

**UnFramed at New Stage Theatre Presents:**

# SUN SET BABY



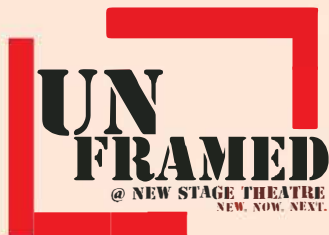
BY DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU

**FEB 24-25 @ 7:30p | FEB 26 @ 2pm**

DIRECTED BY MARQUITA LEVY & ASHIA BENFORD

**NEW STAGE'S WAREHOUSE THEATRE**

**1000 MONROE STREET, JACKSON MS**



**STRONG ADULT LANGUAGE, CONTENT AND  
THEMES. FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY**

**NEWSTAGETHEATRE.COM | TICKETS \$10 ONLINE, \$15 @ DOOR | 601.948.3533**

Sunset Baby is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**SUNSET BABY** by Dominique Morisseau  
has a 90 minute run time.

This production will have **NO INTERMISSION**



**CONTENT WARNING**

**A Prop Gun will be used during this performance.**

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<https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

# MEET THE CAST

NINA: Rakaela Thompson

DAMON: Tim Magee

KENYATTA: Destin Benford

# THE CREW

DIRECTORS: Marquita Levy and Ashia Benford

STAGE MANAGER: Lindsey Neville

SET DESIGN: Antonio Juarez

LIGHT DESIGN: Devin Ranftle

SOUND DESIGN: Claire Justice Porter

PROPS COORDINATOR: Oliver Morgan

COSTUME DESIGN: Deonica Davis

INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHER: Austin Russell

# THE UNFRAMED TEAM

UNFRAMED GENERAL DIRECTOR: Clara Seitz

UNFRAMED PRODUCING MANAGER: Xerron Mingo

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Francine Reynolds

DIRECTING ASSOCIATE: Lindsey Neville

# BIOS

DESTIN BENFORD (Kenyatta) is a native of Drew, Miss. He graduated from Jackson State University in 2014 with a B.A. in speech communication. While at Jackson State, Destin became a member of MADDRAMA (S.C.E.N.E) 88 and immediately developed a love for the arts. During his tenure at Jackson State he won Supreme for the NADSA Playwright Competition. He was seen on stage in RUINED, THE COLOR PURPLE, THE RIVER NIGER, and most recently MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM. Benford was cast in ALL THE WAY and PIPELINE at New Stage Theatre. He is also the owner of DNA Photography, LLC where he expresses his art through camera and lens.

TIMOTHY JAMES MAGEE, JR. (Damon/Acting Associate) is currently a sophomore at Hinds Community College who is currently applying to BFA acting programs across the nation. He attended the Mississippi School for the Arts and Murrah High School in Jackson. He is currently an apprentice at the theatre, and he was the assistant acting instructor in the 2022 Broadway Jr. Day Camp at New Stage. He has been in New Stage's A CHRISTMAS CAROL, ALADDIN, JR., ONCE ON THIS ISLAND JR., BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR., and a few Youth Acting Troupe productions with his last one being AS YOU LIKE IT. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with loved ones, sports, and watching movies. Magee would like to thank his parents and friends for their love and support, and the New Stage staff for their teaching and guidance!

RAKAELA THOMPSON (Nina/Acting Associate) was born and raised in Pearl, Mississippi where she attended Pearl High School. She recently received her B.F.A. from The University of Southern Mississippi. She has performed in BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY, ONCE IN A LIFETIME, A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, AND SHE KILLS MONSTERS. All of these productions were an honor to be a part of, and completely shifted her undergrad experience. She was president of Harlem, a BIPOC organization that focused on helping BIPOC students in our theatre department learn their voice in a safe space. She is so thrilled that my next chapter is at New Stage! She couldn't be more grateful to be a part of the New Stage family, and to get the privilege to work with such a wonderful group of diverse people.

ASHIA BENFORD (Director) is excited to be working with a fantastic group of artists. She holds a BA in sociology and theatre from Jackson State University. Her directing credits include: ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, JR., ALADDIN, JR., MATILDA and PIPELINE. Currently, she is an acting instructor/director with local theatre companies and privately trains children and adults preparing for educational and professional auditions. Last year Benford earned a MA in clinical mental health counseling and is a therapist at Progressive Movement Counseling. She enjoys working with children and integrates various theatre techniques into the counseling process. She has recently been seen as Ella Baker in THE DEBATE FOR DEMOCRACY, a show commissioned by the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. She would like to thank Destin and Audrey-Grace for their continuous love and support.

# BIOS (CONT'D)

MARQUITA K. LEVY (Director) is excited to be returning to New Stage Theatre to work with such an astounding cast. Levy was last seen in *CURIOUS INCIDENT*. She is a graduate of THEE Jackson State University with a BS in mass communications. Levy is a member of Jackson Revival Center Church, where she serves as the co-director of the theatre ministry, under the leadership of Pastor Jennifer R. Biard. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous love and support. Levy dedicates this production in the loving memory of her mentor, N. Earlean Bogan.

LINDSEY NEVILLE (Stage Manager/Associate Director for Unframed/Directing Associate) is a 2020 graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts with a Concentration in Theatre and an Emphasis in Directing as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. In undergrad, she gained directing and assistant directing experience both at Clemson and at The Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, SC. Since graduating into the COVID-19 pandemic, Lindsey has worked as an aide for a child with autism and been on the crew of two feature films. As theaters began reopening in various capacities, Lindsey has been an Intern at 7 Stages Theatre in Atlanta, GA and directed at May River Theatre in Bluffton, SC and at French Woods Festival for the Performing Arts in Hancock, NY. As a director, she strives to create small yet saliently relatable moments onstage; a look, a breath, or a moment of hesitation can clearly reflect experiences that audiences can identify with. Lindsey is thrilled to be starting a new journey as the Directing Associate at New Stage Theatre.

CLAIRE JUSTICE PORTER (Sound Designer/Acting-Directing Associate) is so excited to be a part of the crew of *Sunset Baby!* Porter is currently a member of the New Stage Associate Artist team as the Acting/Directing Associate. She has appeared at New Stage Theatre previously in *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*, *9 TO 5*, and *CLUE*, and with Unframed in *SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS*. She is a recent graduate with a BFA from the University of Mississippi, where some of her favorite roles included Ms. Fleming in *HEATHERS*, #25 in *THE WOLVES*, and Paulette in *LEGALLY BLONDE*. She currently also runs a local improv troupe called *To Kick a Mockingbird*. Much love to her family and friends who endlessly support her! @clairejusticeporter

ANTONIO JUAREZ (Set Designer) is very excited to be taking his first few steps in the world of theatre. He is a recent graduate of Hinds Community College where he studied simulation and animation. He was raised in the Brandon area and first became involved with theatre at Northwest Rankin High School where he created costumes and set design for a production of *The ZOMBIE PROM*. He has found working in the theatre fulfilling and has been working at New Stage Theatre since November 2021.

DEVIN RANFTLE (Light Designer) is thrilled to be returning to New Stage Theatre where he was most recent working on Bess Kohl's *SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS* produced by Unframed, performing as Sven in New Stage's *FROZEN, JR.*, and as Templeton in The Center Players' *CHARLOTTE'S WEB*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their endless support and encouragement.

# BIOS (CONT'D)

DEONICA DAVIS (Costume Designer) is from Pearl, MS with her BFA from The University of Southern Mississippi. She is a graphic designer by day and seamstress and maker by night. She makes her own costumes and props for holiday parties and recently brought her talents back to the local theater scene. She has held the position of wardrobe mistress for Pearl Community Theater's production of THE DROWSY CHAPERONE and assisted New Stage Theater with costume needs for shows such as CLUE and THE SOUND OF MUSIC. Most recently she completed her first opportunity as a costume designer for the New Stage's touring production of ANNE AND EMMETT.

AUSTIN MICHAEL RUSSELL (Intimacy Choreographer/Marketing Coordinator/Acting Associate) is a multi-hyphenate storyteller — as well as an alum of the University of Memphis Department of Theatre and Dance. He has performed all around the eastern United States professionally, most recently performing in Memphis and Western North Carolina. He is so excited to bring his passion for physical storytelling to the Unframed stage in this capacity. Intimacy Choreo is new and important work, and this cast has done such a brilliant job of showing the rawness of humanity — and he is very appreciative of the ensemble for creating a badass story. He would like to thank his family, the community of Jackson, and God for constantly helping him seek personal happiness, love, and passion in his life.

OLIVER MORGAN (Props Coordinator) recently returned from attending the Savannah College of Art and Design. He is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this production. Other credits include: 9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL, CLUE, and the education touring show of CLICK, CLACK, MOO: COWS THAT TYPE as a designer and most recently THE SOUND OF MUSIC as backstage crew. He would like to thank New Stage for this opportunity and his mom for supporting him!

XERRON MINGO (Producing Manager for Unframed) is a Graduate of Florida A&M University. Born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and recently resided in New York City where he worked as a health & safety manager for productions on Apple TV and HGtv. He also worked as a testing secretary and production coordinator for television shows with LIONSGATE and Apple Music Reviews. For the past ten summers, Mingo has worked at Raquette Lake Camps teaching musical theatre to students from all across the world. He recently made a return to the stage and served as choreographer while playing the role of Fezziwig in A CHRISTMAS CAROL at New Stage in 2021. He has worked professionally at a plethora of regional theatres in a handful of states. Mingo continues to live in the Light and could not be more blessed to do so as he embarks on this new journey as education director at New Stage Theatre.

CLARA SEITZ (General Director for Unframed) previously served New Stage as assistant technical director and scenic artist. She left in 2016 to pursue a nomadic lifestyle of working on a cruiseship. She is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women (and smart men too) where she earned a B.A. in theatre. Her previous New Stage credits include stage management for PIPELINE, lighting design for CONSTELLATIONS, scenic design for A WRINKLE IN TIME, props design for ALL THE WAY, costume design for DOG SEES GOD, and sound design for MRS. MANNERLY. She is excited to be back at New Stage, and working with all these wonderful people on such a brilliant show.

# AND A HUGE THANK YOU

To:  
Silly Billy's Thrift Store  
The Entire Staff of New Stage Theatre  
Darby Frost  
Alberto Meza  
Control Systems Inc.

We would not be able to tell stories  
at the caliber we do, without you

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EVERY BRILLIANT THING - Mar 14 - 26

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UNFRAMED

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**Every Brilliant Thing**

March 14 - 26