

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lorraine Hansberry Theatre Announces the World Premiere of *AFRICAN STEW*

Directed by Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe, *African Stew* is acclaimed playwright Lisa B. Thompson's timely, uproarious new satirical comedy that brings complex relationships to the table.

September 10–27, 2026
Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (July 16, 2026)—Lorraine Hansberry Theatre is thrilled to present *African Stew*, a satirical new comedy by the nationally acclaimed, award-winning playwright **Lisa B. Thompson**, launching this September in San Francisco. When an African American woman and a Nigerian man announce their engagement after a swift courtship, their families gather for a meal in Oakland — and what begins as a celebration soon simmers with tension as cultural differences, familial expectations, and questions of identity bubble to the surface. At a time when so much centers on who belongs and who doesn't, this deeply human comedy asks what it actually takes to build a family across class, across culture, and across generations.

African Stew will perform a limited engagement at San Francisco's **Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture** (2 Marina Blvd., Landmark Building D, Fort Mason Center) beginning **Thursday, September 10 and running through Sunday, September 27, 2026**. Press night is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2026. Tickets (\$35–\$65) are available now at www.lhtsf.org/african-stew.

"Lisa B. Thompson has a remarkable gift for finding humor, heart, and hard truths in the richness and complexity of Black life," says LHT Artistic Director **Margo Hall**. "*African Stew* is exactly the kind of play we need right now. It's hilarious, heartfelt, and full of characters you'll recognize and love—and I'm especially excited to join this incredible cast as Didi, a role that I know is going to be pure joy."

This poignant exploration of love, class, culture, and the Black Diaspora marks the return of one of LHT's most celebrated collaborators in Thompson, whose 2024 *The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body* as well as 2019's *Single Black Female* were met with critical and popular acclaim.

"*African Stew* is a love letter to my family and community," says playwright **Lisa B. Thompson**. "I hope my new comedy sparks a long overdue and necessary conversation throughout the African diaspora. I believe

that humor disarms us and brings us closer to understanding our differences while also acknowledging our commonalities."

"I want audiences to leave this show full of optimism," Thompson adds, "and with a newly found curiosity, appreciation and respect for each other's cultures, experiences and histories."

Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's production is the first in a rolling world premiere that will bring *African Stew* to stages across the country in the coming months—arriving at a moment when its story could not be more resonant, and its questions more urgent.

ABOUT LORRAINE HANSBERRY THEATRE

Named to honor the trailblazing playwright of *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (LHT) is one of the West Coast's oldest and most renowned professional theaters dedicated to creating theatrical works by, for, and about the Black experience. LHT supports a new generation of aspiring Black artists, curates theater experiences that validate Black life, and invites audiences to witness Black history and culture. LHT supports theater-makers by providing the necessary resources to realize their visions, offering career development opportunities and programs for diverse individuals, and holding spaces to communicate, commune and thrive.

FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS

WHAT: ***African Stew***

WHEN: **September 10–27, 2026**

Thurs & Fri Preview (9/10 & 9/11 , 7:30pm)

Sat **Opening Night** (9/12, 7:30pm)

Thurs, Fri, Sat (7:30pm)

Sat, Sun (4pm)

TICKETS: \$35 - \$65* | www.lhtsf.org/african-stew

PHOTOS: [Artist Headshots](#)

WHERE: **Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture**
2 Marina Blvd
Landmark Building D, Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, CA 94123

*Ticket pricing is subject to change.

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LISA B. THOMPSON | PLAYWRIGHT

Lisa B. Thompson's satirical comedies, poignant dramas, and insightful criticism explode stereotypes about Black life in the US, particularly the experiences of the Black middle class. Her award-winning plays *Single Black Female*, *Underground*, *Monroe*, *The Mamalogues* and *The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body* have been produced Off-Broadway, throughout the US, and internationally. Thompson's creative and scholarly work has received support from institutions such as Hedgebrook, MacDowell, Millay Arts, National Performance Network, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, Clayman Institute for Gender Research, American Council of Learned Societies, W. E. B. DuBois Research Institute at the Hutchins Center, Fusebox Festival, and Texas Performing Arts. Her publications include *Beyond the Black Lady: Sexuality and the New African American Middle Class* as well as articles in *Theatre Journal*, *Criterion Collection*, *Journal of American Drama*, *NPR*, *Theatre Survey*, and *The Washington Post*. Thompson also co-hosts and co-produces *Black Austin Matters*, an NPR podcast that explores Black life, culture, and politics in Central Texas. The San Francisco native currently serves as the Bobby and Sherri Patton Endowed Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies and the interim associate dean of graduate education and academic affairs for the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.

MARGO HALL | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, CAST MEMBER

Award-winning actor, director, playwright, educator, and the Artistic Director of Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (LHT), Hall was recently awarded the 2021 Kenneth Rainin Fellowship in Theater and listed as one of the YBCA 100 honorees for 2020.

She was last seen onstage in *Josephine's Feast* by Star Finch for Campo Santo and Magic Theatre. Other acting credits include *Black Odyssey*, *Fences*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *A Winter's Tale*, *American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose*, and *SPUNK* for the California Shakespeare Theater, *JAZZ*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Fences*, and *Seven Guitars* for Marin Theater Company. *Ah! Wilderness*, *Once in a Lifetime*, and *Marcus or the Secret of Sweet* at ACT. *Exit Strategy* and *Trouble in Mind** at the Aurora Theater, *Marcus Gardley's A World in a Woman's Hands* for Shotgun Players. *Barbecue* (also directed), and *MF with a Hat* at SF Playhouse.

Some of her acting credits for Campo Santo** include Dennis Johnson's *Nobody Move*, Chinaka Hodges' *Mirrors in Every Corner*, Jessica Hagedorn's *Fe in the Desert* and *Stairway to Heaven*, and Naomi Iizuka's *Hamlet: Blood in the Brain*, *17 Reasons (Why)* and *Polaroid Stories*.

She recently directed *FLEX*, *FAT HAM*, and *Nollywood Dreams* for SF Playhouse, and *Garuda's Wing* for Campo Santo. *Hieroglyph*, by Erika Dickerson-Despenza, was a co-production of LHT and SF Playhouse. Other LHT credits include *Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body*, *Sunset Baby*, *In the Evening* by the Moonlight, *Soulful Christmas*, *Thurgood*, and *Rejoice!* Other directing credits include *How I Learned What I Learned* for Lorraine Hansberry Theater, *Ubuntu*, and Marin Theatre Company, *Barbecue*, *Red Velvet*, and *The Story*, an SF Playhouse/Lorraine Hansberry Theatre Co-Production.