

# encore

ALLIANCE THEATRE



PEARL CLEAGE'S  
**SOMETHING  
MOVING:**  
A MEDITATION ON MAYNARD

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Stephanie Eley



## Alliance Theatre

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The Sixties were shuddering to an exhausted close when I landed in Atlanta at the hot end of summer, 1969. I was part of a generation marked by endless assassinations and a war that we didn't have a language to describe even as we were being sent off to die in it. Wary of politicians, we took refuge in the poets and the prophets, trusting only the music and each other. We believed desperately in the possibility of love and the inevitability of freedom. We turned our car radios up loud so we could sing along with Sly and the Family Stone, not realizing that at the very same moment Maynard Jackson was getting ready to change our lives forever.

Of course, I didn't know it when I turned on the news one night, and there he was. He was one of several candidates for vice mayor and even all these years later, I still can't describe the impact of seeing him for the first time. It wasn't just what he said, it was his passionate energy that made it impossible for me to look away. I believed in what he was saying, but I also believed in *him*. He seemed to be the kind of leader I had given up hope of ever finding again. I couldn't take my eyes off of him.

I hadn't been here long enough to vote, but everybody I met was already talking about how he was going to be elected mayor when the next election rolled around in four years, so I knew I'd have another chance. And I did. I volunteered as a speechwriter for his 1973 campaign and celebrated his victory by following him into City Hall for two years as his Director of Communications.

It is not hyperbole to say that my association with Maynard Jackson changed my life. He was the most demanding, intimidating, infuriating boss I ever had, but he allowed me to be a part of a truly transformational Atlanta moment. He taught me how to love the city and its people as much as he did. *And I do.*

For those of us who were there, way back in 1974, it's hard to believe it's been 50 years since we sent him to City Hall as our first African American mayor. It's hard to remember how young and hopeful we were. I think it's the memory of our hopefulness that made me want to write this play. I wanted to revisit a moment as *The Witness* says, "when all things were possible and our town's future stretched out before us like the yellow brick road that danced Dorothy all the way to Oz." A moment when a shell-shocked child of the sixties could ease on down that road and discover her dreams right there waiting. I am forever grateful. *Think of this as a love letter.*

**Pearl Cleage**  
*Playwright*

# SOMETHING MOVING, A LOVE LETTER

Pearl Cleage Portrays the Beauty of Atlanta Through Reflections on  
Maynard Jackson

STORY BY  
Mashaun D. Simon

In the simplest of terms, *Something Moving: A Meditation on Maynard* explores the historic election of Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first Black mayor. But quite honestly, it's about much more.

"Maynard changed my life," says Pearl Cleage, the Alliance Theatre's Artist-in-Residence and playwright of *Something Moving*. "I had been raised in a radical, Black Nationalist family and went to Howard University in the mid 60s when we were protesting everything. When I came to Atlanta in 1969, Maynard was running for vice mayor."

She happened to see him on television and thought he was incredible.

"He was saying all the things I wanted a politician to say. Just a big charismatic presence," she remembers, adding that she asked the person sitting next to her at the time, "Who is that guy?"

Their response?

"'Oh, he's going to be the mayor!' There was such a feeling that he was going to move everything we had fought so hard for forward," Cleage says. "We all understood how lucky we were to have somebody like that 'moving things' forward. He was so in love with this city and that love exuded in every single thing that he did."

In that moment, she decided she would keep her eyes and ears open to everything he did. And she did.

"I'm sure I broke all journalistic objective rules," she says.

When he launched his campaign for mayor, Cleage, who was producing a public affairs show for one of the local television stations, offered to write him a campaign speech. The speech led to her becoming the campaign's press secretary. Her time as the campaign's press secretary led to her becoming the Director of Communications for two years during his time in City Hall.

From that vantage point, as a member of Jackson's inner circle, Cleage wrote *Something Moving*.

Because of Maynard, she not only *learned* Atlanta but learned to love Atlanta.

"I learned to love Atlanta the way he loved Atlanta," she says. "Which is through the people. To be right there when people are mad that their trash didn't get picked up, or the water wasn't on, or whatever it is. These are not big philosophical issues to people, but part of people's daily lives. It was exhausting and exhilarating, and life changing and life affirming because you knew the work you were doing meant something."

Cleage sets the play in present-day Atlanta. Through the voices of nine characters representing a diverse mix of identities called Citizens, audiences are taken back to that time 50 years ago. In thinking about these citizens, it was important to her that they represent Atlanta. It is 2024, not 1973, after all.

"By casting Black folks and white folks, Asian people and Latinos and Native Americans, and all of the people who are part of that story, even if they're not lifted up every time, we can see that the community we're talking about isn't just a small community," she says. "It's a big community. It's what Atlanta looks like now. And Atlanta right now looks like America."

We tend to think of Atlanta still in terms of Black and white, says Cleage, but Atlanta is such a diverse place.

"We talk so often about Black and white, Black and white, because we're in the deep South. We're in a former slave state, and we've never really dealt with that as a state," she says. "We haven't really settled all of those issues, which is evident even today in the modern political discourse."

She thinks of when apartheid ended in South Africa. As part of their move forward, the country organized truth and reconciliation commissions where citizens would have open dialogue about the effect of apartheid on society. The conversations were not had just with the victims, but the perpetrators as well.

“Bishop Desmond Tutu, who was a big force behind the reconciliation commissions, would say, ‘We can’t move forward until we find a language to talk about the past, so we can sit in a room with each other,’” says Cleage.

That’s why, as a writer, she is so fascinated with the power of language. She watched her father, as a very charismatic minister, use language to move people and help them understand very sophisticated concepts while also moving them emotionally. That’s what she’s always trying to do in her plays — make the ideas resonate but resonate in a way that everybody can understand it.

“That’s what I want. I want us to feel that way, and I want everybody who comes in to feel that way, you know? I want everyone to feel that we are a thing of beauty — as flawed and crazy as we are as human beings — we really are a thing of beauty and infinite possibilities. And if we get together, it’s just incredible what we can do.”

There’s an exchange in the play where one of the citizens says early on, “Well, wait a minute now, this is the Mayor Jackson story, right?” And another character, known as The Witness, says, “Well, not really, you know, we start with him and all that, but it’s really about...it’s not *about* him.” The woman responds, “Well, what is it about?” And The Witness says, “It’s about you. It’s about me. It’s about us.”

That’s why, at its core, *Something Moving* is a love letter to Atlanta. Cleage hopes this play does that as well — allow people to say, we — as in the City of Atlanta and its inhabitants — are more beautiful than we thought we were.

“That’s exactly what it is,” says Cleage. “A love letter is supposed to not only make you think about the beloved, but also see how that person sees you. When we receive one, we are like, ‘Wow, he’s writing me a letter like this or she’s writing me a letter like this. That means that I must look better than I thought I looked.’ If someone can see all that in me, I must be okay.”



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*Jennings Hertz Artistic Director*

**CHRISTOPHER MOSES**  
*Jennings Hertz Artistic Director*

**MIKE SCHLEIFER**  
*Managing Director*

*present*

# PEARL CLEAGE'S SOMETHING MOVING: A MEDITATION ON MAYNARD

BY  
**PEARL CLEAGE**

COSTUME COORDINATOR  
**MELANIE GREEN**

LIGHTING DESIGN  
**JASMINE WILLIAMS**

SOUND DESIGN  
**JEREMIAH DAVISON**

PROJECTION DESIGN  
**SARA KEITH**

CASTING DIRECTOR  
**JODY FELDMAN**

STAGE MANAGER  
**BARBARA GANTT O'HALEY\***

DIRECTION BY  
**DAVID KOTÉ**

PRODUCTION SPONSOR  
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*Something Moving: A Meditation on Maynard* was originally commissioned by Ford's Theatre Society, Paul Tetreault, Director, as part of the Lincoln Legacy Commissions and received its world premiere at Ford's Theatre on September 28th, 2023.

**CAST**

ELISEO ARREOLA . . . . .	Citizen 9
DRU SKY BERRIAN . . . . .	Citizen 2
*TERRY BURRELL . . . . .	Witness
*AMARI CHEATOM . . . . .	Citizen 4
*GALEN CRAWLEY . . . . .	Citizen 5
*SHELLI DELGADO . . . . .	Citizen 8
KAYLA IBARRA . . . . .	Citizen 7
*PATRICK MCCOLERY . . . . .	Citizen 6
*MARGO MOORER . . . . .	Citizen 1
*TONY VAUGHN . . . . .	Citizen 3

**STAGE MANAGERS**

*BARBARA GANTT O’HALEY . . . . .	Stage Manager
XIAONAN CHLOE LIU . . . . .	Stage Management Production Assistant

**PRODUCTION AND DESIGN ASSISTANCE**

HAYLEE SCOTT . . . . .	Production Management Lead
------------------------	----------------------------

**FOR THIS PRODUCTION**

HAUZIA CONYERS . . . . .	Wardrobe
EMMA MOULEDOUX . . . . .	Sound Engineer
ROCHELLE RILEY . . . . .	Light Board Operator
ADIRAH ROBINSON . . . . .	Stagehand

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Kailan Daugherty





**\*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association,  
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States**

The Alliance Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States, and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, an independent national labor union. The Alliance Theatre at the Woodruff is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young Audiences (ASSITEJ/USA), The Atlanta Coalition of Theatres, the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Midtown Alliance.

**Photos may be taken in the theater before the performance, and following the performance. If you share your photos, please credit the designers.**

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**This production is approximately an hour and a half long  
and has no intermission.**



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**ELISEO ARREOLA** (Citizen 9) is a proud indigenous actor of Apache descent. A rising star originally from the heart of Kansas, Eliseo is thrilled to be making his professional theater debut in *Something Moving* at the

renowned Alliance Theatre! He finds the play's exploration on the election of Maynard Jackson and Atlanta's history, through multi-perspective storytelling, deeply meaningful and hopes audiences will be moved. He believes in the power of storytelling to bridge cultures and ignite important conversations. Passionate about sharing his heritage through storytelling, Eliseo is excited for the opportunity to connect with audiences through the power of live theater. Eliseo has trained extensively in the Meisner technique at the esteemed Robert Mello Studio in Atlanta, where he's developed a strong foundation in both stage and screen acting. On screen, Eliseo has starred in a diverse range of film projects ranging from drama to comedy, showcasing his natural charisma and impressive range. When not acting, Eliseo enjoys practicing American Sign Language, learning other languages, and singing. Eliseo would love to thank his family, friends, and his mentor Robert Mello for always supporting him. Learn more about Eliseo's work at [www.eliseoarreola.com](http://www.eliseoarreola.com). Find him on Instagram: @iameliseo3



**DRU SKY BERRIAN** (Citizen 2) is an ensemble-based artist with a degree in Contemporary Theater from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Born and raised in Atlanta, she is grateful for the opportunity to take part

in a piece that celebrates her home. As an alumni of the Collision Program, Dru is delighted to make her Hertz Stage debut in a piece with and about the community she loves dearly. Her favorite credits as of late have been her work as Pam in *TJ Loves Sally 4Ever* at the Speakeasy Stage Company and Claudius in *Hamlet* at the Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern. Dru would like to thank her elders for always uplifting her and keeping her soul fed. She would also like to thank her family from Tri-Cities to the Southwest Arts Center and in between! If you are interested in keeping up with her, you can follow her on Instagram @dru.sky.



**TERRY BURRELL** (Witness) is thrilled to be part of *Something Moving* at the Alliance Theatre. Favorite Alliance Theatre credits include *Angry, Raucous, and Shamelessly Gorgeous* (Anna), *Hospice/Pointing at the Moon*, *Ethel* (Ethel Waters and playwright), *Cinderella and Fella* (Stepmother), *Candide* (The Old Woman), *A Very Terry Christmas*, *Ever After* (Queen Marie), *Jar The Floor* (Maydee), *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Dilber, Mrs. Fezziwig). I would like to thank my very supportive family and friends, especially my husband Stephen Moses and our fur baby, "Storm."



**AMARI CHEATOM** (Citizen 4) is thrilled to join the cast of *Something Moving* at the Alliance Theatre! Favorite credits include James in *Sally and Tom* at The Guthrie Theatre, Ira Aldridge in *Red Velvet* at DC

Shakespeare and Dez in *Skeleton Crew* at The Geffen Playhouse. He holds a BFA from The Juilliard School.



**GALEN CRAWLEY** (Citizen 5) is delighted to be back at the Alliance; you may recognize her as Princess Fiona from *Shrek* or Missie Eliason from *Broke*. Regional: *Ragtime*, *The Last 5 Years*, and *Urinetown*

(Nashville Rep), *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Studio Tenn), *Beehive* (Flat Rock Playhouse). Atlanta: *Mary Poppins*, *Cinderella*, and the annual *Christmas Canteen* (Aurora Theatre). *Fiddler on the Roof* (City Springs Theatre Company), *The Wild Party* (Jennie T. Anderson Theatre), *My Fair Lady*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *Miss Bennet* and *110 in the Shade* (Theatrical Outfit). She won the 2014 Suzi Bass Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her work in *Mary Poppins*. Galen holds a BFA in musical theatre from the Sargent Conservatory at Webster University. Follow her online at [GalenCrawley.com](http://GalenCrawley.com) or on socials @galencrawley. Thanks always to Mom, Dad, Devyn, angel Abby, and Jacob. And a special thank you to Bean, for being along on the ride. L'dor v'dor.



**SHELLI DELGADO** (Citizen 8) is honored to be a part of Pearl's work and this stellar team. Previous Alliance credits: *Into the Burrow*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Max Makes a Million!*, *Tiger Style!* and TVY shows *Little Raindrop*

*Songs & Dinosaur*. Recent regional credits: Actor's Express, Warehouse Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Horizon Theatre Company, Synchronicity, Lean Ensemble Theatre & others. TV/Film: "Hysteria!," "The Bondsman," *Reptile*, "Doom Patrol," "The Vampire Diaries." Graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia with B.A.s in English and Theatre. All my love to Coco and the boys. IG: @shelldelgado



**KAYLA IBARRA** (Citizen 7) [they/she] is thrilled to join the cast of *Something Moving* at the Alliance Theatre! Favorite credits include Robin in *Meowderous Intent* (Asheville Fringe), Mrs.

Webb in *Our Town: Multilingual* (Theater Emory), and Yemaya in *Casualties of War* (Hollywood Fringe). She holds an MFA from CalArts and recently has been obsessed with making beaded bracelets for their ever expanding community. Kayla would love to thank their community and loved ones (especially Fred & Indy) for all their support! Find Kayla on social media: @feistyfemme



**PATRICK MCCOLERY** (Citizen 6) [he/him] has been an Atlanta-based theatre artist for 24 years. Previously at the Alliance: Uncle Henry in *The Wizard of Oz*. Other favorite roles include Dr. Gibbs in *Our Town*

[Multilingual] (Theater Emory), Simon Dedalus in *Ulysses* (Arís Theatre), Titus Andronicus in *TIT* (7 Stages), Claude Minot in *The Tatischeff Café* (Theater Emory), and False Alice in *The Colour of Her Dreams* (Object Group/7 Stages). A former Artistic Associate with the Alliance, he was Director of the annual Palefsky Collision Project for 12 years from 2012-2023. Patrick has also directed for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Center for Puppetry Arts, Kennesaw State University, and MLK Day events at the Woodruff Arts Center and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Love and gratitude to the citizens of Atlanta, Pearl and

Zeke, David, Maynard Jackson, Diamond Lil, the Alliance, Jody, the entire *Something Moving* fam, Kells, and you for supporting live theatre. Please support at-risk LGBTQ+ youth at <http://www.thetrevorproject.org>



**MARGO MOORER** (Citizen 1) A Member of both the Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity Association. Margo is happy to return to the Alliance, since appearing here in *Jar The Floor*, *Crumbs From the Table of*

*Joy*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Once on This Island*, *The A-men Corner*, *Southern Cross* and *A Christmas Carol*. Regional credits include: *Trouble in Mind* (Guthrie), *All My Sons* (Intiman), *Gee's Bend* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *Flight* (ACT), *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery* (Horizon), and *Black Nativity* (Jomandi/Dominion Entertainment). Most recently she appeared in *The First Noelle* (BET+). She portrayed Barbara Jordan in *The Glorias* with Betty Midler and Julianne Moore. Favorite film and television credits include Louise in *Forrest Gump*, *Runaway Jury*, Rob Reiner films, *LBJ*, *Shock and Awe*, and OWN's *Queen Sugar*. She was a series regular on *Sheena* (Sony/Columbia Tri-Star) and *Drop Dead Diva*. She received a 2004 Helen Hayes Award, Nomination for Birdie Lee in Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre's *Tambourines to Glory* (Lincoln Theatre, Washington, DC) and a Best Actress Award BTA (Chicago) for her role in *OO-BLA-DEE*. She is a 2013 Helen Hayes Award Nominee for her work in *Gee's Bend* at The MetroStage. Look for her in *Brothers* (Amazon MGM) in October.



**TONY VAUGHN** (Citizen 3) is proud to be making his debut with the Alliance Theatre. Working with several theaters in the 80's, 90's, and early 2000's in the Atlanta area and throughout, it's a real joy to be back on stage and working

with my buddy David Kote. Transitioning from the stage to television and film, some of his work has been *Tulsa King*, *Black Mafia Family* (BMA), *Women of the Movement*, *Ambitions*, *Johnson*, *Being Mary Jane*, *Step Up*, *Stranger Things*, *Saints and Sinners*, *Queen Sugar*, *Meet the Browns*, and *The Hate U Give*, along with several local and national commercials. Thanks to the Most High and my wife, Deborah.



**DAVID KOTÉ** (Director) is a director, actor, and educator. He began at Tri-Cities High School of Visual and Performing Arts and acclaimed Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble of Atlanta. Koté earned a

B.A. degree in speech and theater arts from Dillard University and M.F.A. in directing from Indiana University. His theater credits include *Jitney*, *Pill Hill*, *In the Red and Brown Water*, *Purlie*, *Flyin' West*, *Once on this Island*, *Times*, *The Last Season*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *My Children! My Africa!*, and *Macbeth*. He has also appeared in HBO's *A Lesson Before Dying*, CBS's *Mama Flora's Family*, and TNT's *Passing Glory*. He has performed in South Africa, Belgium, Amsterdam, and all over the United States. Koté served as Director of Theatre Arts at Tri-Cities High School Visual and Performing Arts Magnet where he received many awards for his work including The Charles Loidans Foundation for excellence and leadership in theater education.



**PEARL CLEAGE** (Playwright) is the Distinguished Artist in Residence at the Alliance Theatre. She serves as the city's first Poet Laureate and is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dramatists Guild. *Flyin'*

*West*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *What I Learned in Paris*, and *Angry, Raucous and Shamelessly Gorgeous* are among the plays she has premiered at the Alliance. She served as playwright to the Palefsky Collision Project for fourteen years and collaborated with her husband, writer Zaron W. Burnett, Jr., and artist Radcliffe Bailey on *In My Granny's Garden*, a picture book for children that became an interactive theater piece for very young audiences. She is the author of eight novels, including *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, an Oprah Book Club selection and New York Times bestseller. Cleage and Burnett were recently honored by Mayor Dickens who announced the new Pearl Cleage and Zaron W. Burnett Center for Culture and Creativity in Atlanta's West End. *Something Moving: A Meditation on Maynard* grows out of Cleage's active role in Jackson's first campaign and her two years as a member of his administration. She is the mother of Deignan Lomax, and the proud grandmother of Michael, Chloe, Bailey, Averie, and Ethan. Photo by Stephanie Eley.

**MELANIE GREEN** (Costume Coordinator) [she/her] is delighted to costume *Something Moving* for the Alliance Theatre. Favorite design credits include *The Underpants*, *Side Show*, *Sunday In The Park With George* (Temple University) *Rumors*, *Noises Off!*, *Rock of Ages*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina). She holds an MFA in Costume Design from Temple University, and is currently the Assistant Costume Director for the Alliance Theatre.

**JASMINE WILLIAMS** (Lighting Design) [she/her] is an Atlanta-based Artist and Lighting Designer for theatre, music, dance, opera, and immersive experiences. Although previously a Stage Manager, Jasmine transitioned to Lighting and Costume Design at Tulane University, where she received her Design MFA in 2020. As a Lighting Designer, Jasmine has designed the Alliance Theatre's *A Gift Of Live with Adam L. McNight*, Passage Theater's production of David Robson's *Blues In My Soul*, and *Damsel*, Atlanta's newest Dance Cabaret Dining Experience. Jasmine would also like to thank the theatre makers at St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre, for the opportunity of Resident Lighting Designer for their 46th season. JazLight.com

**JEREMIAH DAVISON** (Sound Design) is a Flint, MI native based in Atlanta, GA. Alliance Credits: *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*, *Do You Love The Dark*, *Hands Up*. Select Sound Design credits: National Tour of *Drumfolk '20-'24* (Step Afrika!); *Jitney*, *Pride & Prejudice* (Arkansas Rep); *Clyde's* (Theatrical Outfit); *Into The Side Of A Hill* (Flint Repertory Theatre); *Summer The Musical*, *Cinderella: The Musical*, *Song & Dance* (Aurora Theatre - All Suzie Award Nominated); *That Serious He-Man Ball* (K.L. True Colors Theatre); *The Light* (Horizon Theatre); *Bootycandy*, *Home Town Boy* (Actors Express). Jeremiah is the Co-Founder and C.O.O of Multiband Studios LLC. Education: BA, Theatre-University of West Georgia; AA, TheatreGeorgia State Perimeter College. He would like to thank God, his Wife, Family, Friends, and Mentors for all their support.

**SARA KEITH** (Projection Design) [she/they] is so honored to be a part of *Something Moving* at the Alliance Theatre. Sara has created videos for the Alliance Theatre since 2012 and designed projections for The Palefsky Collision Project in 2023. They hold a BFA from SCAD in

Photography and Minor in Video and Television. Sara would love to thank the amazing people of the Alliance Theatre for making her artistic dreams a reality. Find her on social media: @sarakeithstudios

**JODY FELDMAN** (Producer & Casting Director) began her theater career as an actress in Atlanta before moving into administration as the Assistant General Manager at Frank Wittow's Academy Theatre. It was at the Academy that Jody realized the importance of theatre to a city's cultural values and identity. Feldman started her career at the Alliance as casting director in 1991 and added producer to her title and responsibilities in 2001. She has cast and produced more than 250 productions at the Alliance, encompassing a range of world premieres that include *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* by Alfred Uhry, *Blues for An Alabama Sky* by Pearl Cleage, *The Geller Girls* by Janece Shaffer, *In the Red and Brown Water* by Tarell Alvin McCraney, more than 20 years of Keneda National Graduate Playwriting Competition-winning plays, such world and regional premiere musicals as *Aida*; *The Color Purple*; *Sister Act: The Musical*; *Bring It On: The Musical*; *Tuck Everlasting*; *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County*; *Harmony, A New Musical*; *The Prom*; *Trading Places*, and exciting new plays developed specifically for children and families, which is integral to the expansion of audience and mission for the Alliance. Jody is most proud of the thriving Alliance community engagement and partnerships that recognize theatrical work as a catalyst for civic conversation and connection.

**BARBARA GANTT O'HALEY** (Stage Manager) [she/her] Previous Alliance credits include: *Into the Burrow: A Peter Rabbit Tale*, *Slur*, *Tell Me My Dream*, *Courage*, *Grimm Lives of the In-Betweens*, ASM: *Tale of Two Cities*, *Hot Wing King*, *Everybody*. Other Atlanta credits include: *Big Fish*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Simply Simone*, *In the Heights*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Perfect Arrangement*, *Indecent*, *Slow Food*, *Ms. Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *The Wickhams*, *Our Town*, *110 in the Shade*, *Pitmen Painters*, *An Iliad* (Theatrical Outfit); *Support Group for Men* (Horizon Theatre), as well as *My Fair Lady*, *Cats*, *Young Frankenstein* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre). Love to Patrick, Elliana, and Keeva! Proud Member AEA.

**XIAONAN (CHLOE) LIU** (Stage Management Production Assistant) is

a Chinese stage manager. She recently graduated from the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale, where her credits include *Next to Normal*, *Green Sugar Bloos*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Alley*, *Twelfth Night*, and the Actor Showcase, as well as *Choir Boy* and *Escaped Alone* at Yale Rep. Chloe holds a B.A. from the Shanghai Theatre Academy. Her work experience in China included productions of *Beauty and The Beast*, *The Lion King*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *The Sound of Music*.

**TINASHE KAJESE-BOLDEN** (Jennings Hertz Artistic Director) began her tenure at the Alliance in 2016 as the BOLD Associate Artistic Director, assuming her current role in 2023. Originally from Zimbabwe, Kajese-Bolden combines her commitment to great art, deep education and community empowerment with an agile enthusiasm and unflappable, calm energy to inspire new possibilities. Kajese-Bolden honed her directing and producing skills as a freelance director working in regional houses across the country and on set. As a director and actor, she fosters deep ongoing collaborations with playwrights and has mounted innovative and critically acclaimed productions that merge elegant, theatrical designs with complicated human stories. A Princess Grace Award 2019 Winner for Directing and Map Fund Award recipient as a director and actor, she has worked on and Off-Broadway as well as recurring roles in the Marvel universe "Guardians of the Galaxy: Holiday Special," *Suicide Squad*, "Hawkeye," and CW's "Valor," "Dynasty," HBO's "Henrietta Lacks," Ava Duverney's "Cherish the Day," among others. Up next, she is developing a new Opera, *Forsythe is Flooding: The Joy of Lake Lanier*, and proudly serves on the ARTS-ATL Artist Advisory Council. "My mission is the pursuit of what connects our different communities and how we create art that liberates us to imagine a more inclusive future."

**CHRISTOPHER MOSES** (Jennings Hertz Artistic Director) has been working in professional theatre for twenty years and in 2022 was awarded the Governor's Award for Arts in Humanities for his body of work. In January of 2011, Chris took on the position of Director of Education at the Alliance Theatre, overseeing the Alliance Theatre Institute (twice recognized as an Arts Model by the Federal Department of Education), Theatre for Youth & Families, and the Acting Program. Since taking over this position, Chris has expanded the reach

and impact by making the Alliance Theatre Education department a vital resource for advancing the civic agenda of Atlanta. This work is accomplished through deep and sustained partnerships with social service organizations throughout the city. Under his leadership, the Alliance launched its Kathy & Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young program, which provides fully interactive professional theater experiences for children of all abilities from ages newborn through five years old; the Alliance Teen Ensemble, which performs world premiere plays commissioned for and about teens; the Palefsky Collision Project, where teens produce a new work after colliding with a classic text; expanded the Alliance's summer camp program to include over 3,000 children in multiple locations across Atlanta; and Alliance@ work, a professional development program designed for the business sector — the latest offering of which uses theatre practice to create a culture of civility in the workplace. In 2014, Chris added the title Associate Artistic Director and has continued to expand the Alliance's education offerings. During his tenure in this position, the Alliance has produced over a dozen world premiere plays for young audiences, including *Pancakes*, *Pancakes!* by Ken Lin, *The Dancing Granny* by Jireh Breon Holder, *Max Makes a Million* by Liz Diamond, and *The Incredible Book Eating Boy* by Madhuri Shekar. Currently, the Alliance serves over 100,000 students pre-k–12 each season, as well as over 4,000 adults through its extensive education offerings. In 2023, he was named Artistic Director of the Alliance Theatre.

**MIKE SCHLEIFER** (Managing Director) joined the Alliance Theatre in 2014 as the General Manager and in 2016, assumed the role of Managing Director. During his time at the Alliance, Mike has led the administrative and producing team on over 100 productions including bringing *Tuck Everlasting* and *The Prom* to Broadway. He was one of the architects of the “On the Road” season while a multi-million dollar renovation of the Coca-Cola Stage was underway. Mike is excited to have started the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee at the Alliance and to serve on the board of the League of Resident Theatres and True Colors Theatre Company. Prior to Atlanta, he spent 13 years at Baltimore's Center Stage working in several roles including Associate Producer, Production Manager and Resident Stage Manager. While in

Baltimore, Mike was an adjunct faculty member at Towson University and has guest-lectured all over the country. Mike began as a Stage Manager and has dozens of stage management credits between his time in New York and working regionally. Mike is married to theater director and educator Laura Hackman and the proud father of two boys, Jack and Ben.

#### **ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA)**

Founded in 1913, AEA is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)



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### SUPPORT THE IMAGINE ENDOWMENT

For more information about the Alliance's Imagine Campaign or to make an endowment contribution, please contact:

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## SYNOPSIS

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Award-winning author and playwright Pearl Cleage explores the election of Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first African-American mayor, from the vantage point of an artist and an insider — Cleage served as Jackson's press secretary during his campaign and followed him into City Hall for two years as Director of Communications. In choosing to tell the story of this 1973 landmark election, Cleage creates a cast of characters drawn from her own participation in this transformative moment in our city's history. By looking back, Cleage invites us to reflect on the meaning of leadership and the kind of future we want to build.

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Connect with us and other audience members on your Alliance experience. Share your comments and photos on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **Twitter**, and **TikTok** with hashtags **#SomethingMoving** and **#AllianceTheatre**. Plus, search your social media platforms with those hashtags for fun, behind-the-scenes content from our cast, crew, and creative team.

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## ABOUT THE ALLIANCE THEATRE

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Founded in 1968, the Alliance Theatre is the leading producing theatre in the Southeast, reaching more than 165,000 patrons annually. The Alliance is led by Jennings Hertz Artistic Directors Tinashe Kajese-Bolden and Christopher Moses, and Managing Director Mike Schleifer. The Alliance is a recipient of the Regional Theatre Tony Award® for sustained excellence in programming, education, and community engagement. In January 2019, the Alliance opened its new, state-of-the-art performance space, The Coca-Cola Stage at Alliance Theatre. Known for its high artistic standards and national role in creating significant theatrical works, the Alliance has premiered more than 135 productions including eleven that have transferred to Broadway. The Alliance education department reaches 90,000 students annually through performances, classes, camps, and in-school initiatives designed to support teachers and enhance student learning. The Alliance Theatre values community, curiosity, collaboration, and excellence, and is dedicated to representing Atlanta's diverse community with the stories we tell, the artists, staff, and leadership we employ, and audiences we serve.

### OUR MISSION

To expand hearts and minds onstage and off.

### OUR VISION

Making Atlanta more connected, curious, and compassionate through theatre and arts education.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the sincerest efforts to gain further understanding of the history that has brought us to reside on this land and to accept the knowledge that colonialism is a current and ongoing process under which we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation, we hereby acknowledge this native land of the Muscogee Creek Nation.

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Individual, foundation, and corporate donors contribute more than \$10 million to the Alliance Theatre so that we are able to present exceptional theater and educational programming to our community. We are deeply grateful for your support. To find out more about the benefits of giving or to make your gift, visit us at [alliancetheatre.org/waystogive](http://alliancetheatre.org/waystogive) or call 404-733-5157.

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We would like to thank the following companies who have matched contributions to the Alliance Theatre Annual Fund. To find out more about matching gifts, contact Emma Seif at [emma.seif@alliancetheatre.org](mailto:emma.seif@alliancetheatre.org).

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## LEGACY SOCIETY

*Celebrating our supporters who have made a legacy gift to the Alliance Theatre.*

The Legacy Society celebrates individuals who have made a planned gift to the Alliance Theatre. Making a planned gift is a wonderful way to show your support and appreciation for the Alliance Theatre and its mission, while accommodating your financial, estate planning and philanthropic goals. With smart planning, you may increase the size of your estate and/or reduce the tax burden on your heirs. Just as important, you will know that you have made a meaningful and lasting contribution to the Alliance Theatre.

To learn more about the Legacy Society, please contact Lindsay Ridgeway-Baierl at [lindsay.ridgeway-baierl@alliancetheatre.org](mailto:lindsay.ridgeway-baierl@alliancetheatre.org).

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**ARTISTIC**

**Jennings Hertz Artistic Directors** . . . . .Tinashe Kajese-Bolden, Christopher Moses  
**Producer & Casting Director** . . . . .Jody Feldman  
**Producing & Casting Assistant** . . . . .Brant Adams  
**Distinguished Artist in Residence** . . . . .Pearl Cleage  
**Associate Producer** . . . . .Amanda Watkins  
**Spelman Leadership Fellows** . . . . .Jayla Dyas, Kerrington Griffin  
**Essay Summer Literary Intern** . . . . .Kailey Albus  
**Reiser Lab Artists Round 10** . . . . .Emma Yarbrough, Cait Greenamyre,  
 Melissa Word, Dajlyla Nicole, K. Parker, Amanda Washington,  
 Yvonne Meli, Jimmica Collins, and Cedwan Hooks

**Production Management**

**Director of Production** . . . . .Lawrence Bennett  
**Associate Directors of Production** . . . . .Courtney O'Neill, Haylee Scott

**Costumes**

**Costume and Wardrobe Director** . . . . .Laury Conley  
**Associate Costume Shop & Wardrobe Director** . . . . .Melanie Green  
**Design Assistant** . . . . .Summer Barnes  
**Drapers** . . . . .Tonja Petersen, Cindy Lou Who  
**Crafts Master** . . . . .Diana L. Thomas  
**1st Hands/Stitchers** . . . . .Brett Parker  
**Wardrobe Supervisor** . . . . .Hauzia Conyers  
**Wardrobe** . . . . .Monica Speaker  
**Wig Master** . . . . .Lindsey Ewing

**Electrics**

**Director of Lighting & Projections** . . . . .Rachael N. Blackwell  
**Associate Director of Lighting & Projection** . . . . .Steve Jordan  
**Staff Electricians** . . . . .Joy Diaz, Rochelle Riley, Neil Anderson

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**Props Artisans** . . . . .Kathryn Andries, Bruce Butkovich  
**Props Artisan/Buyer** . . . . .Kimberly Townsend

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**Associate Technical Directors** . . . . .Rigel Powell, Luke Robinson  
**Shop Supervisor** . . . . .Patrick Conley  
**Lead Welder** . . . . .Chris Seifert  
**Carpenters** . . . . .Kevin Dyson, Parker Ossman, Marlon Wilson  
**Charge Scenic Artist** . . . . .Kat Conley  
**Scenic Artist** . . . . .Amanda Nerby  
**Technical Direction Intern** . . . . .Evelyn Galbraith

**Sound**

**Sound Director** . . . . .Michael Carrico  
**Assistant Sound Director** . . . . .Aaron Vockley  
**Sound Engineers** . . . . .Tamir Eplan-Frankel, Emma Mouldedoux, Graham Schwartz

**Stage Management**

**Stage Managers** . . . . .Liz Campbell, R. Lamarr Williams,  
 Barbara Gantt O'Haley  
**Stage Management Production Assistants** . . . . .Samantha Honeycutt,  
 Madeline Conrad  
**National Vision Stage Management Fellow** . . . . .Xiaonan "Chloe" Liu

**Stage Operations**

**Stage Operations Manager** . . . . .Scott Bowne  
**Assistant Stage Operations Manager** . . . . .Kate Lucibella  
**Flyman** . . . . .Willie Palmer Parks  
**Automation Stagehand** . . . . .John Victor Mouldedoux Jr.

**EDUCATION**

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**Naserian Foundation Head of**  
**Early Childhood Programs** . . . . .Hallie Angelella  
**Head of Youth & Family Programs** . . . . .Olivia Aston Bosworth  
**Head of Secondary Curriculum & Partnerships** . . . . .Liz Davis  
**Education Accounting Assistant** . . . . .Isabella Aguilar Irias  
**Administrative & Adult Program Manager** . . . . .Robert Hindsman  
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**Head of Strategic Initiatives** . . . . .Airelle Jacob  
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**Artist in Residence & Teen Program Manager** . . . . .Sam Provenzano  
**Resident Artist & Allyship Program Director** . . . . .Maya Lawrence  
**Head of Education Advancement** . . . . .Kristen Siltou  
**Education Production Coordinator** . . . . .Jay Williams  
**Teaching Artist Liaison** . . . . .Blake Fountain

**Teaching Artists**

Abigail Bowers, Abigail Kinchele, Addison Peacock, Alexandra Walker, Allison Gardner, Andi Stanesic,  
 Andrea Washington, Angel Fabian Rivera, Ann Marie Meeker, Anna McCarthy, Anna Oakley, April  
 Andrew Carswell, Aria Armstead, Audrey Myers, Autumn Stephens, Avery Sharpe, Barry Mann, Brad  
 Raymond, Brandon L. Smith, Brantley Myers, Brie Wolfe, Brittani Minnieweather, Brittany Loeffert, Caitlin  
 Slotnick, Caleb Vaughn, Callyna Jyonne Reynolds, Cara Mantella, Caroline Donica, Casey Navarro,  
 Chanel Davis, Chase Anderson, Chely Cutwright, Chelsea Brown, Cece Campbell, Chloe Lomax,  
 Christopher Nastasi, Clayton Landey, Coriana Raynor, Courtney Moore-Hornick, Da'Quan Conroy, Cody  
 Benfield, Dan Triandiflou, Daniel Caffrey, Daniel Santiana, E. Haeblerin, Ebony Glenn, Ebony Tucker,  
 David DeVries, David Kote, Delia Holmes, Dr. Sky Berman, E. Haeblerin, Ebony Glenn, Ebony Tucker,  
 Elaine Walton, Ethan Davis, Eugene Russell, Gloria Martin, Hananya Allen, Hannah Chatham, Hannah  
 Church, Harriet Bass, Hayden Weiss, Hollie Rivers, Ivani Quinones, Isaac Breiding, Issa Sosa, Ja'Siah  
 Young, Jada Gorgor, James Patrick, James Williams, Javaron Conyers, Jeremiah Hobbs, Jessenia  
 Ingram, Jetta Whitehurst, Jimex Alexander, John Doyle, Joseph Quintana, Josh Price, Julia Walters,  
 Julie Woods Robinson, Julissa Sabino, Karen Aguilre, Kate Varner, Katherine Taylor, Katie Causey, Katie  
 Wickline, Kierra Edwards, Kim Baran, Kirn Rockwell, Kristian Martinez, Lamar Hardy, Lauren Alexander,  
 Laurin Dunleavy, Lee Osorio, Lilly Heidari, Lon Bumgarner, Lydia Rice, Maddy Roberts, Madeline Noe,  
 Madison Junod, Madison VandenOever, Marc Collins, Marcia Faith Harper, Marcia Harvey, Marielle  
 Martinez, Marissa Kovach, Marquelle Young, Mary Claire Page, Mary Michael Patterson, Matt Baum,  
 Matthew Caleb Brown, Maxwell H. Breaux, Maya Lawrence, Megan Cramer, Megan Wartell, Melissa "Mel"  
 Ottaviano, Monteze Sutton, Morayo Otujo, Morgan Rysdon-Moultas, Myah Harper, Natalie Brown,  
 Nicole Price, Nicolette Emmanuelle, Patricia de la Garza, Patrick McColeary, Phyllis Prior, Rachel Da Silva,  
 Razzaria Denae Copeland, Riley Schatz, Rimothy Miracle Bennett, Robyn Sutton-Fernandez, Rodney  
 Williams, Ryan Dinning, Sarah Mack Price, Sarah Oguntomide, Sarah Wallis, Sariel Torbio, Shene  
 Simmons, Shanija Horton, Sharon Foote, Sierra Christensen, Stephen Ruffin, Tafee Tatterson, Therance  
 Lee, Theresa Davis, Tiffany Hobbs, Tramine Jones, Tyia De'Armond, Vallea Woodbury, William Amato,  
 Wynne Kelly, Zuri Petteway

**Teen Ensemble Members**

Alyssa Carr, Joshua Byrom, Saheem Patrick, Abigail May Watson,  
 Jax Millaker, Caleb Thomas, Coco Perkins, Adiya Subbieflied, Vanathi Parthiban,  
 Ja'Kyah Jackson, Daniel McCall, Abigail Dougherty, Anshula Phadke,  
 Eliana Leaks, Margaret Elliott, Kennedy O'Neill, Chloe Jarrett, Syrenity Hall,  
 Helena Denton, Malaysia West-Lewis, Ella Dameron, Aja Najib, Taliyah Muhammad

**MANAGEMENT**

**Managing Director** . . . . .Mike Schleifer  
**Company Manager** . . . . .Laura Thurston  
**Assistant Company Manager** . . . . .Sara Cook

**Administration & Finance**

**Director of Finance** . . . . .Valerie Thomas  
**Director of Community Engagement, Partnerships, & IDEA** . . . . .Daviorn Snipes  
**Controller & Head of Administration** . . . . .Elicia Crowley  
**Staff Accountant** . . . . .Jasmine Burton  
**Accounting Coordinator** . . . . .Julie Hall  
**Accounts Payable Lead** . . . . .Sharette Driver  
**Associate Director, Data Operations & Strategy** . . . . .Christina Dresser  
**Management Assistant** . . . . .Joseph Quintana

**Development**

**Director of Development** . . . . .Trent Anderson  
**Associate Director, Corporate Partnerships** . . . . .Natalie Adams  
**Manager, Board Relations & Special Events** . . . . .Kailan Daugherty  
**Associate Director, Strategic Institutional Advancement** . . . . .Collins Desselte  
**Coordinator, Development Operations**  
**& Institutional Giving** . . . . .Tanesha Ferguson  
**Director of Individual Giving** . . . . .Edward McCreary  
**Manager, Individual Giving** . . . . .Lindsay Ridgeway-Baierl  
**Manager of Annual Fund & Donor Relations** . . . . .Emma Seif

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**Manager of Web & Digital Communications** . . . . .Anna Birtles  
**Marketing & Promotions Coordinator** . . . . .Ashley Elliott  
**Graphic Designer** . . . . .Felicity Massa  
**Marketing & Public Relations Manager** . . . . .Mashaun D. Simon  
**Associate Director of Data & Ticketing** . . . . .Danielle Hicks  
**Patron Services Manager** . . . . .Genesis Gates  
**Patron Services Coordinators** . . . . .Andi Stanesic, Maiya Moran, Sydney Michelle  
**Patron Services Associates** . . . . .Zuri Petteway, Natalie Brown  
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**Season Ticket Concierge** . . . . .Ken McNeil  
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**Group Sales & Student Matinee Manager** . . . . .Jocelyn Rick  
**Group Sales & Student Matinee Coordinator** . . . . .Chelsea Street  
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**The posting of photos taken before the show, during intermission, or in our lobbies is not only allowed but strongly encouraged!** We do kindly ask that you refrain from taking pictures, recording audio, or capturing video **during the performance** to allow our audiences and performers to stay connected with each other during our brief time together.

*Our stories are not simply told for you, but with you.*