

KENNY LEON'S  
true colors  
THEATRE COMPANY

SEASON

15

LOVE &  
FAMILY

2017

2018



BOLDNESS. LAUGHTER. ABUNDANCE. RESPECT

# A LETTER FROM KENNY AND JENN

**Today we celebrate the launch of our 15th anniversary season.**

Fifteen years ago, Founding Managing Director Jane Bishop and I started this new endeavor, a company that lived in my heart as “The Big Idea.” Fifteen years later, True Colors has been a unifying work space for artists of all colors and creeds to tell stories of diversity, inclusion, and cultural understanding.

To celebrate our 15th anniversary, we have an exciting lineup of shows. Kicking off our season in September, I will be directing the Regional Premiere of the Broadway musical “**Holler If Ya Hear Me.**” This is a story of family and community written by Todd Kreidler and inspired by the music of Tupac Shakur. We are partnering with the Atlanta University Center (AUC) to cast students in this production and give a voice to the next generation of theatre artists.

In December, we are launching an exciting new partnership with the Ferst Center. “**The First Noel**”, directed by Jasmine Guy and written by Lelund Thompson and Jason Michael Webb, is a holiday musical for all families. In February of 2018, we will bring another August Wilson masterpiece to the stage. Our production of “**King Hedley II**” will be directed by our new Associate Artistic Director, Jamil Jude. We will close our season with a selection from last year’s Spring Play Reading Series. “**Dot**”, written by Colman Domingo, is a comic drama about family, love, and how to care for an aging parent directed by yours truly.

To commemorate 15 years of True Colors’ brand of theatre, we present a season of stories about family and love; which is what True Colors means to us. We can’t wait to see you at the theatre!



Kenny Leon  
Artistic Director



Jenn McEwen  
Executive Director

# DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Diversity has been True Colors' focus since its inception in 2002. We are a diverse theatre company, grounded in preserving African American classics and presenting plays by all Americans, for a diverse audience. Year-round commitment to programming of this nature is an industry void we must fill; we are committed to sharing stories of other cultures, and exploring a variety of ages, generations, religions, and sexual orientations. Our internal diversity goals include striving for the following across our organization:

Together we acknowledge systems of oppression and structural/institutional barriers based on racial, ethnic, gender, cultural, class, and other differences.

Together we understand race, gender, and other aspects of identity to be socially constructed, tied to complex histories, and playing significant roles in how resources and power are distributed.

We acknowledge the existence of privilege (advantages, access, favors, and benefits to members of dominant groups at the expense of members of marginalized groups), and the opportunity to challenge oppression from a place of privilege--as an ally.

Together we are committed to an ongoing process of self-education and coalition-building in order to create open and supportive environments and to take collective, collaborative action for systemic change.

*(True Colors Strategic Plan FY/2015-16 –FY2017-18, Reference artEquity)*





A MUSICAL INSPIRED BY TUPAC SHAKUR

# HOLLER

IF YA HEAR ME

BOOK BY TODD KREIDLER

# MUSICAL

SEPT 12 - OCT 8, 2017

Previews: Sept 12-14 | Opening: Sept 15

## AN ORIGINAL BROADWAY MUSICAL FEATURING THE MUSIC OF TUPAC SHAKUR

An American musical inspired by the music and lyrics of late rapper Tupac Shakur. The music of one of the 20th century's most influential and culturally prominent voices comes to life in this non-biographical musical about friendship, family, revenge, change, and hope.

'On our block we still pray' (Tupac Shakur- "My Block") is at the heart of this moving original musical. Peek into a window of urban realities as inner city families struggle for peace against daily challenges that are relevant issues in our society today.

**Featuring Rob Demery, D. Woods, and Theresa Hightower**

WRITTEN BY  
**Todd Kreidler**

MUSIC BY  
**Tupac Shakur**

DIRECTED BY  
**Kenny Leon**

SHOW TIMES  
**WED-SAT 8PM**  
**SAT & SUN 2:30PM**

*\*Contains adult language. If you have questions about content please call 404-532-1901 ext 201.*

**"HOLLER  
IF YA HEAR  
ME IS ON  
FIRE!**

*-VARIETY*

**"EUPHORIC  
RAP DANCE  
DAZE."**

*-DAILY BEAST*

# First Noel



# FAMILY

DEC 8 - DEC 24, 2017

Previews: DEC 8 - 10 | Opening: DEC 13

## A NEW MUSICAL WORTHY TO BECOME A HOLIDAY TRADITION

Set in 1980's Harlem, "The First Noel" is a musical that follows three generations of a family forever changed by the tragic loss of a loved one, when an unexpected visit reveals some long-absent Christmas joy.

It is a story about how a community is healed, one family at a time, as everyday people do extraordinary things to help one another receive the gift of love at Christmas time. Music includes a reimaging of the traditional holiday favorites in Jazz, Gospel and Pop styles.

WRITTEN BY  
**Lelund Durond Thompson**  
**Jason Michael Webb**

MUSIC DIRECTION BY  
**Keith Williams**

DIRECTED BY  
**Jasmine Guy**

SHOW TIMES  
**WED-SAT 8PM**  
**SAT & SUN 2:30PM**

**"STORY OF  
HEALING AND  
A HOPEFUL  
MESSAGE."**

*-THEATER PIZZAZ*

**"A MEMORY  
PLAY WITH  
MUSIC: POP,  
GOSPEL,  
HOLIDAY**

*-THEATER PIZZAZ*



# KING HEDLEY II

# DRAMA

FEB 13- MAR 11, 2018

Previews: Feb 13-15 | Opening: Feb 16

## TONY AWARD WINNING DRAMA THE 8th PLAY IN AUGUST WILSON'S AMERICAN CENTURY CYCLE

It's 1980's inner city Pittsburgh, King Hedley II is an ex-con peddling stolen refrigerators to save up for his own business and hopefully a new life.

Desperately fighting to overcome his record, his family and a world that's against him, King spends his time trying to plant seeds in a garden where nothing can grow. This becomes the perfect metaphor for his life and his dreams seemingly doomed to a violent end.

In Wilson's darkest and most symbolic play, "King Hedley II" is the eighth play in August Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, a haunting and challenging tragedy of Shakespearean proportions.

**Starring Neal Gbant in the title role!**

WRITTEN BY  
**August Wilson**

DIRECTED BY  
**Jamil Jude**

SHOW TIMES  
**WED-SAT 8PM**  
**SAT & SUN 2:30PM**

*\*Contains adult language. If you have questions about content please call 404-532-1901 ext 201.*

**"THE  
MYSTERY OF  
LIFE IS THE  
SUBJECT."**

*-NEW YORK TIMES*

**"LYRICAL  
POWER AND  
SYMPATHETIC  
ATTENTION."**

*-VARIETY*



dot

# COMEDY

JULY 17 - AUG 12, 2018

Previews: July 17-19 | Opening: July 20

**TWISTED AND HILARIOUS NEW PLAY THAT IS  
DISARMINGLY FUNNY!**

In the Shealy house, Christmas means a time for family gatherings. Only this holiday, Dotty and her three grown children gather with more than the holiday spirit in mind. As Dotty struggles to hold on to her failing memory, her children must fight to balance care for their mother and care for themselves.

Crackling with humor, this lucid comedy grapples with aging parents, midlife crises, and the heart of an urban West Philly neighborhood.

WRITTEN BY  
**Colman Domingo**

DIRECTED BY  
**Kenny Leon**

SHOW TIMES  
**WED-SAT 8PM**  
**SAT & SUN 2:30PM**

*\*Contains adult language. If you have questions about content please call 404-532-1901 ext 201.*

**“HILARIOUS  
COMEDY  
DRAMA.”**

*-NEW YORK TIMES*

**“FULL OF  
LAUGHTER  
AND HEART-  
BREAK”**

*-THEATER MANIA*

# EDUCATION

## ARTS INTEGRATED CURRICULUM



### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### | PAGE TO THE STAGE

This program involves the selection of a children's work from either a Language Arts/ELA Instructor or Media Specialist at the host facility. Students will examine the plot and True Colors' Teaching Artists will assist students in converting the selected book into a stage play. After our "young playwrights" have generated a script, fundamental production duties will be assigned, preparing to take our show from the "page" of the initial text to the "stage" of the host site.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### | ACT LIKE A LADY

Act Like A Lady is a mentoring program that provides a well rounded educational experience through the arts. The program aims to teach character education by exposing students to the various arts modalities, which allows the participants to become experts through their interactions and opportunities.

## EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTORS | PROFESSIONAL LEARNING UNITS

The Education Department offers a variety of resources for teachers to implement in the classroom. Our Professional Learning Units (PLU) address artistic assimilation, project based learning for academy model instruction, and arts integrated curriculum for core classes. We also have the Theatre Educators Alliance (T.E.A Party), demonstrating our commitment to making theatre accessible to teachers and, in turn, their students.

## COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY | INTERNSHIPS

The True Colors Internship program is designed to address the needs of our post-secondary students by providing opportunities to marry the worlds of academic knowledge and background, with practical and collaborative experiences. Students are required to commit to 17-18 weeks, with a with a minimum of 115-hours. Our desire is for students to leave with practical skills that will assist them in navigating through their educational and artistic journey.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS,** please contact the  
education department at 404-532-1901 ext 214



# AUGUST WILSON MONOLOGUE COMPETITION



## ABOUT THE COMPETITION

True Colors Theatre Company presents the August Wilson Monologue Competition for all Greater Metro Atlanta area high school students, grades 9-12. Each student will perform a 1-3 minute monologue of their choosing from Wilson's American Century Cycle. Top performers receive scholarships and compete in the National Competition held in New York City.

## STUDENTS RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING

- Free workshops with theatre professionals
- Opportunity to perform on Broadway
- Win an all expense paid trip to New York
- Opportunity to attend a Broadway Show
- Win cash scholarships for college

American Playwright August Wilson's literary legacy is a compilation of ten plays, which chronicle the African American experience through the 20th century. Each play is set in a different decade and is filled with soaring, lyrical monologues. The inspiration for the competition was sparked by two of August Wilson's closest living collaborators, Kenny Leon and Todd Kridler.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AWMC  
PROGRAM VISIT [www.truecolorstheatre.org](http://www.truecolorstheatre.org)**

# JANE BISHOP LEGACY CIRCLE



The Jane Bishop Legacy Circle was created to honor the work and vision of True Colors Theatre Company's Co-founder. It was Jane's vision along with Kenny Leon to create a theatre that looks like the world and that encouraged people of different cultures to sit side by side and bring their unique perspective to the art on the stage.

With this in mind, in 2002, Jane Bishop and Kenny Leon began True Colors Theatre Company, Atlanta's first truly diverse professional theater company. Jane's contributions to both True Colors and Atlanta's art scene are too many to count, but prior to her passing in 2012, she and her partner Sandra Deer determined that Jane would like to leave a financial gift of \$25,000 to True Colors in her will establishing True Colors as Jane's true legacy left to Atlanta.

**To honor Jane Bishop's spirit and passion for True Colors Theatre Company, we ask that you follow Jane's path in celebrating the diverse legacy of True Colors. The Jane Bishop Legacy Circle welcomes members who:**

- Contribute cash gifts of \$10,000 or more annually
- Donate Stocks
- Make Bequests and Estate Gifts
- Make Gifts of Retirement Assets
- Make Gifts of Life Insurance Payouts

Please seek advice from a tax advisor or financial planner regarding the benefits of making a planned gift. For more information, please contact 404-532-1901 ext. 203 or [development@truecolorstheatre.org](mailto:development@truecolorstheatre.org).

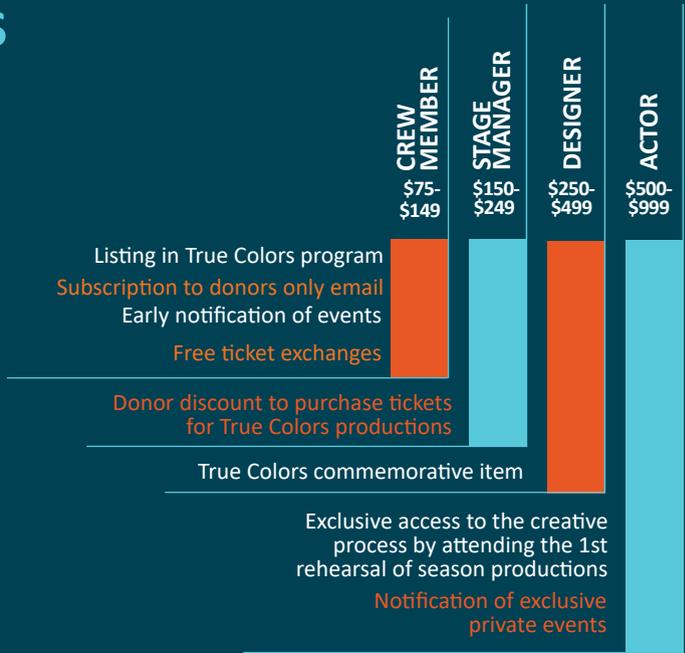
**"Jane was a beautiful human. She was more than a colleague, and she continually gave to the artistic vitality of Atlanta."**

- Kenny Leon



# BECOME A DONOR

## DONATION LEVELS & BENEFITS



Your gift during our 15th year Anniversary Season ensures artistic excellence on stage, inspiring arts education and enriching community conversations. Your support brings Broadway productions and new works by diverse emerging playwrights to our community. Your gift helps to provide free and low cost theatre classes and workshops to metro-area schools and to thousands of students from New York to California.

Your donation is truly an investment in Atlanta's only uniquely diverse theatre company. We thank you in advance for sharing your abundance with Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company; and in return we hope that you will enjoy all the productions and education programs that we have to offer this season.

To become a donor, please visit our donation page at [www.truecolorstheatre.org](http://www.truecolorstheatre.org) or 404-532-1901 ext. 216 or [development@truecolorstheatre.org](mailto:development@truecolorstheatre.org).

# TONY CIRCLE

## GIFTS OVER \$1000

Kenny Leon's Tony Circle celebrates Atlanta's only Tony Award-winning director. Your gift recognizes Kenny's high standards of artistic excellence, community engagement, and commitment to diversity that are at the core of True Colors. Joining this celebrated circle provides members with opportunities to engage closely with our artists and programs. Tony Circle member benefits include:

\*2 complimentary opening night tickets

Concierge service to purchase discount VIP seats

Exclusive invitation to closing production champagne toast receptions

\*One season four pack to True Colors season productions

\*Invitations to attend Kenny Leon's Broadway workshops and performances in NYC

All benefits listed above, plus special invitation only opportunities to participate in behind the scenes events for Jane Bishop Circle members

Recognition as a member of the Jane Bishop Legacy Circle

PLAYWRIGHT	PRODUCER	DIRECTOR	JANE BISHOP CIRCLE
\$1000-\$2499	\$2500-\$4999	\$5000-\$9999	\$10,000 +

## SUSTAINING DONOR

As a Sustaining Donor, you join True Colors' recurring giving program as a monthly donor. True Colors' recurring giving program provides donors with enhanced benefits such as additional behind the scenes information and exclusive perks! In addition, you help True Colors save administrative costs, thus increasing investment toward our productions and education programs. Your recurring donation is secure, flexible, and the easiest way to give and ensure True Colors receives your ongoing support. You choose the amount you wish to give each month, and you can change your pledge at any time.

Donations can be made on our website at [www.truecolorstheatre.org](http://www.truecolorstheatre.org).

\* These benefits have cost associated value and are not tax deductible. If you elect not to accept benefits of monetary value (here stated), you may deduct the full value of your donation. Please inform TCTC at the time your gift is made.

# TICKET OPTIONS

## BOOK EARLY FOR BEST PRICES!

Beat the rush and book early for the best price and best seats with our early bird sale. Individual adult ticket prices are \$15 for select shows. Check our website and sign up for our e-newsletter to receive information about early bird sale announcements.

## UNDER 30 TICKET PROGRAM

Patrons age 30 and under can purchase **\$10 tickets** for any preview show this season. For more info visit [www.truecolorstheatre.org](http://www.truecolorstheatre.org)

## SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS

### **4 PACK** - \$110

Subscribers receive four tickets that can be used in a variety of ways; all in one night, spread out over three plays, or bring a guest to see a play – the choice is yours!

### **3 PLAY FLEX** - \$85

See all three plays on the date of your choice. You receive one ticket for each play; call us to reserve your performance at your convenience.

## SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

**Best seats, lowest price, no exchange fees, and invitations & discounts to special events!**

## GROUP DISCOUNTS

Groups of 10 or more can purchase tickets at a discounted rate, receive flexible payments, and are exempt from service charges!

**FOR TICKETS, CALL 404.532.1901 ext 201**

# SUBSCRIBETO

## SEASON 15

QTY	SUBSCRIPTION	SUBTOTAL
_____ 3 PLAY FLEX	\$85*	\$ _____

_____ 4 PACK	\$110*	\$ _____
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QTY SUBTOTAL		\$ _____
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YES! I will also become a donor by making a tax-deductible contribution!

<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000		\$ _____
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TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED		\$ _____
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\* Tax and handling included

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Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_    Sec Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Ticket Alternative,

1206 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309

Order by phone: **1.877.725.8849** or [www.truecolorstheatre.org](http://www.truecolorstheatre.org)

*True Colors reserves the right to substitute plays, players, dates & venues.*

*No refunds will be issued.*

KENNY LEON'S

**true colors**  
**THEATRE COMPANY**

887 W. Marietta St. J-102  
Atlanta, GA 30318

[www.truecolorstheatre.org](http://www.truecolorstheatre.org)  
404.532.1901



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**FULTON COUNTY**  
Major funding is provided by the Fulton County Commission, etc.

This program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts.



Mayor's Office of  
Cultural Affairs

Major support is provided by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs.

15TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

# 2017-2018

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