



**"WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK I'M ALONE?"**
A MEDITATION ON MARVIN 2021

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021 // 7 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021 // 2:30 PM

on the **ALLIANCE THEATRE COCA-COLA STAGE**

Directed by **PATRICK MCCOLERY**

In collaboration with **PEARL CLEAGE**,
Playwright, Distinguished Artist in Residence

**Alliance
Theatre**

YOUR STORY. YOUR STAGE.

20 YEARS OF THE PALEFSKY COLLISION PROJECT



In some ways, the world is unrecognizable from where we were in 2001 when the Palefsky Collision Project began. This was pre-COVID. Pre-9/11. These artists who are about to take the stage weren't even born.

But one thing has remained consistent. No matter the tumult outside, twenty young artists have gathered here every summer for the past twenty years to explore their interior lives, their community, and their dreams for the future. And ultimately to change the world. To change the world by leaving this theater not only more confident in their own abilities but more connected to their fellow human beings. That we get to glimpse a portion of this work on stage is a gift. And one to which I annually look forward.

But the performance is just that—a glimpse. Or rather a beginning. This is not simply the culmination of a three-week experience, for the process continues to unfold long after these young artists leave the Alliance. The collision that begins in this theater makes waves for years, and in the example of our first cohort, even decades down the road.

Staring back at twenty years, we get to hear stories about how this formative experience altered the trajectory of these students' lives. How it led one student to Broadway, another to a Rhodes Scholarship. Some have become non-profit leaders, educators, mothers, fathers, dancers, scientists. All have become more contemplative and compassionate citizens of the world.

Over the course of these twenty years, the Palefsky Collision model has been adapted to work in public schools, Metro Regional Youth Detention Centers, and Universities. It has inspired the lives of the participants, the lead artists, and all who are lucky enough to experience one of the performances. Thank you for joining us to celebrate this milestone and helping us rechristen the Coca-Cola Stage!

Now it's time to start dreaming about the next 20 years. Knowing that those years will be filled with 20 more classes of Palefsky Collision Project students fills me with the kind of hope that never lets you down.

— **CHRISTOPHER MOSES,**
DAN REARDON DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
& ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PALEFSKY COLLISION PROJECT "WHAT'S GOING ON?" TIME TRAVELING BAND

Gracie Brown
Da'Quan Cooney
Xavier Alexander Doyle
Destiny Nicole Jennings
Ariana Jones
Varun Kashyap

LaNiyah S. Kelly
Abigail C. Kirk
Chloe Lomax
Alex Lopez
Sophie Lyman
Talaria Merricks

Joshua Morgan
Daniel Thanh Nguyen
Solari Reeder
Brendan White
Ja'Siah Young

JENNINGS HERTZ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SUSAN V. BOOTH

DAN REARDON DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
CHRISTOPHER MOSES

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
& SOUND DESIGN**
RODNEY LAMAR WILLIAMS

MUSIC DIRECTOR
DAVID KOTÉ

LIGHTING DESIGN
STEVE JORDAN

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ISSA SOLÍS

CHOREOGRAPHY
ANTHONY CAMPBELL

**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY TRAINEE
& DANCE CAPTAIN**
MYA BURNS

PRODUCED BY

LIZ DAVIS, Head of Secondary Curriculum and Partnerships
JESSENIA INGRAM, Spelman Leadership Fellow Alumna ('21)

CREATIVE PRODUCER (PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO)
SARA KEITH STUDIOS

GUEST ARTISTS

Margaret Baldwin
Zaron W. Burnett Jr.
Bryan Mercer

Rosemary Newcott
Eugene H. Russell IV
Avery Sharpe

Lauri Stallings & gloATL
Anne Towns
Mama Yeye & Baba Tony

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Rachel Licker and Jeremy Richard,
Union of Concerned Scientists

High Museum of Art
Teen Team

GUEST ALUMNI & "WHAT'S GOING ON?" COVER BAND VOCALISTS

Kamryn Charles
Sarah Dardik

Ebony Golden
Jemarcus Kilgore

Joshua Lewis
Keira Smith

PRODUCTION TEAM

Sara Francis,
Mask Designer

Ernesto Gomez,
Director of Lighting and
Projection

Victor Mouledoux,
Automation Stagehand
Emma Mouledoux,
Sound Technician

Special thanks to **HOWARD & VICTORIA PALEFSKY** for their generous support.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

Fifty years ago, Motown artist Marvin Gaye released “What’s Going On?” an album that spoke to the times and his own political awakening in a suite of passionate songs about poverty, war, drug abuse, the ecology, faith and family. The album was so musically innovative and lyrically fearless that *Rolling Stone* magazine put it at the top of their greatest albums list and Smokey Robinson declared it his favorite album of all time. When we chose this musical masterpiece as our 2021 text, it was not so we could attempt to perform it but so that we could introduce it to our participants as we would any American cultural classic, with respect and reverence. The last three weeks have been a dynamic process of exploration and illumination as our tribe of 17 contemporary teenagers reached back to 1971 to see if Marvin Gaye could help us answer the question he was already asking: *What’s going on?*

All music and dialogue is the original work of our participants. Lines are not always spoken or sung by the person who wrote them.

This experience is free to all participants through generous support from:
HOWARD AND VICTORIA PALEFSKY

With additional support generously provided by:



THE ZEIST FOUNDATION, INC.



OF THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021 // 4–5 PM
SIFLY PIAZZA, WOODRUFF ARTS CENTER

FEATURING THE “WHAT’S GOING ON?” COVER BAND

EUGENE H. RUSSELL IV, Band Leader, Arranger, Saxophone, and Vocals

ALI BARR, Congas

CHE MARSHALL, Drums

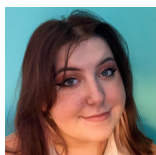
AL SMITH, Keyboard

S. RENEE CLARK, Keyboard

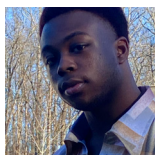
KHARI SIMMONS, Bass

AV TECHNICIAN
DEREK RAMIREZ

MEET THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY ENSEMBLE



GRACIE BROWN
Rising 12th Grade | Union
Grove High School, Henry
County Schools



DA'QUAN COONEY
Rising 12th Grade | Luella
High School, Henry County
Schools



**XAVIER ALEXANDER
DOYLE**
Rising 12th Grade |
Homeschool



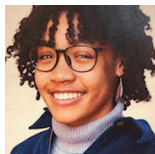
**DESTINY NICOLE
JENNINGS**
2021 Graduate | Brookwood
High School, Gwinnett
County Public Schools



ARIANA JONES
Rising 12th Grade | The
Galloway School



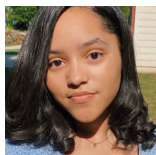
VARUN KASHYAP
Rising 12th Grade |
Alpharetta High School,
Fulton County Schools



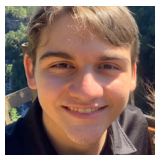
LANIYAH S. KELLY
Rising 12th Grade | Dunwoody
High School, DeKalb
County School District



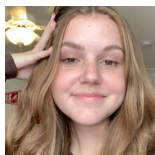
ABIGAIL C. KIRK
Rising 12th Grade | DeKalb
School of the Arts, DeKalb
County School District



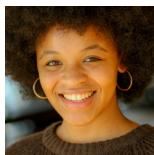
CHLOE LOMAX
Rising 12th Grade |
Woodward Academy



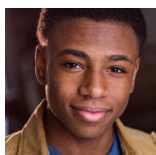
ALEX LOPEZ
Rising 12th Grade | Pope
High School, Cobb County
School District



SOPHIE LYMAN
Rising 12th Grade | The
Paideia School



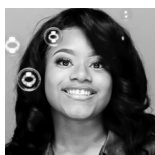
TALORIA MERRICKS
2021 Graduate | Brookwood
High School, Gwinnett
County Public Schools



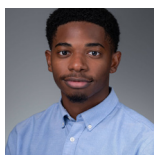
JOSHUA MORGAN
Rising 12th Grade | Martha
Stilwell School of the Arts,
Clayton County Public
Schools



DANIEL NGUYEN
2021 Graduate | Union
Grove High School, Henry
County Schools



SOLARI REEDER
2021 Graduate | Southwest
DeKalb High School, DeKalb
County School District



BRENDAN WHITE
2021 Graduate | Martha
Stilwell School of the Arts,
Clayton County Public
Schools



JA'SIAH YOUNG
2021 Graduate | Tri-Cities
High School, Fulton County
Schools

@ALLIANCETHEATRE

#COLLISIONPROJECT2021

PALEFSKY COLLISION PROJECT HISTORY

2021

**"WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M ALONE?"
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Source: *What's Going On?* by Marvin Gaye

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2020

DANGEROUS TALK: A BACK THEN JOURNEY TO THE RIGHT NOW

Source: *White Rose* by Kip Wilson

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2019

WE ARE THE FUTURE

Source: *1984* by George Orwell

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2018

FROM GROVER'S CORNERS TO THE ATL: A JOURNEY OF THE HEART AND MIND

Source: *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2017

OUR DAY'S GONNA COME: AN AMERICAN FREEDOM SONG

Source: MARCH by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2016

A CELEBRATION IN SEARCH OF ASSUMPTION: THE ARTIST'S ROLE IN WARTIME

Source: *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2015

TROUBLING OUR HOUSE

Source: *Inherit the Wind*

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2014

TOM JOAD'S BLUES: AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY

Source: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2013

LONG TIME COMING

Source: The Gettysburg Address

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2012

WISH YOU WERE HERE

Source: *It's a Wonderful Life*

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Patrick McColery

2011

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS: AN INSIDE/OUTSIDE IMPROVISATIONAL COLLABORATION

Source: The Declaration of Independence

Playwright: Pearl Cleage | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2010–2011

THE SHORT STORY OF MICHAEL FISH

Source: *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmund Rostand

Guest Artist: Janece Shaffer | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2009–2011

AROUND ATLANTA ON EIGHTY DOLLARS

Source: *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne

Guest Artist: Mark Valdez | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2008–2009

CHILDREN OF THE DREAM

Source: *I Have a Dream* speech by Martin Luther King Jr.

Guest Artist: Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2007–2009

MEMORABILIA

Source: *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams

Guest Artist: Ken Weitzman | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2006–2008

17

Source: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

Guest Artist: Chay Yew | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2005–2007

THE TRUE CHRONICLE HISTORY OF HIP HOP LEAR (OR THE KING OF BLINGLAND AND HIS THREE DAUGHTERS)

Source: *King Lear* by William Shakespeare

Guest Artist: Oyamo | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2004–2006

DEFY YOU, STARS

Source: *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Guest Artist: Lauren Gunderson | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2003–2005

WE ARE ANTIGONE

Source: *Antigone* by Sophocles

Guest Artist: Tammy Ryan | Director: Rosemary Newcott

2001–2004

PROMISE

Source: *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder

Guest Artist: Michael Rhod | Directors: Rosemary Newcott and Michael Rhod