THE PALEFSKY COLLISION PROJECT
20TH ANNIVERSARY

"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          LaNiyah S. Kelly          Joshua Morgan
Da’Quan Cooney       Abigail C. Kirk           Daniel Thanh Nguyen
Xavier Alexander Doyle Chloë Lomax              Solari Reeder
Destiny Nicole Jennings Alex Lopez              Brendan White
Ariana Jones          Sophie Lyman               Ja’Siah Young
Varun Kashyap
**JENNINGS HERTZ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**
SUSAN V. BOOTH

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

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<tr>
<th>ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR &amp; SOUND DESIGN</th>
<th>MUSIC DIRECTOR</th>
<th>LIGHTING DESIGN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RODNEY LAMAR WILLIAMS</td>
<td>DAVID KOTÉ</td>
<td>STEVE JORDAN</td>
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<tr>
<th>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISSA SOLÍS</td>
<td>ANTHONY CAMPBELL</td>
<td>LIZ DAVIS, Head of Secondary Curriculum and Partnerships</td>
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<td>JESSENNIA INGRAM, Spelman Leadership Fellow Alumna ('21)</td>
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**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.
This experience is free to all participants through generous support from: HOWARD AND VICTORIA PALEFSKY

With additional support generously provided by:

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

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.
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

ARIA 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?”
A MEDITATION ON MARVIN 2021
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