


July 21-23, 2022  
BorderLight Festival



# HEY SIRI

Written by Mary E. Weems, Ph.D.

Directed by Michael Oatman

A dark, stylized illustration of a smartphone screen. The screen is black with a thin white border at the top. The text 'What can I help you with?' is written in white, sans-serif font, centered on the screen. The background of the entire poster is a solid blue color with a large, faint, circular graphic element behind the phone.

What can I help  
you with?

BorderLight Festival presents  
A production by Playwrights Local

# HEY SIRI

**Written by Mary E. Weems, Ph.D.**

**Directed by Michael Oatman**

July 21 — 23, 2022

Old Stone Church

Cleveland, Ohio

## CAST

Michelle Broome.....Siri

Chelsea Anderson.....Lucky

Lynna Metrisin.....Elizabeth

Darryl Tatum.....Mack

## CREATIVE TEAM

Karen Cirino.....Costume Designer

Maggie Hamilton.....Sound Designer

Lexa B Walker.....Lighting Designer

Paula Washington.....Stage Manager

Lisa L Wiley.....Props Designer

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## NOTES

- Video/audio recording of this performance by any means is prohibited.

• *Hey Siri* is presented thanks to the generous support of The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. In addition to these and other funders, Playwrights Local thanks Dale, Josy, & everyone else at BorderLight; the creative team that made this production possible; and all of our patrons and private supporters.

# PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL

## Cleveland, Ohio

Playwrights Local is dedicated to supporting the dramatists of Northeast Ohio. As a playwrights' development and production center, we foster diverse talents and present locally written works.

We strive to increase the impact of original theater on the community and to raise the profile of area playwrights both within Greater Cleveland and beyond.

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## PLAYWRIGHT



**Mary E. Weems, M.A. Ph.D.:** Mary Weems' plays and/or excerpts have been published and/or produced since 1997. In 2009, an excerpt of her play *At Last* was part of the Ingenuity Festival. In June 2009, her monologue "Rainwater," part of a full-length play titled *Wearing Rainbows*, was selected for the "Queer Shorts 4" Playfest in Madison, WI. In 2002, her piece *Woman in the Tree* was part of the University of Louisville's Juneteenth Festival of New Works; her play *Another Way to Dance* won a 1998 Cleveland Public Theater Chilcote Award. Weems' play *Move to the Back of the Bus*, a 45-minute overview of the Civil Rights Movement, was produced by Young Audiences from 1998 through 2007. Weems' work *Wearing Rainbows and Numbers* was produced as part of Cleveland Public Theater's Big Box in 2007. In 2015, a collection titled *Blackeyed: Plays and Monologues* was published by Sense Publishing (Now Brill/Sense). Currently, Mary Weems is seeking production possibilities for *Closure*, about the foreclosure crisis, which opened the 2010-11 season at Karamu; *Blink*, a play about diversity on a college campus produced at John Carroll University in 2013, 2014, and 2015; and *MEAT*, which explores the murders of eleven Black women in Cleveland. Weems' short play *Slapped*, which won New York's Downtown Urban Art Festival's (DUAF) Best 'Short' Award in 2021, is currently under licensure with Karamu. In 2015, Weems won the Cleveland Art Prize's "Emerging Artist Award in Literature." For further information, visit [www.maryeweems.org](http://www.maryeweems.org).

## DIRECTOR

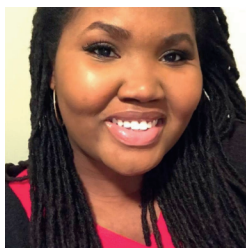


**Michael Oatman** is the former Playwright-In-Residence at Karamu Theater, the oldest African American theater in the country. He is only the second person to hold this honor in the storied history of Karamu; the first being Langston Hughes. He currently serves as a playwriting mentor at University of Nebraska at Omaha and also is an playwriting/script analysis instructor at Kent State University. In 2011, he won the CPAC Workforce Fellowship and the Cleveland Art Prize in 2010 for Best Emerging Artist and the 2010 Lantern Award for Best Play. In 2011, three of his full-length plays were produced: *Breaking the Chains*, *You Got Nerve* and *Sometime Hope Is Enough*. In 2010, seven of his plays were produced in various venues: *Black Nativity (Adaption)*, *War paint*, *Eclipse: The War Between Pac and B.I.G.*, *Course of Action*, *My Africa*, *A Solitary Voice*, *Not a Uterus in Sight*, *Hitler and Gandhi*. He earned an English Degree from Cleveland State University in 2004 and completed his MFA in theater from the Northeastern Ohio Master of Fine Arts consortium in 2008. "For me the beauty of theater is that it lives. It is not an artifact. It wrestles with us and forces us to wrestle with it. Plays live in real time; actors can reach out and touch you. Good drama is not a spectator sport. It's a subtle give and take, a delicate dance between actor and audience; playwright and the world. I have often mused that playwrights are the special forces of the creative writing world. They parachute in; give truth and watch as the walls tumble."

## CAST



**Michelle Broome (Siri)** is a multi-skilled artist and performer who made her stage debut in 2019's *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at The Shore Cultural Center. She is an accomplished pianist and vocalist, currently serves as director of music for a local ministry, and teaches music to young students. Ms. Broome is also a community organizer and facilitates leadership training workshops for grassroots community leaders.



**Chelsea Anderson (Lucky)** has been involved in acting and theater for over ten years. She has played in a number of shows at Karamu House. She has been a part of a number of traveling opportunities with her production company CrossRoads Productions, performing in plays in Cleveland, Columbus and Atlanta. She was recently in a short film with DNG inc. Productions called *The Domino Effect* which was a finalist for the Hollywood International Diversity Film Festival and won best feature screenplay at the Black Columbus International film festival.

She is very excited to be a part of this production and hopes to continue to have opportunities to keep acting.



**Lynna Metrisin (Elizabeth)** has acted in productions at various local theaters including, but not limited to, Cleveland Public Theatre, Talespinners Children's Theatre, Blank Canvas Theatre, French Creek Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, Lorain County Community College Theatre, Charenton Theatre, Clague Playhouse, and Spark Theatre 4 Youth. Lynna also portrays several figures for *Women In History*, including Betty Ford, Jane Addams and Bella Abzug. Lynna

is very happy to be participating in this production of *Hey Siri* for the Borderlight Festival.



**Darryl Tatum (Mack)** has performed in some religious-based theater through the years; some of these plays include *The Old Rugged Cross*, *Will You Be Ready*, *An Encounter with Jesus*, *Desire and Desire2*, *Whisperers*, *Gi Gi*, *Hosea*, *Things Aren't Always What They Seem*, *Sister I'm Sorry*, *Tell Hell I Ain't Coming* etc... He has been involved in community-like theater at the Garden Valley Neighborhood House performing *Jitney*, *Can I Speak to Al* at the East

Cleveland Community Theatre, *Radio Golf* at the Ensemble Theatre, and *Fences* along with *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Aurora Community Theatre. At the Karamu House, Darryl also performed *Fences*, *One Monkey Don't Stop No Show*, *God's Trombones*, *John Henry (Youth Theater)*, *Romeo and Juliet: An African Love Story*, *Paradise Blue* and *Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed*. Darryl has a few local movies- here's a list you can view in your spare time: *Swing Lowe Sweet Chariote*, *Height Girl*, *Height Girl 2*, *Hey, Mr. Postman*, and *Stand Alone*.

# CREATIVE TEAM

**Karen Cirino (Costume Designer)** is born and raised in Cleveland. She has been designing costumes for plays in the Cleveland area for over ten years. Karen also has a full-time job where she works as a health aide at a local Catholic school. There, she takes care of 400 children that she loves. Karen is also a single mom of a 19-year-old college student and takes care of her 93-year-old mother. Karen has worked with Michael Oatman before at Aurora Community Theater. She designed the costumes for *Fences* and *Driving Miss Daisy*. Karen is also the head costumer at Olmsted Falls High School and Middle School. Karen has worked on *Hello Dolly*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Nice Family Gathering*, *Matilda*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Guys and Dolls*, and many many more productions. Karen is so happy to be working on *Hey Siri* and making this production come to life. She would like to thank Michael for this opportunity and tell the cast and crew to "Break-a-Leg."

**Maggie Hamilton (Sound Designer)** has been involved with sound for every show at Aurora Community Theatre for ten years straight and has had the pleasure of working with Director Oatman several times. In addition to the importance of augmenting speech clarity, she finds it fun to work with sound effects that provide extra nuance for the show and is looking forward to learning the acoustics of a new space. Maggie is also an audiologist (AKA Dr. Hamilton) who works with cochlear implant recipients.

**Lexa B Walker (Lighting Designer)** is a young designer. She graduated from Michigan Technological University just in time to miss Covid shutdowns. Lexa has moved around Ohio and Southeast Michigan since graduation, working at a few theatres, production houses, and universities. Lexa now enjoys her full-time job as the Assistant Technical Director for Case Western Reserve University here in Cleveland. Theatre has always been a passion for Lexa, who grew up running wild in many local theatres thanks to her parents. A few of Lexa's favorite past productions include *Spamalot* (Encore Theatre 2015, Run Crew), *Buyer & Cellar* (Theatre Nova, 2015, Assistant Director), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Michigan Tech University 2017, Stage Manager), *On Golden Pond* (Tibbits Opera House, 2021, Technical Director), *Relativity* (Theatre Nova 2022, Lighting Design), and three years of stage management and lighting design work for Impact Drama Camp in Adrian, Michigan, on a variety of MTI jr productions. It is a pleasure to work at BorderLight on this new script with so many new people.

**Paula Washington (Stage Manager)** is the executive producer and co-founder of JP Inner Peace Productions ([jpipp.org](http://jpipp.org)), a Christian theater production company; the executive director of Hand Made Films; as well as an up-and-coming film director. She has been blessed and honored to be a stage manager for *Panther Women*, written and directed by India Burton for Cleveland Public Theater; *The King of Cage Street*, written and directed by Michael Oatman for Playwrights Local; *Bruised But Not Broken*, directed by James A. Washington, Sr., written by James Smith; *When God Speaks*, co-directed by James A. Washington, Sr. and playwright Samantha Turner; and with JP Inner Peace Productions' plays: *We Fall Down*, directed by James A. Washington, Sr., written by Ellen Marshall; *Tell Hell I Ain't Coming*; *Sister I'm Sorry*; *About My Father*; *Caught Up: A Spiritual Awakening* (all written and directed by James A. Washington, Sr.). All praise, honor and glory is given to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for the gift of theater, arts and entertainment.

**Lisa L Wiley (Props Designer)** has designed props for several Cleveland area theaters. Everything from Expressionistic "newspapers" and old polaroids, to old apple cores and exotic plants, tricky drink glasses and edible dirt. Lisa holds a bachelor's degree in Theatre from Ashland University and has years of experience stage managing, designing and directing. In addition to "gettin' her crafty on", she is a voice-over artist, standardized patient and also performs with *Women in History*. Lisa is passionate about the arts and considers it an honor to help bring new works to life.

# SUPPORT FOR PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL

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