

Playwrights Local Presents

THE KING OF CAGE STREET

A NEW PLAY
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
MICHAEL OATMAN

DECEMBER 9 - 12
WATERLOO ARTS



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THE KING OF CAGE STREET

Written and directed by Michael Oatman

December 9 – 12, 2021
Creative Space at Waterloo Arts

CAST

Darryl Tatum.....D-Bear
Devon Xavier Miller.....Dime
Royce “The Voice” Ruffin.....Skully
James A. Washington, Sr.....Rossdale
Prophet Seay.....Rio

CREATIVE TEAM

Inda Blatch-Geib.....Costume Designer
T. L. Codella.....Lighting Designer
Todd Plone.....Set Designer
Beau Reinker.....Sound Designer
Paula Washington.....Assistant Director / Stage Manager
Lisa L. Wiley.....Props Designer

NOTES

- This performance runs two hours including one 15-minute intermission.
- Video/audio recording of this performance by any means is prohibited.
- *The King of Cage Street* 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 Amy Callahan and Waterloo Arts; the creative team that made this production possible; and all of our patrons and private supporters.

COMPANY

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 / 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; the first being Langston Hughes. He currently serves as a Stage and Screen mentor at University of Nebraska at Omaha and also is an instructor at Kent State University. In 2011, he won the CPAC Workforce Fellowship; in 2010, he received the Cleveland Art Prize for Best Emerging Artist and the 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: *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 Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts consortium in 2008.

CAST



Darryl Tatum (D-Bear) has performed in some religious based theatres through the years in plays including *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 theatre 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* at the Aurora Community Theatre along with *Driving Miss Daisy*. He also performed *Fences* at the Karamu House along with *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*, *Caleb a living Miracle* and *Stand Alone*.



Devon Xavier Miller (Dime) was born July 23, 1993. She studied acting since she was fifteen years old under Pamela Christian and then further under David Cotton. In college, she studied costuming with Diane Pap and was an assistant seamstress for *The Fantastics*. Due to the representation of trans women in the past, she assumed she would have to give up acting when she began to socially transition. She lists the likes of Angela Bassett and Angelica Ross as

inspirations. Outside of acting, she likes to consider herself somewhat of an activist advocating for rights for women's reproduction, the LGBTQIA and African American communities and HIV stigma.

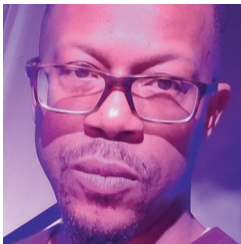


Royce "The Voice" Ruffin (Skully) is an accomplished vocalist / actor / comedian. His latest works include *The Wiz* stage play, *Swing Lowe Sweet Chariote* movie, *Gotta Good Woman*, and a new hit TV series, *Fake Friends*. His voice is likened to the great Smokey Robinson. He's appeared in more than a dozen plays, music videos, and films.



James A. Washington, Sr. (Rossdale): Rev. James Antoine Washington, Sr. co-founded JP Inner Peace Productions, a Christian theater production company; teaches piano lessons and is a vocal coach to area actors and actresses. He is no stranger to the theater world and is best known in the Cleveland area for his roles at The Karamu House in *The Wiz* and *Black Nativity*. His stage performances also include *Got a Good Woman*, produced by

POP Entertainment, *Bruise, But Not Broken*, written by James Smith; *Five Guys Named Moe*; *Killing Black Superman*; *Dream Girls*; *Ordinary People*; *Jelly's Last Jam*; *A Chorus Line*; *Edge of a Dark Path*; *Once on this Island*; *The Elvira Show* and *Evita*. He gives thanks and honor to God for all his talents and skills.



Prophet Seay (Rio): a Cleveland native, Prophet attended the Cleveland School of the Arts, where he studied fine arts and theater. Has worked at the historical Karamu House since 2003 and is currently Karamu's Technical Director. Prophet never misses an opportunity to bring characters to life on stage and is honored to be in *The King of Cage Street*.

CREATIVE TEAM

Inda Blatch-Geib (Costume Designer): Inda's work as a costume and production designer for over 1,000 theatrical, commercial, and film releases has spanned 30 years and crossed 4 continents. Set styling, costume, and puppet designs include the Broadway special production of *Kris Kringle The Musical*. Current collaborations include set design for Machine Gun Kelly's European Tour, Wolstein Arena Show, and EST Fest. Current commercial work includes Costume Design for The Cleveland Cavaliers' 1970's and 80's themed videos, national spots for the team, and design for on-court halftime shows. Ms. Blatch-Geib's designs include national commercials for Microsoft, McDonald's, Under Armour, and TroyBuilt.

T. L. Codella (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer who currently resides in NE Ohio. Recent design credits include *Company* at The Hudson Players, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at Kent State University- Stark, and *Bethany* at Case Western University. She is delighted to be working with Michael Oatman again; previous collaborations include *Fences* and *Driving Miss Daisy* at Aurora Community Theatre. TL Codella holds an M.F.A in lighting design from University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music.

Todd Plone (Set Designer) is a freelance scenic designer in Northeast Ohio. Some recent designs include *Holmes & Watson* at Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, *Company* at The Hudson Players, and Aurora Community Theatre's *Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*. His design for Hudson Players' *Thumbs* won an OCTAAward for Design and several designs were Broadway World Cleveland Awards nominees. Todd holds a B.F.A in scenic design from Arizona State University. He would like to thank Michael Oatman for this opportunity. For more, visit toddlonedesign.com.

Beau Reinker (Sound Designer) is a Cleveland-based theatre artist. Recent sound designs include *The Pride*; *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn*; *Above & Beyond*; *The Silence of Dr and Mrs Caligari*; *The Casual Tree Ward*; and *And All the Dead Lie Down*. Beau has also performed on stage with convergence-continuum, Cleveland Public Theatre, Theater Ninjas, and Cleveland Shakespeare Festival.

Paula Washington (Assistant Director / Stage Manager) is the executive producer and co-founder of JP Inner Peace Productions, a Christian theater production company; and is also a film director and executive director of Hand Made Films. Paula's debut as a film director began with *Whirlwind*, written by Michael Oatman. Paula has appeared in all of JP Inner Peace Productions' plays: both productions of *Tell Hell I Ain't Coming*; *Sister I'm Sorry*; *About My Father*; and both productions of *Caught Up: A Spiritual Awakening* (all written and directed by James A. Washington, Sr.), and more. 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 theatres. 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.

COMING UP NEXT:

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DIRECTED BY
RACHEL ZAKE

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