



Advance Program Notes

L.A. Theatre Works
Susan Albert Loewenberg, producing director, presents
The Mountaintop by Katori Hall
Directed by Shirley Jo Finney
Sunday, January 28, 2018, 4 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

L.A. THEATRE WORKS
SUSAN ALBERT LOEWENBERG
PRODUCING DIRECTOR

PRESENTS

THE MOUNTAINTOP

WRITTEN BY
KATORI HALL

DIRECTED BY
SHIRLEY JO FINNEY

STARRING

GILBERT GLENN BROWN

KAREN MALINA WHITE

VIDEO AND SCENIC DESIGNER
SEAN CAWELTI

SOUND DESIGNER
MARK HOLDEN

LIGHTING DESIGNER
DANIEL IONAZZI

COSTUME DESIGN
CARIN JACOBS

SCENIC DESIGNER
RICH ROSE

MUSIC SUPERVISOR
RONN LIPKIN

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ANNA LYSE ERIKSON

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND
STAGE MANAGER
LEIA CRAWFORD

Original Broadway production produced by Jean Doumanian, Sonia Friedman Productions, Ambassador Theatre Group, Raise the Roof 7, Ted Snowdon, Alhadeff Productions/Lauren Doll, B Square + 4 Productions/Broadway Across America, Jacki Barlia Florin/Cooper Federman, Ronnie Planalp/Mollenberg Taylor, and Marla Rubin Productions/Blumenthal Performing Arts in association with Scott Delman.

The Mountaintop was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City, and was first produced by Theatre 503 in June 2009 and further produced at Trafalgar Studio One in June 2009 by Sonia Friedman Productions and Jean Doumanian, Tali Pelman for Ambassador Theatre Group, Bob Bartner, Freddy DeMann, Jerry Frankel, Ted Snowdon, and Marla Rubin Productions Ltd.

The Mountaintop was developed at the 2008 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a program of the Playwrights Foundation (Amy L. Mueller, artistic director).

The Mountaintop is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Some images used in the video design for *The Mountaintop* appear courtesy of the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, Tennessee.

This production contains mature language.

There will not be an intermission.

The taking of photographs or the use of any kind of recording device is strictly prohibited.

ColorsVA is the media sponsor for this performance.

Program Note

Many of you know King as a hero, as a figure bigger than life. Some of us only know the name of Dr. King as a holiday where we don't have to go to work or school. Others, like myself, saw him marching on television and were inspired by his speeches. There might be some among you who actively marched and protested while he was alive. We were all awed by and fearful for the man who constantly walked into the eye of the storm and was willing to put himself in harm's way for his belief in a better world of justice and equality.

In King's final speech, he tells us how he would like to be remembered:

"...say I tried to love and serve humanity...Say that I was a drum major for peace."

I am thrilled and honored to be collaborating with L.A. Theatre Works in presenting Katori Hall's esteemed play, *The Mountaintop*, on the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's death.

—Shirley Jo Finney, director

L.A. Theatre Works Mission and Background

Under the leadership of Producing Director Susan Albert Loewenberg, L.A. Theatre Works (LATW) has been the foremost radio theatre company in the United States for more than 30 years. LATW is broadcast weekly in America on public radio stations, daily in China on the Radio Beijing Network, streamed online at latw.org, and aired on many other international outlets, including the BBC. Our unique model—using cutting-edge technology to preserve ephemeral live theatre—transcends the limits of the physical stage, making us the industry leader in providing access to live and recorded theatrical performances with an unparalleled annual reach of millions. Through our commitment to artistic excellence, educational and outreach efforts, and innovative distribution technologies and content formats, we provide an immersive, imaginative, and affordable on-demand theatre experience to anyone, anywhere, any time. The company records its productions in Los Angeles before an enthusiastic and loyal audience of season subscribers. Works by Arthur Miller, Tom Stoppard, Lillian Hellman, Athol Fugard, Joyce Carol Oates, Stephen Karam, Wendy Wasserstein, Neil Simon, Lydia Diamond, David Mamet, Lynn Nottage, David Henry Hwang, and others have been performed and recorded by LATW with casts of critically acclaimed film and stage actors. On the road, LATW has delighted audiences with its unique live radio theatre-style performances in over 350 small towns and major cities, including New York, Boston, San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Beijing, and Shanghai. An LATW performance is immediate and spontaneous and features a first-rate cast and live sound effects, creating a sound-rich, intimate experience that draws audiences into the stories and performances.

Today, LATW's Audio Theatre Collection includes more than 500 classic and contemporary titles—the largest library of its kind in the world. Much lauded, the collection is available to the public on CD and in digital downloads through LATW's website, latw.org, and through retailers such as Amazon, iTunes, and audible.com, as well as through our podcast series, produced in partnership with Wondery Media. Our collection is also available in over 11,000 libraries and has received awards from the Audio Publishers Association, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Publisher's Weekly, Writers Guild of America, American Library Association, a GrammyRAMMY Award nomination, and many others. Over 3,000 public high schools and 2,000 underserved libraries nationwide use the recordings and accompanying study guides to teach language arts, literature, history, and civics through LATW's free outreach programs, Setting the Stage for Learning and Library Access. Through The Play's the Thing for Higher Education, LATW also makes a database of over 300 digitized works from our collection available to over 200 universities and colleges worldwide for use in a variety of disciplines. For more information on these programs, LATW's Audio Theatre Collection, national radio broadcasts, podcasts, and other exciting projects, visit latw.org.

For L.A. Theatre Works

Producing Director: Susan Albert Loewenberg
Managing Director: Vicki Pearlson
Associate Artistic Director: Anna Lyse Erikson
Creative Services Director: Sam McCay
Senior Radio Producer: Ronn Lipkin

If you are interested in becoming a Producing Partner by making a donation to L.A. Theatre Works, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, or wish to join our mailing list, please visit our website at latw.org.

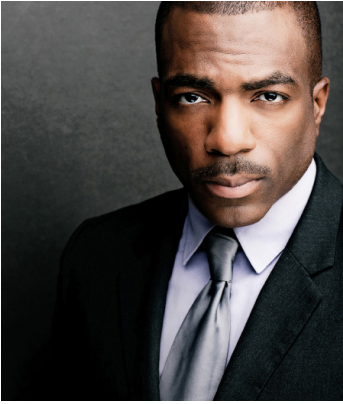


L.A. Theatre Works
681 Venice Boulevard
Venice, CA 90291

Representation

Baylin Artists Management
721 Hyde Park
Doylestown, PA 18902
(p) 267-880-3750 | (f) 267-880-3757
baylinartists.com

Biographies



GILBERT GLENN BROWN (*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*)

Gilbert Glenn Brown has been working professionally as an actor for over 15 years. Highlights in theatre include *When Jazz Had the Blues* (CEK Productions/The Matrix Theatre), *Harriet Jacobs* (Kansas City Rep), *Civil War Christmas* (Huntington Theatre), *TopDog/UnderDog* (Seattle Rep/Center Theatre Group), *Spunk* (True Colors Theatre Company), *The Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek* (Fountain Theatre), *Serial. Black. Face.* (Actor's Express), *Gospel at Colonus* (Ebony Repertory Theatre Company), *Martin: Before the Dream* (NEC), and *Charleston Olio* (Goodman Theatre & National Black Theatre Festival). TV credits include *Queen Sugar* (OWN), *Stranger Things* (Netflix), *Mr. Mercedes* (Audience), and *Valor* (CW), as well as recurring roles on *The Inspectors* (CBS) and *Good Behavior* (TNT) and roles on *Survivor's Remorse* (Starz), *ER* (NBC), *The O.C.* (FOX), *Cold Case* (CBS), *Shark* (CBS), *CSI: Miami* (CBS), and *The Shield* (FX). In film, Brown appears with Taraji P. Henson and Sam Rockwell in the soon-to-be-released *Best of Enemies*. Other credits include *Dreamgirls*, *Drumline 2*, and *Raising the Heights*. Among Brown's numerous awards and nominations are the NAACP Theatre Award, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, and the Audelco Award. He has done commercials and voice-overs for a variety of clients, most recently for the NFL. Brown holds a bachelor of fine arts from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.



KAREN MALINA WHITE (*Camae*)

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Karen Malina White is most known for her work in the film *Lean on Me* with Morgan Freeman and for her television roles on *The Cosby Show*, *A Different World*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Living Single*, and *Malcolm and Eddie*, to name a few. Most recently she has been in *Shameless*, *Snowfall*, *Animal Kingdom*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *VEEP*, *Mike and Molly*, *The Mentalist*, and *Southland*. Her highly recognizable voice was featured on The Disney Channel's *The Proud Family* as the character of Dijonay. Her theatre credits include *You Can't Take It with You*, *The Liar*, *The Wedding Band*, and *As You Like It* (Antaeus Theatre Company), where she is a company member; *Permanent Collection*, *Salt Fish N' Bakes*, and *Distracted* (Mixed Blood Theatre); *The Ballad of Emmett Till* (LA Drama Critics Circle Award, LA Ovation Award), *Citizen* and *Runaway Home* (The Fountain Theatre); *Rosa in Chain* by Pearl Cleage, for which she originated the role, and *Brown Silk and Magenta Sunsets* (RACCA); *The Old Settler* (International City Theatre; NAACP nomination); the world premiere of *In the Valley of the Shadow* (Rogue Machine); Ernestine in the West Coast premiere of *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* by Lynn Nottage, for which she originated the role (South Coast Rep; NAACP Image Award), and *The Talented Tenth* (NAACP Image Award). White can be seen in the award-winning short films *The Ties That Bind*, *Where Do We Go from Here*, and the independent feature *Silent Cry Aloud*. White attended the High School for Creative and Performing Arts and holds a bachelor of fine arts from Howard University (cum laude).

Biographies, continued

SHIRLEY JO FINNEY (*director*)

Shirley Jo Finney is an award-winning international director of theatre, television, and film, as well as an accomplished actress. She has worn her director's hat in some of the most respected regional theatre houses across the country, including the McCarter Theatre, the Pasadena Playhouse, the Goodman Theatre, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Cleveland Playhouse, the Fountain Theatre, L.A. Theatre Works, the Crossroads Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival, the Sundance Theatre Workshop, the Mark Taper Forum, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the State Theatre in Pretoria, South Africa. Most recently, Finney directed and developed the critically acclaimed world premiere of *Citizen: An American Lyric* by the award-winning PEN poet Claudia Rankin. Other recent works include *Facing Our Truth: The Trayvon Martin Project* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, the Lark Foundations' rolling world premiere of *The Road Weeps* by Marcus Gardley at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Brother/Sister Plays*, Lisa B. Thompson's *Single Black Female* at Crossroads Theatre Company, and Dominique Morisseau's *Detroit '67* at the Penumbra Theatre. She also helmed the international all-South African opera *Winnie*, based on the life of political icon Winnie Mandela. Finney is the recipient of many prestigious awards, such as Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF) 2017 Denham Fellowship for her production of *Runaway Home* by Jeremy Kamp, LA Stage Alliance's Ovation Award, the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award, the LA Weekly Award, the NAACP, the Santa Barbara Independent Award, and the UCLA Department of Stage, Film, and Television Distinguished Alumni Award.

KATORI HALL (*author*)

Katori Hall is a playwright and performer hailing from Memphis, Tennessee. Her award-winning play, *Hoodoo Love*, premiered at the Cherry Lane Theatre in 2007. It was developed under Lynn Nottage as part of the theatre's 2006 Mentor Project. *Hoodoo Love* received three Audelco nominations (Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, and August Wilson Playwright Award). Her other plays include *Remembrance*, *Hurt Village*, *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning*, *The Mountaintop*, *On the Chitlin' Circuit*, and *Freedom Train* (Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 10-minute play national finalist). Her work has been developed and presented at the American Repertory Theatre, Kennedy Center, Cherry Lane Theatre, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Schomburg Center, BRICLab, Women's Project, World Financial Center, Lark Play Development Center, New Professional Theatre, The O'Neill, the Juilliard School, Stanford University, and Columbia University. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lecompte du Nouy Prize, North Manhattan Arts Alliance Fellowship, New York State Council on the Arts Commission Grant, New Professional Theatre's Writers' Festival Award, Fellowship of Southern Writers Bryan Family Award in Drama, New York Foundation of the Arts Fellowship in Playwriting and Screenwriting, Royal Court Theatre Residency, and the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award. She has also been a Kennedy Center Playwriting Fellow. As an actor, her credits include *Law & Order: SVU*, *The President's Puppets* (The Public), *Growing up a Slave* (American Place Theatre), *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (American Place Theatre), the world premiere of *Amerika* (Theatre de la Jeune Lune/American Repertory Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Moscow Art Theatre School), *Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death* (Classical Theatre of Harlem), *Schooled* (WOW Café Theatre), and *Black Girl* (Sande Shurin Theatre). As a journalist, her work has been published in the *Boston Globe*, *Essence*, *Newsweek*, and the *Commercial Appeal*. She graduated from Columbia University in 2003 with a major in African-American studies and creative writing. She was awarded top departmental honors from the university's Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS). In 2005 she graduated from the American Repertory Theatre Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University, receiving a master of fine arts in acting. She is now a student in the Juilliard School's Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program. She is a proud member of the Women's Project Playwrights' Lab, the Lark Playwrights' Workshop, and the Dramatists Guild. For more information, please visit katorihall.com.

Program Notes, continued

SUSAN ALBERT LOEWENBERG (*producing director*)

Susan Albert Loewenberg is founder and producing director of L.A. Theatre Works, a non-profit media arts and theatre organization. Loewenberg has produced award-winning radio dramas, plays, and films in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and London. Under her supervision, LATW has created the largest library of plays on audio in the world, garnering numerous awards from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Writers Guild, the American Library Association, Publishers' Weekly, and others. Loewenberg also serves as host and is the executive producer of LATW's nationally distributed syndicated radio series, *L.A. Theatre Works*, broadcast on NPR stations nationwide. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, she has served on innumerable boards and panels, including the National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, and the Fund for Independence in Journalism in Washington, D.C., and she was co-chair of the League of Producers and Theatres of Greater Los Angeles. From 1996-2002 Loewenberg served during the Clinton administration on the board of directors for Federal Prison Industries, a presidential appointment, and served for several years as a member of the regional panel of the President's Commission on White House Fellows. She is currently a member of the board of directors of the Center for Public Integrity and a fellow of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities at the University of Southern California (USC). Loewenberg is the author of a number of articles that have appeared in *American Theatre Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and various professional journals.

ANNA LYSE ERIKSON (*associate artistic director/tour manager*)

Anna Lyse Erikson is pleased to be in her eighth season at L.A. Theatre Works. She serves as the associate artistic director for all LATW productions, including live recordings, in-studio recordings, and tours. With Susan Loewenberg, she does all casting, manages rights and play selection, and generally oversees the artistic quality and development of LATW productions. Erikson has worked as a casting director, acting coach, and dramaturg for numerous theatre, film, and radio projects in the Los Angeles area. She was previously the consulting artistic director for Vagabond (Los Angeles), development director of the Morgan-Wixson Theatre (Santa Monica), and director of marketing and outreach for the Independent Actors Theatre (Columbia, Missouri). Erikson holds a master of arts in theatre history, theory, and criticism from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a bachelor of arts in theatre performance from the University of Missouri.

RONN LIPKIN (*senior radio producer*)

After graduating from Haverford College with a bachelor of arts in music history, Ronn Lipkin worked as a staff announcer and production director for WYSP-FM in Philadelphia, helping to create the legendary rock station's distinctive sound. He later moved to KLSX-FM in Los Angeles and worked as a staff announcer, recording engineer, and producer, creating award-winning radio commercials for national and regional clients. For L.A. Theatre Works, he serves as music supervisor for live productions, lead podcast and radio producer, and curator for the company's audio library. He is also an editor and creative consultant for a number of leading audiobook publishers.

Biographies, continued

SEAN CAWELTI (*video and scenic designer*)

Sean Cawelti graduated from the University of California Irvine with a bachelor of arts in drama, with honors in directing, and studied puppetry at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Cawelti is the founding artistic director of Rogue Artists Ensemble, a multi-media, puppet, and mask company in Los Angeles. He has won awards for his work as a designer, director, and playwright; been honored with a UNIMA Citation of Excellence for *Gogol Project*; and was presented the 2015 Sherwood Award by the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles for his work as a director. Cawelti was selected by the City of Los Angeles' Cultural Affairs Department to travel to Brazil for two months to study woodcarving and Candomblé, a religion born of African and Catholic traditions. His directing and design work has been seen at the Getty Villa, South Coast Repertory, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Cornerstone Theater Company, Chicago Opera Theater, L.A. Theatre Works, the Geffen Playhouse, New York City Opera, Imago Theatre in Portland, and the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta. He has designed puppets, masks, props, and video for theatre, music videos, museums, concerts, and arena shows. For more information, please visit seancawelti.com and rogueartists.org.

LEIA CRAWFORD (*technical director/touring stage manager*)

Leia Crawford's regional credits include *Judgment at Nuremberg* and *Dracula* (LATW Tour); *Boy*, *Jane Eyre*, and *American Buffalo* (L.A. Theatre Works); *Massoud: The Lion of Panjshir* (CTG Workshop) and *Neva* (CTG Reading); *Murder for Two*, *Switzerland*, *The Gospel According to...*, *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*, *Play Dead*, and *Ruined* (Geffen Playhouse); *Future Thinking*, *The Whale*, *The Motherf*cker with the Hat*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Little Night Music*, and *An Italian Straw Hat* (South Coast Rep); and *For Piano and Harpo* (Falcon Theater). Crawford's dance credits include *Incubation*, *Four Seasons*, *LACDC10*, and *Youth* (Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company). Other theatre credits include *What Goes Around* (Kaiser Permanente Educational Theater), *BLKS* (Ojai Playwrights Conference 2016), *Surgeon and Her Daughters* (Ojai Playwrights Conference 2015), and *Permission* (Ojai Playwrights Conference 2014), as well as with companies such as Story Pirates, Antaeus Theatre Company, Classic and Contemporary American Plays (CCAP), the Shakespeare Center of LA, and Redcat. Film credits include *Diani & Devine Meet the Apocalypse*, and credits on YouTube include *Princess Rap Battle 4: Cinderella vs. Belle*, *Princess Rap Battle 5: Maleficent vs. Daenerys*, and *Princess Rap Battle 6: Katniss vs. Hermione*. Crawford sends her love to family and friends.

MARK HOLDEN (*sound designer*)

Mark Holden has two decades of experience recording and mixing various projects in studios, on sets, and on live stages. He has designed, recorded, and mixed over 200 plays and national tours for L.A. Theatre Works, the BBC, and several independent production companies. As a musician and music producer, Holden understands that communication and comfort are essential to a creative space, which is why he created the Invisible Studios in West Hollywood, California. This commercial recording/designing/mixing environment is home base for the many projects overseen by Holden and his team. Holden has also composed for radio, film, and television, such as scoring the award-winning feature film *Out in the Dark*. He has also engineered and produced for several genres of music and worked with some of the biggest names in commercial and creative voice talent. Learn more about Holden and his team at theinvisiblestudios.com.



Biographies, continued

DANIEL IONAZZI (*lighting designer*)

Daniel Ionazzi returns to L.A. Theatre Works, where he designed the tours of *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *Dracula*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *The Graduate*. His work has also been seen at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Arena Stage, South Coast Repertory, Denver Center Theatre Company, Berkeley Rep, and the Geffen Playhouse. His design for the New York production of *The Jacksonian* garnered a Lucille Lortel nomination. He designed the lighting installation for *Teatro alla Moda* for the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and *Trajectoire* and *Catapult* for the dance company Diavolo. His design work can also be seen in the 4-D cinematic experience *Beyond All Boundaries* at the National World War II Museum. Ionazzi is production manager for the Geffen Playhouse; a member of the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Theater, Film, and Television; and director of production for the Department of Theater, also at UCLA. He is the author of *The Stage Management Handbook* and *The Stagecraft Handbook*.

CARIN JACOBS (*costume designer*)

Carin Jacobs has been designing costumes around the Los Angeles area for over 20 years. Her work can be seen in many genres, including theatre, film, live stage shows, and professional cheerleading. Projects include the Arizona Cardinals' cheerleading uniforms, L.A. Theatre Works' national tours of *Dracula* and *In the Heat of the Night*, the feature film *Saving Lincoln*, and many, many stage productions. In addition to her freelance design work, Jacobs also teaches costume history and design at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and runs the costume program at Cal State University Dominguez Hills. She holds a bachelor of arts in art history from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a master of fine arts in theatre from Cal State Long Beach. Jacobs loves her career and feels like one of the luckiest people in the world to be making a living creating art. Visit her website at carinjacobscostumedesign.com.

RICH ROSE (*scenic designer*)

Rich Rose has designed three productions for LATW, including the national tours of *Judgment at Nuremberg* and *In the Heat of the Night*. His latest design is *A Man for All Seasons* for Actor's Co-op in Hollywood, where he also designed *Our Town*, *The Baker's Wife*, and *Summer and Smoke*. Other recent productions include *American Idiot*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Floyd Collins* (Ovation Award winner for Best Musical and BroadwayWorld nomination for Best Scenic Design) at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. Additional designs include this past summer's critically acclaimed *Other Desert Cities* at Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, *Lainie Kazan presents The Great American Songbook*, and the Mosaic Lizard Theater productions of *Robin Hood* and *A Spider-Man Christmas*. Rose is a professor of design in the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Theater, Film, and Television. For more information, please visit richrosedesign.com.



L.A. Theatre Works Production Team

Production Stage Manager	Leia Crawford
Assistant Stage Manager	Mary Losurdo
Tour Manager	Anna Lyse Erikson
Video Designer	Sean Cawelti
Sound Designer	Mark Holden
Lighting Designer	Daniel Ionazzi
Costume Designer	Carin Jacobs
Scenic Designer	Rich Rose
Music Supervisor	Ronn Lipkin

L.A. Theatre Works Staff

Producing Director	Susan Albert Loewenberg
Managing Director	Vicki Pearlson
Associate Artistic Director	Anna Lyse Erikson
Marketing Director, Live Services	Fritz Meier
Senior Radio Producer	Ronn Lipkin
Audio Sales Director	Michele Cobb
Creative Services Director	Sam McCray
Associate Director of Development	Devon Brand
Live Events Manager	Stacey Martinez
Development and Literary Assistant	Anna Glidden
Bookkeeper	Teri Allen
Office Manager	Cyndi Gonzales

Engagement Events

Saturday, January 27, 2018

MEET THE LATW ARTISTS

Performers in L.A. Theatre Works met with students in the School of Performing Arts' Theatre Arts program to discuss their acting careers in theatre, television, and film; the auditioning process; dramatic choices they have made; and how to navigate the professional world to become a successful actor.

Sunday, January 28, 2018, following the performance

POST-PERFORMANCE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION

After experiencing L.A. Theatre Works' performance, engage with the performers in this informal discussion, moderated by Patty Raun, professor of performance and voice in the School of Performing Arts and director of the Center for Communicating Science.

Special thanks to the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee, Nicole Dietze, Ralph Hall, Sylvester A. Johnson, Greg Justice, Patty Raun, Cara Rawlings, Susanna Rinehart, Natasha Staley, Daniel Bird Tobin, and Kimberly Williams

DIG DEEPER

The Moss Arts Center Learning Guide is a resource for educators, students, and anyone who enjoys digging deeper into our programming. To engage even more fully with our season performances, view the full Learning Guide at bit.ly/LearningGuideMAC. Please use the following questions to spark your own contemplation about today's performance:

- How did this production impact your perception of Martin Luther King Jr.? What in the playwright, performer, and/or director's depiction conflicted with who King was? Conversely, what deepened our understanding or illuminated new truths about King and what he stood for?
- While King did stay in the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 3, 1968, the specific events depicted in Katori Hall's play *The Mountaintop* are fictitious. What would you consider to be the value and potential dangers of an artist creating such an imagined historical moment?
- In addition to staged plays, L.A. Theatre Works produces "radio theatre," a form experienced exclusively through sound. How might a "radio theatre" format serve Hall's work differently than *The Mountaintop* in live performance?
- On this 50th anniversary of King's death, take a moment to reflect on his legacy. How have his words and actions impacted your life, personally?

In the Galleries

RAY KASS

January 18-March 31, 2018

All galleries

Ray Kass, a prominent Virginia artist with a long record of national and international exhibitions, is well known not only for the quality and breadth of his art but as a pivotal, even catalytic figure in this region. Over the years Kass stood out as an exemplary artist, here and in the art world beyond, as well as a distinguished art professor at Virginia Tech. Among his many accomplishments was establishing and directing the Mountain Lake Symposium and Workshop programs, through which he brought art-world luminaries to this region—Clement Greenberg, Donald B. Kuspit, and John Cage, among others—and subsequently influenced generations of artists in Virginia and the southeast.

This exhibition highlights exemplary work from Kass' prolific career, ranging from his large scale, multi-panel *Polyptych* (1961-2003) paintings to his most recent *Still Lives* (2015-2018), created with stencils in an inventive layering of water media, oil emulsion, and dry pigment on rag paper. Among the key works in the exhibition is the monumental painting *Broad Channel: Vorticella Polyptych*, 1991 from the permanent collection of the Nevada Museum of Art, which will be seen in Virginia for the first time in 20 years.

ALSO ON VIEW

Ray Kass: *Silk and Water*

January 16-March 3, 2018

Perspective Gallery, Squires Student Center

Primary Elements: Foundational Works by Ray Kass

January 18-February 16, 2018

Armory Gallery, 203 Draper Road

GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu or 540-231-0840.