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A Note From The Director

Just folks trying to do the best they can with what they have. At its core, Peace Of Clay, is a love story, an anthology of so many love stories: a mother and son, a girl and her crush, a boy and his neighborhood. Clay Williams may harbor big dreams, but those dreams are driven by ordinary people, the same ordinary people you or I have come to know in our own lives. So often we are so focused on the bright lights of fortune and notoriety that sometimes we lose the magic of the ordinary. It is in ordinary people we have all found extraordinary things; extraordinary loves, extraordinary losses. It is the resilience and compassion of ordinary people that have gotten each of us to where we are today. I hope that if we take anything away from Clay's story it is that we need to cherish the beauty of ordinary folks; to endeavor to see everyone we encounter in the full spectrum of their humanity, to meet them in their multitudes, to remember that being ordinary is being human...and that is an extraordinary thing.



- Aurelia Belfield, Director of PEACE OF CLAY



Theatre Raleigh presents

in partnership with North Carolina Theatre

PEACE OF CLAY

Play by Mike Wiley and Howard L. Craft

Directed by **Aurelia Belfield**

Starring

Lakeisha Coffey*, Sai Graham, Rasool Jahan*, Trevor Johnson, Kyma Lassiter, Lauren Foster Lee, Myles Walker

Scenic Designer
Chris Bernier

Property Designer

Denise Schumaker

Costume Designer
Kishara McKnight

Lighting/Projection Designer

Sound Designer

Eric Alexander Collins

Charlie Raschke

Costume Supervisor/Dresser

Gabriel Miller

Master Electrician

Sound Associate

Kiahana Toomer

Morgann Russell

Production Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Mette Schladweiler

Paloma Johnson

COVID Safety Officers

LaNeisha Brown Farrar Kishara McKnight

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Connie	Kyma Lassiter
Dean	Rasool Jahan*
Clay	Myles Walker
Marvin	Sai Graham
Bumbry	Trevor Johnson
Aisha	Lauren Foster Lee
Sheila	Lakeisha Coffey*

Understudies

Understudy Clay/Marvin - Trevon Carr
Understudy Sheila/Dean/Connie - Lormarev Jones
Understudy for Bumbry - Jamal Farrar
Understudy for Aisha- Deanna Richards

*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States













Trevon Carr (*Understudy Clay/Marvin*) is excited to join the cast of Peace of Clay! Theatre Raleigh's, "Oh, What a night" & "Bud, Not Buddy". He was most recently played SHAWN in Theatre Delta's "What's your problem" in Long Island NY and Temple theatre's "Oliver!" an is excited to be back to stage for this one.



Lakeisha Coffey* (Sheila) is a regional performer from the Raleigh/Durham theater community. Regional Stage credits: Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years (North Carolina Theater) & Citrus (Northern Stage, VT). She graced the stage at Manbites Dog Theater in the farewell production of Wakey, Wakey, The Best of Enemies, brownsville song: a b-side for Tray, & The Miraculous and the Mundane.; Additional stage credits: I Love My Hair..., (FORTY/AM); Orange Light (Bulldog Ensemble Theater); Crumbs From the Table of Joy,

Gidion's Knot (Bartlett Theater); The Mountaintop, A Doll's House Remodeled (Justice Theater Project); The Container (Burning Coal Theater).



Jamal Farrar (Understudy Bumbry) is a writer, director, actor, producer and entrepreneur. He is exceedingly excited about this production. His hobbies include writing, working out and spending time with his wife, LaNeisha, and daughters; Alexus, Janaya and Jadyn. He is also looking forward to working with Theater Raleigh for the very first time. Jamal has worked with The Fox Television Network, and has been in many short films and 2 feature films. He has also directed music videos for national recording artists.. He continues to learn and grow as an actor and artist.



Sai Graham (Marvin) is very honored to be a part of this show! Regional Credits: In The Heights (Ensemble, NCT), West Side Story (Anxious, NCT), The Scottsboro Boys (Willie Roberson, Theatre Raleigh), Mamma Mia (Ensemble, NCT), Bud, Not Buddy (Theatre Raleigh). Other favorite credits: The Wild Party (Mr. Black, WPU), Kiss Me, Kate (Paul, WPU), Noises Off (Selsdon, WPU), Hairspray (Seaweed, RLT). IG: @sai_scraper



Rasool Jahan* (Dean) hails from North Carolina's oldest HBCU, and is truly excited to be sharing the stage with this dynamic Cast, Crew and Director! She was last seen on stage as Shelly in DOT(PlayMakers). Some of Rasool's favorite stage roles include, Esther Mills in Intimate Apparel (PlayMakers), Vivian Bearing in Wit, (Justice Theatre Project) and Pauli Murray in To Buy the Sun(Hidden Voices.) She can also be seen in House of Cards, The Resident(recurring), Cold Mountain and I Know What you Did Last Summer.

Rasool is a professional actress currently residing in Raleigh. She serves on the Social Justice Board of Hidden Voices and can't wait to play on stage with these amazing Beings! Thanks Mike and Howard!!



Trevor Johnson (Bumbry) is a long time resident of Durham, NC and a native of New Bern, NC. He was in Everybody, Jump and Leaving Eden with PlayMakers Repertory Company, and has performed in many other regional performances. Trevor has degrees from UNC-CH and NCCU. He is a family man and home inspector (who dabbles in real estate). Trevor enjoys traveling, exploring the outdoors, gardening and cooking.



Lormarev Jones (Understudy Sheila/Dean/Connie) is an Educator, Director/Choreographer, and Actor, who last appeared with Theatre Raleigh in Mamet's Race. She received her MFA in Theatre from Sarah Lawrence College. Lormarev has worked as an actor, director, and choreographer at many theatres and high schools in the Triangle, including Raleigh Little Theatre, Theatre in the Park, North Carolina State, and many others. She is also a deviser, playwright, and solo performer. Lormarev currently teaches at Meredith College while continuing to freelance in all her areas of expertise.



Kyma Lassiter (Connie) is a performing artist who currently resides in Raleigh, NC. Favorite acting credits include: A Doll's House: Remodeled, (Justice Theater Project); Harriet Tubman, The Maggie Walker Story (Virginia Repertory Theatre); uncletom:deconstructed (The Conciliation Project); A Civil War Christmas (Firehouse Theatre); The Piano Lesson (Cape Fear Regional Theatre); Our Town (LGP Theatrical Concern) and For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf (Burning Coal Theatre).



Lauren Foster Lee (Aisha) is an actor, singer, and improviser based in Durham, NC. Some of her favorite acting credits include: Citizen (Duke University), Caroline or Change (Justice Theatre Project), Black Nativity (Justice Theatre Project), For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf (Justice Theatre Project), Silver Lining (Peony Productions). Lauren has performed on Mettlesome's, Improv Noir and Golden Age teams. She was also featured in a full length run of an improvised play called The Setup.

She currently on Mettlesome's Stakeholder board and is a co-coach of Improv Noir. Sending oh so much love to my family and friends for their continued support!



Deanna Richards (Understudy Aisha) is so excited to be a part of her third show at Theatre Raleigh! Deanna is a recent BFA Musical Theatre graduate of William Peace University. When she is not performing, you can find her in Theatre Raleigh's office working as an Administrative Associate! Favorite roles include Leading Player in Pippin (Raleigh Little Theatre), Kate in The Wild Party (WPU), and Rose in Meet Me in St. Louis (WPU). Deanna would like to thank her family, friends, and Tre for all of their love and support. Instagram: @camilledeanna



Myles Walker (Clay) is from Atlanta, GA and is proud to be making his Theatre Raleigh debut. He has just made his professional debut in a production of Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost in New York this past summer. Myles is a recent graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He is grateful to his friends and family, and all involved in Peace of Clay for their love and hard work.



*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Aurelia Belfield (Director) (she/her) is a professional multi-hyphenate drawn to storytelling in all mediums. She's proud to have appeared as a performer in projects like: I Love My Hair, For Colored Girls, Orange Light, and The 25th Annual Putnam the Starcatcher. Carolina Ballet: MacBeth County Spelling Bee; as a playwright for A Doll's House: Remodeled; as the executive producer of The New Colossus audio drama, and as a creative producer and music supervisor for a variety of award winning films, television series, podcasts, and commercials. You can keep up with all of her most recent projects at: aurelianicole.carrd.co.

Chris Bernier (Scenic Designer) is excited to have joined the Theatre Raleigh team full-time a few years ago. Some of his favorite TR designs include Urinetown, August: Osage County, Boeing Boeing, Avenue Q and Barefoot in the Park. Chris designed Jesus Christ Superstar, Always, Patsy Cline, Wit, Next to Normal, Evita, and A Christmas Story for North Carolina Theatre. Thanks to his wife Delaina, daughter Susannah, and son Wesley for their love and support.

Eric Alexander Collins (Sound Designer) is excited for his eleventh season designing for Theatre Raleigh! Eric has used the pandemic to broaden his talents into the video/live streaming world by helping to make Living Room Live! Three of his past designs for Theatre Raleigh have been awarded Best Sound Design by BroadwayWorld: The Mystery of Edwin Drood (2016), Smokey Joe's Cafe (2017), and ONCE (2018). Eric first designed for -TR back in 2011, including the shows The Marvelous Wonderettes and Violet .Among his personal favorite credits include:

North Carolina Theatre: Billy Elliot: The Musical, Gypsy, Into The Woods, Mamma Mia. Theatre Raleigh: Avenue Q, Junk, The Secret Garden, Rock of Ages. Playmakers Rep. Co. (U.N.C.): She Loves Me, Peter and (2016 world premier ballet), Lynne Taylor-Corbett's Dracula and The Little Mermaid (both world premier ballets). North Carolina Symphony: The Music Man, Idina Menzel (in concert), Natalie Merchant (in concert), Natalie Merchant (in concert). University Theatre (N.C.S.U.): Our Town, The 39 Steps. Theatre In The Park: Godspell. "Welcome back to the theatre!"

Howard L. Craft (Playwright) is a poet, playwright and arts educator from Durham, N.C. He is the author of a book of poems, Across the Blue Chasm, and close to twenty plays. Craft is also the writer and creator of the radio drama, The Jade City Pharaoh, which airs on WUNC. Craft has twice won the North Carolina Central University New Play Project and has received the N.C. Arts Council Playwriting Fellowship. His play The Wise Ones was selected as a 2005 top production by Raleigh's News & Observer. His most recent work, Caleb Calypso & the Midnight Marauders, was selected as one of the best scripts for the 2009 Theatre Season by the Independent Weekly. His plays have been produced at North Carolina Central University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Carolina Theatre of Greensboro, N.C., and Manbites Dog Theatre, in Durham, N.C. During the school year, Craft reaches hundreds of children through the United Arts "Artists in the Schools" program, where he has conducted poetry residencies and student workshops (grades 3-12) since 2000. He has

twice been named North Carolina judge of the National Endowment of the Arts' Poetry Aloud. He was a member of the Duke University Young Writers Camp faculty from 2000-2010, specializing in experimental poetry and screenwriting, and has taught playwriting workshops for adults through the N.C. Writers Network and the Taller Portobello Art Colony in Portobello, Panama. He is currently the artist in residence for the Sonya Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Kishara McKnight (Costume

Designer/COVID Safety Officer) has always had an amazing love for the arts. She has served as Costume Manager for Yolanda Rabun's Songs of Holiday Cheer concert, A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald & "Neither One of Us, Yolanda Sings Gladys". She was also recently Costume Designer in TR's opening show of the season, "Oh, What A Night!". Kishara is currently a Project Manager specializing in coordinating business structures. She loves spending quality time with her family, friends, and puppy Riley. Kishara is looking forward to working with other amazing actors & Directors to develop additional skills in the future.

Charlie Raschke (Lighting/Projection Designer) is a North Carolina based Lighting Designer, Programmer, and Technician. His credits include work at Theatre Raleigh, North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre, BHS Dance, and EHS Arts, as well as freelance. He is versed in a wide variety of lighting consoles and works in concert, theatre, and dance industries. He is thrilled to be a part of this incredible project!

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Paloma Johnson (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back doing back she loves, theater. She has been a SM and ASM for multiple shows and considers them a wonderful, learning experience. As a mother she decided to go get her BA at UNCW where she spent multiple sleepless nights preparing for shows. She thanks her 2 kids for standing behind her through everything and supporting her dreams. She also thanks Lauren for this amazing opportunity and the amount of faith she has in her.

Morgann Russell (Sound Associate) is excited to be back at Theatre Raleigh this year for her second season. Previously, Morgann served as the sound engineer for Theatre Raleigh's 2019 production of Oh What a Holy Night. She also worked with the sound department on Beehive: The 60's Musical, The Bridges of Madison County, The Scottsboro Boys, and Fun Home.

Denise Schumaker (Property Designer) has designed props, costumes, and sets, and stage managed for theatre, dance, opera, and tours - plus film and television - for over 30 years. In addition to Theatre Raleigh and various independent projects, she designs for North Carolina Theatre, North Carolina Theatre Conservatory. North Carolina Opera, Theatre in the Park, William Peace Theatre, and Beery Media. She was honored with an Emmy® nomination in 2010. Her most recent feature film, What the Night Can Do, starring Stuart Margolin, JoBeth Williams, Max Martini and Peyton Kennedy, was released in 2020.

Mette CJ Schladweiler (Production Stage Manager) Mette has been stage-managing in the Triangle area for over 30 years and recently stage-managed "Fun Home" and "Neither One of Us: Yolanda sings Gladys" at Theatre Raleigh along with the NCSU Graduation Ceremonies at Carter Finley Stadium. Other credits at TR: Oh What a 'holy' Night! - 2019; Beehive, the Musical; The Rocky Horror Show; Once; Daddy Long Legs; Rock of Ages; The Secret Garden; Million Dollar Quartet; The Mystery of Edwin Drood; and many more. Other credits include: At NC State's University Theatre: Bright Star, Nunsense, the Musical, Truth Against the World - The Life and Loves of Frank Lloyd Wright, Hay Fever, Something's Afoot among numerous others; Raleigh Arts Commission's biannual Medal of Arts Ceremony. Mette is very excited to be back working in theatre with all the creative and talented individuals involved with this production at Theatre Raleigh! Much love to my husband, Linh and to my boys, Jackson and Maxx - along with John and Nancy for their love and support. Welcome back to the theatre everyone!!

Mike Wiley (Playwright) - Acclaimed actor and playwright Mike Wiley has spent the last decade fulfilling his mission to bring educational theatre to young audiences and communities across the country. In the early days of his career, Wiley found few theatrical resources to shine a light on key events and figures in African-American history. To bring these stories to life, he started his own production company. Through his performances, Wiley has introduced countless students and communities to the legacies of Emmett Till, Henry "Box" Brown and more. His recent works include a one-man play based on Dr. Timothy B. Tyson's memoir Blood Done Sign My Name, The Parchman Hour (celebrating the 1961 Freedom Riders), and Downrange: Voices on the Homefront (chronicling the challenges of military families post 9/11). Wiley has a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received UNC's Distinguished Alumnus Award by 2017, which recognizes alumni who have made outstanding contributions to humanity. In 2010 and 2014, Mike was named the Lehman Brady Visiting Joint Chair Professor in Documentary Studies and American Studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition to his numerous school and community performances, he has also appeared on Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel and National Geographic Channel and has been featured in Our State magazine and on PBS' North Carolina Now and WUNC's The State of Things.

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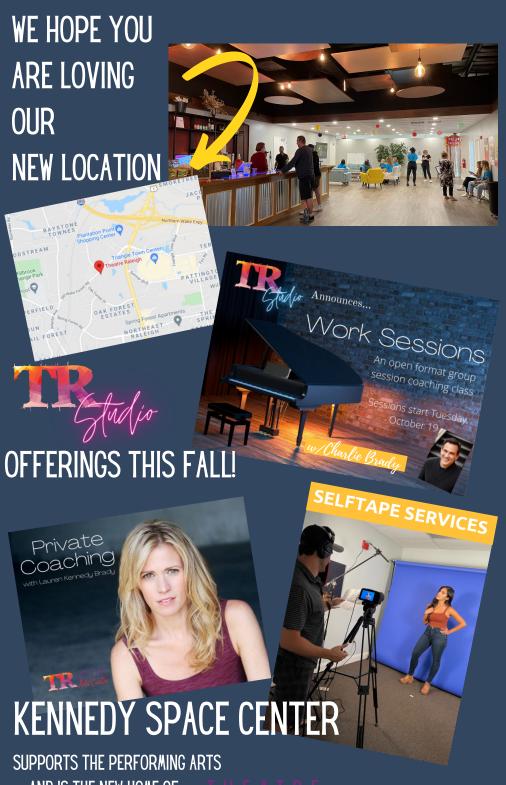
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Director	Aurelia Belfield
Stage Manager	Mette CJ Schladweiler
Assistant Stage Manager	Paloma Johnson
Scenic Designer	Chris Bernier
Sound Designer	Eric Alexander Collins
Costume Designer	Kishara McKnight
Property Designer	Denise Schumaker
Lighting/Projection Designer.	Charlie Raschke
Master Electrician	Kiahana Toomer
Sound Associate	Morgann Russell
Costume Supervisor/Dresser	Gabriel Miller
COVID Safety Officer	Kishara McKnight
	and LaNeisha Brown Farrar

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Master CarpenterDavid Stone	
Box Office/Company ManagerAshley Allen	
Administrative AssociateDeanna Richards	
Lobby Experience ManagerSean Michael Jaenicke	
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SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 3

