, 2006. The play was mentored by Lynn Nottage.

Raven Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American Theatre.
After 36 years, we would be remiss not to recognize that Raven is an essential part of the Chicago theatre community, and that we have a legacy to protect.

We are fortunate that some generous benefactors have chosen to intertwine Raven’s legacy with their own. Their membership in the NEST EGG SOCIETY indicates they are including Raven in their estate plans. These individuals share a vision: for Raven to continue making theatre for generations to come.

If you have already arranged a planned gift to Raven, we would like to honor your support. If you wish, you may share your intentions with Raven’s development staff, who will recognize your contribution at your discretion.

We can also provide assistance if you are still considering a gift. There is no minimum contribution, and anybody can join the NEST EGG SOCIETY. Please do not hesitate to connect with us at (773) 338-2177 as you take steps to preserve your legacy.

We are grateful for the following individuals who have already made this commitment to Raven:

John Clum & Walter Melion
Joy Hebert*
Stephen Johnson
Sally and Mark Schwartz
Susan Schaalman Youdovin & Charlie Shulkin

*Indicates estate gift
CAST

Toulou ....................................................................................................................................... Martasia Jones
Candylady ................................................................................................................................ Shariba Rivers
Ace of Spades ........................................................................................................... Matthew James Elam
Jib ........................................................................................................................................ Christopher Wayland Jones

UNDERSTUDIES: Tia Pinson, Lewon Johns, Samuel Campbell III, RJW Mays

Setting: A cluster of shacks along a cul-de-sac next to Beale Street, Memphis, Tennessee

Time: Great Depression

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director ................................................................................................................... Bobby Huggins
Scenic Artist ........................................................................................................................... Eileen Rozycki
Assistant Director ................................................................................................................. Kiayla Ryann
Assistant Stage Manager ....................................................................................................... Lucy Whipp
Master Electrician .................................................................................................................. Lena Aubrey
Assistant Costume Designer ............................................................................................... Beckie Price

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Artistic Director ..................................................................................................................... Cody Estle
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WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

MATTHEW JAMES ELAM (Ace of Spades) is excited to join the team at Raven Theatre. He’s a BFA graduate from The Theatre School at DePaul. His recent credits include Trevor in Red Rex (Steep / Theatre on the Lake), Omari in Pipeline (Victory Gardens); Curtis in Late Company (Cor Theatre); Bigger in Native Son and Wilson/Nina in Wig Out! (The Theatre School). He can be seen on FX’s “Fargo” in 2020. He is represented by Gray Talent Group.

CHRISTOPHER WAYLAND JONES (Jib) is thrilled to return to Raven Theatre where he was previously seen as Pharus Jonathan Young in Choir Boy. In the Chicago area, he has worked at Marriott Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, First Folio Theatre, Griffin Theatre, and Lifeline Theatre. Regionally, he has worked at Spotlighters Theatre and Baltimore Shakespeare Factory. Television credits include Chicago Med (NBC) and APB (FOX). Christopher received an MFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul and is represented by Gray Talent Group.

MARTASIA JONES (Toulou) A Chicago native, Martasia is an alumna of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, receiving her BFA in Acting. Her most recent stage credits include Winter (L. D.) and Megastasis (Nakesha/Mica). Her commercial work includes the Health & Wellness Walgreens Campaign and the Glidden Paint Campaign. Her voice over work includes McDonalds and Lunchables and she has been featured in several Industrial projects around Chicago. She worked on the Spike Lee joint, Chiraq and recently guest starred on NBC’s Chicago Med as Keegan.

SHARIBA RIVERS (Candy Lady) is thrilled to be back at Raven with its production of Hoodoo Love. Previous productions with Raven include Dividing the Estate as Mildred and House of Blue Leaves as 2nd Nun. Her most recent stage performances include Black Ballerina (Fleetwood Jourdain) and Small Jokes About Monsters (16th Street Theater). TV credits include Empire, Chicago PD, Chicago Med, and The Chi. More at www.sharibatheactor.com.

SAMUEL CAMPBELL III (Jib U/S) is making his debut with Raven Theater. He was most recently seen as Macduff in Murdering Macbeth with Fearless Fiction Productions, as well as Brandon in their production of Roomies 2; Jamal in First Folio’s The Firestorm; Dubby in Megastasis and Dece in Force Continuum with Eclipse Theater Company; A Blue Island In A Red Sea with Collaboraction Theater Company; Sean in Erasing the Distance.

LEWON JOHNS (Ace of Spades U/S) feels blessed to create art with his newfound Raven Theatre and Hoodoo Love family. His most memory-filled credits come from performing Les Miserable as Marius (Theatre Memphis) and A Raisin in the Sun as Joseph Asagai (The Renaissance Project Theatre Company). He’s graced screens and produced films with Roger Bob, Terri J. Vaughn-Riley, and the late Tommy Ford. Lewon studied Theatre at Mississippi State University and trained at The Company Acting Studio.
WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW CONT.

**TIA PINSON** (Toulou U/S) Tia is grateful to be making her debut with Raven Theatre. She continues to pursue her need to create through teaching, sharing and providing an outlet of creative expression and positive development to community youth. Chicago credits include: *Corduroy* (Emerald City Theatre), *Hatfield and McCoy* (House Theatre of Chicago), *The Wiz* (Kokandy Productions).

**RJW MAYS** (Candylady U/S) is excited to join Hoodoo Love! She understudied Mom in *True West* at Steppenwolf this summer. Other Chicago credits include: *The Ridiculous Darkness* (Sideshow Theatre Company), *Kingdom* [Jeff Nominee/BTAA Winner] and *Plainclothes* [Jeff Winner Best Ensemble] (Broken Nose Theatre), *Katrina: Mother-In-Law of em All* (Interrobang Theatre Project), *The Other Side of Christmas* (Three Cat Theatre), *Leavings* (Polarity Ensemble Theatre), *Good Black* (eta Creative Arts). TV Credits: *Chicago PD*, *The Chi* and the upcoming *Southside*. RJW received her BA from Columbia College Chicago.

**KATORI HALL** (Playwright) is an Olivier Award-winning playwright from Memphis, Tennessee and the showrunner of PUSSY VALLEY, a new Starz series based on her play of the same name. She also wrote the book for Tina, the hit West End musical based on the life and catalog of Tina Turner. Katori’s play *The Mountaintop*, premiering at Theatre503 in 2009, transferred to the West End and won the Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2010. Following its West End run, the play opened on Broadway in October 2011 to critical acclaim. Katori’s other work includes the award-winning *Hurt Village* which is currently in development as a feature film, *Hoodoo Love*, *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning*, Kibeho, Purple is the Colour of Mourning and The Blood Quilt. In addition to her Laurence Olivier Award, Katori’s other awards include a Susan Smith Blackburn Award, Lark Play Development Center Playwrights of New York (PONY) Fellowship, two Lecompte du Nouy Prizes from Lincoln Center, Fellowship of Southern Writers Bryan Family Award in Drama, NYFA Fellowship, the Columbia University John Jay Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement, National Black Theatre’s August Wilson Playwriting Award, and the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award.

**WARDELL JULIUS CLARK** (Director) is originally from Fairfield, Alabama and earned his BFA degree in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Upcoming shows he’s directing include *His Shadow* (16th Street Theater) and *Kill Move Paradise* (TimeLine Theatre). Chicago directing credits include: *Dutch Masters* (Jackalope Theatre), *The Watsons Go To Birmingham – 1963* (Chicago Children’s Theatre), *The Shipment* (Red Tape), *Insurrection: Holding History* (Stage Left) and *Surely Goodness and Mercy* (Redtwist). He was also Associate Director for *Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner* and Assistant Director for *Gem of the Ocean* and *Satchmo at the Waldorf* (Court), and Assistant Director for *The Scottsboro Boys* (Porchlight Music Theatre). Chicago acting credits include work with Raven Theatre, American Blues Theatre, First Folio, Windy City Playhouse, Court Theatre, Northlight, Victory Gardens, 16th Street Theater, MPAACT, American Theater Company, and Congo Square Theater. Regional credits include work at Theater at Monmouth, Cardinal Stage, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival and Carver Theatre. His television and film credits include *Shameless*, *Chicago Fire* and *Proven Innocent*. Wardell is also a company member at TimeLine Theatre, as well as an actor instructor/teaching artist at the School at Steppenwolf, TimeLine Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, Black Box Acting Studio, Vagabond School of the Arts. He is represented by Gray Talent Group.
SIMEAN “SIM” CARPENTER (Lighting Designer) is a young African American Lighting & Stage designer originally from Baltimore. He has been based in Chicago designing theatre, dance and concerts for nearly 5 years. He has had a passion for creative design since the age of 13. His creative capabilities extend well past stage and Lighting Designer. Design credits include: Eurydice, Dutch Masters, Hannah & Martin, A Darker Mine: Installation, Xavier Omar World Tour.

ALEXIS CARRIE (Costume Design) is an LA-based costume designer and social justice warrior. Recent and upcoming credits include Perkup Perkup (City Theatre), The Watsons Go To Birmingham—1963 (Indiana Repertory Theatre), Good Grief (Point Park University), Man of God (East West Players), Yen (Raven Theatre), In The Blood (Austin Peay State University), Gloria (Hatch Arts Collective), No Child (Definition Theater Company), Curve of Departure (Northlight Theater). She has an MFA in Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University and is a proud founding member of First Floor Theater in Chicago. You can find her work at alexiscarrie.com.

RACHEL FLESHER (Intimacy and Violence Director) is thrilled to be back at Raven Theatre for Hoodoo Love! Rachel is a Lead Instructor/Intimacy Director/Intimacy Coordinator with Intimacy Directors International. Select Chicago credits include: Photograph 51 (Court Theatre); The Brothers Size (Steppenwolf); Tiny Beautiful Things (Victory Gardens); A Shayna Maidel (TimeLine Theatre Company); Small Mouth Sounds (A Red Orchid); and The Hairy Ape (Oracle Theatre, Jeff Award) Upcoming; Intimate Apparel (Northlight); The Great Leap (Asolo Repertory Theatre). Mr. Levin is the recipient of one Jeff Award and ten nominations. MM DePaul University, BMus Columbia College. www.jeffreylevinmusic.com

SYDNEY LYNNE THOMAS (Scenic Designer) is excited to debut with Raven Theatre in their production of Hoodoo Love. Other scenic design credits include His Shadow (16th St Theater) and work on the Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 (Chicago Children’s Theatre). Sydney is a recent graduate of Northwestern University, studying scenic design and theatre. ~To those who got me here, thank you. sydneylynnedesign.com // ig: @sydneylynnedesign

DANA MACEL (Props Designer) is thrilled to be working on this production with such a talented group of artists. She works as a props designer and actor here in Chicago. Previously, she has designed for The Gift Theatre’s Doubt: A Parable, In the Canyon at Jackalope Theatre Company, and Surely Goodness and Mercy at Redtwist Theatre. As an actor, she has worked with Improv Playhouse, Odd’s Bodkins, Abaisses Theatre, and Compass Creative Dramatics.

BECKIE PRICE (Assistant Costume Designer) is thrilled to be working for Raven Theatre again! Previous Raven work includes Suddenly Last Summer and The Gentleman Caller. She was a Costume Designer at the National High School Institute summer
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW CONT.

theatre program in 2018 and 2019. She is on the Wardrobe Crew at Writer’s Theatre, and has stitched costumes for theaters around Chicago, including Paramount Theatre (Elf The Musical, Legally Blonde, The Wizard of Oz, The Producers, Newsies, Beauty and the Beast), Drury Lane (Smokey Joe’s Cafe, Crazy For You), and Marriott (Ragtime).

KIAYLA RYANN (Assistant Director) is so excited to work with Raven Theatre on Hoodoo Love. She was last seen onstage in Suzan Lori Parks’ In the Blood, and in Young Jean Lee’s The Shipment at Red Tape Theatre, where she is a company member. Other theater credits include Mother of the Dark Water (IMPACT Theatre- JEFF nominated for best ensemble; Black Ensemble Award Best Actress nominee) as well as understudying The Crucible at Steppenwolf. Television credits include Shameless and Utopia. Kiayla is also a spoken word artist, poet and School at Steppenwolf 2016 Alumna. She is grateful to her friends, family and Stewart Talent team.

ELIZABETH VANHAREN (Stage Manager) is making her Raven debut. Previous Chicago credits include Too Heavy for Your Pocket (Production Assistant, TimeLine Theatre Company) A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Stage Management Intern, Chicago Shakespeare). She has a BFA in Stage Management from Western Michigan University, where past credits include Cymbeline (ASM), The Country Wife (ASM), and Baby with the Bathwater (SM). Elizabeth would like thank her family for all their support and encouragement while pursuing her career.

LUCKY WHIPP (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent Loyola graduate originally from East Lansing, Michigan. She has worked with The Story Theatre as stage manager on At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen and Leave Me Alone!, as well as Loyola University Chicago’s productions of Failure: A Love Story, Violet, and The Baltimore Waltz. She’s very excited to be working with Raven Theatre for the first time! Thanks to all of the pals and the team.

COLE VON GLAHN (Artistic Producer) is a Chicago-based director and producer. Recently, he directed the Chicago premiere of I’m Gonna Pray For You So Hard with First Floor Theater – where he is a company member. Cole co-wrote, produced, and directed the upcoming podcast: Leylines. He has assistant directing credits at numerous theaters including Cleveland Play House, Marin Theatre Company, American Theatre Company and Griffin Theatre. He holds degrees in Drama and Sociology from Tufts University.

CODY ESTLE (Artistic Director) became the Artistic Director at Raven Theatre in November 2017 where he had previously served as the Associate Artistic Director. His directing credits include Sundown, Yellow Moon, How I Learned To Drive, The Gentleman Caller (2019 Jeff Award winning new play by Philip Dawkins), The Assembled Parties, A Loss of Roses (named by Chicago Tribune honorable mention as one of the Year’s Best in 2016), Dividing the Estate, Vieux Carré (named by Chicago Tribune as one of the Year’s Best in 2014), Good Boys and True, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Boy Gets Girl and Dating Walter Dante at Raven Theatre; Damascus at Strawdog Theatre; Five Mile Lake at Shattered Globe Theatre; By the Water (named by Chicago Sun-Times honorable mention as one of the Top Theatre Productions of 2017) at Northlight Theatre; American Hero at First Floor Theatre; Scarcity at Redtwist Theatre; The Seagull and Watch on the Rhine at The Artistic Home; Don’t Go Gentle at Haven Theatre; Uncle Bob at Mary-Arrchie Theatre and Hospitality Suite at Citadel Theatre. He’s had the pleasure of assistant directing at Steppenwolf Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, Court Theatre and Writers Theatre. Estle is a proud member of SDC and an alumnus of Columbia College Chicago.
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WHERE THEATRE, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY INTERSECT

“WITH COURAGE I WILL CONNECT, COLLABORATE & CREATE IN MY COMMUNITY!”
Friends,

Welcome to Katori Hall’s *Hoodoo Love*, and to the second production in our 37th season.

When I took this position as artistic director, one of the programming choices I wanted to make was presenting revivals of plays by the great theatrical writers of today. *Hoodoo Love* was first presented off-Broadway in 2007. At the time, Katori was described as “a young playwright of great promise.” Today she is best known for her Olivier Award-winning play *The Mountaintop* about Martin Luther King Jr. the night before his assassination in Memphis. This fall Katori will be represented on Broadway as the book writer for the new musical *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*. She has become one of the great writers of our time.

We are thrilled to welcome director Wardell Julius Clark back to Raven Theatre. Wardell starred as Dr. Sugar in our recent revival of Tennessee Williams’ *Suddenly Last Summer*. Recently he has made quite the name for himself as a director in the city. Wardell possesses a deep passion for making plays, completely throwing himself into the material while energizing and inspiring those around him.

I can’t think of a better match of playwright and director to open our newly renovated and recently renamed Schwartz Stage. I hope that our new seats allow for an even more enjoyable experience for you, our dedicated patrons. With *Hoodoo Love*, and the rest of the plays this season, I welcome you into the theatre to witness stories of today and the past that connect us to our cultural landscape.

Yours,

Cody Estle
Artistic Director

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ABOUT RAVEN THEATRE

Raven Theatre is in its 37th year of providing revivals of classic modern dramas and thought-provoking new works to the Northside Chicago community as well as theatrical education to the children and schools in its surrounding neighborhoods. Founded in 1983, it moved into its current home in 2002 with its 85-seat East Stage and its 56-seat Schwartz Stage. Its programming includes:

Season Subscription Series – Raven offers four productions in its season subscription series, three in the East Stage and one in the Schwartz Stage, focusing on revivals of works primarily from the late 19th century to the present and including both Chicago and world premieres.

Education Program – Raven provides teaching artists to its neighborhood schools for in-school theatrical residencies, a field trip program for elementary school students, a Saturday series of classes for children, and a robust children’s theatrical summer camp program.

With its efforts in its community, in its neighborhood schools, and on the stage, Raven plays an important part in the city’s cultural landscape.

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Our corporate and foundation partners provide critical support for our operations, productions, and arts education programs. Raven’s 2019-2020 season is made possible in part by:

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