



LORRAINE HANSBERRY THEATRE presents

A **FATHER.**

A **DAUGHTER.**

A **RECKONING.**

SUNSET BABY

a play by
DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU

directed by **MARGO HALL**

SEPTEMBER 11 - 28

at **MAGIC THEATRE** in **FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE**

for more information,
visit **LHTSF.ORG/SUNSETBABY**



LORRAINE HANSBERRY THEATRE

presents

SUNSET BABY

a play by

DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU

directed by **MARGO HALL**

A searing and heartfelt story of family, legacy, and the weight of history, Tony-nominated playwright **Dominique Morisseau's *Sunset Baby*** follows Nina—a sharp, determined woman carving out her path in present-day Brooklyn. When her estranged father, a former Black Panther and political prisoner, suddenly reappears seeking redemption, their collision sparks a reckoning over grief, betrayal, and the generational scars of revolution.

CAST

Courtney Gabrielle Williams[^] as **Nina**

Lamont Thompson[^] as **Kenyatta**

Titus VanHook* as **Damon**

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

PLAYWRIGHT | Dominique Morisseau

DIRECTOR | Margo Hall

LIGHTING DESIGNER | M.D. Combs

SOUND DESIGNER | Alex Fakayode

COSTUME DESIGNER | Jenn Stephens

PROPS DESIGNER | Heidi Button

SCENIC DESIGNER | Carlos-Antonio Aceves

SCENIC BUILDER | Quinn Barringer

SCENIC CONSULTANT & ARTISAN | Peyton Whiteside

INTIMACY DIRECTOR | Jeunée Simon

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR | Brittany Mellerson

STAGE MANAGER & BOARD OPERATOR | Lauren Quan*

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT | Jené McLean

PRODUCTION MANAGER | Julius Rea

PHOTOGRAPHERS | Jim Dennis; Alejandro Ramos

ELECTRICIANS | Seth Gorrin; Otis Lechner; Robert Pedersen

PERFORMANCES

September 11 to 28, 2025

MAGIC THEATRE, Fort Mason Center

2 Marina Boulevard, Building D, San Francisco, CA 94123

Performance runtime: 90 minutes, no intermission

* Member of Actors' Equity Association. This theater operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

[^]Member of SAG-AFTRA

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Lorraine Hansberry Theatre is to create performances by, for, and about the Black experience, and provide employment and career-building opportunities for actors, directors, designers, and technicians from the BIPOC community. LHT prioritizes the work of Black female and femme-identifying playwrights by bringing their stories to the community. LHT draws from the cultural and economic resources of the San Francisco Bay Area to enrich and strengthen the performing arts; actively seeking and participating in collaboration with Bay Area Arts institutions and other related organizations.

WARNING

This production includes references and descriptions of violence against Black bodies, incarceration and drug use.

PLEASE NOTE

the location of all exits and turn off your electronic devices. Photographing, videotaping, or recording this production is strictly prohibited.

COVID SAFETY

Masks are not required, but strongly encouraged.

BIOGRAPHIES

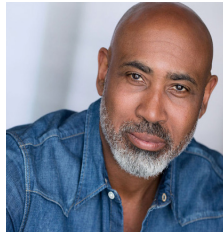
Courtney Gabrielle Williams^ ("NINA"

| **she/her**) is so grateful to perform with LHT! She's an actress, voice artist and arts educator originally from Oakland, CA. She has a colorful background working in the downtown New York theater scene where she developed and performed in new works with Daniel Alexander Jones, Kaneza Schaal, Mike Iveson, Tea Alagic and other artists who have enriched her collaborative process. Select theatre credits: *Glitter in the Glass* (Shotgun Players) *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Aurora), *Fat Ham* (SF Playhouse), *Scientific Method* (Rivendell Theater), *Go Forth* (PS 122), *A Walrus in the Body of a Crocodile* (Clubbed Thumb), *Tania in the Getaway Van* (The Flea Theater), *The Tear Drinkers* (The Kitchen), *Ruined* (Fordham Theater). Select TV/Film credits: *Blindspotting*, *Empire*, *Chicago Med*, *Edendale*, *Civic* (New Orleans Film, IFFR, Clermont-Ferrand Int'l). She is a graduate of Fordham University with a B.A. in Theater as well as an alumna of the Steppenwolf Conservatory. She thanks God, her family and her friends! Leave people better than ya found em <3 Instagram: @letcourtneytellit



Lamont Thompson^ ("KENYATTA" |

he/him) is delighted and honored to be making his LHT debut in this beautiful and very urgent play. Lamont has worked all over the country on stages and screens big and small. He considers it an honor to have reached "that guy in that thing" status. Other stages: *Memphis in Two Trains Running* (Marin Theatre Co.); *Montreilous in Clyde's* (The Studio Theatre DC); *Deus in Black Odyssey* (Cal Shakes); Antonio in *Twelfth Night* (Milwaukee Rep); Buddy in *Black Eagles* (Penumbra Theatre Co.) *The Ghost of Christmas Present* (San Diego Rep and The Indiana Rep.); *Brutus in Julius Caesar* (Jomandi Theatre Inc.). Those are highlights. Other stage work is a long list of original works (the backbone of theatre arts). Lamont has managed to carve out a career in film and TV as well. Recent credits include a very fun run as Wanda Syke's husband in *The Upshaws* and Judge Stanton in *The Lincoln Lawyer* (Both for Netflix); *The Resident*; *Dynasty*; *Snowfall*; *The Miracle Workers*; *NCIS: Los Angeles*; *68 Whiskey*; *Rizzoli & Isles*; *Mike & Molly*. Those are also highlights. As always, I dedicate my performance to the ancestors on whose shoulders I stand, whose ghosts I am honored to be haunted by and whose stories I'm honored to tell. And The One, Nadia Chu. Nadia, I will be forever grateful for helping me see, and reminding me that life without joy and true art is not a life at all for me. I'd particularly



LORRAINE HANSBERRY THEATRE STAFF

Margo Hall

artistic director

Stephanie Shoffner

managing director

Julius Rea

production director

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like to thank The LHT for giving me opportunity to bring Kenyatta to life. Men such as he, even with all their flaws, have played a very important but oft misunderstood role in the centuries old fight for freedom, justice and dignity in these, to quote James Baldwin, “yet-to-be United States.”

Titus VanHook*
(“DAMON” | he/him)

is thrilled to be making his debut with Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. He is a multi-hyphenate artist born and raised in Oakland, CA. He attended Pomona College where he earned his BA, followed by matriculating to Columbia University for his MFA in acting. Since then, VanHook has worked across different mediums including television, voice over, commercial and social media. His most recent stage productions include *Buttercup* at the Marin Shakespeare Company and *Paradise Blue* at Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley. He is currently a professor of drama at the Academy of Art University. Titus would like to send his gratitude to his loved ones for their love and support.

You can keep up with him on Instagram (@vanhook_) where you may or may not find a well written skit or two.



Dominique Morisseau (PLAYWRIGHT | she/her) 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* (LAByrnth 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'Neill 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.

Margo Hall* (DIRECTOR & LHT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | she/her) is an award-winning actor, director, playwright, educator, Artistic Director of Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, and a founding member of Campo Santo. She has graced Bay Area stages for over 35 years. She was last seen in *Josephine's Feast* by Star Finch for Campo Santo and Magic Theatre. Other acting highlights include *Black Odyssey*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Marcus or the Secret of Sweet*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Barbecue* (also directed), and *A Winter's Tale*.

Film credits include *Bottled Spirits*, *All Day and a Night*, *Blindspotting*, and the voice of Melba in Pixar's *SOUL*. TV credits include *Blindspotting*, *Chances*, and *Nash Bridges*. Directing highlights include *How I Learned What I Learned*, *Nollywood Dreams*, *Barbecue*, *Red Velvet*, and *Ragtime*. She recently co-created and directed the world premiere production of *In The Evening by The Moonlight*, a play by Traci Tolmaire about Lorraine Hansberry with Nina Simone and James Baldwin for Lorraine Hansberry Theatre.

M.D. Combs (LIGHTING DESIGNER | any/all pronouns) is a Bay Area native growing up in the south bay who found a love for lighting design while studying theater at San Francisco State University. They are fascinated by the way that light can establish worlds and transport audiences to a different place. After spending time working in New York City. M.D. Combs is elated to be back in the bay lighting up various bay area venues and productions.

Alexandria Fakayode (SOUND DESIGNER | she/her) is an artistic collaborator & theatrical sound designer from the Bay Area. Focusing in on sound design, Alex has worked/assisted with different theaters around the Bay, including: Shotgun Players, Berkeley Repertory Theater & Cutting Ball Theater. Her professional career started in July 2022, as the Shotgun Players' Sound Fellow/Apprentice, and then designing a few projects in their Champagne Staged Reading Series. This year, her debut as a Bay Area

Theatrical Sound Designer culminated with Shotgun Players' *Babes in Ho-lland* in January 2024. She has a B.A. in Drama from the University of California, Irvine.

Jenn Stephens (COSTUMES DESIGNER | she/her) first learned costume design, construction and proper storage from Alison Williams back in the late 80's at The Palo Alto Children's Theatre. Jenn is also a classically trained veteran actress, director, consultant, and teaching artist. She absolutely loves working on stage but understands the many hours of labor done behind the scenes to bring a production to life. Jenn has spent numerous hours both designing and pulling costume pieces for many actors of all ages and sizes. Jenn prides herself in making sure all bodies look amazing. After completing her MFA at Columbia University in New York City, Jenn worked with influential artists including Dave Chappelle, and directors Andrei Serban and Mary Zimmerman while performing in *Measure for Measure* at The Public Theatre. Jenn is thrilled to be back working under the direction and genius of Margo Hall. Although this time it will be behind the scenes, Jenn will absolutely make sure the actors look like the best versions of their characters. Being that Jenn is a multidisciplinary theatre artist she calls herself a performer's designer.

Heidi Button (PROPS DESIGNER | any/all pronouns) was an aerial performer in a former life, touring with circus theatre companies in Europe and the US. She later spent 9 years as a teacher and organizer at San Francisco Circus Center and co-directed their Youth Program in the spring of 2020. In Spring 2024, she received her BA in theatre from San Francisco State University, while serving as Emergency Props Department Coordinator for the semester. So far in 2025, she has designed props for Cuckoo Edible Magic from San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company, and Fairway at Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Outside of *Sunset Baby* with Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, other scheduled projects this year are as summer Wardrobe Supervisor for San Francisco Shakespeare Company's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and props design for the Oakland Theater Project. In 2023, Heidi designed props for Lorraine Hansberry Theatre Company's *In The Evening By The Moonlight*, as well as San Francisco Playhouse's production of *Nollywood Dreams* by Jocelyn Bioh, about the Nigerian movie industry of the 1990's.

Carlos-Antonio Aceves (SCENIC DESIGNER | he/they) is a multidisciplinary Designer and Theater Maker whose practice focuses on new works and social justice theater. Selected scenic and multimedia designs credits include: *Returning to Haifa*, Golden Thread Productions; *Yaga*, Marin Theatre; *The Displaced*, Crowded Fire Theatre; *BREAKDOWN*, San Francisco Mime Troupe; *PrEP Play or Blue Parachute*, New Conservatory Theatre Center; *Dream Hou\$e*, Shotgun Players; *Justice*, Marin Theatre; *Carrie: The Musical*, (projection design) American Conservatory Theatre YC; *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*, West Edge Opera; *Cyrano*, Aurora Theatre Company; and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Shotgun Players. Carlos-Antonio extends his heartfelt gratitude to the creative and production team of The Boiling for their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts. Explore more of Carlos-Antonio's past and upcoming work at: CarlosDesignsSets.myportfolio.com

Quinn Barringer (SCENIC BUILDER | they/them) has been building and designing sets in the Bay Area since 2018. They have built for Berkeley Repertory Theatre (*The Great Wave*), SF Playhouse (including *Mary Poppins*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and *My Fair Lady*), American Conservatory Theatre (including *Gloria*, *Into The Woods*, and *Her Portmanteau*), and New Conservatory Theatre Center (including *Avenue Q* and the regional premiere of *Cardboard Piano*). Quinn has also designed sets for Those Women Productions, including *House of Desires* (2022) and the world premiere of *Witch Hunt* (2019). These days, Quinn is the graphic designer for Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and has been a stagehand for SF Playhouse on shows including *Evita*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and their upcoming production of *Into The Woods*. Quinn is delighted to be working with their hands once again to bring theater to life.

Peyton Whiteside (SCENIC CONSULTANT & ARTISAN | she/her) recently designed props for *Krapp's Last Tape* (The Santa Monica Playhouse), *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* (Town Hall Theatre); she designed props and scenery and stage managed at UCLA. Peyton is an avid environmental conservationist and she is passionate about theater that uplifts marginalized voices. Connect with her at www.pwhitesidedesign.com or on Instagram @ [pwhitesidedesign](https://www.instagram.com/pwhitesidedesign). She is based in the Bay Area.

Jeunée Simon (INTIMACY DIRECTOR | she/her)

is a bicoastal actor, director, and consent educator. She is dedicated to creating braver spaces where artists can be vulnerable and play. Recent intimacy direction credits include: *The Tutor* (NCTC), *Lear* (California Shakespeare Theater), *The Code* (A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory), *Coming Soon* (Z Space), *Boys Go to Jupiter* (Word for Word), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Custom Made Theatre Co.), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Berkeley Playhouse), and more. Simon is a proud recipient of the 2017 RHE Artistic Fellowship. www.jeuneesimon.com

Brittany S. Mellerson (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

| b/she/they) is delighted to be designing for the first time with Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. With a BFA in Theatrical Lighting and Sound Design from Point Park University's Conservatory Program, Brittany is a multi hyphenate designer/director with a focus in sharing black stories and cathartic experiences. Some of their most noticeable professional credits include current residencies with PlayGround SF and Lamplighters Music Theatre for Lighting Design and Production Management, while also utilizing an extensive concentration in Sound Design and Intimacy Coordination as a freelance professional and consultant. When they are not bringing scripts to life on stage, Brittany is steadily curating their own visions, acting as the Director and Visual Designer/Consultant of published content, archival footage, and live performances for their own entertainment collective, VIP.

Lauren Quan* (STAGE MANAGER & BOARD OPERATOR | she/her)

is a Bay Area based stage manager who is excited to join Lorraine Hansberry Theatre for this production. She has previously stage managed at other theaters including: Aurora Theatre, Berkeley Playhouse and the Los Angeles Theatre Center.

Jené McLean (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT | she/her)

is an Oakland-based creative, with over a decade of experience in TV and film production. She brings a strong background in behind-the-scenes support, including production assistance, and set coordination. A graduate of Clark Atlanta University with a BA in Mass Communication, Jene is passionate about storytelling and thrives in fast-paced creative environments. She is excited to contribute her skills and energy to the world of live theater.

Julius Rea (PRODUCTION MANAGER | he/they)

is a Bay Area playwright, curator and performer. In 2018, he co-founded The Forum Collective, an arts organization that focuses on journalism theatre and gallery curation. He is currently the playwright for *The Day the Sky Turned Orange*, heading to full production in 2025. He began working at Lorraine Hansberry Theatre as a 2021-22 Theatre Bay Area Arts Leadership Residency recipient. More at juliusernestorea.com

**Member of Actors' Equity Association.*

^Member of SAG-AFTRA



NEW BLACK VOICES MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

LHT's **New Black Voices Mentorship Program** provides developmental and production opportunities for emerging Black female and femme-identifying playwrights to receive support and mentorship while creating socially impactful pieces relevant to their communities.

Phaedra Tillery-Boughton joins us as our 2025-26 NBV Mentee while working on her new play, *Sistahfriend*.

NEW BLACK VOICES ADVISORY BOARD

Lydia Diamond, Nambi E. Kelly, Dominique Morisseau & Lisa B. Thompson

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SPECIAL THANKS

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SF State School of
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Emmanuel Blackwell
Devon LaBelle
Nadia Chu
Kaya Lehr-Love
Cody Metzger
Nate Mitchell
All travel guides used in
this production

CREDITS

Feeling Good – Written by
Leslie Bricusse. Published by
Downtown Music, TRO Es-
sex Music Group. Performed
by Nina Simone. Recording
© Universal Music Group.

**Love Me or Leave
Me** – Written by Walter
Donaldson & Gus Kahn.
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Misunderstood – Written
by Benjamin Bennie, Gloria
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**Black Is the Color of
My True Love's Hair** –
Traditional. Published by
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Christmas is coming...

Soulful Christmas

December 19 - 21, 2025

at Magic Theatre in SF's Fort Mason

