Steep Theatre Presents the Midwest Premiere of



BY EBONI BOOTH DIRECTED BY JONATHAN BERRY



STEEP THEATRE COMPANY

Steep Theatre Company is an ensemble of artists driven by a shared commitment to the organization's mission: To bring out the everyday truths in the stories we tell through ensemble work and to reach out to non-traditional theatregoers by seeking out stories and creating experiences relevant to them. Steep believes theatre should stoke conversations about the issues and conditions that are part of all of our lives; conversations that take place between artists and audiences in the theatre, in the lobby, and long after everyone has gone home.

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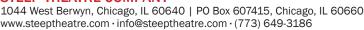
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Manager

Help Steep create more theatre like *Paris*. Scan to donate, or inquire at the box office.

STEEP THEATRE COMPANY





Steep Theatre Company

proudly presents the Midwest Premiere of

Paris

by Eboni Booth

CAST (in speaking order)
Berry's Orientation Video Voice
Emmie
Gar Terence Sims
LoganAlex Lev
Maxine
Wendy Lynda Shadrake
Dev
CarlisleJosh Odo
UNDERSTUDIES
Emmie
Gar
Logan
MaxineLiz Sharpe
Wendy Anne Wride
Dev / CarlisleDaniel Houle
PRODUCTION STAFF
Director
Stage Manager Jennifer Aparicio
Lighting Designers
Costume DesignerAlexia Rutherford
Sound DesignerDaniel Etti-Williams
Props Designer
Scenic Consultant
Intimacy Choreographer
Assistant Director
Production Manager
Technical Director
Production Electrician

[^]Steep Theatre Ensemble Member 'Member of United Scenic Artists Local 829
*Appearing through an Agreement between Steep Theatre and Actors' Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Paris is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com. World Premiere Presented by Atlantic Theatre Company, New York City, 2020.



The video and audio recording of this show is strictly prohibited. You may take photos of the stage before or after the show, but not when actors are present. If you post these photos online or elsewhere, please credit the production's designers listed above.

 Casting Director
 Lucy Carapetyan^

 Photographer
 Randall Starr

Season Sponsor: Bayless Family Foundation

This production of *Paris* was sponsored by: Dr. Susan Burland & George Plumb, Ken Burlington, James T. O'Neill, Barbara & Randy Thomas, Lisa & Randy White, Jan Willer & Mark Osing, and Martha Anne & Stephen Yandle

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"I wait for myself."

- Frantz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness"

In the last two years, I think we all have been wrestling with two challenging and important questions: first, what makes up our identity – is it the work we do? The people we surround ourselves with? Our behavior in the past? Or our actions in the present? And second, our idea and definition of home: is home the dwelling that we inhabit? Or the people we inhabit it with? Or the place where we feel fully ourselves?

Faced with both a pandemic that, for everyone but for theater makers more acutely, truly shut down our ability to interact in the world as well as a long overdue racial reckoning that called into question both how we did our work and who we were actively including in that work, I've gained, I hope, some important perspective. We can get so caught up in maintaining the minutiae of the day to day, that we lose, a bit, the forest for the trees. We find ourselves so locked into our daily routine, we stop thinking about the why of it, or asking questions to keep ourselves focused on the reason behind the action, and we just do it because it's what we've always done.

It takes, it seems, a seismic shift to wrench away our blinders and force ourselves to see the larger picture and just where we stand. Sometimes it comes suddenly, and sometimes it is a slow build to a tipping point, but once that perspective shifts, it's impossible to avoid looking at things from this new lens.

For Emani – a young Black woman in a primarily White Vermont town in 1995, the struggle to survive in a precarious system leads her to Berry's retail store, where the promise of 5 dollars an hour and a focus on community appears, at first, to be just the thing she needs. But how long can the blinders hold in a system that is not designed with her in mind? Her identity makes her conspicuously visible, and yet being visible is very different than being seen. Despite great hope, the yearned for sense of belonging remains, for her, illusive.

As Steep builds our new home, these questions remain at the forefront of our conversation. How do we ensure that everyone walking through the door has the same opportunity to be, not just welcomed, but seen. How can this become a welcoming place, for not just our artists, but our patrons as well. It is the gift that theater gave to a younger me, and it is something I hope to actively cultivate for everyone walking through these doors: a sense of home.

Thank you for being here.

Jonathan Berry

CAST

Norm Woodel (Berry's Orientation Video Voice)

Norm has been one of Chicago's most successful voice over artists for the past 30 years. He's voiced for CBSNews, ESPN, Aleve, Busch Beer, Chevy, and perhaps most famously, he was the voice of Hillary Clinton's *3AM* Presidential election ad. That ad is said to have been as important to political advertising as LBJ's 1964 *Daisy* ad. Norm has a rewarding history having worked with Director Jonathan Berry in several Steep and other Chicago theater shows. He received a Jeff Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the Papa in Berry's Production of *Golden Boy* in 2014.



Amber Sallis (Emmie) Amber is thrilled to be back on stage after two long years post pandemic! She is a proud ensemble member of Steep Theatre and Imagination

Theatre. Selected theatrical credits include: *Top Girls* (Remy Bumppo) *Pomona, Hinter, Mosquitos, Earthquakes in London*, (Steep), touring Chicago and suburban public schools (Imagination Theatre) and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Eclectic Full Contact Theatre). She is a BFA graduate of Northern Illinois University.



Terence Sims (Gar) Terence is thrilled to make his Steep debut. Televsion credits include: 4400 (CW); Chicago Med (NBC); Previous theatre credits include: Ma Rainey's

Black Bottom (Writer's), Crumbs From the Table of Joy (Raven), Damascus (Strawdog), Barbecue (Strawdog), The Green Book (Pegasus), SkeletonCrew (u/s, Northlight), Monster (Steppenwolf), Between Riverside and Crazy (u/s, Steppenwolf), To Kill A Mockingbird (Children's Theatre Madison). Terence is a member of Kinfolk Collective, an afrofuturist aesthetic tribe of artists & scholars working to rewrite and remaster the narrative of members of the African diaspora.



Alex Levy (Logan) Alex is delighted to return to Steep! As an actor/playwright, their Chicago theatre credits include: Next to Normal (Writers Theatre), Do You Feel Anger? (A Red Orchid Theatre), Mosquitoes (Steep), Phoebe in Winter (Facility Theatre), and HAIR (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre). Regional credits include Hamlet, Twelfth Night, Peter and the Starcatcher, and Rodeo (Illinois Shakespeare Festival). TV credits include Chicago Fire (NBC) and Empire (FOX). Alex graduated from the School of Theatre and Dance at Illinois State University and is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent. Website: alex-levi.wixsite.com/site



Michaela Petro (Maxine)

Michaela is proud to join Steep in welcoming you to their new home with *Paris*. She's spent stage time at Lifeline, Haven, Writers Theatre, Steppenwolf,

Strawdog, Wildclaw, Mary-Arrchie, Interrobang, Red Tape, Lakeside Shakespeare & Cole. Her passion outside of theatre is teaching self-defense with For Womxn, By Womxn, an inclusive-program designed to educate & empower. She is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Website: www.macpetro.com



Lynda Shadrake (Wendy)

Lynda is thrilled to be making her Steep debut. An ensemble member of Griffin Theater, she has performed in For Services Rendered, Pocatello and Balm

in Gilead and has toured extensively with Letters Home and Frindle. Other credits include The Importance of Being Earnest, Pygmalion (Oak Park Festival Theatre), Circle Mirror Transformation (Redtwist), Late Nite Catechism, Flanagan's Wake, and tons of improv over the years. Lynda is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Thanks and love to Paul, Caylee, Jake, and the tribe.



Alex Gillmor (Dev) Alex is thrilled to finally be working on another Steep show. Some of his favorite parts are Mugsy in Dealers Choice, Bruce in Bang the Drum Slowly, The Man in

The Vandal, and Dale in Parlour Song. Thanks to the cast and crew for making this yet another great experience. Thanks to the audience, our board of directors, and everyone who has helped with this show and this new theatre. Special

CAST, continued

thanks to Anna, Lili, and Greta the three most important women in my life.



Josh Odor (Carlisle) Josh is grateful to be back at Steep to help break in the new joint. Josh has been seen at Steep in The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, The Resistable Rise

of Arturo Ui and Moment. Chicago credits: Her Honor Jane Byrne (Lookingglass), To Catch a Fish and Blood and Gifts (TimeLine), El Grito del Bronx (Goodman/Collaboraction), Oorah! (Steppenwolf/LiveWire), Scientific Method and The Firebirds Take the Field (Rivendell), Welcome to Jesus (American Theater Co), You on the Moors Now (The Hypocrites), Life On Paper (Jackalope), Hit the Wall (The Inconvenience), Winterset (Griffin), The Nutcracker (House) and Sweet Bird of Youth and The Time of Your Life (Artistic Home). Regionally Josh has worked at the Long Wharf. TV/Film credits: The Chi, Chicago Med/PD/Fire, Boss, Betrayal, Janie Jones and The Express.



Kaylah Crosby (Emmie U/S)
Kaylah is delighted to be a
part of *Paris* at Steep Theatre.
Her favorite credits include
Lillie Anne in *Barbecue* and
Hannah Davis in *Luck of the*

Irish, both performed at the UIC Mainstage. Kaylah is a recent UIC graduate, where she received her BFA in acting.



Jon Jordan (Gar U/S) Jon is an actor based in Chicago, IL. His TV credits include NBC's Chicago P.D. and The CW Network's The 4400. Jon graduated with a B.A. in TV

Broadcasting. He did freelance work in sports broadcasting for a number of years and also worked as a host, presenter and event planner on cruise ships. Jon's first acting classes were at The Second City and has continued his training with teachers from Chicago, L.A. and Atlanta. Jon was last seen onstage in *Creating ARThur* at Theater Wit. Jon is also a military veteran and his goal is to use his personal journey to inspire others.



Isaac Snyder (Logan U/S)
Isaac is thrilled to be working with Steep for the first time!
His previous Chicago Credits include, Understudying I Am
Not Your Perfect Mexican

Daughter at Steppenwolf, The 39 Steps with Oil Lamp Theatre, and Directors Haven with Haven Theatre. Other credits include Lockdown Theatre and Hampstead Stage Company. He is a graduate of The School at Steppenwolf and is signed with DDO Artists Agency. He would like to thank his family, his chosen family, and his loving partner Evan.



Liz Sharpe (Maxine U/S) Liz is thrilled to be working with Steep for the first time, on this beautiful play with such an incredible group of artists. Her latest credits include *In the*

Canyon (Hope) at Jackalope Theatre, Byhalia MS (Laurel) at the Den Theatre and Steppenwolf's 1700 Space, and SLICE (A24) as Dana. She is represented by NV Talent.



Anne Wrider (Wendy U/S)
Anne is thrilled to be working
with Steep Theatre and to be

with Steep Theatre and to be part of this production. She has been an actor in Chicago and Cincinnati for over twenty

years. In Chicago, she has appeared with Northlight Theatre, Raven Theatre, City Lit Theatre, Kane Repertory, Artemisia and The Comrades. She dedicates this performance to the memories of Bill Esper and Ed Stern, teachers, mentors and friends.



Daniel Houle (Dev / Carlisle U/S) Daniel received his BFA in acting from the University of Rhode Island before touring with The National Players. His Chciago credits include

Speaking Ring Theater Company, American Theater Company, Timeline, Bohemian Theater Ensemble, Prop Theater, Step Up Productions, Silk Road Rising, Drury Lane and most recently Paramount. His TV credits include *Chicago PD*. Daniel would like to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Eboni Booth (Playwright) Eboni Booth is a writer and actress from New York City. Her play *Paris* had its premiere at the Atlantic Theater Company. Her work has been developed with Victory Gardens Theater, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Cape Cod Theater Project, WP Theater, Two River Theater, Clubbed Thumb, and Northern Stage. Eboni is a resident playwright at New Dramatists and the recipient of a Steinberg Playwright Award, a Helen Merrill Award for Playwriting, and a John Gassner award. She is a graduate of Juilliard's playwriting program and the University of Vermont.

Jonathan Berry (Director) Steep Ensemble Member Jonathan Berry is a director and teacher in Chicago and spent 5 years as an Artistic Producer at Steppenwolf Theatre and the Director of The School at Steppenwolf. His Steep productions include lke Holter's Red Rex. Simon Stephens' Birdland, Mike Bartlett's Earthquakes in London, Laura Wade's Posh, Ross Dungan's The Life and Sort of Death of Eric Argyle, Nick Payne's If There Is I Haven't Found it Yet, John Donnelly's The Knowledge, David Eldridge's Festen, Deirdre Kinahan's Moment, Howard Korder's The Hollow Lands and Brecht's The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui. For Steppenwolf, he directed Clare Barron's You Got Older, Nick Payne's Constellations, the SYA productions of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, The Crucible, and A Separate Peace, and the world premiere of Melinda Lopez's Gary for First Look. He was also the Assistant Director for Anna D Shapiro's Broadway productions of Of Mice and Men and This is Our Youth. Jonathan is an Artistic Associate with Griffin Theatre, where his productions include Samuel D Hunter's The Harvest and Pocatello. Anderson's Winterset, Odets' Golden Boy, Miller/ Tysen's The Burnt Part Boys, Sheik/ Sater's Spring Awakening, the North American premieres of Simon Stephens' Punk Rock (Jeff award Director, Lead Actor, and Ensemble), Port, and On the Shore of the Wide World, Stephen Sondheim's Company, William Inge's Picnic, JB Priestely's Time and the Conways, Sidney Kingsley's Dead End, Brendan Behan's The Hostage and R.C. Sheriff's Journey's End. At the Gift Theatre, he has directed the world premieres of both Dirty and Suicide, Incorporated by

Andrew Hinderaker, as well as Shakespeare's Othello and Will Nedved's 6. His
Goodman Theatre productions include The Solid
Sand Below and The World of Extreme Happiness for their New Stages Festival. Other work:
Redtwist; Look Back in Anger and Reverb,
Chicago Dramatists; I am Going to Change the
World, Jackalope Theatre; The Casuals,
Strawdog; the premiere of On the Greenbelt and Conversations on a Homecoming, Remy
Bumppo; The Marriage of Figaro, Theatre
Mir; The Sea and Brecht's Caucasian Chalk
Circle, and Lifeline Theater's The Piano
Tuner (Afterdark Award – Best Production).

Jennifer Aparicio (Stage Manager) Jennifer has been working in the Chicago theater scene for the past several years as an Equity Stage Manager and freelance Production Manager. Select stage management credits include work with Victory Gardens, The Goodman Theatre, Theatre at the Center, Oak Park Festival Theatre, 16th Street Theater, and Lifeline Theatre. As a production manager, credits include work with Teatro Vista, Victory Gardens, Porchlight Music Theatre, Definition Theatre, Sideshow Theatre Company, and Oak Park Festival Theatre. Jennifer is an Artistic Associate with Teatro Vista and 16th Street Theater, and is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

Heather Gilbert (Lighting Designer) At Steep Theatre: Arturo Ui, The Vandal, A Small Fire, Fallow; Broadway: The Sound Inside at Studio 54 (Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award: Little League Edition, Tony Nomination). Chicago: Steppenwolf, Goodman, Court, Writers Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Victory Gardens, Drury Lane, Chicago Children's Theatre, Red Orchid and countless storefronts all over the city. Regional theaters: Studio Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre Louisville, Magic Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Kirk Douglas Theatre, Kansas City Repertory, Milwaukee Rep. Huntington Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Alley Theatre, ART, Berkeley Rep, and Olney Theatre Company. Head of Lighting Design, Columbia College Chicago.

Conchita Avitia (Lighting Designer) Conchita is a freelance Lighting Designer based in Chicago; she holds her BA in Theatre Design from

PRODUCTION STAFF, continued

Columbia College Chicago. Recent design credits are with Free Street Theatre (57 Blocks), Broken Nose Theater (This Is Only A Test), WildClaw Theatre (Hell Followed With Her), and Water People Theatre (The Delicate Tears of the Waning Moon). When she isn't designing, she is serving as an ALD throughout the city; recent Assistant Lighting Designer credits are with TimeLine Theater (Relentless), Chicago Shakes (As You Like It), SteppenwolfTheatre (Dance Nation), and Court Theatre (For Colored Girls). For production photos and updates visit www.avitialighting.com

Alexia Rutherford (Costume Designer) Alexia is delighted to join Steep Theatre for the first time. Previous design credits include Black Pearl, Sammy!, and Hail, Hail, Chuck Berry (Black Theatre Alliance Award) for Black Ensemble Theatre, Too Heavy for Your Pocket and Rutherford and Sons for TimelineTheatre, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Double Trouble (Jeff Award Nominated) and Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill for Porchlight Theatre, A Loss of Roses and Last Pair of Earlies for Raven Theatre, Sender for A Red Orchid Theatre, Thom Pain for Theatre Wit, and King Hedley for Court Theatre.

Daniel Etti-Williams (Sound Designer) Daniel is an up-and-coming Sound Designer and Engineer local to Chicago. After studying Acting at Oklahoma City University, he moved to Chicago to participate in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's Apprenticeship Program. Since then, he has had the opportunity to work all over Chicago making theatre and telling stories and expressing his passion through design. Chicago design credits include Run The Beast Down (Strawdog Theatre Company), Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins (Strawdog Theatre Company), Beatrix Potter's Holiday Tea Party (Chicago Childrens Theatre), Haus of Atreus (Mudlark Theater), Peerless (Northwestern University Graduate Directing Program), On The Greenbelt (Strawdog Theatre Company), At The Vanishing Point (The Gift Theatre).

Carol-Delaney Gibson (Props Designer)

Carol-Delaney is a Northern Jersey native with a wide range of theatrical credits, ranging from stage manager, light designer, properties master, and choreographer (having trained at Broadway

Dance Center, and Alvin Ailey). Training extensively with Garage Theatre Group (Teaneck, New Jersey) Carol-Delaney's credits include Fringe Festival productions, apprenticeships with The New 42nd Street Studios, stage managing with The Frog and Peach Theatre Company, PA work throughout the boroughs of NYC, and light and sound assistant and board operation. Most recently (pre-pandemic) cast in a play with the New York City Player's Club reenacting the research found by a psychologist while retraining a Canadian police force, Carol-Delaney is excited to be a part of the theater world as we adjust mid pandemic.

Tristin Hall (Intimacy Choreographer) Tristin is thrilled to be working with Steep Theatre! Previous choreography credits include: On the Greenblelt, The Effect (Strawdog), Comedy of Errors (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Stick Flv (Writers Theater), Human Resources (TheaterEvolve), Some like it Red, Munsterspiel (The Plagiarists), Thin Mints a workshop production (Greenhouse Theater), Affection as a Space Vacuum (Rhinofest 2020), Mad Girls (Rhinofest 2020). Assisting credits include: Sam Hubbard - Yen. (Raven Theater). Too Heavy for Your Pocket (Timeline), Rachel Flesher - Sickle (Red Theater), and John Mcfarland - Marisol (Northeastern). Thanks to their family for their constant love and support!

Lisa Troi Thomas (Assistant Director) Lisa has been working with Steep for the past 5 years but this is her first foray into Assistant Directing. She is so excited and grateful to be a part of this team and show, and she is so proud of this show because it is really a culmination of so many aspects of hard work and determination and love for the art. She continues to do captioning work through the Chicagoland area but if you are wondering where else you may have seen her it could have been anywhere from The Fly Honey Show, to other Chicago theatre shows such as The Ridiculous Darkness, or even behind the table helping with Steep's casting! She would like to say a big thank you to her support system that has gotten her this far in life.

Julia Siple (Production Manager) Julia is an ensemble member and thrilled to be making theater again. She has performed in many Steep

PRODUCTION STAFF, continued

productions, including Mosquitoes, The Life and Sort of Death of Eric Argyle, Motortown, A Small Fire, Under the Blue Sky, Love and Money, Moment, Festen and Harper Regan. She holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Michigan. Welcome to our new home!

Lucy Carapetyan (Casting Director) Lucy first worked with Steep as an actor in 2008, and has been an ensemble member since 2015. As Casting Director, Lucy is committed to diversifying our stages, making our stories reflect our community, and collaborating with directors to create an empowering and joyful audition room. She is proud to be part of bringing Steep's on-stage ensembles together show after show. Lucy is a graduate of Northwestern University.

SPECIAL THANKS

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Steep Theatre sits on Native land. This area is the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires, including the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa. American Indians continue to call this area home, and now Chicago is home to the sixth largest Urban American Indian community that still practices their heritage, traditions, and care for the land and waterways. For over 200 years Native Nations have been forcibly removed from this territory, and this land continues to be a site of gathering and healing for more than a dozen other Tribal Nations. You can support them by supporting Native art and artists, organizers, activists, and people in your home and work communities in concrete ways, and by moving with awareness, compassion, and bravery.

No matter where you are coming from or how you got here, we invite you to move respectfully with us on this land and in this space.

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Through the Lights Up Edgewater campaign, Steep is creating a new home for art, artists, and community. Learn more at steeptheatre.com/lightsup.

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- Purchase and renovate Steep's new home at 1044 W Berwyn Ave
- Invest in artists through increasingly equitable compensation
- · Build on our commitment to fiscal sustainability



Having a home venue has been a vital part of our story over the past twenty years. It has allowed us to create a uniquely warm, inviting atmosphere that supports honest, fearless work from artists and emboldens audiences to engage in challenging stories and conversations. It has grounded us in our community. As we move forward, we are inspired to create a cultural resource

for neighbors, artists, and audiences alike. Join us as we invest in this future together.

Learn more at steeptheatre.com/lightsup

