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**VOICES OF THE EIGHTH
CHRONICLES II**
STORIES FROM HARRISBURG'S OLD EIGHTH WARD
BY SHARIA BENN





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VOICES OF THE EIGHTH CHRONICLES II

STORIES FROM HARRISBURG'S OLD EIGHTH WARD
BY SHARIA BENN

Director Sharia Benn
Production Stage Manager Kim Greenawalt
Choreographer..... Cierra Woods
Music Director Cheryl Hawkins
Costume Designer..... Victoria Wojciechowski
Scenic Designers..... Jimmy Kohlmann and Sydney E. Crutcher
Lighting Designer Tristan Stasiulus
Sound Designer..... Alexander Owens
Props Designer Kiryat Jearim
Technical Director..... Jimmy Kohlmann
Assistant Technical Director Sydney Crutcher
Puppet Designers Jennifer Kilander and Jimmy Kohlmann
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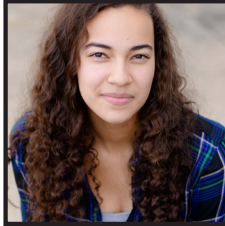
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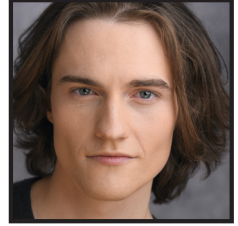
CAST



ABBY
CARROLL



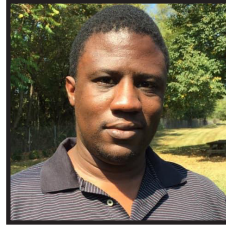
SYDNEY E.
CRUTCHER



JIMMY
KOHLMANN



LATRESHIA
LILLY



JAMES
MITCHELL

SCAN FOR THE VOICES OF THE EIGHTH
CHRONICLES II STUDY GUIDE



SCENES AND SONGS

Griot's Journey

Song: 'Buked and Scorned

Song: Wade in the Water

"She Weaves" by Marion Cannon Dornell

Song: I Open My Mouth Unto the Lord/Amazing Grace

Letter from Joseph Bustill to William Still

Song: Walk Together Children

Song: John Brown's Body/Battle Hymn of the Republic

"A WPA Writer Interviews a Former Slave: after Miriam Goodman" by
Marian Cannon Dornell (2015)

Dr. Agnes Kemp

Song: This Little Light of Mine

William Howard Day

"I Sit and Sew" by Alice Dunbar Nelson

Letter from Maude Coleman to Governor James Duff

Excerpts from "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman

Song: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

WHO'S WHO in the CAST

ABBY CARROLL is in her fourth season with Gamut Theatre Group. She is currently part of the Core Company as the Office Manager. Abby has a BA in Theatre Arts and Astronomy from Mount Holyoke College. Credits: Gamut: *Orlando* (Orlando), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *The Stronger* (Mrs. X / Ms. Y); Hampshire Shakespeare Company: *Henry V* (Henry V); The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey: *The Servant of Two Masters*.

SYDNEY E. CRUTCHER hails from Reston, VA and currently works as Production Manager at Gamut Theatre. After graduating from Drake University in 2020 with a BFA in Acting she has worked onstage at Gamut in *Innocent Merriment* and *A Winter's Tale* (Perdita), and the American Shakespeare Center in *Romeo and Juliet* (Balthasar) and *Comedy of Errors* (Luciana). She is forever grateful to her supportive family and friends.

JIMMY KOHLMANN (Sankofa Bird) is excited to be in this performance with Sankofa African American Theatre Company. Working professionally as both an actor and a technician, Jimmy wears a lot of different hats. His acting credits consist of a number of musicals and plays at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where he received his BA in Acting Performance, and a few of Gamut's most recent performances. He is forever inspired by his family and friends.

LATRESHIA LILLY is excited as she is in her first year as a Core Co. member at Gamut! She is a graduate of Northwestern State University with a Bachelor's in Musical Theatre Performing and Performance/ Directing, and she is currently pursuing a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy at Capella University. She is beyond grateful for live theatre to be back and hopes this show inspires you to invest in learning the history of our world. Thanks to family, friends, cast, crew, and you! "Do everything in love!" <https://latreshialilly.wixsite.com/latreshialilly>

JAMES MITCHELL is happy to be returning to Gamut Theatre in *Voices of the Eighth*. Other Gamut credits include *The Mystery of the African Grove* (James Hewitt), *An Enemy of the People* (Edvard), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Aslan/Adult Peter). Other credits: *Black Nativity*, *The People Who Could Fly* (ensemble) and *Do You Know Me?* (Voiceover) with Sankofa, *Antigone* (Senator & Tiresias), *Kill Keller* (Reverend Neil), *Rashomon* (Wigmaker), *Waiting for Godot* (Pozzo) with Narcisse Theatre Company.

WHO'S WHO in the CREW

KELSEY BENN (Musical Underscoring) loves creating and listening to good music of all genres and enjoyed composing music for this production, particularly the opening piece. He has done audio engineering, sound design & tech, music composition, and video editing for Sankofa productions *Black Nativity*, *Pretty Fire*, *Crowns* and *The Gathering at the Crossroads* educational video; Open Stage: *Father Comes Home From the Wars*; and Sankofa & Gamut joint production *Do You Know Me?*

SHARIA BENN (Director/Playwright) Founder & Executive Artistic Director of Sankofa African American Theatre Company, is an activist using the canvas of theater to create healing spaces for actors and audiences to respond constructively on issues of race and social justice. Selected credits with Gamut Theatre: *Echoes of the Voices of the Eighth* (writer, director), *Do You Know Me?* (writer/co-director), *Voices of the Eighth* (writer/director); *Voices of F.E.W.* (writer, director, role of Frances Harper), *Death of a Salesman* (Linda Loman), *Red Velvet* (Connie), *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Calpurnia)

SYDNEY E. CRUTCHER (Scenic Design/ Assistant Technical Director) hails from Reston, VA and currently works as Production Manager at Gamut Theatre. After graduating from Drake University in 2020 with a BFA in Acting she has worked offstage as a Designer and Carpenter for Gamut Theatre, Assistant Technical Director at The American Shakespeare Center, and a Carpenter/Deck Captain at Texas Shakespeare Festival. She is forever grateful to her supportive family and friends.

KIM GREENAWALT (Stage Manager/ Dramaturg): In addition to working as Gamut's Director of Development, Kim wears the hats of stage manager and dramaturg on *VOTE Chronicles II*. Many thanks to Sharia and Melissa for their trust, collaboration, and the opportunity to more fully understand the rich history of our community.

KIRYAT JEARIM (Prop Manager) was born and raised in the most southern tip of Texas called the Rio Grande Valley. She is a recent Theatre/TV/Film design graduate from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She's a theatre technician, performer, singer, actor, dancer, creator, proud daughter of immigrants, latina, person of color, part of the LGBTQIA+ community, and beyond grateful for every opportunity that's been presented to her at Gamut. She hopes everyone enjoys the show and would like to give a shout out to her fellow core company members! IG: @kiryatjearim @jearimart

JENNIFER KILANDER (Puppet Co-Designer) has been designing costumes for over 25 years. Recent costume designs include Open Stage: *Treasure Island*. Gamut Theatre: *The Winter's Tale*, *Orlando*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Coming up at Gamut Theatre: *Thistle & Salt - the Ireland of J.M. Synge* and *Richard III* for Free Shakespeare in the Park.

WHO'S WHO in the CREW

JIMMY KOHLMANN (Scenic Designer/ Technical Director/Puppet Co-Designer) has worked as a scenic carpenter for Nebraska Wesleyan University, Texas Shakespeare Festival, American Shakespeare Center, and now Gamut. Bouncing between the stage and the scene shop at NWU (BA '20), Jimmy always hoped his career would include opportunities both on and offstage. He is forever indebted to his wonderful friends and family, and the many wonderful puppets he called friends growing up.

TRISTAN STASIULIS (Lighting Designer) **GAMUT THEATRE GROUP:** *Panchatantra Tales; Orlando; Pretty Fire; Alice's Adventures...; The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe; Much Ado... All The King's Men; Pericles...; Midsummer...; Our Town; A Streetcar Named Desire.* **OPEN STAGE:** *Treasure island; Mad Ones; Amelie; Who's Holiday!; A Christmas Carol; Ragtime; The Wolves; For Colored Girls...; Carrie the Musical; Collective Rage; The Flick; Akeelah and the Bee; Fun Home; Red; Two Trains Running; Driving Miss Daisy; Bill W. and Dr. Bob; A Raisin In The Sun; Gidion's Knot; Fences; Clybourne Park; Joe Turner's Come And Gone; Frost/Nixon; Talk Radio; Ma Rainey's Black Bottom; The Santaland Diaries.* Among others.

KEYSTONE THEATRICALS: *OZ; Once; Puffs; Wonderettes; Grease; Joseph...; Ken Ludwig's Baskerville; The Little Mermaid; Mamma Mia.*

VICTORIA WOJCIECHOWSKI (Costume Designer) has been working in costume design since 2016. This show is her eleventh with Gamut and second with Sankofa. Previous shows include: *A Streetcar Named Desire, All the King's Men, An Enemy of the People* (Gamut); *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (Young Acting Company); *Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Harrisburg Shakespeare Company); *A Christmas Carol, Heathers* (Open Stage); *The Hounds of Baskerville, Hairspray* (Theatre Harrisburg). She looks forward to continuing her costuming work for many years to come.

CIERRA WOODS (Choreographer) is excited to set choreography for the first time at Gamut Theatre Group. A professional dance artist, movement facilitator, stage hand, and arts administrator born on the unceded land of the Susquehannock people, now called Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Woods is an alumnus of Capital Area School for the Arts and a graduate of Temple University, where she received the Rose Vernick BFA Choreography Award from Boyer College of Music and Dance. She has worked with esteemed artists such as Sidra Bell, Kun-Yang Lin, Merian Soto, Wen-Chung Lin, MICHİYAYA Dance, Sankofa African American Theatre Company and Maliek Dance Theater. Check out more of her work at cwoodswork.xyz!

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to *Voices of the Eighth: Chronicles II*, the continuation of the storytelling series of Harrisburg's historic Old Eighth Ward where the lens focuses on African American residents and their allies who forged change through resistance and perseverance. This story unfolds through the storytelling, singing, and movement of beautiful and powerful griots and the Sankofa bird which connect us to our past, present, and future through the play's vignettes that highlight just a few of the One Hundred Voices found on the orator's base of the Gathering at the Crossroads monument on the Capitol grounds.

In writing this play, I knew it would be impossible to share in entirety the lives, times, and contributions of Sarah and Joseph Bustill, Dr. Agnes Kemp, William Howard Day, Alice Dunbar Nelson, and Maude B. Coleman. My vision in crafting this production was to use percussive sounds, African inspired movements along with the actual words and writings of these historic change-makers and the gifted poet, Marian Thornell, to present an engaging and accurate historical glimpse of people who had been oppressed and marginalized but still achieved triumphs and progress as they fought to dismantle so many -isms in social constructs, politics, and education. I also want this theatre experience to spark a broader conversation that pushes each of us individually to make choices that move us toward freedom, liberty, and justice for all. It is very hard work, but we must do this. The partnership between Sankofa and Gamut to bring these stories to students and our community is a template- we make space, we teach, we learn, we mess up, we do good, we listen, we admit it's hard and painful, we hear, we learn some more, we move forward better.

I am so proud of all the creatives that came together to bring my script to life in such a powerfully moving way. I am indebted to the work of the PA Past Players and the One Hundred Voices researchers and history detectives who uncovered the buried stories of the people of the Old Eighth Ward.

Peace and Blessings,
Sharia Benn
Executive Artistic Director,
Sankofa African American Theatre Company

DRAMATURG'S NOTE: SANKOFA IN ACTION
BY KIM GREENAWALT

You may be wondering about the title of this show: why “Chronicles II?” Indeed, when was the first Chronicles? For anyone who may have watched *Do You Know Me?* online in 2021, some of the stories you’ll see and narration you’ll hear this evening may be familiar. I would like to believe that this was the first Chronicles...although we didn’t know that yet. Like the concept of Sankofa, (we’ll get to it in the show!) Sharia has gone back to a former storytelling format of vignettes, which worked incredibly well in the past, and brought it forward into the present, for a different group of actors.

As the dramaturg and stage manager for *Do You Know Me?* and *Voices of the Eighth: Chronicles II*, it has been a treat to see how the change of format from digital to in-person, and the change of actors involved has shaped the work. By going into the past in our theatre-making, we can take what has worked in the past and bring it forward to support a vibrant present with a new set of actors. By going into the past, into Harrisburg’s history, we take the stories of freedom seekers and change makers to guide the path of a new twenty-first century community.

SPECIAL THANKS

Jean Corey

Open Stage

Neisha McClain

Theatre Harrisburg



About Us

All individuals regardless of race, gender, gender identity, religion, culture, sexual orientation, and/or disability are welcome to participate in Gamut Theatre programs. Gamut Theatre is an ADA-accessible facility, and we endeavor to make reasonable accommodations to facilitate access. If you need accommodations or require assistance, please contact us. Gamut Theatre Group's mission is to tell classic stories in new and exciting ways. Our vision is a world where all people cherish classic stories and share them with future generations. If you are someone who believes in our mission and shares our vision, we encourage you to become involved with Gamut Theatre.



Each year Gamut presents approximately 250 performances to 30,000 people. Moreover, 20,000 students per year enjoy our theatre school classes, workshops, residencies, and shows. Since our inception in 1993, Gamut has cumulatively reached over 500,000 children and adults through our touring and educational programs.



We have been recognized by the press and the public for the quality of our productions, the breadth of our programs, our reach into all segments of the community, and our ability to keep classic stories relevant and alive. Gamut Theatre is an Educational Improvement Organization as approved by the PA DCED and is an approved Arts in Education Roster Artist through the PA Council on the Arts.





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Cory Dandy of Dandy
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RICH & DIVERSE HISTORY



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For further information on how you can support Gamut, please visit www.GamutTheatre.org or call 717-238-4111.

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TMI specializes in long and short-form, character-driven improv, where simple suggestions from the audience lead the way to improvised scenarios, which range from the "wryly witty" to the "gut-bustingly ridiculous."

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Subject matter may not be interesting for students under 12.



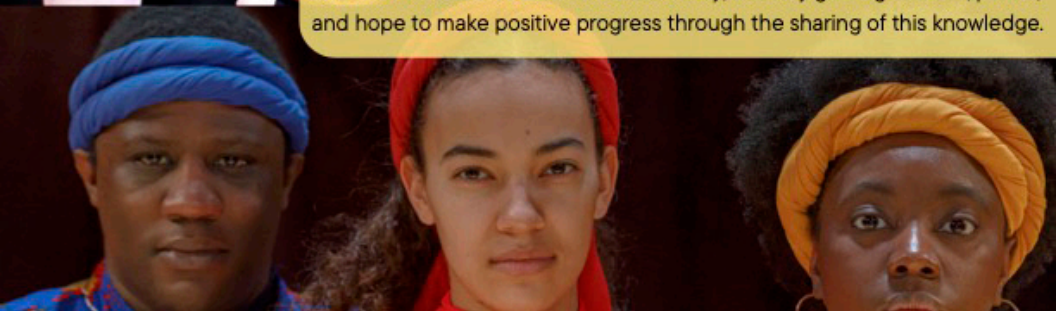
Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at the door.



Peggy's Pub is open before, during, and after the performance in our Capital Blue Cross Lobby.



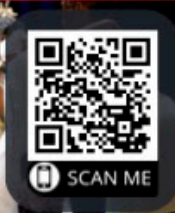
SANKOFA is an Akan (Ghana) word that **means, "We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward;"** so that we understand why and how we came to be who we are today, thereby gaining wisdom, power, and hope to make positive progress through the sharing of this knowledge.





Sankofa African American Theatre Company exists to **engage** and **enrich** the Harrisburg region around the **African American perspective** on relevant issues through **thought-provoking theatre** that reflects **artistic excellence**.


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*Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:30 PM
Whitaker Center*



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*Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7:30 PM
Market Square Presbyterian Church*



Vesna Duo

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- Friday, December 16, 2022 - 7:30 p.m. - Mechanicsburg
- Saturday, December 17, 2022 - 7:30 p.m. - Elizabethtown
- Sunday, December 18, 2022 - 4 p.m. - Harrisburg

Songs for the Journey

- Friday, May 12, 2023 - 7:30 p.m. - Hershey
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- Sunday, May 14, 2023 - 4 p.m. - Mechanicsburg

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LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING
TILL EARTH AND HEAVEN RING
RING WITH THE HARMONIES OF LIBERTY
LET OUR REJOICING RISE HIGH AS THE LISTENING SKIES
LET IT RESOUND LOUD AS THE ROLLING SEA

SING A SONG

FULL OF THE FAITH THAT THE DARK PAST HAS TAUGHT US

SING A SONG

FULL OF THE HOPE THAT THE PRESENT HAS BROUGHT US
FACING THE RISING SUN OF OUR NEW DAY BEGUN
LET US MARCH ON TILL VICTORY IS WON

GOD OF OUR WEARY YEARS
GOD OF OUR SILENT TEARS

THOU WHO HAS BROUGHT US THUS FAR ON THE WAY

THOU WHO HAS BY THY MIGHT
LED US INTO THE LIGHT

KEEP US FOREVER IN THE PATH, WE PRAY

LEST OUR FEET

STRAY FROM THE PLACES, OUR GOD, WHERE WE MET THEE

LEST, OUR HEARTS

DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF THE WORLD, WE FORGET THEE

SHADOWED BENEATH THY HAND
MAY WE FOREVER STAND

TRUE TO OUR GOD, TRUE TO OUR NATIVE LAND