PEPPERMINT CREEK
THEATRE COMPANY

HEATHERS
The Musical

Feb 9-19, 2017

www.peppermintcreek.org

---

228 Museum Drive, across from the Lansing Center

8 years "Top of the Town" theatre in City Pulse Poll!

Riverwalk Theatre

Provocative Comedy

by Tracy Letts

Superior Donuts

Directed by Amy Rickett

Set in a diverse community, this provocative comedy explores the challenges of embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship.

February 16-19 & 23-26, 2017
7 pm Thur; 8 pm Fri/Sat; 2 pm Sun
$15/$12 • BARGAIN THURSDAYS: $10/$8

517-482-5700 · RiverwalkTheatre.com

CHILDREN'S THEATRE
presents...

PINOCCHIO

AUDITIONS
February 16 & 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.

February 18
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

ON STAGE
April 21 & 28 7:00 p.m.

Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Dr
Lansing, MI 48901

April 22 & 29
2:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.

April 23 & 30 2:00 p.m.

TICKETS
$7 adults • $5 youth

Group Show
April 28 at 10:00 a.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION (517) 333-2580 ext. 0
cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

ART WORKS. JACKSON

MSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
THEATRE.MSU.EDU
WHARTONCENTER.COM OR 1-800-WHARTON

THEATRE 2 FILM

FEBRUARY 17 - 26, 2017
FAIRCHILD THEATRE

Directed by John Lepard

REBELLION AND REVOLUTION!

2016 - 2017

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

BLOOD AT THE ROOT

By Dominique Morisseau

FEBRUARY 3 - 12, 2017
ARENA THEATRE

THEATRE.MSU.EDU

Blood at the Root is produced by special by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

BLOOD at the ROOT

By Dominique Morisseau

COSTUME DESIGN
ANGEL SNYDER

SCENIC DESIGN
MIKE MERLUZZI

LIGHTING DESIGN
PETER VERHAEGHE*

PROPERTIES MASTER
CHRISTOPHER STOWELL*

SOUND DESIGN
CHELLE PETERSON

STAGE MANAGER
ZUWAIB RAZZAQ

DIRECTED BY
STEVE H. BROADNAX III

CAST

Raylynn	**KRISTY ALLEN***
De'Andre	**GARY PATTERSON**
Toria	**KAREN VANCE***
Colin	**JACOB COVERT**
Justin	**GREG HUNTER***
Asha	**JEN ENGLISH**

*Master of Fine Arts Candidate

Blood at the Root will run approximately 90 minutes without an intermission

WHEN ENTERING THE THEATRE:

Please turn off cell phones, mobile devices, alarm watches and anything that makes noise. The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Post-Show Discussion on Friday, February 3, 2017
(Following the Performance)
Designer Pre-Show Discussion Sunday, February 5, 2017 @ 1:15 PM

SPECIAL THANKS

Shayla Woodward and Brad Willcuts for Choreography

Kenneth W. and Lesley M. Neufeld
Robert H. Newell and Elizabeth A. Baker Newell
Juliana Olinka
Curtis A. Osmun
Edward A. and Tina S. Oxer
Paramount Coffee Company
Kristine L. Parnell and Bruce W. Mortimer
Ronald J. and Maria J. Patterson
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co
Performance Network
Edgar H. Quiles-Ferrer
Rae H. Ramsdell and George Orban
Victor W. Rauch and Ellen I. DeRosia
Alice O. Reuter
Rosemarie A. and Roger L. Robertson
Warren W. and Julie M. Rojewski
David R. Rovner and Margaret M. Holmes Rovner
Richard B. Scala and Gretchen A. Bria
Dorothy W. Schmidt
William E. and Ingrid K. Schultz
Lynde B. and Bradford Steensen
Sylvia S. and Robert A. Stevens
Emily C. Sutton-Smith and John L. Lepard
Elizabeth C. Thomas
Gladys M. Thomas
Richard K. Thomas
Dennis J. and April A. Tini
Ewen C. Todd and Zora I. Carson Todd
Dorothy R. Van Looy
Catherine J. and Donald E. West
Eric B. Weston and Juliet A. Levy-Weston
Kelly L. Wierenga
Marilyn and Norman A. Wise

PEWTER $35.00-99.99

Ray J. and Holly J. Andrecheck
Anita Joyce Barnes
Lawrence A. Barnes
Nora M. Bello
Douglas R. Bowman and Laura C. Swafford
Beth Brauer-Delaney and Adam T. Delaney
April L. Callis
James L. Campana
Susan R. Chalgian
Scot and Stacy W. Cleaveland
Mark W. Colson
Coral Gables of East Lansing
Creative Wellness, Inc.
Laura J. and Peter J. DeGuire
Laura B. and Douglas L. DeLind
Robert J. DeWaal and Christine A. Aiello
Douglas J. Salon & Spa
Mariam A. Duckwall
Philip J. Dwyer, Sr. and Vivian D. Dwyer
Susan M. and Ronald G. Eggleston
Gloria M. Epstein
Richard W. Fortner
Sandra R. Gebber
Carolyn M. Gillespie
Dean O. and Nancy E. Haney
Thelma D. Hansen
Roger W. Harris
Bruce G. Helmer
Eleanor F. Heusner
Jon R. Howell
Katherine L. and Larry M. King
Carl A. Kline
John Kloswick
Matthew H. and Stephanie A. Kribs
Donald E. LaCasse, Jr. and Judith A. LaCasse
Lansing Symphony Association Inc.
Elizabeth S. Lepak
Florence M. and Ted A. Levy
Karen A. Lewis
Gail S. Mack
Jeff Magnuson
Sean Martinez
Brian J. McKelvey
Deric W. McNish
Robert A. and Georgina M. Montgomery
Sasa Nedic
Rodney and Carol Nilles
Eleanor E. Omoto
Marilyn R. and James C. Paavola
Pamela J. and Brent H. Parkinson
Richard A. and Susan E. Patterson
Matthew K. Payok and Jennifer M. Jackson
Anthony D. Powell
Raoul S. and Phoebe-Beatriz B. Quiambao
Jean M. Rooney
Beth L. and Scott Rubin
Ann Runyon
Linda J. Savage and Todd A. Leigh
James W. Sellman and David L. Balas
Lori Shaffer and Christopher Goeke
Elizabeth H. Simmons and R Sekhar Chivukula
Daniel T. Smith
Pauline A. Sondag
The Soup Spoon Cafe
Bess M. Stamatakos
Brenda J. Sternquist
M. Teresa Tavormina
The Purple Rose Theatre Co.
Tipping Point Theatre
Cele Friestater and Joseph Tuchinsky
Dagny N. VanDuine and Lee VanDuine
Ute von der Heyden and Paul Wright
Williamston Theatre
Mary Kay Wolfe
William I. and Constance M. Wolfe
Karl H. and Dianne C. Wolter

EMPOWER**EXTRAORDINARY**

Mary E. and Sam M. Austin
Marilyn A. and Walter M. Baird
Kathleen R. and Mark A. Banghart
Kenneth C. Beachler
Charles V. Beal
Susan F. and James R. Bence
William M. and Deborah K. Bennett
Margaret W. and Leeds B. Bird
Saskia D. Bolore
Martha L. and John R. Brick
Patricia S. and David H. Brogan
Steven J. and Barbara L. Bursian
Gregory W. Checketts
Gage Clark
John E. Clifford
Lana G. Dart
John A. Demeo
Maxine E. Durr
Sally I. and George J. Evalt
Tiffany M. and Jason R. Evans
Samuel F. and Elizabeth M. Febba
James D. Fineman
Michelle E. and Robert P. Fish
Gretchen L. and John J. Forsyth
Donald L. Freed
Arlene L. Friedland
Donald S. and Joan S. Gochberg
Mia K. Gougeon-Adarkwa
Herbert S. Greenberg and Etta C. Abrahams
Barbara and Kurt J. Guter
H & H Mobil Service
Birte A. Hansen
Lauren J. Harris
Lawrence R. and Mary S. Hennessey
Lee E. Henry
Nadean Y. and Charles R. Hillary
Sheila C. and Allan W. Holody
David D. and Iris O. Horner
Karen A. and Gerald A. Jennings
Elizabeth A. and Donald B. Kaufman
Christine A. and David R. Kaye
Stephen F. Kiersey
Robert E. and Amy G. Kilbridge
Susan E. and William M. King
Dale and Marla K. Lambert
Jennifer S. Lane
Lansing Art Gallery
Robert L. Last and Jill M. Canny
Marijean E. Levering
Franklin Q. Levin and Barbara J. Blizzard
Raymond E. Melton, Jr.
Margaret A. Meyers
Gordon E. Miracle
Wolfgang J. and Odile B. Mittig
Edward A. and Merry A. Morash
Robert L. and Nancy K. Muhlbach
Carol M. Myers-Scotton
Thomas E. and JoAnn Neff

Jan. 26 - Feb. 26, 2017
WORLD PREMIERE

A Painted Window
by Christy Hall
Directed by Frannie Shepherd-Bates
Featuring: Ruth Crawford, Dominique Lowell and Lynch Travis
WILLIAMSTON THEATRE
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam Street
Williamston, MI 48895
517-655-SHOW (7469)
www.williamstontheatre.org

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Performing Arts Spring 2017
VISIONS of the END of the WORLD
An original experimental play created and performed by Scott Crandall.
January 27 – 28
THE SNOW QUEEN
A spectacular adventure adapted by Stuart Paterson from Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale.
February 17 – 26
AMERICAN HERO
A dark comedy and survival drama about life, liberty, and the pursuit of sandwiches, by Beth Wohl.
March 17 – 25
LEGENDS & HEROES
LCC's Spring Dance concert featuring choreography by faculty, alumni, guest artists, and students.
April 7 – 9
lcc.edu/showinfo

Steve H. Broadnax III—Director

- Associate Director of Pennsylvania Centre Stage. Directing credits include various shows and theatres nationally and internationally including: People's Light Theatre, Apollo Theatre NYC, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Atlantic Theatre NYC, Detroit Public Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, The Black Theatre Troupe in Phoenix, AZ, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Moore Theatre in Seattle, Market Theatre Johannesburg SA, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, National Arts Festival in South Africa, and The Adelaide Arts Festival Australia. THE HIP HOP PROJECT, an award-winning, full-length original play directed, choreographed, and conceived by Steve, has toured nationally and was showcased at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Washington, D.C. Other writings include AMERICAN TABOO, another award winning full-length play, *Camouflage* (Eugene O'Neill semi finalist), HARD TO SAY I LOVE YOU (a one-act), and SEX LOVE, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN (A New Musical).

As a member of Actor's Equity Association, Steve toured nationally and internationally. Steve was cast in *Dreamgirls* at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre in Little Rock; paid homage to blues legend Robert Johnson in his self-authored one-man show, R.L. AT THE CROSSROADS; and has worked in theatres such as Pennsylvania Centre Stage, St. Louis Black Rep, St. Louis Repertory Theatre, St. Louis Muny, Lincoln Amphitheatre, Westport Playhouse, and Ozark Actors Theatre.

BFA Conservatory of Fine Arts Webster University, MFA Penn State University

Steve is currently an Associate Professor of Theatre and Head of the MFA Graduate Acting Program at Penn State University.

Director's Conversation with the Playwright

STEVE BROADNAX: What is *Blood at the Root* about to you?

DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU: For me, *Blood at the Root* is about social prejudice versus systemic injustice. We all have prejudices against each other, whether they're big or small. Sometimes they're racial, sometimes they're with gender, sometimes they're with ideas and beliefs. But it's the difference between having those prejudices against each other, learning to live with each other and enlightening ourselves, and a system using prejudice to completely marginalize a people. The system is supposed to be blind, justice is supposed to be blind and yet it isn't. So, I think those things are all coming up against each other in this play.

SB: Absolutely. It's about how we stand against those injustices, and it's about our ability to change them. Can you talk a little bit about the play's title? *(cont'd.)*

(cont'd)

Director's Conversation with the Playwright

DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU: I think it's a metaphor for the root of racism and hatred in the history of our country. Those roots run deep. The issues that the characters in the play deal with have depth and a cause that is immediate and now but also goes back way before them. This didn't happen overnight; it's rooted like a tree. It's deep in our history of why and how we got where we are.

...And actually, we picked the title before we even knew what the play was going to be. One of the lines in the song "Strange Fruit" is "blood on the leaves / blood at the root." So, we were like, "why don't we just call it 'Blood at the Root.'" I was like, "I don't know if I'm going to really hate that title later," but sometimes the title [informs] the play, and I feel like that's what's happened in this case, because it really has become about these roots and how we're going to cut them in order to have a different future as a country and as a world.

Dramaturg's Note

In 2006, in Jena High School in Louisiana, several racially charged events, including the hanging of nooses on a tree in the school's courtyard, culminated in the beating of white student Justin Barker by six black students, allegedly in response to a racist remark made by him. The students were all charged with attempted second-degree murder, and became known nationally as the "Jena Six."

The severity of their charges, fictionalized in *Blood at the Root*, is representative of biases that occur in our country's criminal justice system today. Minorities experience more frequent stops by police, receive longer/harsher sentences, and are more likely to be convicted of a crime when compared to whites. African Americans comprise 12.6% of the United States population, but account for 39.4% of the prison population (www.sentencingprogject.org). This disparity is attributed to a culture that draws legal attention to "street crimes," individual presumptions made by law enforcement and court actors, and media that perpetuates the stereotype of the "dangerous black male."

Protests that took place during the trials of the Jena Six echoed the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 60's. Since then, the Black Lives Matter movement has emerged and responded to the fatal police handlings of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown, among others. The movement attempts to draw attention to race-based injustices and alter our society's prejudiced beliefs.

Blood at the Root is a significant example of the use of theatre as sociopolitical commentary. Through characterization and performance, the adversity faced by black males like De'Andre is humanized in a way that other media often fails to achieve. These injustices invade the characters' lives, leading them to challenge each other (and the audience) with the question "What are you going to do to create change?"

-Briana Beeman

Friends of Theatre at MSU

We would like to express our gratitude to the following donors who have generously supported the Department of Theatre by contributing during the past year to the Friends of Theatre and/or to the Gala in 2016 celebrating 56 Years of Summer Circle Theatre. If we have inadvertently left your name off this list, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we may make the correction as this list is current for donations processed as of 01/14/17.

MAJOR NAMED SUMMER CIRCLE COURTYARD DONORS

Sam and Mary Austin
Selma Hollander
Linda Nelson
Gretel Geist Rutledge
Jane K. Vieth and Alan P. Suits

DIAMOND $2,500+

Alan R. Baird and Cathy J. Snyder-Baird
Kirk A. Domer
Charles J. and Halen K. Foster
Craig J. Gunn
Patrick F. Hayes and Teresa S. Reno
Andrea L. Kotarba
Richard C. and Ellen B. Lowe
MSU Federal Credit Union
Joan C. and Jeremy L. Mattson
Jo Ann and Michael P. Price

PLATINUM $1,000-$2499.99

Carol A. Coffman Bryson and Norris C. Bryson
George P. and Susan M. Buck
Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices
Sue A. and Mark D. Chatterley
April M. Clobes and Glen F. Brough
Katharine M. Dennis and Frank G. Dennis, Jr.
Harold H. Emmons III and Lori K. Emmons
Hude Legal Services, PLLC
Grand Hotel
Hari Kern
Margaret A. Lane
Dugald and Nina L. McMillan
John R. and Bridget L. Paff
Ryan J. Ranzino and Michael M. Shoudy
Roger J. and Margaret M. Reuter
Robert J. Roznowski
Louise A. Sternberg
Linda J. and Laurence B. Stone

GOLD $500-$999.99

Robert M. Andrews
Jacqueline E. and Philip A. Babcock
Kay P. Baldwin
Christine R. Birdwell
Michael G. and Tina M. Burry
Classic Travel
Clerical Technical Union of MSU
Amber M. Cook
Kevin and Lauri Draggoo
Lori and Harold Emmons III
William K. Fahey and Valerie K. Johnson
Roger G. Faix and Linda Carr-Lee Faix
Shelagh M. Ferguson-Miller and Robert J. Miller
Thomas J. and Carol A. Ferris
Barbara B. Free
Debra R. and David A. Gift
Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau
Melody and Fred Hasselback
Leonore F. and William J. Helder
Elinor Holbrook
Hude Legal Services PLLC
John W. and Margaret Z. Jones
Christine A. Knapp
Gregory A. Miller and Cheryl L. Webster-Miller
Patricia K. Munshaw
Nancy S. Passanante
Andrea S. Rutledge
Charles R. and Teresa E. Severance
Craig M. Smith
Miguel J. Stewart and Mary H. Job
Michael and Mary Vosovic/ Wells Fargo Advisors
David W. and Jean K. Wolski

SILVER $250-$499.99

2Write Better LLC
Etta Abrahams & Jenifer Banks
Addell A. Anderson
Vivian E. and Howard E. Ballein
Joyce M. Banish
Claire & Justin Banks
Karen R. and Jeffrey O. Blohm
Bruce F. Brown
CATA Bus Line
Classic Travel, Inc.
George B. Conger IV
Jean E. Croope
Susan and Jack C. Davis
Sheila Marie and Jovon S. Everett
Tiffany and Michael A. Fleischer
Maribeth Fletcher
Selma D. Hollander
Marcia A. and Mark E. Hooper
Richard T. Houang and Leslie A. Kissinger-Houang
Linda D. and Ross Howard
Michael J. Jenkins
Richard S. Johnson
Karen M. Kangas-Preston
Chris Knapp
Margie Lane
Le Bon Macaron
Jean L. Lepard
James W. Little, Jr. and Cheryl L. Little
Lois P. Lynch
Julie M. Matway
Michigan Education Association
J Irvin Nichols
Paramount Coffee
Rosmarie I. Peters
John L. and Diane M. Revitte
Student Book Store, Inc.
Alan P. Suits and Jane K. Vieth
Katja S. Thomakos
Jean M. Vieth
Barbara J. Whitney
Woody's Oasis

BRONZE $100-$249.99

James T. Allen
Janet L. Anderson

Who's Who In The Cast & Crew

Summer Circle's *The Tail of Peter Rabbit*. She would like to thank her family for being so supportive in her endeavors.

ANGEL SNYDER (*Costume Designer)* – Zeeland, MI; Senior, RCAH and Theatre dual major. Her recent credits include costume designer for *Mount Olympus Junior High* at Summer Circle Theatre. She would like to thank KKP for her guidance throughout this design process.

CHRISTOPHER STOWELL (*Properties Master*) Watertown, NY; 3rd Year MFA Design Candidate (Lighting and Sound). His most recent designs include lighting design for *The Nerd, Stage Door, Pride and Prejudice*, sound design for *Hair*, and scenic design for *The American Plan*.

PETER VERHAEGHE (*Lighting Designer)* – Swartz Creek, MI; 2nd Year MFA Design Candidate (Scenic and Lighting). Peter was most recently the scenic designer for *Punk Rock* and *Pride and Prejudice*. He was also the props master for MSU's *Stage Door* (Winner – 2016 Pulsar for Best Properties). Peter holds a BA in Theatre from Albion College.

ZUWAIB RAZZAQ (*Stage Manager*) – East Lansing, MI; Senior, BA Theatre (Directing/ Producing) and BA Media Management. Zuwaib is a multi–media artist, and aspiring television producer. He is currently writing a production of *Alice in Wonderland* set in Syria, which he will direct/ produce later this spring in the Studio 60 theatre. He would like to thank Steve, his mentor Tina, and his family and friends for their constant support. "Today is a day for change."

BRIANA BEEMAN (*Dramaturg*) – Howell, MI; Freshman, BA Theatre (Studies & Directing). Briana most recently contributed to the direction, writing and performance of *Carnival of the Absurd.* She would like to thank her family for their continued support and the theatre faculty for their encouragement over the past several months.

J**OSIAH MASVERO** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) – Grand Haven, MI; Freshman, BFA Design. Josiah is honored to be working on *Blood at the Root* with this amazing team. He feels a deep sense of responsibility to work toward change and justice. This show inspires him that "today's a day for change." Other MSU Productions include *Tempest* (Media Assistant), *Carnival of the Absurd* (Media Design). He would like to thank his family and friends for their unending support and encouragement.

CLAIRE SMITH (*Assistant Stage Manager*) – Roscoe, IL; Sophomore, BA Theatre & BA History. This is Claire's first time working as an ASM, and her second time working on a show at MSU. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support and encouragement. Claire would also like to thank everyone involved with *Blood at the Root* for all of their hard work.

CAMILLE THOMAS (*Assistant Stage Manager*) – Harper Woods, MI; Junior, BFA Acting and BA Arts and Humanities double major. This is Camille's first time assistant stage managing and she is extremely proud that it is on a show that has so much relevance to today's social climate. The cast has been amazing to work with and she would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support!

Production Team

Technical Director	**Erin Freeman**
Costume Shop Supervisor	**Angie Wendelberger**
Scene Shop Supervisor	**Jon Little**
Assistant Stage Managers	**Camille Thomas, Claire Smith, Josiah Masvero**
Dramaturg	**Briana Beeman**
Dialect Coach	**Greg Hunter***
Paint Charge	**Mike Merluzzi**
Props Master	**Christopher Stowell***
Scenic Technicians	**Jesse Ray Kelley*, Christopher Stowell***
	Peter Verhaeghe*, Brandon Barker, T'Nia Burse, Joey Lancour
	Savannah McComb, Mike Merluzzi, Lorena Ndojak
Costume Crew Chief	**Emma Callis**
Costume Shop Technicians	**Angel Snyder, Chelle Peterson, Lucy Wagenaar**
	Gabi Martin, Ketura Bradford, Rainie Jiang*
	Heather Brown*, Andi Schweizter, Meredith Wagner*
Light Board Operator	**Erin Paskus**
Sound Board Operator	**Evan Phillips**
Scenic and Costume Crew	**THR111L Students**
House Manager/Front of House	**Rachel Beck**
Photography	**Shelby Antel**

*Master of Fine Arts Candidate

Faculty Mentors

Stage Management	**Tina M. Newhauser**
Dramaturgy	**Dan Smith**
Costume Design	**Karen Kangas-Preston**
Scenic Design	**Lex van Blommestein**
Lighting Design	**Shannon Schweitzer**
Sound Design	**Jason Price**
Dialects	**Deric McNish**
Publicity	**Dave Wendelberger**

Follow the MSU Department of Theatre!

facebook.com/MI.State.Theatre

twitter.com/MI_StateTheatre

youtube.com/user/MichiganStateTheatre

FRIENDS OF THEATRE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR "SCRIPT CLASS"?

City of East Lansing @ Hannah Center

Prime Time

The Friends of Theatre & Department of Theatre are in our 3rd year of presenting a **Script Class** for certain MSU Theatre shows.

Our current class of the year is associated with *Theatre2Film* on February 16 & March 2, 2017 from 3:00-5:00pm. Cost includes a copy of the script and a show ticket! **$40** (Prime Time members), **$45** (non-members)

Watch the FOT newsletter for signup information for future classes including ***Urinetown*** (April '17)!

PLEASE CALL THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE FOR INFO: (517) 355-6690

Interested in setting up a recurring gift:
Please contact Bridget Paff in the College of Arts and Letters Development Office at paff@msu.edu or 517-353-4725.

DISTINGUISHED DOT SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Dixie Durr on behalf of the **Dixie Durr Scholarship Fund**

Virginia E. Albright on behalf of the **Virginia Albright Acting Scholarship Fund**

Gretel Geist Rutledge on behalf of
The Frank C. Rutledge Endowed Scholarship in Theatre *and* **The Gretel Geist Rutledge Annual Student Awards for Design Excellence in Theatre Production**

Selma Hollander on behalf of
The Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Theatre

Marilyn Culpepper on behalf of the **Barbara Hacker Baldwin Theatre Scholarship**

We are deeply grateful to all of our patrons who donate to the Department of Theatre. There are several different funds available if you would like to earmark your donation for a special purpose or to honor an individual. Thank you!

Area of Greatest Need in the Department of Theatre [AE10]

Summer Circle Theatre [AE1003]

Guest Artist Fund for Theatre and Dance [AE100613]

The Friends of Theatre Endowment Fund [AE100620]

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

KRISTY ALLEN (*Raylynn*) – Dallas, TX; 2nd Year MFA Acting Candidate. She is extremely excited to perform among this wonderful cast of players in this thought–provoking play. Her most recent performance credits include *The Nerd* (Tansy) at Williamston Theatre, the Summer Circle musical revue, *A Grand Night for Singing*, the world premiere of the children's musical *Mount Olympus Junior High* (Athena), *Xtigone* (Fay) and *Baltimore* (Dean Hernandez). Be the change you want to see!

JACOB COVERT (*Colin*) – Coldwater, MI; Junior, BFA Acting. Jacob was most recently seen in this past summer's season of Summer Circle and *Xtigone*. He is extremely excited to showcase this beautiful piece of theatre. When he first read the script he was so moved by the power and emotion of the subject matter that he was brought to tears. He can't wait to share this incredible message with all of you and he would like to thank his friends and family for all of the love and support!

JEN ENGLISH (*Asha*) – Ann Arbor, MI. Senior, BFA Acting. She is so excited to have worked on such a powerful piece and would like to thank her friends and family for all their support. Jennifer would also like to say what an amazing and inspirational experience it has been to work with Steve and such a strong cast of activists. She hopes you are as moved by this piece as she was!

GREG HUNTER (*Justin*) – Atlanta, GA; 2ND Year MFA Acting Candidate. Greg's recent projects include *The Nerd* at Williamston Theatre, *Kiss Me Kate* at Stage Door Players, and *A Grand Night for Singing* with MSU Summer Circle Theatre. He is supremely thankful for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show.

GARY PATTERSON (*De'Andre*) – Detroit, MI; Senior, BFA Acting. Gary was last seen as an ensemble member in *Grease*. This will be his Final Bow at MSU and he's excited that it could be with such a powerful, moving show. He's excited to share this with everyone.

KAREN VANCE (*Toria*) – Chicago, IL; 2nd Year MFA Acting Candidate. Karen came to Michigan from Chicago where she worked as a professional actor, dancer and choreographer. Karen is beyond proud to be part of this fantastic cast and powerful show. Thanks and love to Nick, Cassius and Junebug.

MIKE MERLUZZI *(Scenic Designer)* – Sterling Heights, MI; Junior, Scenic Designer and BFA Actor. His most recent designs for MSU include the Scenic Design for Summer Circle Theatre's *Mr. Marmalade*, and Second Stage Production's *Romeo and Juliet*. Next, Mike will be the dramaturg for Williamston Theatre's *1984*, and he will be playing McQueen in MSU's upcoming production of *Urinetown.* Mike couldn't be more proud to be one half of "The Boys."

CHELLE PETERSON (*Sound Design*) – Mason, MI; Senior, BFA Theatre Sound Design/ Costume Design Major/Musical Theatre Minor. Chelle is excited to work with the *Blood at the Root* team. She recently designed costumes for Summer Circle's production of *The Groundling*, and Sound designed MSU's production of *Baltimore*. She is a composer who has written hundreds of musical works, including