



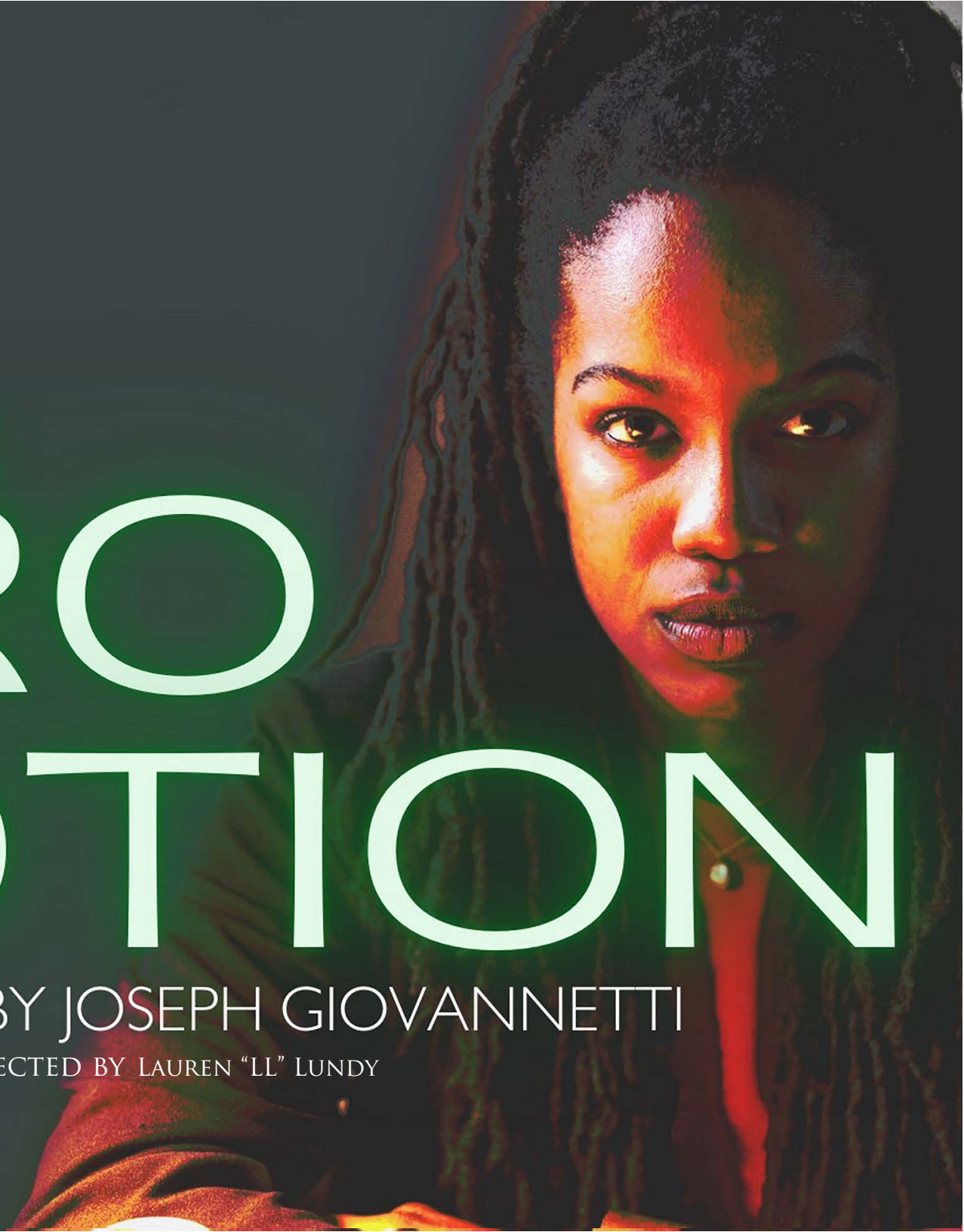
SEASON 33

# THE PRO MOTION

A NEW PLAY BY JOSEPH GIOVANNETTI

DIRECTED BY LAUREN "LL" LUNDY

DEVELOPED BY  
MPAACT'S PLAYWRIGHT'S LABORATORY  
STEEP THEATER



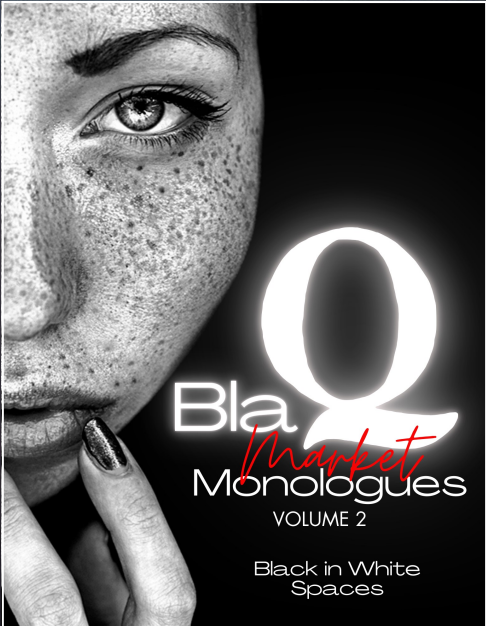
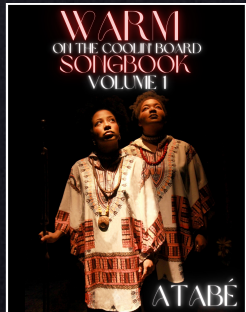
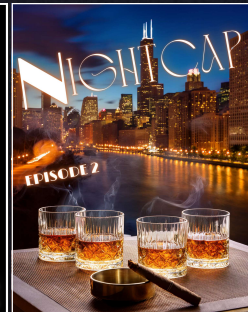
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AN AUDIO MULTIVERSE



# ABOUT THE PLAY

## SETTING

Present day Chicago.

The not so quiet spaces of corporate life, complete with cubicles, open floor plans, and closed minds.

## WRITER'S NOTE

I started writing this play more than ten years ago, specifically with MPAACT, my artistic home since I was 18 years old, in mind. It was a story I knew I wanted to tell in the space where bold, transformative Black theater lives. But as life unfolded, so did the journey of this play. Grad school brought opportunities to further develop it, which led me away from its original home.

*The Promotion* finally had its debut (or sorts) in March 2020 - only to be cut short by the pandemic after just a few performances. A re-imagined version ran in 2021, but something still felt unfinished.

Now, I'm thrilled to bring this play back to where it all began, to MPAACT, in the form it was always meant to take. This version represents a full-circle moment for me: what started here is now, finally, completed here.

At its heart, this play explores themes of ambition, identity, and the quiet negotiations we all make in spaces where power and vulnerability collide. It invites conversations about how we balance professional aspirations with personal responsibilities and the way privilege shapes opportunities - or the lack thereof.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I hope this work sparks meaningful dialogue and leaves you reflecting on the worlds we navigate every day and how each of us can show up in that world fully, as colleagues and friends.

With love,  
- Joseph Giovannetti

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I met Joseph Giovannetti at MPAACT as we were both beginning our careers as professional artists. Fresh from college theater programs we both found ourselves at a small storefront theater, run by old-school Black activists, determined to premiere a diversity of Black narratives.

This was a challenge from day one - finding our voices as the two distinctly non-Black artists, in a "Black first" creative collective. It has been the most privileged undertaking of my adult life. In these spaces, I have honed my craft, found fellowship, and with time, I have developed a keen eye for staging the complex narratives at which MPAACT excels - narratives grounded in the many cultures of Black people.

*The Promotion* was dropped into my lap just as Joe was navigating a new world of possibilities beyond MPAACT. He turned to me because he wanted a partner (in the director's chair) who understood his theater vocabulary - developed in large part with MPAACT. It also helped that I understood his sly wit, a hallmark of his work.

*The Promotion* is so very Joe and so very MPAACT at the same time. It is my honor to collaborate with Joe once again. We have both grown tremendously since we worked on this show for it's first public reading (at Steep Theater) almost a decade ago. Thank you for being here for our premiere - finally giving *The Promotion* the launch it so richly deserves.

- Lauren "LL" Lundy

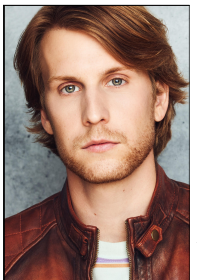
# CAST

Ariya Hawkins .....Trish  
Gavin Rhys .....Josh  
Alexandria Crawford .....Lois  
Casey Freund... ..Buchanan  
Michael J. Santos.....U/S Josh

# PROFILES



**Ariya Hawkins** (*Trish*) is a Chicago-based actor, singer, and educator. She is a graduate of Millikin Univ. with a B.F.A in musical theatre, and a proud alumna of The Chicago H.S. for the Arts (ChiArts). Recent regional credits include *Cabaret* (Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol), *Haven* (Outer Loop), *A Hit Dog Will Holler* (Artemisia), *Shut Up Kiss Me* (PrideArts), and *The Bikinis*, *The Queen Bees*, and *Vanities: The Musical* (Canterbury Summer Theatre). Touring credits include *A Raisin in the Sun* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Olney Theatre Center, National Players Tour 72), as well as *Imagine That!*, a Theatre for the Very Young (TVY) performance that toured across Chicago Public Libraries through a partnership with Northwestern Univ. When not performing, Ariya serves Chicago communities as a teaching artist, strengthening emotional literacy and fostering positive relationships through theatre & drama with hundreds of students. Ariya is thrilled to be making her MPAACT debut, and would like to thank her family, friends, and loving community for their continued support! [ariyahawkins.com](http://ariyahawkins.com)



**Gavin Rhys** (*Josh*) *The Promotion* marks Gavin's mainstage debut with MPAACT, but that is a bit misleading as he has spent the past few years working with MPAACT on several shows during their development. During the 4 years that we developed the musical *Red Summer*, Gavin brought in his amazing vocal instrument to help us refine characters and the production songbook. Later, he also offered his talents on an early incarnation of *The Book of Me*, by Leonard House - which just debuted here as our first offering in the 33rd season. Gavin's previous credits include, *The Singularity Play* (Jackalope) *Twelfth Night* and *King Lear* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks) *The Heat Death of the Universe* (The Once and Future Festival) *Queen C* and *Reality Theatre* (Trapdoor).



**Alexandria Crawford** (*Lois*) is an actor, teaching artist, and arts activist. Originally from St. Petersburg, Florida, she's now based in Chicago. Alexandria's training includes a B.A. in Theatre Arts and English from Rollins College, and an M.F.A. in Acting from Northwestern Univ., where she was a member of the inaugural cohort.

Recent credits include, *The Book of Me* (MPAACT) *Pro-Am* (u/s) (First Floor), *Dance Nation*, *Jump*, and *Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World* (Northwestern), *Much Ado About Nothing* (St. Petersburg Shakespeare Festival), and *Joe Turners Come and Gone* (American Stage). Alexandria is also an AEA membership candidate. For more about Alexandria visit: [www.alexandriacrawford.com](http://www.alexandriacrawford.com).



**Casey Freund** (*Buchanan*) started acting at the age of 15 when a teacher recognized that she needed to get an unfocused smart aleck a new outlet. He started out doing as much comedy as he could get his hands on. Eventually, he would focus his efforts in the world of improv, taking classes at IO and Second City. As of late, Casey has been doing more screen acting than stage. You can see him in the pilot episode of *Refresh* (Amazon Prime.) He plays the cleverly evil Mr. Black. Casey is very excited to be working with MPAACT on *The Promotion*. He would also like to thank his wife of 23 years, Gwen. She is "my best friend and my greatest supporter."



**Michael J. Santos** (*U/S Josh*) is a Chicago based actor and singer. He is happy to be revisiting MPAACT in *The Promotion*, following his work for the company on *Red Summer*. His recent credits include: *Next To Normal* (Pop Up! Productions), *Native Gardens* (WS Rep), *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis), and *The HMS Pinafore* (Gilbert and Sullivan Chicago Opera Co.). Other credits include, *Black Sox On Trial*, *Promises*, *Promises: In Concert*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. He is a graduate of Millikin Univ. with a BFA in Acting and a music minor. He is thankful for his lovely partner for being so helpful and supportive this past year.

# LEGACY

# ARTISTS

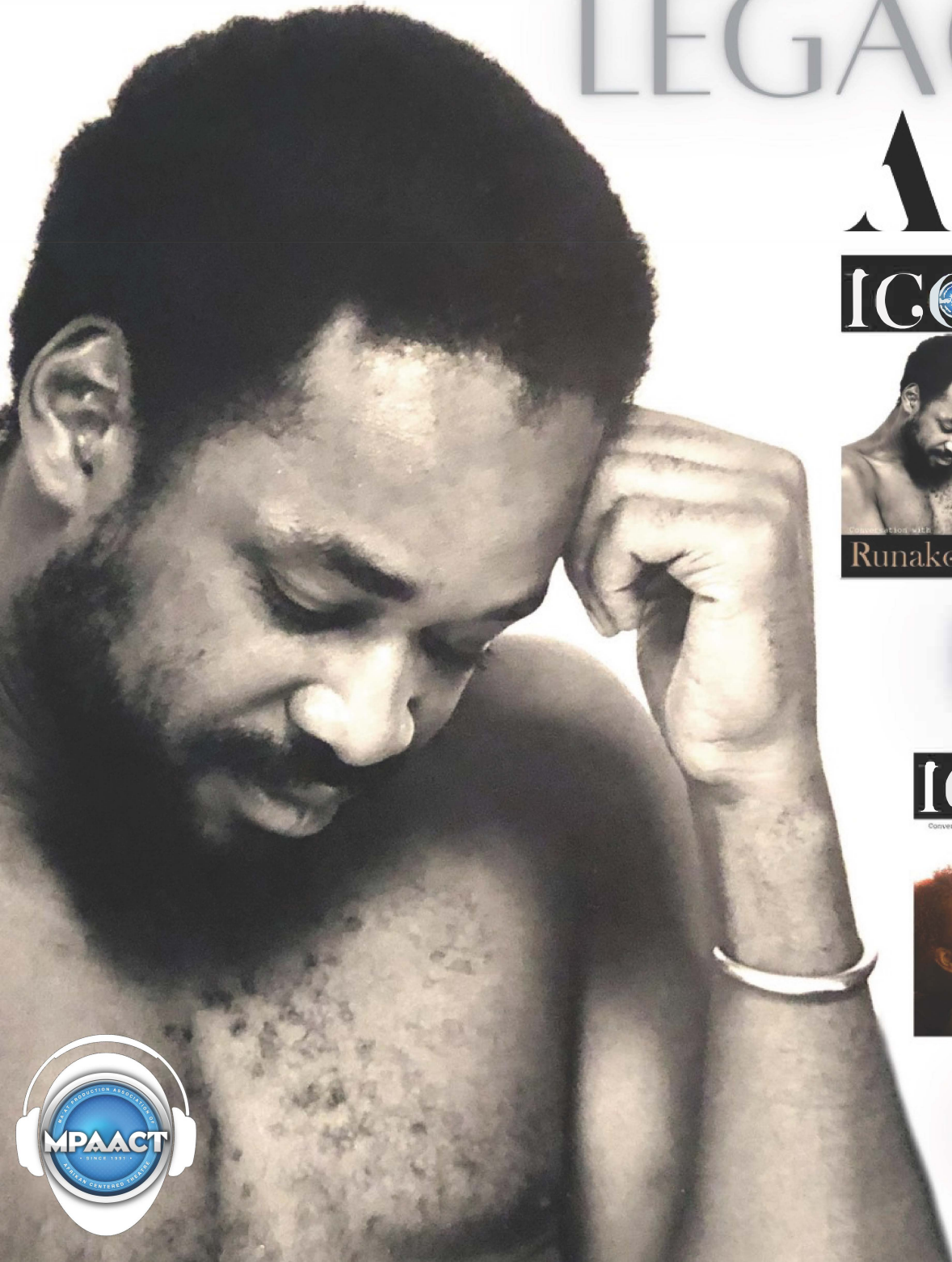


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# PRODUCTION



**Lauren “LL” Lundy** (*Director*) is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul Univ. This season marks her 11th with MPAACT. Ms. Lundy began this journey as an emergency fill-in for stage manager on our world premiere of Gloria Bond Clunie’s *Quark*. That same season, LL was welcomed into MPAACT as a company member, along with playwright Joseph Giovannetti. Though they have collaborated before as director and actor with *In the Mirror*

*Darkly*, as well as the numerous productions that they have shared billing as designers - *The Promotion* marks their first full production together in the roles of director and writer.

LL’s MPAACT directing credits include, *Warm on the Coolin’ Board* (2024 revival), *Ezekiel’s Wheel*, *Spoken Word*, *Swamp Baby*, *Starting Over*, and *Blood Mural*. She has also directed the MPAACT touring productions *Starting Over* and *In the Mirror Darkly*.

LL has also helmed *Half Life* (Broken Nose - Bechdel Fest), *One Direction* (Black Lives, Black Words), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show Live!* (Underscore), *The Seventh Night* (MPAACT Summer Jams) *Songs I Don't Know* (MPAACT Signature Series), *The Sacred Mother Tongue* (MPAACT Signature Series), a workshop of *The Promotion* (Steep), and a workshop of *Evolve -Transformations* (Red Door/Portland, OR).

During the pandemic LL expanded her work into audio media, where she helped launch MPAACT into the digital marketplace with POD-CAST PLAYS. She has had the joy of reimagining five of her signature shows for “the Audio Multiverse” - *Warm on the Coolin’ Board*, *In the Mirror Darkly*, *Spoken Word*, *Swamp Baby* and *Starting Over*.

In addition to her credits as a director, LL continues her invaluable work as MPAACT’s Managing Producer. ...*To Joe, the cast, and extended MPAACT family—thank you for making yet another world with me. Childhood dreams do come true.*



**Joseph Giovannetti** (*Playwright*) is entering his second decade as an MPAACT company member. His work with the company has included acting, lighting design, and various production assignments. Currently, Joseph is a playwright and screenwriter based in Milwaukee, WI. His plays have been developed by the Kennedy Center, Steep Theatre in Chicago, IL, and New Jersey Reperatory Theatre in Long Branch, NJ and of course here at MPAACT.

His short film *Lunar Cadence* was an L.A. Shorts Awards official selection and winner of the Platinum Award for best screenplay. He holds an MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage from Northwestern University.

In addition to his work as a dramatist, Joe is also a regular contributor of Listen magazine, where he chronicles the history of the company and the artists who contribute to our vibrant work. Joe thanks his family for the support and inspiration to continue his craft. He also thanks LL, the cast and the production team for helping him fully actualize *The Promotion*.



**Shepsu Aakhu** (*Tech Director*) has been the T.D. with MPAACT for more than three decades. His most recent work includes, *The Book of Me*, *Warm on the Coolin’ Board* (2024 revival), *Tad in 5th City*, *Blackademics* (2023 revival) *Dandelions*, *Ezekiel’s Wheel*, *Ride or Die*, *Pulled Punches*, *Spoken Word*, *One 4 the Road*, and *Swamp Baby*. His favorite designs for MPAACT include *Never the Milk and Honey*, *Swamp Baby*, *Tad in 5th City*, *Beneath A Dark Sky* (2008 revival), and *Kosi Dasa*, *MiLK* (2008 revival), and *Notes from the Bottletree*.

**Lauren Wells-Mann** (*Costume Design*) is a proud company member with MPAACT. In addition to her work as an award winning director, actor, and teaching artist, Lauren finds the time to put on her “costume designer hat” and help her company bring another show to life. Mrs. Wells-Mann holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Theater/Acting (Columbia College Chicago) and a Masters in Secondary Education (Univ. of Phoenix).

**Jessica Kuehnau Wardell** (*Set Design*) is a scenic and costume designer, teacher, and artist based in Chicago. As Artistic Associate with MPAACT since 2006, Jessica has designed countless productions including *Warm on the Coolin' Board*, *Pulled Punches*, *Spoken Word*, *Speaking in Tongues* (BTA Award - Best Set Design), *Ghosts of Atwood* and *Ten Square*. Other recent Chicago credits include *Noises Off* (Windy City Playhouse); *End Game* (Hypocrites); *Lela & Company* (Steep), and *The African Company presents Richard III* (Oak Park Shakespeare Fest). Her designs have been seen internationally with the production *Reprise* commissioned for the National Theatre of Scotland's Home Away Festival and *Juliet: A Dialogue About Love* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Regionally, Jessica is currently designing immersive theatrical cocktail experiences across the country with Fever Originals, and her scenic design for the new TYA production *Jabari Dreams of Freedom* (First Woman Theatre) concluded its tour at The New Victory Theatre on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in New York. Jessica holds an MFA in stage design from Northwestern University and is currently teaching and mentoring young theatre designers at The University of Chicago. [jesskdesign.com](http://jesskdesign.com)

**Casey Diers** (*Lighting Design*) Recent MPAACT credits include *Tad in 5th City* (2024 revival), *Pulled Punches*, *Leaves Trees Forest*, *Speaking in Tongues* [BTA Award – Best Lighting Design], *Ghosts of Atwood* [BTA Award – Best Lighting Design], *Zulu Fitzz*, *Tad in the 5<sup>th</sup> City* [BTA Award Nomination], *First Words*, and *Ten Square*. Other recent credits include *First Kings of Europe* (Field Museum), *Death: Life's Greatest Mystery* (Field Museum), *Stones in His Pockets* (Northlight) and assistant lighting designer for *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concerts* (Madison Square Garden), *Kafka on the Shore* (Steppenwolf) and *Kafka Fragments* (Lincoln Center, Inc). For more information visit: [www.CaseyDiers.com](http://www.CaseyDiers.com) and <http://www.morlights.com/>

**Shirley Carney** (*Consultant/ on Corporate Culture*) is the founder of Sullivan Durant a corporation focused on job preparedness and mentorship for college grads just entering the workforce. Ms. Carney is a longtime collaborator with MPAACT. Her voice work is featured in *Sweet Tea* and *Tad in 5th City*, on MPAACT's Podcast Plays, as is her adapted work *Relevant Hearsey*. Ms. Carney is a graduate of Roosevelt University in Chicago.

**Desta Sound** (*Sound Design*) returns to MPAACT on the heels of a fabulous run with designs for the post-pandemic premieres of, *The Book of Me*, *Pulled Punches*, *Red Summer*, *Ride or Die*, *Ezekiel's Wheel*, *Dandelions*, *Tad in 5th City* (revival). Anchored by Shepsu Aakhu, this design team continues to make MPAACT's "sound" the most distinctive in the city. Most recently, Desta Sound has had the privilege of designing sound for many of the audio titles in MPAACT's catalog of podcast plays. Sign-up and take a listen to the worlds that can be built entirely with sound and your own imagination.

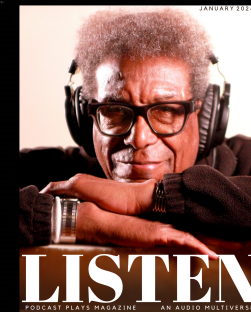
**Gin To** (*Production Stage Manager*) (they/she) is a writer and artist based in Chicago for at least another year (work permit stuff, long story). Gin lived in Chicago around 2016-2021 when they attended DePaul University and worked in theatre in various capacities. Gin recently completed an MFA in Creative Writing at University of California, San Diego. (It was fun and they met great people!). Gin is grateful to MPAACT for this opportunity and looks forward to continuing to work with them. Connect with Gin on IG (@gintonic2912) or just say hi in person if you don't do social media like that. :)

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# THE PROMOTION

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director .....Lauren “LL” Lundy  
Playwright.....Joseph Giovannetti  
Production Stage Manager .....Gin To  
Technical Director.....Shepsu Aakhu  
Set Design.....Jessica Wardell  
Lighting Design.....Casey Diers  
Sound Design.....Desta Sound  
Costume Design.....Lauren Wells-Mann  
Cultural Consultant.....Shirley Carney  
Dramaturgy.....Shepsu Aakhu  
Technical Director.....Shepsu Aakhu  
Production Photographers.....Abboyé Lawrence/Shepsu Aakhu  
Production Manager.....Lauren “LL” Lundy

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company stage  
A launchpad for storytellers  
BY JOSEPH GONZALEZ

**TRIPLE THREATS OF RED SUMMER**  
by Sheron Kubke

**EFFÉ MCWORTER MORE THAN FAME**  
by Sheron Kubke

**THE ORACLE OF SHEPSU AAKHU'S SPIRIT PLAYS**  
FEATURE ARTICLE  
LAUREN T. LUDY

**THE LYRICAL LANDSCAPES OF ADDAE MOON**  
Addae Moon is an extraordinary writer, defined as much by his love writing as his ability to write. He has been featured in *PODCAST PLAYS* on the early 2018 issue. He is currently working on his first novel, which he has just begun to publish. He is also a professor of creative writing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the author of the book *The Lyrical Landscapes of Addae Moon*. He is also a professor of creative writing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the author of the book *The Lyrical Landscapes of Addae Moon*.

**Birth of a Dream**  
by Sheron Kubke

**THE UNSUSPECTING Afro Futurist**  
by Sheron Kubke

**Hubris**  
or how to build an arts legacy when you don't really know what you're doing  
by Sheron Kubke

**THE MPAACT SOUND**  
BY SHERON KUBKE

# THE COMPANY

\* Denotes Founding Member



## MISSION

The Ma'at Production Association of Afrikan Centered Theater (MPAACT) is a professional, not-for-profit theater association founded in 1990. Our mission is to develop, nurture, and sustain original Afrikan Centered Theater (ACT) as a multi-disciplinary art form of American Theater. ACT is a genre of artistic expression grounded in the many cultures and traditions of the Afrikan continent and its Diaspora. With a vision focused upon new works and collaborative art, MPAACT shall produce and educate with the goal of bringing forth an understanding and appreciation of Afrikan Centered Theater and its inter-related disciplines.

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# LISTEN

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# 33 SEASONS

<i>The Book of Me</i>	World Premiere	2024
<i>Warm on the Coolin' Board</i>	Revival	2024
<i>Tad in 5th City</i>	Revival	2024
<i>Blackademics</i>	Revival	2023
<i>Dandelions</i>	World Premiere	2023
<i>Ezekiel's Wheel</i>	World Premiere	2023
<i>Ride or Die</i>	World Premiere	2022
<i>Red Summer</i>	Premiere Staging	2022
<i>Pulled Punches</i>	World Premiere	2022
<i>Podcast Plays</i>	Established	2021
<i>Spoken Word</i>	World Premiere	2020
<i>The Master Comic</i>	World Premiere	2019
<i>One 4 the Road</i>	World Premiere	2019
<i>Swamp Baby</i>	World Premiere	2019
<i>Black and Blue</i>	World Premiere	2018
<i>Blood Mural</i>	World Premiere	2018
<i>Mother of the Dark Water</i>	World Premiere	2018
<i>100 Acts of Resistance</i>	Established	2018
<i>Burf of a Nation</i>	World Premiere	2017
<i>Never the Milk &amp; Honey</i>	World Premiere	2017
<i>By Association</i>	World Premiere	2017
<i>Starting Over</i>	World Premiere	2016
<i>Feral</i>	World Premiere	2016
<i>Upstate</i>	World Premiere	2016
<i>Lawd The CVS is Burnin'</i>	World Premiere	2015
<i>Divine Order of Becoming</i>	Revival	2015
<i>Softly Blue</i>	Revival	2015
<i>The Inside</i>	Revival	2014
<i>Without Trace</i>	World Premiere	2014
<i>Quark</i>	World Premiere	2014
<i>Signature Showcase Series</i>	Established	2014
<i>Summer Jams</i>	Established	2014
<i>Warm on the Coolin' Board</i>	World Premiere	2013
<i>When Good Broccoli Goes Bad</i>	World Premiere	2013
<i>Reality Check</i>	World Premiere	2013
<i>Leaves Trees Forest</i>	World Premiere	2013
<i>Blackademics</i>	World Premiere	2012

<i>Bodies</i>	World Premiere	2012
<i>Sweet Home</i>	World Premiere	2012
<i>Speaking in Tongues/ Babel</i>	World Premiere	2011
<i>A Brown Tale (Da-da Re...)</i>	World Premiere	2011
<i>The Last St on Sugar Hill</i>	World Premiere	2011
<i>Ghosts of Atwood</i>	World Premiere	2011
<i>Solo Jams</i>	Established	2011
<i>Dance Jam</i>	Established	2011
<i>Zulu Fits</i>	World Premiere	2010
<i>Film Jam</i>	Established	2010
<i>Sketch Jam</i>	Established	2010
<i>Tad in 5th City</i>	World Premiere	2010
<i>First Words</i>	World Premiere	2010
<i>Ten Square (w/Pegasus)</i>	World Premiere	2009
<i>Radical Hearsay...</i>	World Premiere	2009
<i>Stage Black</i>	World Premiere	2009
<i>No Experience Necessary</i>	World Premiere	2008
<i>BlaQ Market Monologues</i>	Established	2008
<i>She Calls Up The Sun</i>	Revival	2008
<i>Beneath A Dark Sky</i>	Revival	2008
<i>MiLK</i>	Revival	2007
<i>Trouble the Water</i>	World Premiere	2007
<i>Blaxploitation 2...</i>	World Premiere	2007
<i>Panther Burn</i>	World Premiere	2006
<i>Softly Blue</i>	World Premiere	2006
<i>Blaxploitation: The Remix</i>	World Premiere	2005
<i>Bus Boyz (w/Prop Thtr)</i>	World Premiere	2005
<i>The Divine Order of Becoming</i>	World Premiere	2005
<i>Relevant Hearsay...</i>	World Premiere	2004
<i>Notes from the Bottletree</i>	World Premiere	2004
<i>SOST</i>	World Premiere	2003
<i>Scorched Earth: Fertile Ground</i>	World Premiere	2003
<i>Kiwi Black</i>	World Premiere	2003
<i>Ekomo Akyede</i>	Established	2003
<i>She Calls up the Sun</i>	World Premiere	2002
<i>Defending Myself</i>	World Premiere	2002
<i>Mahalia &amp; ME</i>	B-cast Premiere	2002
<i>Kosi Dasa</i>	World Premiere	2002
<i>Fascia</i>	World Premiere	2001
<i>The Alibi Transcripts</i>	Established	2001

<i>Urban Griot Project</i>	World Premiere	2001
<i>Tere-tocha-chew:</i>	World Premiere	2000
<i>Exoskeletal Blues</i>	World Premiere	2000
<i>The Glow of Reflected Light</i>	World Premiere	2000
<i>Within the Dream</i>	World Premiere	1999
<i>The Abesha Conspiracy</i>	World Premiere	1999
<i>Beneath A Dark Sky</i>	World Premiere	1998
<i>The Inside</i>	World Premiere	1998
<i>The Empire Festival</i>	World Premiere	1998
<i>The Scott Joplin Story</i>	B-cast Premiere	1998
<i>Piece-Meal Clan</i>	World Premiere	1997
<i>Tales from an Urban Empire</i>	World Premiere	1997
<i>The Underground Poetry Jam</i>	Established	1997
<i>Afrosynthesis</i>	World Premiere	1997
<i>Screams w/out Consciousness</i>	Wkshop Prod.	1997
<i>A Kwanzaa Carol</i>	World Premiere	1996
<i>Short Orders: One Acts Fest.</i>	Established	1996
<i>Girl to be Named Later</i>	World Premiere	1996
<i>Otherworld Lovers</i>	World Premiere	1996
<i>From Funk 2 Fusion</i>	World Premiere	1996
<i>MiLK</i>	World Premiere	1995
<i>Slices</i>	Established	1995
<i>A Night of Jazz Fusion</i>	World Premiere	1995
<i>Tales of the Kitalogo</i>	World Premiere	1994
<i>Vital Signs</i>	World Premiere	1994
<i>Continuum: Visions/Yetunde</i>	World Premiere	1993
<i>Restore the Rhythm</i>	World Premiere	1992

## SUBMISSIONS

MPAACT is committed to the development of original works.

Unsolicited scripts are encouraged.

P.O. Box 10039 - Chicago, IL 60610 - (661) 373-3089

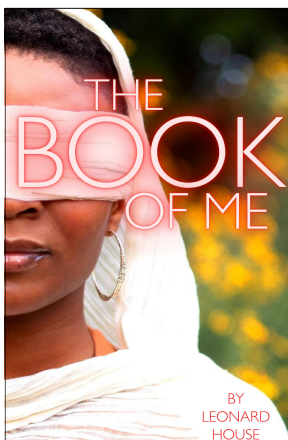
[WWW.MPAACT.ORG](http://WWW.MPAACT.ORG)



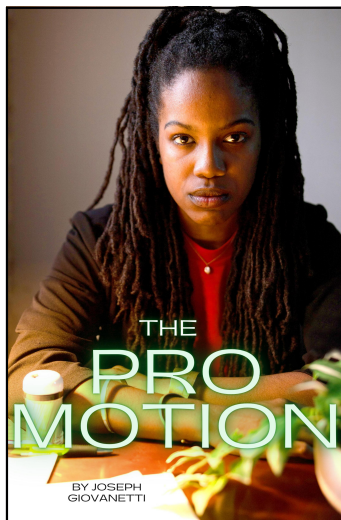


# SEASON 33

## 3 WORLD PREMIERES



**THE BOOK OF ME**  
**BY LEONARD HOUSE**  
**DIRECTED BY CARLA STILLWELL**



JAN. 17– MAR. 2, 2025

**THE PROMOTION**  
**BY JOSEPH GIOVANNETTI**  
**DIRECTED BY LAUREN “LL” LUNDY**

Trish and Josh are friends. They’re also the top two salespeople in their small insurance agency. When they find out they’ve each been offered a shot at the same big promotion, their friendly workplace rivalry implodes. Now they’ll have to figure out what they really want.. and how badly they really want it. A dark comedy about race, gender, and upward mobility in the 21st century.



**MACHINE MADE**  
**ADAPTED FROM INTERVIEWS WITH**  
**CHUCK BOWEN**

APRIL 18 – JUNE 1, 2025

**WRITTEN BY SHEPSU AAKHU**  
**DIRECTED BY CHUCK SMITH**  
**MEDIA BY ABOYE LAWRENCE**

In this tour de force, Shepsu Aakhu explores the memories of Chuck Bowen, a “machine made” public servant who rose to prominence in the Democratic Party of the 1950’s and who now in his early-90’s, continues to have the ear of the powerful. Covering his entrance into the party during the same period as Harold Washington, Chuck’s story covers the intersection of policing, organized crime, the policy racket, housing and urban development, the patronage system and the uneasy bargains that helped to define a century of life in this city. Through his unique perspective we glimpse the epic moments of his life and that of Chicago, with humor, warmth, wisdom, and an honesty that only a political insider can provide.

# 33 SEASONS

**294 HONORS**

**107 STAGED PRODUCTIONS**

**88 WORLD PREMIERES**

**90 PODCAST PLAY TITLES**

**55 AWARDS**

**24 ISSUES OF LISTEN**

**23 ARTISTS**

**4 PUBLISHED ANTHOLOGIES**

**2 BROADWAY PRODUCED WRITERS**

**1 AMAZING CULTURAL INSTITUTION**

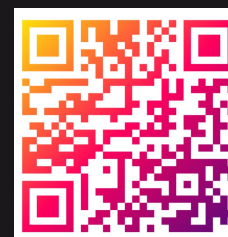


MPAACT has been producing live theater for 33 seasons. It has been a year of great challenges and great art making, but the business of bringing you this art has certainly gotten more difficult.

Your investment is vital to our sustainability. We are asking that you invest in the cultural art that we create - honest examinations of our shared history, our culture, our values, and our struggles to manifest the best of ourselves in times of crisis.

In the current political climate, our work has taken on added importance. We seek to expand the space for dialogue, we wish to continue presenting challenging and nuanced ideas that facilitate understanding, personal, and societal growth. We can't do this work without your investment.

Consider telling a friend, bringing them to a show, gifting them an audio subscription or donating to MPAACT below. In doing so, you'll help us continue to provide quality cultural art. Your contributions will help to ensure another spectacular season of world premiere work.



**INVEST**  
**HERE**

