



**New Stage Dialogues:
"Race, Class, and Tragedy in the Mississippi Delta"**

Sunday, February 10, 2019
1:00 p.m. Hewes Room at New Stage Theatre

VONDARIS "VON" GORDON (Moderator), Youth Engagement Coordinator

Vondaris "Von" Gordon is a native of Moorhead, MS, in Sunflower County. He joined the Institute to develop and coordinate youth programs as Youth Engagement Coordinator. He attended the University of Mississippi, where he was a student leader and helped organize the first Statewide Student Summit on Race. He served as a founding board member of the Winter Institute and the only student representative. He has worked in the private sector in franchise and corporate multi-unit restaurant operations and in business development for one of Pepsi's top franchise bottlers. Von is the married father of two, and he is passionate about equipping youth to build stronger communities through education, empowerment, and racial healing. He thinks the best salads in the world are the ones with no dressing.

SENATOR DERRICK T. SIMMONS, District 12 - Bolivar, Coahoma, Washington

Senator Simmons is a trial lawyer and is affiliated with the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Mississippi Bar, Magnolia Bar, District of Columbia Bar and Greenville Rotary Club. Senator Simmons is a Mason and life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Senator Simmons also sits on the Mississippi Technology Alliance Liaison Committee. Senator Simmons was born December 12, 1976 in Greenville, MS. He is married to the former CuWanda Flowers and is of the Baptist faith. They have one child, Derrick, Jr. ("DJ")

DR. ROBERT E. LUCKETT, JR., Jackson State University

Author, scholar, educator and advocate, Robby is a leading authority on the civil rights movement of Mississippi. His work has appeared in academic journals, historical texts, podcasts and documentary series. At Jackson State University, he is an associate professor of history and the director of the Margaret Walker Center, an archive and museum. Robby's dedication to uncovering and sharing the history of the Mississippi civil rights movement is preserving a critical piece of African American history and culture. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Georgia, Robby is a civil rights champion.

JAKE MCGRAW, Coordinator for Rethink Mississippi

Jake McGraw is the coordinator for Rethink Mississippi and editor of rethinkms.org, a collaboration of emerging leaders in Mississippi to begin critical discussions about the state's long-term issues. Jake has deep-seated passion for combining the power of ideas with community organizing methods. While studying public policy and economics at the University of Mississippi, Jake co-founded the campus integration initiative One Mississippi as well as a community empowerment organization in San Mateo, Belize. Jake also has significant experience working in both state and national politics. A native of Oxford, MS, Jake researched the history of progressive education policies in the South while attending a master's program at "the other Oxford" in England. He returned home to join the Winter Institute in spring 2013. Jake is an avid golfer and squash player—a frequent source of ridicule among his colleagues.



**New Stage Dialogues:
"Race, Class, and Tragedy in the Mississippi Delta"**

Sunday, February 10, 2019
1:00 p.m. Hewes Room at New Stage Theatre

VONDARIS "VON" GORDON (Moderator), Youth Engagement Coordinator

Vondaris "Von" Gordon is a native of Moorhead, MS, in Sunflower County. He joined the Institute to develop and coordinate youth programs as Youth Engagement Coordinator. He attended the University of Mississippi, where he was a student leader and helped organize the first Statewide Student Summit on Race. He served as a founding board member of the Winter Institute and the only student representative. He has worked in the private sector in franchise and corporate multi-unit restaurant operations and in business development for one of Pepsi's top franchise bottlers. Von is the married father of two, and he is passionate about equipping youth to build stronger communities through education, empowerment, and racial healing. He thinks the best salads in the world are the ones with no dressing.

SENATOR DERRICK T. SIMMONS, District 12 - Bolivar, Coahoma, Washington

Senator Simmons is a trial lawyer and is affiliated with the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Mississippi Bar, Magnolia Bar, District of Columbia Bar and Greenville Rotary Club. Senator Simmons is a Mason and life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Senator Simmons also sits on the Mississippi Technology Alliance Liaison Committee. Senator Simmons was born December 12, 1976 in Greenville, MS. He is married to the former CuWanda Flowers and is of the Baptist faith. They have one child, Derrick, Jr. ("DJ")

DR. ROBERT E. LUCKETT, JR., Jackson State University

Author, scholar, educator and advocate, Robby is a leading authority on the civil rights movement of Mississippi. His work has appeared in academic journals, historical texts, podcasts and documentary series. At Jackson State University, he is an associate professor of history and the director of the Margaret Walker Center, an archive and museum. Robby's dedication to uncovering and sharing the history of the Mississippi civil rights movement is preserving a critical piece of African American history and culture. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Georgia, Robby is a civil rights champion.

JAKE MCGRAW, Coordinator for Rethink Mississippi

Jake McGraw is the coordinator for Rethink Mississippi and editor of rethinkms.org, a collaboration of emerging leaders in Mississippi to begin critical discussions about the state's long-term issues. Jake has deep-seated passion for combining the power of ideas with community organizing methods. While studying public policy and economics at the University of Mississippi, Jake co-founded the campus integration initiative One Mississippi as well as a community empowerment organization in San Mateo, Belize. Jake also has significant experience working in both state and national politics. A native of Oxford, MS, Jake researched the history of progressive education policies in the South while attending a master's program at "the other Oxford" in England. He returned home to join the Winter Institute in spring 2013. Jake is an avid golfer and squash player—a frequent source of ridicule among his colleagues.

NEW STAGE *Theatre*

EXHIBIT

Photos from the 1927 Flood Collection of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will be on display during the run of *Hell in High Water* in the Hewes Room.



*Do what makes
your heart sing!*
MARCH 13-24, 2019

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!

NEW STAGE *Theatre*

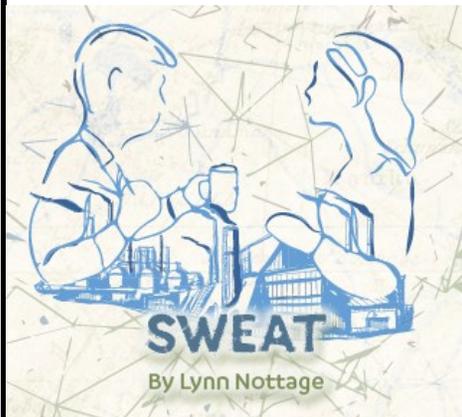
EXHIBIT

Photos from the 1927 Flood Collection of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will be on display during the run of *Hell in High Water* in the Hewes Room.

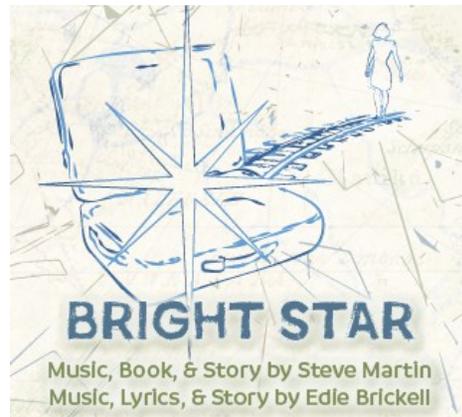


*Do what makes
your heart sing!*
MARCH 13-24, 2019

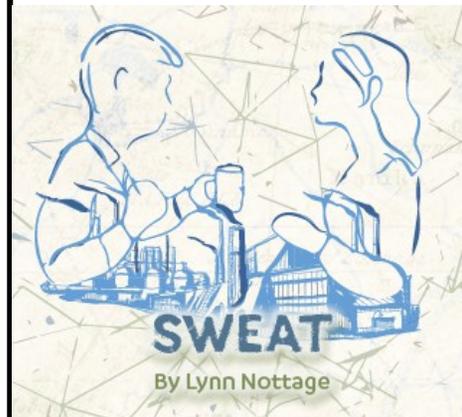
TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!



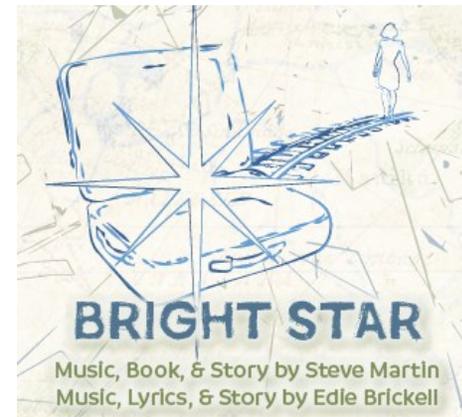
April 23 – May 5, 2019



May 28-June 9, 2019



April 23 – May 5, 2019



May 28-June 9, 2019