This is no ordinary night...when history meets humanity.

MOUNTAINTOP

By Katori Hall

Directed by Xerron X Mingo



February 4 - 16, 2025

Sponsored by



NEW STAGE

Costume Designer Deonica Davis

Scenic Designer Braden Graves Lighting Designer Matt Webb

Properties Designer Joey Ford Technical Director Richard Lawrence

Production Stage Manager Mattea Pierce Sound/Projection Designer Alberto Meza

> Production Manager Casey Nelms

MOUNTAINTOP By Katori Hall

Original Broadway production produced by Jean Doumanian, Sonia Friedman Productions, Ambassador Theatre Group, Raise the Roof 7, Ted Snowdon, Alhadeff Productions/Lauren Doll, B Square + 4 Productions/Broadway Across America, Jacki Barlia Florin/Cooper Federman, Ronnie Planalp/Moellenberg Taylor and Marla Rubin Productions/Blumenthal Performing Arts, in association with Scott Delman.

The Mountaintop was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City, and was first produced by Theatre 503 in June 2009 and further produced at Trafalgar Studio One in July 2009 by Sonia Friedman Productions and Jean Doumanian, Tali Pelman for Ambassador Theatre Group, Bob Bartner, Freddy DeMann, Jerry Frankel, Ted Snowdon and Marla Rubin Productions Ltd.

The Mountaintop was developed at the 2008 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a program of the Playwrights Foundation (Amy L. Mueller, Artistic Director).

The Mountaintop is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service imprint. (www.dramatists.com)

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Recommended for ages 14+ Contains strong language.

WARNING: the use of floating turkey feathers and theatrical haze will be used in this production.

Run time is 90 minutes.

SETTING

April 3, 1968. Room 306 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN

THE CAST

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr	Shabazz Green*
Camae	Anguanizia Hall*

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance. For Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: Keith Allen Davis, Jr^{\dagger} ; For Camae: Marquita K. Levy

^{*}Indicates member of the Actors' Equity Association

[†] Indicates Associate Artist

A HISTORY OF THE MOUNTAINTOP



On the evening of April 3, 1968, just one day before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his powerful "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. In it, he declared, "We've got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end. Nothing would be more tragic than to stop at

this point in Memphis. We've got to see it through." Along with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. King had conceived the Poor People's Campaign, which called for economic and human rights for impoverished Americans from all walks of life. Tragically, he was unable to see his vision through. On April 4, 1968, Dr. King was shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis at 6:01 p.m. He was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead an hour later at 7:05 p.m.

The Mountaintop is a powerful, thought-provoking play that imagines the final night of Dr. King's life. Playwright Katori Hall, a native of Memphis, TN, was deeply influenced by her mother's personal connection to Dr. King's visit to the city. Her mother had wanted to attend his final speech at Mason Temple in 1968 but was prevented from doing so by Hall's grandmother, who feared the church would be bombed. Hall's mother later described it as her greatest regret, as the next day Dr. King was assassinated. Inspired by this legacy, Hall created *The Mountaintop*, where Dr. King meets a maid named Camae, whose name is derived from Hall's mother, Carrie Mae. Hall remarked, "I wanted to put both of them in the same room and give my mother that opportunity that she didn't have in 1968."

The Mountaintop premiered in 2009 at Theatre 503 in London, where it received widespread acclaim for its bold narrative and emotional depth. In March 2010, Hall became the first Black woman in history to win the Olivier Award for Best New Play. The play moved to Broadway in 2011, where it earned a Tony Award nomination for Best Play. The Mountaintop invites audiences to reflect on the complexity of Dr. King's legacy and the continuing fight for equality. Through Hall's dynamic storytelling, it has become an important work in contemporary American theatre, blending historical fiction with an intimate portrayal of a pivotal moment in history.

THE CAST



KEITH ALLEN DAVIS, JR.† (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. U.S./ Assistant Director) is an actor, writer, musician, and director from Meridian, Miss. He recently received his Bachelor of Arts in theatre arts at Alabama State University. 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* at New Stage

Theatre. He hopes to continue to use all the tools he has acquired from Alabama State to propel him successfully into his professional career. Follow his music and acting pages on Instagram, @thebabyboykeith and @keithallendavisjr!



SHABAZZ GREEN* (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.) is thankful to make his New Stage Theatre debut in such a breathtaking play. A New Jersey native, notable New York Credits: Bars and Measures (Urban Stages); Philosophy for Gangsters (Beckett Theatre); Intruder: The Musical (Hudson Guild). Regional productions include: Murder on the Orient Express, The Play That Goes Wrong (Syracuse Stage); Oklahoma!, A Christmas Carol (Denver Center for the Performing Arts); Cinderella, Hands on a Hardbody, In The Heights (Colorado Springs Fine Arts

Center); *Topdog/Underdog* and *Sister Act* (Lake Dillon Theatre Company), *Mamma Mia* (Village Theatre); *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre); *The Ballad of Trayvon Martin* (New Freedom Theatre); *Little Rock* (Passage Theatre). Shabazz also appeared on screen in the film *Romance in the Digital Age*. FEAR NOT! @shabazzgreen www.shabazzgreen.com



ANQUANIZIA HALL* (Camae) A native of Meridian, MS, is an award-winning director, actor, writer, and singer. She is the owner and CEO of Rosebud Productions, LLC based here in MS. Hall attended college in Los Angeles at AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts where she graduated with honors and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. You can find Hall in projects on Amazon Prime and Tubi. Her first supporting role in a film was acting alongside GRAMMY winner, Cedric Burnside. Hall has been

seen onstage as Beverly in *Chicken & Biscuits* at New Stage, *Dreamgirls*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Trouble in Mind*, and more. Hall is now preparing for a role that will be filmed in Los Angeles, preparing for grad school, and allowing God to lead her path (Matthew 6:33). AnquaniziaHall.com. Thank you Xerron, Francine, and New Stage for another wonderful experience.



Stay and meet the cast after *The Mountaintop* following the show on Wednesday, February 5 and Thursday, February 13, after the evening performance. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



MARQUITA K. LEVY (Camae U.S.) is excited to be returning to New Stage Theatre! She is a graduate of THEE Jackson State University, where she received her B.S. in mass communications. Levy last appeared at New Stage as Nancy in *Gaslight*. Additional New Stage credits include *Chicken and Biscuits*, *Lend Me a Soprano*, *Clue*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, and several Unframed Productions. Levy would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous love & support.

PRODUCTION TEAM

XERRON MINGO (Director/Education Director) is a graduate of Florida A&M University. Born and raised in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. While living in New York City, he worked as a health & safety manager for Apple TV and HGTV productions. He also worked as a testing secretary and production coordinator for television shows with LIONSGATE and AppleMusic Reviews. For the past ten summers, Mingo has worked at Raquette Lake Camps teaching musical theatre to students from all across the world. Mingo could not be more blessed to continue teaching, coaching, and mentoring in his third season as Education Director at New Stage Theatre. During New Stage's 58th season on our mainstage, he directed *Chicken & Biscuits* and *Sister Act, Jr.* Mingo also directed the touring productions of *Junie B. Jones, The Musical, Anne & Emmett,* and Blues for an Alabama Sky (Unframed). Mingo played the Macy's Store Manager in *Elf, *The Musical* and served as the choreographer for the production. He also directed *Mean Girls, Jr.* and played the role of Gabriel in *Fences.* Mingo also played the role of Fezziwig in *A *Christmas *Carol** at New Stage in 2021. He has worked professionally at a plethora of regional theaters in a handful of states. Mingo continues to live in the light and encourages everyone else to do the same.

MATTEA PIERCE (Production Stage Manager) is a graduate of Belhaven University with degrees in both theatre and graphic design. Past New Stage credits for Stage Management include: Million Dollar Quartet Christmas, Gaslight, Noises Off, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Lend Me a Soprano, What the Constitution Means to Me, Elf The Musical, The Secret Garden, Chicken & Biscuits, and Ring of Fire (ASM). She is excited to be a part of New Stage's 59th Season – Your Place for Broadway Shows.

CASEY NELMS (Production Manager) is a proud Mississippian born and raised in Pearl, Miss. She received her Bachelor of social work from Belhaven University followed by her master's of social work from the University of Southern California. While living in Los Angeles, she transitioned from a robust therapy career to producing and supervising productions in the film industry. Nelms has been fortunate enough to work with companies such as Lionsgate, Patriot Pictures, and Convoke Media, as well as many others, and now happily serves as production manager at New Stage Theatre. She lives on the Ross Barnett Reservoir with her husband and their two droopy-faced beagles, Olive and Mabel.

ALBERTO MEZA (Sound/Projection Designer and Company Liason) is a graduate of Belhaven University with a BFA in Theatre. He is from Brandon, MS and is grateful to work in the only professional regional theatre in Mississippi. He began working with New Stage Theatre in 2020 and has continued to work in multiple positions over the recent years. Some of his regional design credits for both Sound and Projections include: Pipeline, Little Shop of Horrors, A Christmas Carol, A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Clue, Every Brilliant Thing, Ring of Fire, Elf The Musical, Chicken and Biscuits, Beautiful, Gaslight, and Million Dollar Quartet Christmas. He worked with Belhaven University Theatre as their professional guest artist as the Sound Engineer/Designer for their main stage productions, Wizard of Oz, The Spitfire Grill, and Cinderella. He recently had the opportunity to be the Lighting Designer in New Stage Theatre's recent production of *Gaslight* and he was able to Light Design with Hinds CC on their show *Radium* Girls and was able to work as a guest Technical Director at Wells APAC for their recent dance program, *Rodeo*. Meza was the streamer and editor behind the Thursday Night Virtual Plays, Conversations, & Cocktails that was presented over the virtual season at New Stage Theatre.

BRADEN GRAVES (Scenic Designer) is a scenic and lighting designer and technical director. He teaches theatre design at Belhaven University and has previously collaborated with New Stage Theatre on *Elf the Musical*, *Beautiful the Carole King Musical*, and *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas*. Braden earned his BA in theatre from George Fox University and his MFA from The Ohio State University. His past work includes designing and constructing productions for Broadway Rose Theatre Company, Actors Theatre Columbus, and The Contemporary Theatre Co., as well as serving as a designer and fabricator for Curtis Elliott Design Ltd. His designs have been recognized by the Kennedy Center, USITT, and SETC, and he was featured in the 2023 USITT Emerging Artist Showcase.

RICHARD LAWRENCE (Technical Director) serves as the parliamentarian of Fondren Theatre Workshop and has appeared in *A Christmas Memory* at New Stage, FTW's *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Buck Nekkid for Jesus*, directed FTW's *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, and most recently appeared as Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*. He was also the director of the widely successful productions of *Cabaret* and *Company*, which were joint productions of FTW and Actor's Playhouse of Pearl, with support from New Stage. Lawrence has been seen

in New Stage productions of *The Trip to Bountiful* and UnFramed's *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Weir, Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *Dublin Carol*. Lawrence has won three Best Set awards at Mississippi Theatre Association conferences, and has also won Best Set at Southeastern Theatre Conference.

MATTHEW WEBB (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to return to New Stage this season, having previously lit *Beautiful*, *Clue*, *9 to 5*, and *I Just Stopped By to See the Man*. Regionally, Matt's designed with Arkansas Rep in Little Rock, Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, and Cumberland County Playhouse in east Tennessee. Nationally, he's worked with Seattle Rep, Arden Theatre, Asolo Rep, Syracuse Stage, Seattle Children's Theatre, the Contemporary American Theater Festival, ZACH Theatre, and many others. Matt, a proud Mississippi State University alum and former faculty member, is currently the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at the University of Houston, and he holds an MFA from the University of Washington. www.mwebbdesign.com

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 recently brought her talents to New Stage, starting as a volunteer and eventually earning the title of Costume Designer for plays such as *Anne and Emmett*, *Sunset Baby* and *Acts of Creation. Chicken and Biscuits* was her first mainstage production to costume for working alongside Caleb Blackwell. Deonica's costume work can also be found at Pearl Community Theater; most recently their production of Disney's *Moana Jr*.

JOEY FORD (Properties Designer) was born in Atlanta and raised in Salt Lake City UT. He is a born problem solver and a maker by trade. In addition to fabricating sets and props for New Stage, Joey works as a prop maker and production assistant on high-definition film shoots and has solid computer and audio/video skills. When not at New Stage, he is a practiced fire breather and bakes apple pies from scratch.

CREW

Assistant Director	Keith Allen Davis Jr.
Lead Electrician	Matthew McMurtry
Costume Shop Supervisor	Nina Frost
Scenic Artist	Michael "Monte" Montgomery
Production Assistant	Darby Frost
Construction	Ness Koegel, Antonio Juarez, Joey Ford,
	Dave Ellis, Jimmy Robertson
Running Crew	Joey Ford, Cecil Hill, Oliver Morgan,
	Keith Allen Davis, Jr.†, Cameron Vipperman†,
T	'atiana Grace [†] , Jacob Heuer [†] , Ashlyn Pinkerton [†]
Wig Stylist	Nikki Reed
Light Board Operator	Michael "Monte" Montgomery
Sound Board Operator	Callie Jackson
Company Liason	Alberto Meza

[†]Indicates Associate Artist

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS (Artistic Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 37 years. She recently directed Noises Off, Gaslight, Beautiful, The Carole King Musical; The Secret Garden, Every Brilliant Thing, The Sound of Music, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time, I Just Stopped By to See the Man, The Debate for Democracy, Pipeline, Bright Star, Hell in High Water, Sweat, Shakespeare in Love, Silent Sky, and Best of Enemies. Favorite acting roles include Dr. Katherine Brandt in 33 Variations, Polly in Other Desert Cities, Lucille in *Dividing the Estate*, and Edna Earle in Eudora Welty's *The Ponder Heart*. She has directed a variety of shows including All The Way, The Whipping Man, The Grapes of Wrath, Our Town, Red, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Hairspray, Mahalia: A Gospel Musical, The Great Gatsby, Lombardi, Boeing, Boeing, A Christmas Carol, Gee's Bend, A Raisin in the Sun, Annie, A Soldier's Play, and I Love You, You're Perfect, *Now Change.* Reynolds is a 2022 recipient of a Directing Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission. She served three terms on the board of directors for the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and several terms on the Mississippi Theatre Association Board of Directors. Reynolds has served on grant panels for the National Endowment of the Arts and the Mississippi Arts Commission and has enjoyed adjudicating for Poetry Out Loud and the Southeastern Theatre Conference. She was a speaker for the 2021 Story State, www.storystate.msstate.edu, produced by Mississippi State University. Recently she served as a member of the 2025 Governor's Arts Awards Selection Committee for the Mississippi Arts Commission. Originally, from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Reynolds enjoys living in Jackson with her husband, Chuck.

DAWN BUCK (Managing Director) has worked on staff at New Stage for more than 20 years. She began her career at New Stage in the fall of 1981 as a box office assistant. Since that time, she has worked as box office manager, audience services director, house manager, bookkeeper, business manager and marketing director. Buck's other professional artistic credits include the USA International Ballet Competition, the Thalia Mara Arts International Foundation – World Performance Series presenting a series of performing artists including American Ballet Theatre, Aquila Theatre of London, Joshua Bell, Alvin Ailey, Cirque Eloize, Wynton Marsalis, and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She attended Belhaven University and is an alumnus of Leadership Jackson and a graduate of Dale Carnegie. Buck also completed a residency on theatre management at the Eugene O'Neill Center through a grant from the Foundation for the Extension and Development of Professional American Theatre (FEDAPT). Prior to serving on the staff of the USA International Ballet Competition, she worked with America Reads - Mississippi overseeing and training 270 AmeriCorps members who provided one-on-one tutoring in reading for students in primary K through the 3rd grade across the state. Buck also worked with Imageworks - Films for Business, assisting with the production of commercials, documentaries and training videos. She resides in the Heatherwood neighborhood with her husband David and has two sons who live in the big "N" cities of New York and Nashville.

BILL MCCARTY III (General Manager), a graduate of the University of Mississippi, has extensive background in wholesale and retail sales and real estate property management with the Jitney Jungle supermarket chain. The company was founded by his Grandfather Will McCarty and two Holman cousins in 1919. The families grew the business into a profitable billion dollar Mississippi-based company led by Bill McCarty Jr, his father, Henry Holman and many talented associates which sold in 1996. During his grocery career, Jack Stevens and Ivan Rider recruited Bill in 1973 to run a follow-spotlight for *The Gershwin Show* at the theatre's original Gallatin Street location. He has continued to volunteer with New Stage for more than 51 years in all areas including production, lighting and sound design, back-stage, and for New Stage fundraising events. He is involved in the day-to-day management, maintenance, and production for the theatre and serves on the Board of Trustees as a lifetime member. His favorite design credits are *A Christmas Carol* (1984), *Greater Tuna* (1986), *The Gin Game* (1987), and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1990).

MELISSA TILLMAN (Director of Business Services) is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.A. in technical theatre. She served as the audience services director and marketing director at New Stage, has worked as a box office associate at Lawlor Events Center in Reno, Nevada, and assisted with many box office activities at Belhaven University. Tillman has stage managed many shows in several parts of the country, including Las Vegas and Tennessee. Her stage managing credits include *Oklahoma!*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Wizard of Oz, Taming of the Shrew*, and *Love's Labours Lost*; and *Noye's Fludd* and *La Boheme* with the Mississippi Opera. This is Tillman's ninetieth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Kyle, their son, River, and their dog Vash.

MIA MCELROY (Marketing Director) is from Jackson, Mississippi. She has a BFA in acting and certification in film & TV production management. Her career journey includes performance, event coordinating, film production, and marketing/ promotions. Although this is her first year working at New Stage as an adult, she has many fond memories of being in different New Stage holiday and summer productions as a child. She is elated to be joining the New Stage family once again and is super excited for this amazing season.

BETTY WONG (Box Office Assistant/Education Assistant) begins her 18th season at New Stage. She continues to enjoy traveling to schools and towns throughout the state with the Associate Artists Company to provide live theatre experiences for students and adults of all ages. When not on the road, you can find her in the box office. She has also served for many years as a volunteer in other areas of the theatre. Her professional work experiences in education and her passion for live theatre have contributed to the growth and expansion of New Stage's Education Department. She has served as a consultant to school districts throughout the state of Mississippi. Wong has a B.S. in educational psychology from Mississippi State University, a M.Ed. from Delta State University, and recently won the 2019 Exemplary Arts Service Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.

MAHRI MCLEAN (Box Office Manager) graduated in 2023 from Belhaven University with a BA in Theatre Performance. This is her third season working with New Stage in various capacities, and she is so grateful for the opportunity to work in live theatre every day. Previous acting and production credits include *The Secret Garden* (Lily u/s), A Lovely Sunday For Creve Coeur (Costume Designer), The Spitfire Grill (Shelby Thorpe), The Burial at Thebes (House Manager), and most recently, When We Were Young and Unafraid (Mary Anne, Costume Designer). Mahri is originally from the outskirts of Denver, Colorado, and loves to brag about her five siblings back home, and her wonderful partner Corey.

CARLA MARSH (House Manager) received her B.A. in criminal justice with an emphasis in juvenile justice from Jackson State University. She is pleased to be returning to New Stage for her twenty-first season. Marsh is employed full-time with the Hinds County Sheriff's office.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of New Stage Theatre wishes to thank the following individuals and companies for the generous donation of time and resources to this production and the 59th season.

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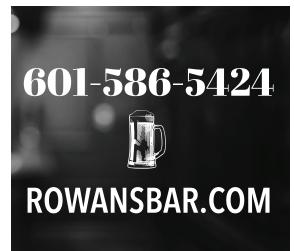




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Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

During performances, will remain open until 7:00 AND box office hours on Saturdays to be open until 7:00

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday hours only apply during the run of a show.

TELEPHONE/WEBSITE

Main Number: (601) 948-3533 Box Office: ext. 223 Artistic Director: ext. 224 Managing Director: ext. 246

Marketing Director: ext. 246

Marketing Director: ext. 225

Education Director: ext. 232

Website: www.newstagetheatre.com Email: mail@newstagetheatre.com

New Stage Theatre is a Constituent of Theatre Communication Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.