

SPOKEN WORD OPEN MIC NIGHT AND STAGE READING OF  
**PASS OVER**

BY ANTOINETTE NWANDU

directed by  
Keith Allen Davis, Jr.

**NEW STAGE THEATRE**  
1100 CARLISLE ST, JACKSON MS

TICKETS: \$10  
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COMPLIMENTARY SIP!

contact: [newstagetheatre.com](http://newstagetheatre.com)  
601-948-3533 EX: 223

**APRIL 7TH**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30**  
**OPEN MIC STARTS AT 6PM**  
**STAGE READING STARTS AT 7PM**

"Pass Over" is presented by special  
arrangement with Broadway  
Licensing, LLC, servicing  
the Dramatists Play Service collection  
([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))



**UN  
FRAMED**  
@ NEW STAGE THEATRE

# **PASS OVER**

**By Antoinette Nwandu**

**Directed by Keith Allen Davis Jr.**

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Setting: now. right now. a ghetto street. a lamppost. night.

Run time: 75 minutes with one 10-minute intermission

**WARNING: A prop gun is used and pointed  
at another character. Gun shot sound  
effects will be used. Course language.**

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first encountered *Pass Over*, I was struck by its raw poetry, rhythm, and aching honesty. Antoinette Nwandu weaves together the sacred and the street, the ancient and the urgent, in a way that demands both our attention and our compassion. This play is not just a story—it's a lament, a prayer, a protest, and a dream.

For this staged reading, we leaned into the ritual of the text. The repetition, the musicality, the quiet moments, the bursts of rage and joy—all echo the spirituals, the Psalms, and the cries of a people still waiting to be delivered. Moses and Kitch aren't just characters—they're brothers, sons, prophets, comedians, philosophers. They are us.

With just a week of rehearsal, we embraced the limitations as part of the storytelling. Sound, movement, and minimal props help create a space where the words breathe and the silences speak. The simplicity is intentional—it allows the weight of the play and the humanity of these characters to shine.

Thank you for joining us. May we all leave a little more awake, a little more aware, and with hearts cracked open just enough to let the light in.

— Keith Allen Davis, Jr.

# Cast

Moses.....Hosea Griffith  
Kitch.....Baxter Evans III  
Mister.....Ben Williams  
Ossifer.....Jacob Tate Heuer

# Production Team

Director.....Keith Allen Davis Jr.  
Stage Manager.....Tatiana Grace  
Light Designer.....Alberto Meza  
Costume Designer.....Ashlyn Pinkerton  
Sound Designer.....Jacob Tate Heuer  
Properties.....Cameron Vipperman  
Poster Design.....Keith Allen Davis, Jr.  
Board Operators.....Keith Allen Davis, Jr. and Tatiana Grace

# New Stage Staff

Artistic Director.....Francine Reynolds  
Unframed Producer/Education Director.....Xerron Mingo  
Production Manager.....Casey Nelms  
Technical Director.....Richard Lawrence

## Who's Who in *Pass Over*



**Baxter Evans III (Kitch)** is an actor and combatant from Clinton, MS where he went to Hinds Community College, and performed in shows called *Water Engine* and *Bus Stop*. Baxter then moved to Hattiesburg, MS to study theatre at the University of Southern Mississippi, performing in the shows *Once in a Lifetime*, *She Kills Monsters*, *The Addams Family*, and *Macbeth*. While at USM, Baxter received a KCATCF nomination, allowing him to travel to the KCATCF Region IV back in February 2023. He also served in Alpha Psi Omega, Harlem (a BIPOC theatre club), and Skip the Script (an improv club). Baxter was also one of the five associates of the 2023-2024 year at New Stage Theatre. He is very thankful to be a part of the show and is excited for what comes next!



**Hosea Griffith (Moses)** graduate of the University of Mobile (M.M.) and Mississippi College (B.M.), has had the pleasure of portraying many roles in Jackson and the surrounding areas, including *Sister Act*, *Bright Star*, and *A Christmas Carol* (New Stage Theatre). Recently, Hosea was seen in *Songs of a New World* (Uproar Theatre), *The Color Purple* (Jackson State University), *9 to 5*, *Chicken and Biscuits*, and *Beautiful* (New Stage Theatre) as well as various workshops and concert readings of the musical play *Slippin' Through the Cracks* in Jackson (New Stage Theatre), New York, and Chicago (Goodman Theatre).



**Jacob Tate Heuer (Ossifer)** would like to thank all his fellow associates and friends and family for their continued support of the pursuit of happiness.

## Who's Who in Pass Over



**Ben Williams (Mister)** is a Professor of Music Composition at Mississippi College where he is the Chair of the Department of Music. Raised in Northeast Ohio, Williams earned degrees from The University of Akron (B.M and M.M.) and The Ohio State University (D.M.A.). Williams has previously played bass in the pit orchestra of *Beautiful: the Carole King Musical*, *9 to 5*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* with New Stage Theatre and banjo in their production of *Bright Star* in addition to performing as Mr. Greenway in *Elf*.



**Keith Allen Davis, Jr. (Director)** is an actor, writer, musician, and director from Meridian, MS. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance at Alabama State University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. During his time at ASU, he has been cast in and worked on productions such as *Dreamgirls*, *The Wiz*, *Tracks*, *Slammin II*, and *Blues for An Alabama Sky*. He has also written for and co-directed Montgomery, Alabama's performance for the worldwide festival of *The Walk (Little Amal)* in 2023. Since graduating, he was cast as Tim Allgood in *Noises Off* and as Professor Baehr and Knight in *Little Women*. He will be furthering his artistic endeavors this fall by attending University of Tennessee, Knoxville to obtain his MFA in Acting. His musician and acting Instagram handles are @thebabyboykeith and @keithallendavisjunior.

## Who's Who in *Pass Over*



**Antoinette ("Toni") Chinonye Nwandu (playwright)** is a New York-based writer for stage & screen. In the summer of 2017, weeks after Trump's election, Nwandu's play *Pass Over* had its World Premiere at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. A filmed version of that Jeff Award-winning Steppenwolf production—directed by Spike Lee—premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and at SXSW, and is currently streaming on Amazon Prime. In 2018, *Pass Over* made its New York debut at LCT3/Lincoln, complete with a new ending. Nwandu has said that if the 2017 ending hits the audience like a sledgehammer, then the 2018 ending is more of a shiv. In 2021, *Pass Over* ushered in the re-opening of Broadway after the pandemic closure. For this version of the play, Nwandu changed the ending again, this time reversing the lead character's ultimate fate. Nwandu commented that, "after the pandemic, and especially the murder of George Floyd, the idea of sitting through rehearsal after rehearsal of my play the way it ended filled me with dread. I changed the play for myself, first, and then for my audience. We don't need to see anymore dead & dying Black men." Additional plays include *Breach: a manifesto on race in america through the eyes of a black girl recovering from self-hate* (2018 Victory Gardens World Premiere); *Flat Sam* (Douglas Turner Ward prize); and *Vanna White Has Got to Die!* (Fire This Time Festival).

Antoinette is a MacDowell Fellow, a Dramatists Guild Fellow, an Ars Nova Play Group alum, and a Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference Literary Fellow. Honors include a Lilly Award (2020); a Lucille Lortel Award (2019); the Whiting Award (2018); the Samuel French Next Step Award (2018); the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award (2017); the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award (2008); and spots on the 2016 and 2017 Kilroys lists. Her work has been supported by the Sundance Theater Lab, Space on Ryder Farm, Ignition Fest, the Cherry Lane Mentor Project, the Kennedy Center, Page73, PlayPenn, Southern Rep, The Flea, Naked Angels, Fire This Time and The Movement Theater Company. Antoinette has a bachelor's degree in English, magna cum laude, from Harvard College; an MSc from The University of Edinburgh; and an MFA from NYU Tisch. Antoinette also writes & produces for film + tv.

**Special thanks to all poets who are performing tonight!**

## Up next in Season 59:

### *Come From Away*

Book, Music, Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein

May 27-31, June 3, 5-7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

June 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

June 1 & 8, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Broadway's *Come From Away* is a Best Musical winner all across North America! This New York Times Critic's Pick takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared in the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships. Recommended for ages 10+.

## Up next in the Unframed series:

### *The Trail to Oregon!*

by Jeff Blim, Nick Lang, and Matt Lang

Directed by Jacob Tate Heuer and Don Waller

May 2 and 3, 2025 at 7:30pm

May 4, 2025 at 2:00pm

Join our All-American family as they journey down the *The Trail to Oregon!* *The Trail to Oregon!* is an original musical produced by Starkid Productions and was performed in Chicago in the summer of 2014. It is also the most historically accurate musical portraying the Oregon Trail to date; featuring 12 educational songs, a set precisely replicating the trail's landscape, and appearances from famous historical figures, such as: Henry McDoon, Cletus Jones, and Cornwallis. Watch it if you want.

New Stage Theatre  
The Jane Reid-Petty Theatre Center  
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