

Get Ready For Our Central Works 2023 Season!



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Central Works
presents



**The Museum
Annex**



Central Works mission is to develop and produce new plays for the theater. We are building a community where our commitment to new plays and civic engagement flourish together.

Central Works believes:

- New Plays are the lifeblood of a vital, relevant, and progressive theater.
- Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—in our storytelling, our company, and our audiences—are fundamental to our success.
- We are committed to social justice and the exploration of pressing political issues facing our world, inviting our community to reflect, converse, and connect in civic engagement.

A Note From the Playwright

Dear Audience,

Thanks so much for visiting The Museum Annex. I'm very grateful to Central Works for bringing it to life. But that wouldn't mean anything without you.

This is a comedy I've wanted to write since I first saw George C. Wolfe's *The Colored Museum*. The Annex is a celebration of Black women's history, which is American history. I hope you can find yourself in it. The themes strive to be universal.

Don't forget to laugh and have a good time. There are some emotional moments, but it is meant to be a romp.

In gratitude,

Mildred Inez Lewis



Enjoy 15% off Dinner
before the show

*Excludes beverages, tax & gratuity

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Executive Chef Fabrice Marcon, a Master Chef of France



We have relaunched the lounge on the second floor of the Berkeley City Club as Morgan's Bar & Lounge! Take a seat at our new bar, originally built in the 1880s and graciously donated and restored by a few of our own members.

Try our wide variety of cocktails, wine, beer, and small bites.

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 4:30pm-9:00pm

Berkeley City Club | 2315 Durant Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704 | www.berkeleycityclub.com

The Berkeley City Club is a historic hotel, private social club, and event venue. It has been accepted into the National Register of Historic Places and is a member of the Historic Hotels of America. In 1927, a small group of women hired Julia Morgan to design and supervise the construction of a center around women's activities. Miss Morgan's "Little Castle" opened in November 1930 as the Berkeley Women's City Club, which became a center for social, cultural, recreational, and family activities in the East Bay.

For more information, please visit

berkeleycityclub.com.

What Some of Our Central Workers Are up To:

Michael Barrett Austin will be performing in Center Rep's production of *A Christmas Carol*, Dec 8-22 at the Leshner Center. Reservations & info: CenterRep.org or 925.943.7469

Chelsea Bearce is performing under **Stephanie Anne Johnson's** lighting design for *The Music of Mothers* by **Victoria Evans Erville** at TheatreFirst, Oct 7-23. Reservations & info: TheatreFirst.com or 510.981.8150

Tamar Cohn has been performing in *Picnic* at Ross Valley Players thru Oct 9. Reservations & info: RosValleyPlayers.com

Cristina Garcia has a new novel, *Vanishing Maps—a sequel to Dreaming in Cuban*, being published in July 2023. Information: CristinaGarciaNovelist.com

Stephanie Anne Johnson has created the piece *Ancestor's Grove: A Space Journey* for the Lake Merritt Autumn Lights Festival, Oct 13-15. Reservations & info: EventBrite.com

Patricia Milton is having the East Coast Premiere of her play *The Victorian Ladies' Detective Collective* produced at The Public Theatre, Nov 4-13. Reservations & info: ThePublicTheatre.org or 207.782.3200

Kimberly Ridgeway directs *A Nice Family Gathering* at Altarena Playhouse, Oct 21-Nov 20. Reservations & info: AltarenaPlayhouse.org or 510.523.1552

Gregory Scharpen is the editor of the documentary film *Town Destroyer*, which is fresh off its world premiere at this year's Mill Valley Film Festival and it will have a run at the Roxie in San Francisco, starting in early November. Reservations & info: roxie.com

Erin Mei-Ling Stuart is co-directing and choreographing *Natasha and Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* at Shotgun Players, Nov 5-Dec 30. Reservations & info: ShotgunPlayers.org or 510.841.6500

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1990 N. California Blvd., Suite 300 Phone: (415) 597-7800
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The Museum Annex

written by **Mildred Inez Lewis**

directed by **Elizabeth Carter**

World Premiere #69: from the Central Works Writers Workshop

The Ensemble

(in order of speaking)

Juanita Harris..... Margot
Brittany Nicole Sims Angie
Brenda Miles..... Njeri
Ije Success Bree
Julia Jackson Lala

Natalia Rivera-Ramos stage manager
Michael Berg wigs
Tammy Berlin..... costume design
Alexa Burrell projection design
Gary Graves technical director
Stephanie Anne Johnson light design
Robin Valerie Low box office/front of house
Juliann Luthang operator
Venus L Morris costuming associate
Ashley Munday master electrician
Gregory Scharpen sound design
Debbie Shelley properties design
Jan Zvaifler producing director

Kevin Clarke..... poster/mailer/brochure design
David Hyry & Associates..... public relations
Robbie Sweeny photography
Kendra Lee Oberhauser program design

David Harder & Patricia Milton/Will & Linda Schieber production sponsors

The action takes place in the recently built women's annex to George C. Wolfe's Colored Museum. It is an interactive museum.

The play runs 2 hours with a 10-minute intermission.

This production is also made possible with the generous support of the **Berkeley Civic Arts Grants Program**, and the **Fleishhacker, RHE, and Sam Mazza Foundations**.

Central Works recognizes that our performance space is positioned on Huchuin territory, unceded land of the Lisjan Ohlone people. Our community has benefited from this land, and we owe the Ohlone people a collective debt.

We donate annually to the Sogorea Te' Land Trust.

Bios

TAMMY BERLIN (costume design) began her theater career in Chicago where she was the Artistic Director of Transient Theatre and Heroes Inc. Ensemble and The Managing Director of The Playwrights' Center. After moving to the Bay Area she switched her focus to costume design. Most recently she has designed shows for Bay Area Children's Theatre, Playground, 42nd Street Moon, Broadway By the Bay, St. Mary's College, Marin Shakespeare, and Berkeley Playhouse, as well as films for Flying Moose Productions, Videosyncrasy and EyeQ Films. She is the resident costume designer for Central Works.

ALEXA BURRELL (projection design) was born in San Francisco, CA in 1987. A mercurial mixed-media artist, Alexa creates immersive video and sound installations that center complex Black femme experiences, environmental change and speculative documentation. Alexa weaves together field recordings, video composites, projections, animations, sculptures and archival materials to create lush fantastical and evocative narratives that compare the emotional and material, natural and technological and scientific and spiritual. Website: alexachristineburrell.com, instagram: @fogapocalypse

ELIZABETH CARTER (director) is thrilled to be working with Central Works for the first time. Most recently Elizabeth directed *Stoop Stories* for Aurora Theatre Co. She has had the great pleasure of directing *Bondage* (Honorable Mention for the Relentless Award for Alter Theatre) and since has directed the ground breaking 2020 virtual production of *King Lear* and *Pericles: Episode 3* (SF Shakespeare Festival), *Feel the Spirit* (Shotgun Players/Colt Couer NYC), *Every 28 Hours Plays* and *A Place To Belong* (A.C.T.), *for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf* (African American Shakespeare Company - awarded Broadway World Best Ensemble), *From the Ground Up*, *Participants* (SFBACCA Best Anthology play) and *Just One Day* (TheatreFirst). She is a recipient of the Bridging the Gap Grant and is a 2019 alum of Director's Lab West. Elizabeth is the inaugural SDCF Lloyd Richards New Futures Resident Director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival where she worked on *How I Learned What I Learned* and directed the film *Bottled Spirits*, which will premiere in 2023. @elizabethcarterarts

GARY GRAVES (technical director) has been a resident playwright and company co-director at Central Works since 1998. He has been a part of developing 69 world premiere productions with the company, many of which he has either written and/or directed. Some of the other productions he has directed for the company include *The Lady Matador's Hotel*, *Bamboozled*, *King of Cuba*, *Chekhov's WARD 6*, *Into the Beautiful North*, and *Machiavelli's The Prince*. He directed the company's first collaboratively developed script, *Roux*, at the Berkeley City Club in 1997. He also leads the Central Works Writers Workshop, and he teaches playwriting year-round at the Berkeley Rep School of Theater.

JUANITA HARRIS (Margo) is a musician/vocalist/actor who has entertained audiences locally and internationally for years. A native of Sunnyvale, her studies focused in music where she has excelled for some decades. In recent years, her talent as an actor has become more prevalent and has been working in more straight plays. She has risen to the challenge and has been happy to continue to foster this side of her stage presence. Appearing in *The Crucible*, *Going to St. Ives*, *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *The Trial of One Short-sighted Woman vs Mammy and Safreeta Mae*, and *Dot*. She was nominated twice for Theater Bay Area Awards in 2017 (*The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd*) and 2018 (*The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*). As a Vocal Coach, Director, Vocal and Music Director she has appeared on and offstage numerous times in musicals and straight plays throughout the Bay Area.

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Pamela Rose	Bonnie Stiles	Holly & Richard Winter
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Marko Rukonic	Laura Boxer & Hedy Straus	Rochelle Wald & Sara Wynne
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Dana Sack	Velina & Michael Gene Sullivan	Lois Yuen
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...and these generous funders: Actors Equity Foundation, Alameda County Arts Council, California Arts Council, CA Nonprofit Performing Arts Grant, CA Venues Fund, and the SBA

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JULIA JACKSON (Lala) is a comedienne and solo artist known for her biting social commentary, as well as actually biting audience members from time to time. The Milwaukee native takes on all topics, from politicians to the NFL. This rising comedy star has performed at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, and was a Semi-Finalist in the San Francisco International Comedy Competition. Her solo performance piece *Children Are Forever: All Sales Are Final* won the Best Non-Fiction Show at the 2016 United Solo Festival in New York. Julia has appeared in the film *From X to Z*, and has worked with Robin Williams, Dana Carvey, and Paul Mooney.

STEPHANIE ANNE JOHNSON (light design) is very excited to design at Central Works for the first time and to work with Elizabeth Carter for the second time. Johnson is a second-generation theatre worker, following in the footsteps of her mother Virginia E. Greene who worked with the American Negro Theatre. Johnson's designs have been produced at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Arizona Repertory Theatre, and National Black Theater Festival. Locally, she has worked with Cultural Odyssey, Afro Solo, Aurora Theatre, African American Shakespeare, Shotgun Players, Marin Theatre Company, S.F. Playhouse, and many others. She has designed in India, Holland, Belgium, Paris, Italy, and Canada. Dr. Johnson is a professor at CSU, Monterey Bay. Johnson dedicates her work to the memory of her soul mate Danitra Vance, an original member of *The Colored Museum* cast. Work can be seen at www.lightessencedesign.com.

JULIANN LATHUNG (operator) is currently a student at San Francisco State University. She received the Toni K. Weingarten Youth in Theatre Scholarship to study Theatre Arts with a Performance Emphasis at San Francisco State University. While she has a passion for performing, she understands the importance of exploring all of the different elements of theatre and is grateful for this opportunity to expand her theatre experience beyond the stage with Central Works as an Operator for the first time.

MILDRED INEZ LEWIS (playwright) is making her debut with Central Works after participating in its amazing Writers Workshop. A Dramatists Guild member, Mildred writes and directs for theater, film and the digital space. A produced and published playwright, poet and screenwriter, her honors include PLAY LA and the Samuel French OOB Festival. She is currently commissioned to write an adaptation of *Electra* for A Different Myth. She is also writing Thanksgiving content for Snap.

VENUS L MORRIS (costuming associate) was born and raised in Oakland California for a majority of her life. Growing up she always had a passion for books, culture, art and healing energy. She started performing and facilitating early on, realizing that she could hold space and energy of people from different walks of life. Ever since the moment she had that revelation, she made a vow to be the voice of the many voiceless people through her bright spirit and gifted presence. Her goal is to evaluate, educate and elevate everyone. Especially young children of color.

BRENDA MILES (Njeri) is new to the Central Works community. She is involved with child welfare policy in San Francisco and considers being a stellar Aunt one of her highest callings. Born in San Francisco and raised in the Mississippi Delta, she utilizes the complexities of identity and place to make sense of her world. She graduated from Mills College in Oakland, CA with a degree in Public Policy, Ethnic Studies, and Women's Studies.

GREGORY SCHARPEN (sound design) has designed for Central Works for over 25 years, and his work has appeared in productions by Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Shotgun Players, Theatre Rhino, TheatreFIRST, and many others. Included among other hats he's been known to wear are

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film editor (the Emmy-winning series *Have You Heard From Johannesburg*; *The Whistleblower Of My-Lai* featuring the Kronos Quartet; and most recently *Town Destroyer*) and radio broadcaster (numerous programs on KALX 90.7fm). Under the shrug-inducing moniker Thomas Carnacki, he concocts, records and performs “experimental” (read: unlistenable) music, including recent releases *Illiminal* on cd and *The Museum Of Lost Species* on lp. He is the recipient of a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, a Golden Eagle CINE Award, and – most significantly – one of the very infrequently-bestowed Jolly Trephination Awards for Total Textual Immersion.

BRITTANY NICOLE SIMS (Angie) is an actress and Bay Area Native from San Leandro, CA and extremely excited to be making their debut with Central Works. They received their B.A. in Theater Arts from Sacramento State University. They have won the 2020 Shellie Award for Best Supporting Actress for their role as Mary in *ReproRights*. You recently saw them in *House of Desires* as Dona Leonor with Those Women Productions. Other companies they had the honor to work with include: All Terrain Theater, Inferno Theater, Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park, The SF Olympians Festival, Playwrights Center of SF, The Exit Theater, African American Shakespeare Company (AASC), Custom Made Theater, B8 Theater, Three Willows Theatre, The New Conservatory Theatre and Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Live, Laugh, Love and Enjoy the Show!

DEBBIE SHELLEY (properties design) is very pleased to be joining the production team for Central Works production of *The Museum Annex*. In addition she has designed props for other Bay area theatres including Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Diablo Theatre Company, Stars 2000, St. Mary’s College, Town Hall Theatre Company, Center Stage Theatre Company, Berkeley Playhouse, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre and New Conservatory Theatre Center. Recognitions: Contra Costa Musical Theatre Company’s The Clay and Miriam Englar Award, recipient of an honorary Shellie award for special contribution to the performing arts and a TBA awards finalist.

IJE SUCCESS (Bree) is making her debut with Central Works. She most recently played Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* at Oakland Theater Project. Other onstage works include Angela in *Boys Go To Jupiter* at Word for Word Performing Arts Company and Bell in *sAInT jOaN (burn/burn/burn)* by Lisa Ramirez at Oakland Theater Project (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Principal Performance Drama award nomination). She recently received her BA in Cognitive Science and Theater and Performance Studies from UC Berkeley. While at Cal, she trained with Margo Hall, Christopher Herold, and Michael Moran; and received the Grace Sprague Pillsbury & Josephine Park Pillsbury Actress of Excellence award given to one female student in the department every year. She is excited to be working on a comedy. She goes by Success or Ije (ee-jey). ijesuccess.com

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ERIC RHEINHEIMER, E.A.
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646 BOULEVARD WAY
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