



LORRAINE HANSBERRY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Lorraine Hansberry Theatre presents *Intimate Apparel* by
Lynn Nottage
Directed by
Jan Hunter**

March 13 - March 29, 2020
(Previews March 13-14, 2020)
Buriel Clay Theatre
African American Art &
Culture Complex
762 Fulton Street, SF, CA 94012

The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre will present *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage with a press night on Saturday, March 14 at 8:00 PM. The play will run through Sunday, March 29. (Previews March 13 @ 8:00 PM and March. 14 @ 3:00 PM) *Intimate Apparel* will be directed by Jan Hunter with a cast that features Jeunee Simon*, Marjorie Crump-Shears*, Jasmine Milan Williams, Kim Saunders, Lucas Brandt and Dameion Brown. (*Member of Actors' Equity Association)

The Play

Wearing her heart on her sleeve while sewing intimates for her clientele, Esther is the talented, proud but shy African American seamstress in turn-of-the-century New York 1905, who has built a savings for herself making beautiful undergarments for both posh Fifth Avenue boudoirs and questionable bordellos. In addition, she shares a lingering affection with a Jewish fabric merchant. Esther earnestly daydreams of new beginnings and romantic possibilities. She embarks on a journey to find love, discovering unexpected friendships that defy race, class, and religion. But when an egregious deception cuts short her heartfelt desires, can class, culture and circumstance outmatch the strength of the

human spirit? Inspired by a true story, *Intimate Apparel* is a heart-rending contemporary work in the style of an enduring classic—from Lynn Nottage, the first female playwright to win two Pulitzers.

The Playwright

Lynn Nottage is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and a screenwriter. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. They include *Sweat, By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Lily Award, Drama Desk Nomination), *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award), *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play), *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE Award), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy, Las Meninas, Mud, River, Stone, Por'knockers and POOF!*. She is currently with composer Ricky Ian Gordon on the operatic adaptation of *Intimate Apparel* commissioned by The Met/LCT scheduled to open March 23 in New York.

Calendar Listing

What: *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage. Wearing her heart on her sleeve while sewing intimates for her clientele, Esther is the talented, proud but shy African American seamstress in turn-of-the-century New York 1905, who has built a savings for herself making beautiful undergarments for both posh Fifth Avenue boudoirs and questionable bordellos. In addition, she shares a lingering affection with a Jewish fabric merchant. Esther earnestly daydreams of new beginnings and romantic possibilities. She embarks on a journey to find love, discovering unexpected friendships that defy race, class, and religion. But when an egregious deception cuts short her heartfelt desires, can class, culture and circumstance outmatch the strength of the human spirit? Inspired by a true story, *Intimate Apparel* is a heart-rending contemporary work in the style of an enduring classic—from Lynn Nottage, the first female playwright to win two Pulitzers.

When: Previews: Friday, March 13, @ 8:00 PM and Saturday, March 14, @ 3:00 PM
Opening Night: Saturday, March 14, @ 8:00 PM
Run: March 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 @ 8:00 PM
March 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 @ 3:00 PM

Where: Buriel Clay Theatre, African American Art & Culture Complex, 762 Fulton Street, SF, CA 94012

Ticket Prices:	Adults	Seniors	Students
Previews:	\$30	\$30	\$10
Run:	\$35	\$35	\$15

About the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

Currently under the management of Executive Director, Stephanie Shoffner and Acting Artistic Director, Darryl V. Jones, the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre presents plays by both emerging and established African American and multicultural playwrights. We provide employment and career opportunities for actors, directors, designers and technicians from African American and multicultural communities. More at <https://www.lhtsf.org/>

Artistic and Production Team

Director: Jan Hunter

Cast

Esther: Jeunee Simon*

Mrs. Dickson: Marjorie Crump-Shears*

Mayme: Jasmine Milan Williams

Mrs. Van Buren: Kim Saunders

George: Dameion Brown

Mr. Marks: Lucas Brandt

(*Member of Actors Equity Association)

Bios for the Director and Cast

Jan Hunter (Director) is an actress, director and retired theatre educator of 40 years. She was the Performing Arts Director at Skyline High School for 24 years directing and producing 4 productions a year. She directed *The Vagina Monologues* for BAWAR in 2018. She recently performed in African American Shakespeare Theatre's productions of *Cinderella*, *Streetcar Named Desire* and *For Colored Girls*, nominated for Outstanding Ensemble performance by Theatre Bay Area. She's performed in *Oedipus*, *School for Scandal* and *Pygmalion*. Jan is a Board of Directors member of the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. She holds a B.A. in Drama, M.A. in Education and M.A. in Teacher of the Arts.

Jeunee Simon* (Esther) is an actor and director in the Bay Area. Recent credits include: *La Ronde* (Cutting Ball Theater), *Men On Boats* u/s (American Conservatory Theater), HeLa (TheatreFIRST) *The Daughters* (SF Playhouse), *Bamboozled* and *Roan at the Gates* (Central Works). Simon is a proud recipient of the 2017 RHE Artistic Fellowship and a 2019 Directing Apprentice with PlayGround. She is delighted to be part of this Bay Area community and humbled by the talent of those around her. (*Member of Actors' Equity Association)

Marjorie Crump Shears* (Mrs. Dickson) is enjoying an “encore career” as a professional, working actor having retired from education after 33 years in 1999. She has been privileged to work in many theaters in the Greater Bay Area, and in Sonoma County where she resides. The roles she has played have been varied and cover plays in most genres, including the classics, modern drama and comedy and musical. In addition to stage work, her acting career has expanded to include TV, screen, internet and medical training schools (Standardized Patient). She is an AEA member and a member of SAG/AFTRA. She is a proud and longtime member of Theater Bay Area. (*Member of Actors' Equity Association)

Jasmine Milan Williams (Mayme) is a Bay Area artist. Her main discipline is acting but she also enjoys collaborative, explorative, multiple discipline works that fall under the artist spectrum. Her recent work includes: *Bull in a China Shop* by Bryna Turner (Aurora Theatre), *Inked Baby* by Christina Anderson (Crowded Fire Theater Company), *The Last Sermon of Sister Imani* (TheatreFIRST), and *Waafrika* (TheatreFIRST). She has also worked with: Campo

Santo (Company Member), TheatreFIRST, Those Woman Production company, African American Shakespeare Company, and New Conservatory Theater Company.

Kim Saunders (Mrs. Van Buren) is thrilled to be working with the LHT. She holds a BA in Theatre from Marymount Manhattan College. In New York she worked with The Nat Horne Theatre, Neighborhood Playhouse, Academy Arts Theatre Company and ABT at Lincoln Center. She also performed with The Oregon Shakespeare Festival for 6 years. In California, she's performed with: San Jose Repertory Theatre, San Jose Stage, African American Shakespeare Company and others. Kim is a company member of Custom Made Theatre and Left Coast Theatre. She was nominated twice by BATCC for best female principal as well as choreography and a nomination from TBA for choreography. Kim is a professional director/choreographer and works as a teaching artist in high schools supporting teachers and students.

Dameion Brown (George) performed the title role in *Othello* (Marin Shakespeare Company, MSC) in 2016, and was awarded "Best Lead Actor" from the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle. He was also nominated by The Fallstaff Awards as "Best Principal Actor." Dameion appeared in *The Seagull* (Utopia Theatre Project), *Waafrika* and *The Farm* (TheatreFIRST) winning another BATCC award, *Dance of the Holy Ghost* (Ubuntu Theatre Project), and Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* (MSC). He played the lead role in *Pericles* (MSC) in July 2018. He's a Teaching Artist in the Department of Juvenile Justice in Stockton, CA, as well as in the Alameda Juvenile Hall Facility, and an Artist in Residence at MSC.

Lucas Brandt (Mr. Marks) is a Bay Area based actor and educator. He was last seen on stage in Word for Word and Z Space's production of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Magic Theatre in *Visible from Four States*. He has worked with a variety of companies around the bay, including Cal Shakes, SF Shakespeare Festival, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Shotgun Players, Cinnabar Theater, Boxcar Theater and Berkeley Rep's PlayGround. Brandt graduated from UC Santa Cruz with both his Bachelors' and Masters' degree in Theater Arts.

Design Team

Scenic Design by Tom Hird

Lighting by Kevin Myrick

Costume Design by Nikki Anderson-Joy

Sound Design by Anton Doty

Stage Management by Vanessa Brown

Bios for Designers and Production Staff

Thomas Hird, Set Designer and Technical Director: Tom served at CSU East Bay as professor, resident designer and TD from 1972-2019. He has represented educators and professionals on the boards of the California Educational Theatre Association, the Nor-Cal US Institute for Theatre Technology, and the Theatre Bay Area Individual Services Committee. His work has been recognized for educational and artistic excellence by CETA, USITT and the Kennedy Center. Tom produced twenty international shows featuring students and alumni in Scotland, Cyprus, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Following a long term as Chair of Theatre and Dance at CSUEB, he concluded his career as Director of the School of Arts & Media. He

began his professional career designing “A Thousand Clowns” for the Ebony Showcase Theatre starring LA radio and TV personality Larry McCormick. He designed and TD’d the famous Christmas Spectacular in San Jose for five years. His credits also include Woodminster Summer Musicals.

Anton Doty, Sound Designer: Anton is a sound engineer and music producer who hails from San Francisco. With credits for Grammy winning and platinum record holding artists, as well as countless albums, EPs and singles under his belt, he has a strong foothold in the world of music. *Single Black Female* at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre was his first project as a theatrical sound and projection designer, and he hopes to expand his reach further into the world of theater production. A graduate of UC Santa Cruz’ Film Production and Music Recording programs, Anton has spent most of his life creating audio/visual content and is ecstatic to see that content contribute to an institution like the Lorraine Hansberry Theater; especially for a production that dissects the often marginalized and misrepresented experience of African-American women.

Kevin Myrick, Lighting Design: Kevin has designed several shows for the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre Company, most recently working on productions of *The Urban Retreat, Home, Thurgood* and *Soulful Christmas*, and for the African American Shakespeare Company *Macbeth*. Other credits include: TheatreFIRST *The Last Sermon Of Sister Imani*, Throckmorton Theatre *RAGTIME* and Youth Musical Theatre Company *A Man Of No Importance*. He studied technical theatre at San Francisco State University, and later earned degrees and worked in Computer Science and Technology. Since 1974 Kevin has worked as a designer, technical director or theatre tech for many festivals, artists and arts organizations including civic organizations like the San Francisco Neighborhood Arts Program and the Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, theatre companies like AfroSolo, Cultural Odyssey, the Oakland Ensemble Theatre Company, the Atlanta Children’s Theatre Company, Alliance Theatre Company and Just Us Theatre Company. Kevin has also produced and designed for community/public access television.

Nikki Anderson-Joy, Costume Design: Nikki is a costume designer based in Oakland. ... Having spent a few years assisting costume designers around the Bay Area, she has started designing solo: recent designs including *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (Word for Word/ ZSpace) and *The Flick* Shotgun Players.

Vanessa Hill, Stage Manager: Vanessa is a Bay Area based stage manager with a B.A. in Theatre Arts from SFSU’s School of Theatre and Dance. Her most recent credits include *Funeral Games* (World Premiere), and *The North Pool*, (Bread & Butter Theater Co.) *Kill, Move, Paradise* (Shotgun Players/Lorraine Hansberry) and *A Long Day’s Journey into Night* (Ubuntu Theatre Project.)