



# THE NEGRO ENSEMBLE COMPANY

## NO POLICY, NO JUSTICE

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE PRODUCER** Karen Brown

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS** Patrice Davidson & Tracy Mack

**DIRECTOR** Ralph McCain

**BREATH** by Cynthia Grace Robinson

**IMANI CARRINGTON** Leah Finnie

**KIM WRIGHT** Kenya Wilson

**ELEVATOR NOT NECESSARY** by Mona R. Washington

**JEROME MILTON, JR.** Benjamin Rowe

**KARL MILTON** Alton Ray

**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Patrice Davidson

**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Melody A Beal

**SOUND DESIGNER** David D. Wright

**COSTUME DESIGNER** Rhonda Lucas

**STAGE MANAGER** Erica Jeudy

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER** Liam Riordan

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Harold Prince Theatre

There will be an intermission.

Friday, October 20 @ 8 PM

Saturday, October 21 @ 2 PM

Saturday, October 21 @ 8 PM

The Negro Ensemble Company's performances are made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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### **Kenya Wilson** (Kim Wright, *Breathe*)

Wilson trained at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Her recent New York stage credits in 2022 include: *Wait Until Dark* (Susy Hendrix) produced by Theatre for the Living Word; *Picking Up The Pieces* (Lucy Rushen), *Black Love* (Samantha) and *Oya* (Agemo) at the Black Spectrum Theatre; and *The Slave Who Loved Caviar* (Jennifer Blue and the Shadow Dancer) at Theatre for the New City. Her next production will be as Melody Wells in *The Conductor*, written by Ishmael Reed. She'll also be reprising her lead role as Vera in *When Knights Fall* this year, written by Klehotas Tshyre.

### **Leah Finnie** (Imani Carrington, *Breathe*)

Finnie (a.k.a. LADY LEAH), an Ohio native, grew up in a home filled with music and performance. As a teenager, she sang with her siblings backing their father, who was the minister of music for their local church. They were known as The Pearson Family, traveling and singing throughout the Midwest. High school plays, musicals and speech tournaments helped prepare her for life as an actress, jazz vocalist and voiceover artist. She received her bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in communications. Her professional career began in New York City, as a national on and off camera commercial principal, making her a very familiar face. Finnie can be seen and heard in national TV and radio ads for Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, Colonial Penn Life Insurance, Bank of America, Johnson & Johnson, Glaxo Wellcome, Nestle, AT&T and on TV's *Law & Order: SVU*. *Breathe* marks her second stage performance with The Negro Ensemble Company. Other theatre works include *A Raisin in the Sun* at Riverside Church, *Porgy and Bess* at Chicago's McCormick Theatre and the Thespis NY Theatre Festival. She is represented by KMR Agency, Los Angeles/New York.

### **Benjamin Rowe** (Jerome Melton, Jr., *Elevator Not Necessary*)

Rowe is a New York-born-and-based actor. He is honored and thrilled to be joining this production, and even more so to be part of an institution that has done and is doing such meaningful work. As always, Rowe must thank his wife, Dawn, and their children, Julian, Da'Wren, Jahanna and Indirabelle, for sharing him with the creative world and for their support.

### **Alton Ray** (Karl Milton, *Elevator Not Necessary*)

Ray is a northern CA native who moved out to NY to get his BFA from the Acting Conservatory at SUNY Purchase. He is also the creator of the web series, "Day One." Theatre credits: *The Chosen Ones* at The American Theater of Actors; Neil Simon's *Rumors* at The Blank Stage, Los Angeles; Sam Shepard's *Cowboy Mouth* at The New Collective Theater, Hollywood; among others. Instagram: @rayalityshow

### **Patrice Andrew Davidson** (Scenic Designer)

Davidson is a production designer and art director for film and motion pictures, and a scenic designer for live entertainment. 2022 marked his third decade in the entertainment industry, during which he has garnered numerous awards and nominations. Davidson is proud to still be creating with a passion and love for his craft. "Live life well and enjoy the journey!"

### **David D. Wright** (Sound Designer)

Wright is an 11-time "VIV" AUDELCO Award-winner for Excellence in Sound Design, in addition to winning for Musical Direction. He is a multiple award-winner for radio and film as well. Wright is grateful for this experience with NEC, with this remarkable group of creators. He takes this opportunity to thank Olodumare, Gbogbo Egun and Gbogbo Orisa for his success.

**Rhonda Lucas** (Costume Designer)

Lucas is an established fashion designer who has been in the industry for over 20 years. Her designs have been featured in *Glamour*, *Essence* and Victoria's Secret. She has constructed pieces for Dance Theatre of Harlem, Black Spectrum Theatre, singers, dancers, etc. and is now a proud member of the NEC company. Instagram: @renyeaofficial

**Cynthia Grace Robinson** (Playwright, *Breathe*)

Robinson is an award-winning playwright, recently awarded the Not a Moment, But a Movement commission with Center Theater Group. Works include *Freedom Summer* (NCBlackRep); *Dancing On Eggshells* (Billie Holiday Theatre); *Peola's Passing* (New Perspectives Theatre); *Gold Star Mother* (EstroGenius); *Ascension* (NYCFringe); and *Thunder: A Musical Memoir* (NYCFringe). CynthiaGraceRobinson.com

**Mona R. Washington** (Playwright, *Elevator Not Necessary*)

Washington is an award-winning playwright, librettist and activist. A 2021 New Jersey Artist Individual Fellowship recipient, her plays have been performed in Italy and France, as well as the United States.

**Ralph McCain** (Director)

McCain recently directed the play *Thurgood*, whose star, Doug Wade, won a 2020 AUDELCO Award for Best Solo Performance as well as *The Chickens Come Home to Roost* by Laurence Holder for New Federal Theatre and *A Raisin in the Sun* at the American Theatre of Actors in New York City. His acting roles have included the role of Jim Bono and Gabe in *Fences*, Boyd Henry in *Sundown Names Night Gone Things* and Sunday in New Federal Theater's production of *The Most Dangerous Man in America*. Other stage credits include the portrayal of A. Phillip Randolph in the play *The Good Fights*, Elijah Muhammad in The H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players production of *The Devil* (AUDELCO nominee Best Lead Actor), Rev. Charles Dupree in The Billie Holiday Theatre's production of *The Right Reverend Dupree in Exile* (AUDELCO nominee Best Lead Actor), Sweets Crane in *No Place To Be Somebody*, Wining Boy in *The Piano Lesson* for The Tennessee Repertory Theatre and Black Spectrum Theatre, and Frank in *Flyin' West*. Television credits include *One Life to Live*, *Another World* and *The Sopranos*; independent film *Flowers* (SXSW Film Festival); and the short film, *un•bind*.

**Erica Jeudy** (Stage Manager)

Jeudy is a recent graduate from York College with a BA in performing arts and a minor in creative writing. Although her passion lies on the stage, she enjoys working in all areas that go into creating the magic of theatre and is thrilled to be a part of this incredible production.

**Liam Riordan** (Assistant Stage Manager)

Riordan is a long-time builder of theatre in NYC, both on and offstage. Most recently, he has been on the tech team for Negro Ensemble Company's *Mecca Is Burning* and *Unentitled* plus New Federal Theatre's *Gong Lum's Legacy* (Audelco Award-winner, Best Play) and *Telling Tales Out of School*. He has also worked with the DreamUp Festival at Theater for the New City, Castillo Theatre, Mystical Feet Company and Astoria Performing Arts Center. Riordan has performed at BAM, Lincoln Center and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

# 23/24 SEASON

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

OCT 29  
Ulysses Owens Jr. Big Band

NOV 9  
*The Songs of Solomon*  
The Music of Salamone Rossi

NOV 12  
The Flying Karamazov Brothers  
4PLAY

NOV 17-18  
Doug Varone and Dancers

NOV 19  
Erena Terakubo

DEC 3  
Christian McBride's  
New Jawn

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