KENNY LEON'S
true colors THEATRE COMPANY

NEXT MONOLOGUE
NARRATIVE COMPETITION

ATLANTA REGIONAL FINALS

APRIL 1ST-3RD 2022

NEW VOICES.
NEW TRUTHS.
NEW DISCOVERIES.

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Welcome to the inaugural Next Narrative™ Monologue Competition – Atlanta Regional Finals!

Though rooted in the long history of True Colors Theatre Company’s former high school monologue competition, which honored the words and works of America’s Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, August Wilson, the Next Narrative Monologue Competition (NNMC) breaks new ground for True Colors – and for the nation.

NNMC was borne of True Colors Artistic Director Jamil Jude’s deep passion for bringing new work by Black playwrights to the American Theatre stage. During the pandemic, Jamil created several commissioning programs under the umbrella of the Next Narrative™ moniker that were designed not only to create new work, but to set a path for those works to be premiered broadly, beyond True Colors, in Black theatres around the country.

Jamil – with support from National NNMC Coordinator Larsen Kennedy, NNMC regional partners, and a team of dramaturgical consultants – created a compendium of monologues by commissioning up to three monologues each from 50 playwrights who represent the vast diversity of Blackness. Each playwright created monologues specifically for this program – none of which were taken from existing work – and specifically for high school students. The monologues address 10 themes (10, in homage to August Wilson’s American Century Cycle): 1) Class, 2) Gender, 3) Ableism/Inclusivity, 4) Relationship to Technology, 5) Family/Community, 6) Cultural Celebration/Competency, 7) Global Warming/Environmental, 8) Immigration/International Relationships, 9) Social/Emotional/Physical Health, and a tenth, non-thematic category.

The playwrights represent multigenerational, LGBTQIA+, African American, immigrant, and Afro-LatinX communities. True Colors, with our publishing partner Theatrical Rights Worldwide, will publish this compendium of monologues that will not only be a resource for this program, but that will be available to young thespians everywhere seeking age-suitable and relevant audition content.

As with the original high school monologue competition, Atlanta is the founding region of the Next Narrative Monologue Competition, which includes eight other regions around the United States, and a long list of regions interested in participating. None of this progress would be possible without the investment of our generous - and loyal! - sponsors. The Zeist Foundation has supported our monologue competitions, not only with meaningful financial gifts, but with in-person enthusiasm, since 2014. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the Frances Ford Wilson Foundation, the Wells Fargo Foundation, and Delta Community Credit Union for their support of the inaugural 2022 program.

The excitement continues after tonight! On May 3, 2022, two finalists from each NNMC region – Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Milwaukee, New Haven, New York, Pittsburgh, and Seattle – will meet in New York City to compete in the National Finals at the historic Apollo Theater.

To the participants, your teachers, and your families: thank you for your commitment and hard work. To our teaching artists and program managers, kudos for getting this first year of the program off to a great start. To you all, thank you for joining us on this journey!

Positive vibrations,

Jamil Jude
Artistic Director

Chandra Stephens-Albright
Managing Director
WELCOME + INTRODUCTION OF NNMC FINALS HOST
Jamil Jude, True Colors Theatre Company Artistic Director

INTRODUCTION OF FINALS JUDGES + PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS APPRECIATION
Kayla Parker, Director/Writer/Actor

DONOR + SPONSOR APPRECIATION
Chandra Stephens-Albright, True Colors Theatre Company Managing Director

MONOLOGUE PERFORMANCES
2022 Next Narrative Monologue Competition Finalists

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
Rudy Currence, Inspirational Performing Artist

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STUDENTS/PARENTS APPRECIATION + NNMC REFLECTION
Jamil Jude + Christopher Hampton, NNMC Teaching Artists/Judges Team Lead

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
Kayla Parker + Christopher Hampton

CELEBRATION!

2022 NNMC Judges

SEMI-FINALS
Christopher Hampton, David Koté, Jade Lambert-Smith, Brad Raymond

FINALS
Tanya Freeman, Darrell Grant, Stephaniyemiya Ingram, Maya Lawrence, Dana Stringer
Jamil Jude
Artistic Director

Chandra Stephens-Albright
Managing Director

Presents

The 1st Annual

NEXT MONOLOGUE COMPETITION
NARRATIVE

ATLANTA REGIONAL FINALS

Directed by Jamil Jude

Set Design by
Isabel & Moriah Curley-Clay

Technical Director
Fred Thomason

Production Manager
Lisa L. Watson*

Frances Ford Wilson Foundation
Students and Schools

Jayden Griffin
Atlanta Classical Academy
AriaArmstead
DeKalb School of the Arts
LaNiyah Kelly
Dunwoody High School
Jada Gorgor
Dutchtown High School
Ariena Colson
Georgia Cyber Academy
Modupe Ajinaku
Heritage High School
Sidney Antoine
Heritage High School
Juretsy Castaneda
Heritage High School
Addisen Hunter
Heritage High School
Ma Malone
Heritage High School
Mikaela Mcknight
Heritage High School
Aniya Ramsey
Heritage High School
Chayil Rattler
Heritage High School
Trinity Smith
Heritage High School
Monteze Sutton
Heritage High School
Konnar Vivians
Heritage High School
Adrian Walker
Heritage High School
Nicole Walker
Heritage High School
Alexis Chappell
Lithonia High School
Da'Quan Cooney
Luella High School
Joshua Israel
Martha Ellen Stilwell
Zaria Williams
New Manchester High School
Nila Smith
South Cobb High School
Yeshua Hardy
Tri-Cities High School
Alyse Harrell
The Westminster School

Teachers

Byran Franklin
Atlanta Classical Academy
Walker Scott
DeKalb School of the Arts
James Gay
Dunwoody High School
Clayton Jolley
Dutchtown High School
Michelle Lane
Georgia Cyber Academy
Michelle Throne
Heritage High School
Jody Henry
Lithonia High School
Kala Ross
Luella High School
Tawana Parker-Bellamy
Martha Ellen Stilwell
Ashley Cleveland
New Manchester High
Anna Smith
South Cobb High School
Jade Lambert-Smith
Tri-Cities High School
Kate Morgens
The Westminster Schools
Thank You

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Austin Weatherspoon (NNMC Logo Design), Barry Weinstock (Printing), Martinique Mix (Program Layout), Tyrrell Harrell (TYDEF Studios), Amber Harris (Just An Inch Entertainment), Jeremiah Davison (Multiband Studios), Paul Thomason, Christopher Hampton (TA/Judges Team Lead), Astral Hackshaw + Catrecia Casimire (Production Assistants) Savannah Cathers and Trey Harrison (Woodruff Arts Center)

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Sometimes it seems like the truth today is to run the risk of being killed. I’ll fall five feet four inches in the fight. I do that. I do that. I do that. Spreading out in the sand, digging my feet in. The bridgess that carried us over. Nobody’s free until everybody’s free. We don’t exist here to compatibility. Hate just makes people.”

We have to build our own power. We have to politics. The third of fifteen.”