



EXPLORING TODAY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PAST

artistic director **PJ Powers** | executive director **Mica Cole**

CHICAGO PREMIERE

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

by **Anna Deavere Smith**

directed by **Mikael Burke, SDC**

scenic designer **Eleanor Kahn, USA**

costume designer **Christine Pascual, USA**

lighting designer **Eric Watkins, USA**

projection designer **Rasean Davonté Johnson, USA**

properties designer **Ellie Terrell**

sound designer **Christie Chiles Twillie**

dialect and voice coach **Sammi Grant**

dramaturg **DeRon S. Williams**

stage manager **Katie Klemme***

featuring **Mildred Marie Langford****, **Shariba Rivers***, and **Adhana Reid**

February 8 - March 24, 2024 (previews 1/31 - 2/7)

Notes from the Field was presented in live performance by Anna Deavere Smith in an American Repertory Theater production in Cambridge, MA, which was subsequently presented by Second Stage Theater in New York, NY

This play is part of the Anna Deavere Smith Pipeline Project which would not have been possible without the creative and financial support of Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Philadelphia Theatre Company, and their communities.

Notes from the Field is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



The Director is a member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers



Those artists identified by USA are members of United Scenic Artists, Local 829 of the IATSE, the union representing scenic, costume, lighting, sound, and projections designers in Live Performance.

+ TimeLine Company Member

CAST

Mildred Marie Langford**	Actor 1
Shariba Rivers*	Actor 2
Adhana Reid	Actor 3

UNDERSTUDIES: Stephanie Mattos (*Actor 1*), Jenece Upton (*Actor 2*),
and Ashli Rene Funches (*Actor 3*). Understudies will never substitute for
a listed player unless an announcement is posted at the performance.

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+ TimeLine Company Member

PRODUCTION STAFF

Associate Director	Regina Victor
Associate Projection Designer	Andres Fiz
Production Assistant.....	CG Walkanoff
Dramaturgical Display Designer	Dina Spoerl
Stage Manager (Rehearsal Week 1)	Jennifer Aparicio*
Assistant Scenic Designer	Ben Lipinski
Assistant Costume Designer	Ophena De La Rosa
Assistant Properties Designer	Paloma Locsin
Assistant Sound Designer	Daniel Etti-Williams
Assistant Dialect and Voice Coach	Destin Lorde Teamer
Assistant Dramaturg	Camille Rose Pugliese
Scenic Supervisor	Emmanuel Jimenez
Co-Scenic Supervisor	John McTaggart
Scenic Charge Artist	Jessica Kuehnau Wardell
Associate Scenic Charge Artist	José Alexander
Costume Supervisor	Lucy Elkin
Lighting Supervisor.....	Mark Brown
Projections Supervisor.....	Parker Molacek
Audio Supervisor	Averi Paulsen
Co-Audio Supervisor	Florence Borowski
Wardrobe Run Crew	Delaney Gosse

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

PLEASE NOTE

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings (including photographs) of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law.

TimeLine Theatre is dedicated to exploring today's social and political issues through the lens of the past. We share information and provide inspiration for conversation through this *Backstory* program book, the interactive lobby experience (with elements available in person at the theatre as well as online), discussion events (in-person and sometimes virtual), our blog Behind the 'Line, and more. Explore all the resources available at timelinetheatre.com/explore-notes.

VISIT THE ONLINE LOBBY FOR NOTES FROM THE FIELD



To supplement the lobby experience available at our theatre on Wellington Avenue, we've created additional resources for you to explore online! Scan the QR Code at left or visit timelinetheatre.com/notes-lobby to find additional content, including:

- Expanded biographies and multi-media resources related to the individuals portrayed in the play
- Online versions of some of the materials displayed in the lobby, for further perusal
- Further reading and activities related to the play's topics and themes
- Plus photos, videos, and much more!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TimeLine Theatre is on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube at @TimeLineTheatre. Don't forget to tag us and use the hashtag #NotesFromTheField and/or #TimeLineTheatre.



COMING SOON! PERFORMANCES START MAY 8

WORLD PREMIERE
BLACK SUNDAY

BY DOLORES DÍAZ
DIRECTED BY SANDRA MARQUEZ

Developed through TimeLine's Playwrights Collective, this thrilling new play is a startling look at conflicts of climate change, race, and gender in the days leading up to an infamous dust storm in 1930s Texas.



MILDRED MARIE LANGFORD

(*Actor 1*) has been a TimeLine Company Member since 2012. She is thrilled to be back on the TimeLine stage, where she was last seen in the world premiere of *BOULEVARD OF BOLD DREAMS*, *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* (BTAA nomination), *MY*

KIND OF TOWN, and *IN DARFUR* (Black Excellence Award nomination). Other notable credits include *THE BLUEST EYE* (A Noise Within Theatre, Los Angeles), *THE GREAT JHERI CURL DEBATE* (East West Players, Los Angeles); *INTIMATE APPAREL* (Northlight; BTAA, Equity Jeff, and Black Excellence award nominations – Best Actress); *GUNSHOT MEDLEY: PART 1* (CAB/Rogue Machine Theatre, Los Angeles; Ovation award nomination – Lead Actress); *NATIVE SON* (Antaeus Theatre Company/Kirk Douglas Theatre 2019 Block Party, Los Angeles); *DOMESTICATED*, *ANIMAL FARM*, *VENUS*, and *THE CRUCIBLE* (Steppenwolf); *THE ROYALE* (American Theater Company, BTAA winner – Best Featured Actress); *LUCK OF THE IRISH* (Next); *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* (Milwaukee Rep); and *FAILURE: A LOVE STORY* (Victory Gardens). Television/film credits include *GREY'S ANATOMY*, *BOSCH*, *DELILAH*, *CHICAGO MED*, *MASTERS OF SEX*, *MAGIC FUNHOUSE*, and the indie film projects *COTTON CANDY BUBBLE GUM*, *MORNING STEEP*, *THE THREE PHASES OF ISA*, *UPLOAD*, *DIGNITY*, *YOUR BEAUTIFUL BABY*, *CONCRETE ROSE*, and *ANALYSIS PARALYSIS*. Mildred is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA.



SHARIBA RIVERS (*Actor 2*)

is happy to return to TimeLine, where she previously was seen in *TROUBLE IN MIND* as Wiletta Mayer (Equity Jeff Award nomination – Performer in a Principal Role, Play). Chicago-area stage credits include *THE NACIREMA SOCIETY* (Goodman); *THE*

OCTOBER STORM and *HOODOO LOVE* (Raven); *SWEAT* (Paramount); *SMALL JOKES ABOUT MONSTERS* (16th Street); *THE TASTERS* (Rivendell); and *IN THE CANYON* (Jackalope). Regional credits include *GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina); *SCHOOL GIRLS*; *OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY* (TheatreSquared, Fayetteville, Ark.); *WE ARE CONTINUOUS* (Geva Theatre, Rochester, N.Y.). Shariba's film and television credits include *SMOKING GUN!*; *CHICAGO MED*, *CHICAGO FIRE*, and *CHICAGO P.D.* (NBC); *THE CHI* (Showtime); and *EMPIRE* (Fox). She is represented by Gray Talent Group. Visit sharibatheactor.com.



ADHANA REID (*Actor 3*)

is thrilled to be making her TimeLine debut with this intelligent group of artists! She would like to thank her family and ever-growing Chicago tribe for all their support thus far. Chicago credits include *SCHOOL GIRLS*; *OR THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS*

PLAY (Goodman); *ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW* (Haven Theatre); *THE MLK PROJECT* (Writers); *SHEEPDOG* (Shattered Globe); *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* and *THE COLOR PURPLE* (Drury Lane); *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* (Mercury Theatre); *ECLIPSED* (Pegasus Theatre); *BIG RIVER* (Theatre at the Center); and *SPRING AWAKENING* (Marriott). You can follow her journey at [@adhana.cemone](https://www.instagram.com/adhana.cemone) or visit adhanareid.com.



STEPHANIE MATTOS (*Actor 1 U/S*)

is making her TimeLine debut. Stephanie is an actor, fight director, and combatant in Chicago and a member of the Society of American Fight Directors who holds a BFA degree in Performance Arts – Acting from Western

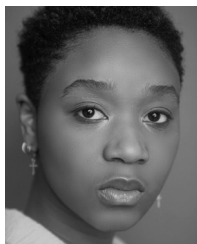
Kentucky University. Credits include *THE DUCHESS OF MALFI* (Assistant Fight Director, *Babes with Blades*); *LAST NIGHT AND THE NIGHT BEFORE* (Steppenwolf); *MARYS SEACOLE* (Griffin); *LIGHT FALLS* (Steep); and *TWELFTH NIGHT* (Midsommer Flight). Regional credits include *REENTRY* (Montana Repertory Theatre). Television credits include *THE CHI*. Stephanie is represented by Big Mouth Talent and is an Artistic Associate with *Babes with Blades Theatre Company* and *Midsommer Flight*. Instagram: [@asmattering](https://www.instagram.com/asmatter). Visit stephaniemattos.com.



JENECE UPTON (*Actor 2 U/S*)

is thrilled to take part in her first production with TimeLine! As a Chicago-based actress and singer, she's enjoyed telling compelling and meaningful stories both onstage and onscreen. Chicago and regional theater cred-

its include *PASSING STRANGE* (Theo Ubique); *BOTTICELLI IN THE FIRE* (First Floor); *LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR & GRILL* (Temple Theatre, Sanford, N.C.); and *SHREK: THE MUSICAL* (Music Theater Works). Jenece has also appeared on *CHICAGO FIRE* (NBC). She is represented by Gray Talent Group. Instagram: [@jenecejanice](https://www.instagram.com/jenecejanice).



ASHLI RENE FUNCHES

(*Actor 3 U/S*) is making their TimeLine debut. Ashli is currently working as an actor, educator, and florist. They are from Birmingham, Ala., but she considers Chicago her artistic home. Ashli's recent credits include *IS GOD IS* (A

Red Orchid), *STEW* (Shattered Globe), and *DETROIT '67* (The Theatre School at DePaul University). Ashli received their BFA degree in Acting and a BA degree in African Diaspora from DePaul University. They wrote, produced, and portrayed Amari in the film, *A YELLOW CIRCUS*. Ashli also portrays Z in a feature film entitled *THE LAPSE*. Both films are set to premiere in 2024.

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH (*Playwright*) is an actress, teacher, playwright, and the creator of the acclaimed "On the Road" series of one-woman plays based on her interviews with diverse voices from communities in crisis, including *FIRES IN THE MIRROR*; *TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992*; *LET ME DOWN EASY*; and *NOTES FROM THE FIELD*. A recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities Medal from President Obama, the MacArthur Fellowship, several Obie Awards, and the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for Achievement in the Arts, among many other honors, her work also been nominated for two Tony Awards and been a runner up for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Onscreen, she has appeared in many films and television shows, including *PHILADELPHIA*, *THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT*, *THE WEST WING*, *BLACK-ISH*, and *NURSE JACKIE*. She is a professor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and has several honorary doctorate degrees, including from Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Spelman College, Juilliard, and Oxford. In 2019, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and she currently serves as a member of President Biden's President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

MIKAEL BURKE (*Director*) is a Chicago-based director, deviser, and educator, making his TimeLine directing debut. A Princess Grace Award-winner in Theatre and Jeff Award-nominated director, Mikael has worked with Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare, Remy Bumpo, Victory Gardens, Northlight, Raven, Jackalope, First Floor, The Story, and Refracted in Chicago, and regionally with Yale Rep, Forward Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Indiana Rep, Theatreworks Hartford, Urbanite, Theatreworks Colorado Springs, Asolo Rep, Geva, Phoenix Theatre

Indianapolis, and Third Avenue Playworks. Mikael previously served as Associate Artistic Director at both About Face Theatre and First Floor Theater, and adjuncts at DePaul and Roosevelt universities. Recent directing credits include the world premiere of *THE SALVAGERS* by Harrison David Rivers (Yale Rep); *BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY* by Pearl Cleage (Remy Bumpo); the Chicago premiere of *TAMBO & BONES* by Dave Harris (Refracted); *CLYDE'S* by Lynn Nottage (Theatreworks Hartford); and *THE MAGNOLIA BALLET* by Terry Guest (About Face; 2022 Jeff Award – Production, Short Run). He holds an MFA in Directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University. For more information, visit mklburke.com.

ELEANOR KAHN (*Scenic Designer*) has worked extensively as an international theatrical designer, as well as an experiential, immersive, event, and community-focused artist and designer, and is making her TimeLine debut. Career highlights include scenic design for *Iron & Wine* on the national *Outside Problems* tour; creative director and designer for an immersive lobby activation at the Harris Theater for English National Ballet's production of *CREATURE*; designer for a 2019 installation in Millennium Park as well as two live events at J. Pritzker Pavilion; details designer for Hebru Brantley's *Nevermore Park*; and scenic designer for *NOVA*, which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Eleanor holds an MFA degree in Scenic Design from Boston University. Her full portfolio can be viewed at eleanorkahn.com.

CHRISTINE PASCUAL (*Costume Designer*) is pleased to be back at TimeLine, where she previously designed *BOULEVARD OF BOLD DREAMS*, *TROUBLE IN MIND*, *RELENTLESS* (Equity Jeff Award nomination – Costume Design), *OSLO*, *TO CATCH A FISH*, *PARADISE BLUE*, *BAKERSFIELD MIST*, *SUNSET BABY*, and *HANNAH AND MARTIN*. Other previous design credits include *TIGER STYLE!* and *EAST TEXAS HOT LINKS* (Writers); *LION IN WINTER* (Court); *TWELFTH NIGHT* and *I, CINNA* (Chicago Shakespeare); *CULLUD WATTAH*, *HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF*, and *THE FIRST DEEP BREATH* (Victory Gardens); *DANCE NATION* and *LA RUTA* (Steppenwolf); *THE TOTAL BENT* and *THE DISPLACED* (Haven); *LADY IN DENMARK* and *FEATHERS AND TEETH* (Goodman); *DUTCH MASTERS* and *THE LIGHT FANTASTIC* (Jackalope); *CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY* (Raven); and *PUT YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER* (The Roustabouts). Christine holds an MFA degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a member of United Scenic Artist Local 829. In 2018, she was the recipient of the 3Arts Award.

ERIC WATKINS (*Lighting Designer*) is making his TimeLine debut. Selected Chicago credits include TAMBO & BONES (Refracted); DIAL M FOR MURDER and FIREFLIES (Northlight); NIGHTSHADE (Links Hall); OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD (Steepe); A MILE IN THE DARK (Rivendell); ROUTES (Remy Bumpo, Equity Jeff Award nomination – Lighting Design, Misize); THE MAGNOLIA BALLET (About Face); SUGAR IN OUR WOUNDS (Non-Equity Jeff Award nomination – Lighting Design) and HOODED: OR BEING BLACK FOR DUMMIES (First Floor Theater); ALAIYO and ETHIOPIANAMERICA (Definition); IN THE BLOOD (Red Tape); A SWELL IN THE GROUND (The Gift); and PORCELAIN (Prologue; Non-Equity Jeff Award nomination – Lighting Design). Selected regional and international credits include CLYDE’S (Theaterworks Hartford); BABA (Amphibian Stage, Tex.); ARIADNE (Arizona Opera); MRS. HARRISON (Indiana Rep); DON PASQUALE (Fort Worth Opera); HANSEL AND GRETEL, SHOW BOAT, and FALSTAFF (Dallas Opera); A STRETCAR NAMED DESIRE (Opera Santa Barbara and Kentucky Opera); BARBER OF SEVILLE (Lithuanian National Opera); and SONG OF HOME (Theatre Lumina – Eastern European tour). Eric received his MFA degree from Boston University and is a proud member of USA Local 829, the theatrical design union. Visit ericwatkins.com.

RASEAN DAVONTÉ JOHNSON (*Projection Designer*) returns to TimeLine Theatre, where he also worked on BOULEVARD OF BOLD DREAMS and A DISAPPEARING NUMBER. A Chicago-based video artist and theatrical designer, he has had the opportunity to work locally with institutions such as Steppenwolf, Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare, Lookingglass, Writers, Folks Operetta, Court, and Manual Cinema. Regional credits include projects with NY Philharmonic, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center, Geva Theatre Center, and internationally with the Ningbo Song and Dance Company (China) and B-Floor Theatre (Thailand). He has BA degree from Ohio State University as well as an MFA degree from the Yale School of Drama and is Director of Design for TAPS at the University of Chicago. Visit raseandavontejohnson.com.

ELLIE TERRELL (*Properties Designer*) is a Chicago-based designer, fabricator, object and installation builder, painter, and educator making her TimeLine debut. She makes theater, immersive installations, murals, objects, and sculptures. She is passionate about the role and value of everyday objects as art, and their capacity to

hold memory and meaning. In addition to her personal art practice, Ellie teaches Visual Arts at Maternity B.V.M. School. Ellie holds a BA degree in Literary and Cultural Studies from the College of William and Mary.

CHRISTIE CHILES TWILLIE (*Sound Designer*) is making her TimeLine debut. Credits include CLYDE’S (Theaterworks, Hartford, Conn.); FIREFLIES (Northlight); THE NICETIES and MOM, HOW’D YOU MEET THE BEATLES? (Forward, Madison, Wis.); WE ARE CONTINUOUS and VIETGONE (Geva, Rochester, NY); THE WAY SHE SPOKE and INDECENT (Milwaukee Chamber); BLACK BUTTERFLIES, PRETTY FIRES, KILL MOVE PARADISE, STEW, and HOME (Milwaukee Black Theatre Festival), CARMELLA FULL OF WISHES (Chicago Children’s Theatre; First Stage - Milwaukee; Seattle Children’s Theatre), and THE MOUNTAINTOP (American Players Theatre/PBS, Madison, Wis).

SAMMI GRANT (*Dialect and Voice Coach*) is thrilled to return to TimeLine, where she previously was dialect coach for THE LEHMAN TRILOGY, RELENTLESS, and CAMPAIGNS, INC. Other Chicago theatres she has worked with include Goodman, Writers, Marriott, Drury Lane, Remy Bumpo, The Gift, Rivendell, Shattered Globe, Porchlight, and many more. Film and television coaching credits include RESCUED BY RUBY (Netflix); PATRIOT (Amazon Prime); and THE EXORCIST (Fox). Sammi is an Adjunct Professor of Performance at The Theatre School at DePaul University. She holds an MFA degree with Distinction in Voice Studies from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. She is on the Board of Directors of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA).

DERON S. WILLIAMS (*Dramaturg*) is a freelance dramaturg and director based in Chicago who is excited to return to TimeLine, where he previously worked on THE LEHMAN TRILOGY, TROUBLE IN MIND, and BOULEVARD OF BOLD DREAMS. Other dramaturgical credits include WITHOUT A FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR, ANNELIES, and ORGANIZED CHAOS (Great Plains Theatre Conference); and TONI STONE (Goodman). He is also an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Loyola University Chicago and serves as the department’s dramaturgy mentor. DeRon is a proud member of Literary Managers and Dramaturgers of the Americas (LMDA) and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC). For more, visit DeRonSWilliams.com.

KATIE KLEMM (*Stage Manager*) is pleased to make her TimeLine debut. Select recent credits include EURYDICE, A DISTINCT SOCIETY, TIGER STYLE!, and WIFE OF A SALESMAN (Writers); VILLETTE (Lookingglass); DIAL M FOR MURDER, THE PORCH ON WINDY HILL, GEORGIANA &

KITTY: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY, and INTIMATE APPAREL (Northlight); MAMMA MIA! and MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival); MR BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY (Theatre Wit); and 1.5 years as a sub on HAMILTON (Eliza Tour, Chicago). She has also worked with Victory Gardens, About Face, Geva Theater Center (Rochester, N.Y.), ArtsEmerson (Boston, Mass.), and more than 25 productions as resident Production Stage Manager at American Theater Company.

REGINA VICTOR (*Associate Director*) is thrilled to return to TimeLine, where her previous directing credits include MARYS SEACOLE (TimePieces) and REVENGE OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARTYRS... (First Draft). Other TimeLine credits include TOO HEAVY FOR YOUR POCKET (Dramaturg) and TO CATCH A FISH (Co-Dramaturg), and pharaoh is proud to have been an instructor for the inaugural year of TimeLine South. Regina worked on the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Stanford Live productions of NOTES FROM THE FIELD prior to its world premiere and they are grateful to return to the text in Chicago. Recent regional directing, dramaturgy, and performance credits include Steppenwolf, Goodman, Long Wharf, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, La Jolla Playhouse, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Pharaoh is in *Newcity* magazine's Players 50 Hall of Fame, a member of the Howlround Advisory Council, and the founder of Rescripted.org, an arts criticism platform by and for artists.

ANDRES FIZ (*Associate Projection Designer*) is excited to be on the design team at TimeLine for the first time. Their projection design credits include THE MOLE HILL STORIES and LAS WAVYS (DePaul University). Their associate projection design credits include THE LIFE AND DEATHS OF ALAN TURING (Chicago Opera Theater), CINDERELLA (Drury Lane Theatre), KING CHARLES III (Colorado Shakespeare Festival), and THE WIZARD OF OZ (Music Theatre Wichita, content animator). Andres is pursuing a BFA in Projection Design from The Theatre School at DePaul University, and will be graduating this spring.

CG WALKANOFF (*Production Assistant*) is so excited to make their TimeLine debut. Chicago credits include DRUNK SHAKESPEARE (The Lion Theatre), THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW and CARMELA FULL OF WISHES (Chicago's Children Theatre); 1919, CHOIR BOY, KING JAMES, and BUG (Steppenwolf); and SUNSET BOULEVARD, MINNIE'S BOYS, and CAN-CAN (Porchlight). Regional credits include THE ADDAMS FAMILY, JEKYLL & HYDE, and CABARET (College of Lake County, Grayslake, Ill.).

DINA SPOERL (*Dramaturgical Display Designer*) returns to TimeLine, where her recent credits include THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT; WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME; BOULEVARD OF BOLD DREAMS; TROUBLE IN MIND; CAMPAIGNS, INC.; THE CHINESE LADY; and RELENTLESS; among many others since 2012. She has almost 20 years of graphic design and exhibit design experience. Past and current clients include the American Library Association, The National Museum of Natural History, The Newberry Library, Nextbook, National Building Museum, Children's Home & Aid, and Indiana State Museum. She is currently Exhibits Team Leader at Naper Settlement.

PJ POWERS (*Artistic Director*) was a co-founder of TimeLine in 1997 and became Artistic Director in 1999. Since then, he has overseen the production of more than 80 plays, including 13 world premieres and more than 40 Chicago premieres. During his tenure, TimeLine has garnered 60 Jeff Awards, including 11 for Outstanding Production, as well as awards for excellence in arts management, including the 2016 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. PJ was instrumental in establishing TimeLine's home on Wellington Avenue in 1999; expanding the company's programming to include productions in numerous other venues, including the Broadway Playhouse; creating the TimePieces play reading series and First Draft Festival of new work; launching the Living History Education Program in Chicago Public Schools under the direction of TimeLine co-founder Juliet Hart; and planning for TimeLine's new home in Uptown. As an actor, he has appeared in 19 productions at TimeLine, including THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT, THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS: THAT HOPEY CHANGEY THING, THE FRONT PAGE, THE FARNSWORTH INVENTION, FIORELLO!, and HAUPTMANN. He also has appeared at Writers, Northlight, and Shattered Globe, among others. A graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University, PJ has served on the Board of Directors for the League of Chicago Theatres, was awarded the Meier Achievement Award for mid-career artists, and received a Goldman Sachs Senior Fellowship at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. He directed the one-night-only Chicago premiere of J.T. Rogers' ONE GIANT LEAP: THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING at the Broadway Playhouse.

MICA COLE (*Executive Director*) was named TimeLine's Executive Director in April 2022. A Chicago native raised on the South Side, she has worked as an arts administrator and changemaker for nearly two decades. Most recently,

BIOGRAPHIES

she has been a national consultant providing executive coaching and strategic planning for cultural institutions working to embrace an antiracist leadership paradigm. Mica is a consultant with artEquity, a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training, and resources for individuals and organizations working at the intersection of art and activism. She co-led its BIPOC Surviving Predominantly White Institutions Series and the BIPOC Leadership Circle—both aimed at providing resources and mentorship to leaders of color. Prior to her work as an organizational consultant, Mica served eight seasons as the Repertory Producer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. As a senior leader at OSF, she played a key role in guiding the

company's equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, many of which now serve as foundational organizational models for institutions around the world. Mica has produced more than 80 shows, including a dozen transfers and national co-productions of new plays with theatres such as American Repertory, Seattle Repertory, South Coast Rep, Arena Stage, Portland Center Stage, and Berkeley Repertory. She worked in Chicago as the Executive Director of Free Street Theater and as the Director of Education and Engagement at Writers Theatre. Mica served on the advisory committee for the Latinx Theatre Commons and is a founding member of the Black Theatre Commons. She is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University.

CREW

Carpenters	Bobby Barnett, Ken Behmer, Brittany Melson, Isa Noe, Ryan Pollock, Alex Rhyan, Judith Tong, Quinn Tsan
Painters	Rose Johnson
Stitchers/Costume Support	Delaney Gosse
Electricians	Samantha Anderson, Hannah Bolstad, Quinn Chisenhall, Josiah Croegaert, Caycelynn Hoggard
Projections Crew	Andres Fiz, Aidan McLeod
Audio Crew	Florence Borowski, Andres Fiz, Chase Grundon

SPECIAL THANKS

THIS PRODUCTION OWES SPECIAL THANKS to numerous individuals and organizations for their time, talents and support, including Chabad of East Lakeview, The 4529 Prop Shop, Aria Music Designs, LLC (Stephanie Farina & Ray Nardelli), artLab Media, Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago Green Theatre Alliance, Conscious Costume, Cultural Access Collaborative, The Goodman Theatre, Jelinek Cork Group, The Lyric Opera of Chicago (Mike Smallwood & Maria DeFabo Akin), Molly Maid, Northlight Theatre (Emily Kneer, Kirstin Johnson, Colleen Schuldeis & Matt Super), RedBox Workshop, and The Theatre School at DePaul University (Amy Peter).

YOUR SUPPORT TODAY HELPS MAKE HISTORY TOMORROW!



TimeLine Theatre Company is Chicago's only theatre with a mission to present stories inspired by history that explore the issues that affect us today. We believe that live performance

intimately connects us by sparking dialogue and reflection in pursuit of a better tomorrow.

At the center of this mission is you.

Charitable contributions are the lifeblood of nonprofit theatres like TimeLine. With ticket sales covering only a portion of our annual income, donations from our community are vital to sustaining the work we do.

Your donation to TimeLine enables us to:

- Create impactful, high quality artistic experiences
- Spark the curiosity of young artists through our arts education programs
- Strengthen our infrastructure to support a growing organization

Scan the QR code at left or visit timelinetheatre.com/donate to make your tax-deductible donation today.

BECOME A HISTORY MAKER!

Deepen your connection to TimeLine and help us make history by becoming a member of The History Makers Society! Those who support us at this leadership level are offered unique opportunities to get closer to our work and meet others who share their passion for TimeLine.

To learn more, visit timelinetheatre.com/individual-giving or scan the QR code below.



ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

TimeLine is working to make our productions accessible to all patrons. A few of the services we offer are listed below; we invite you to visit timelinetheatre.com/accessibility for a complete listing and more information.



Assistive Listening Devices

Ask the Box Office and provide an ID to check out an RF assistive listening device.



Accessible Seating

If you require accessible seating, please let us know when you place your reservation how we may assist in fitting your needs.



Open Captioning

Open captioning is a text display of words and sounds heard during an event. The display is positioned in such a way that it is open for anyone to see in a particular seating area. It is a service you may choose to use or ignore during the performance.



Audio Description

A live narrator gives verbal descriptions of actions, costumes, scenery, and other visual elements via a handheld device delivered to patrons upon request before the show.

Open Captioned performances for *Notes from the Field* are scheduled:

- Friday, March 8 at 8pm
- Saturday, March 9 at 4pm

The Audio Described performance for *Notes from the Field* is scheduled on Friday, March 22 at 8pm

If you have feedback or suggestions regarding accessibility, please contact Audience Services Manager Kellyn Henthorn at kellyn@timelinetheatre.com.

ABOUT TIMELINE

OUR MISSION

TimeLine Theatre Company presents stories inspired by history that connect with today's social and political issues. Our collaborative organization produces provocative theatre and educational programs that engage, entertain and enlighten.

From the moment in 1997 that six founders each pitched \$50 to launch this company, TimeLine has worked to become one of Chicago's leading cultural institutions by creating theatre that is more than just a few hours in a seat. Our team of Company Members works collaboratively to present riveting stories that link our past, present, and future—exploring today's social and political issues through the lens of the past and inspiring ourselves to re-imagine tomorrow.



Pat Tiedemann (from left), PJ Powers, and Juliet Hart in TimeLine's inaugural production *SUMMIT CONFERENCE*, 1998.

And the TimeLine experience extends well beyond the stage, encompassing meticulously researched and interactive lobby experiences, opportunities to discuss the show with artists, ways to take action on whatever the art inspires, and more.

It is a mission unique in Chicago, and beyond.

Now celebrating our 27th season, TimeLine has presented 90 productions, including 13 world premieres and 41 Chicago premieres.

Our work has been recognized in Chicago and beyond: TimeLine received the prestigious 2016 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions and has been named "Company of the Year" in *The Wall Street Journal* (2010), one of the American Theatre Wing's top 10 emerging professional theatre companies nationwide (2011) and *Chicago* magazine's "Best Theatre" in the city (2011). And we have been honored with 60 Jeff Awards, including an award for Outstanding Production 11 times.



Ayanna Bria Bakari (left) and Jaye Ladymore in the world premiere of Tyla Abercrombie's *RELENTLESS*, 2022.

We work to match artistic excellence with sophisticated business management, and these efforts also have been recognized. TimeLine was the first arts organization to receive the Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence of a small company, and we have received the Association for Strategic Planning's Richard Goodman Strategic Planning Award in the Non-Profit category.

For more about TimeLine's history and programs, please visit timelinetheatre.com

TimeLine Theatre is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres, Chicago Cultural Alliance, Choose Chicago, the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Chamber of Commerce, Lakeview's Belmont Theater District, the Chicago Green Theatre Alliance, and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM



Living History students in the lobby at a matinee performance of CARDBOARD PIANO, 2019.

Learning and discovery have always been central to TimeLine's mission, driven by our belief that live performance can connect people and illuminate ideas.

Founded in 2006, TimeLine's Living History Education Program brings that mission to Chicago Public Schools, working with students on creative exercises related to historically inspired stories on TimeLine's stage and beyond.

Living History is an arts integration residency that features curriculum designed to teach theatre skills while fostering the capacity to think creatively, to make connections, and to provide new ways of understanding history and the world around us. Over six to 13 sessions, students explore connections between history, art, and their own lives, developing critical thinking and communication skills.

**"It made me feel that I was part of that moment in history.
As if I was experiencing it firsthand. It made me understand it better."**

During Living History residencies, TimeLine teaching artists and classroom teachers collaborate on lesson plans that illuminate the themes of the play and their connection to each classroom curriculum. Students work on several scenes from a TimeLine production and are provided with a study guide. They experience visits from the production's actors and dramaturg and attend a student matinee and post-show discussion with the cast.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Living History revised its play- and field trip-centered residencies to respond to the unique needs of students and teachers who are living through history and looking for ways to express their experiences. The need for partnership, collaboration, and creative problem-solving is more important than ever, and Living History has provided virtual and real-time opportunities to use theater-based exercises to amplify student voices, challenges, hopes, and dreams.

Since its inception, more than 9,000 students have actively explored history through Living History. TimeLine currently partners with nine schools to present the program.

TIMELINE SOUTH



Tiffany Fulson (right) with a TimeLine South ensemble member in 2019.

TimeLine South—a unique arts program that provides teens a safe space for self-expression, creativity, and ensemble building on the south side of Chicago—just celebrated its 6th anniversary, and two years in partnership with the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts. Offered free of charge for six weeks during the summer, TimeLine South promotes leadership in the arts and introduces teens to the idea that theatre can also be a vehicle for social justice.

Major supporters of Living History include Crown Family Philanthropies, Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation, Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, John and Jessica Fullerton, Robert and Eleanor Meyers, Stanley and Vivian Nitzberg, Polk Bros. Foundation, Walder Foundation, and multiple anonymous contributors, as well as the donors to TimeLine's Annual Fund and Step Into Time gala. The growth of TimeLine South was supported over multiple years by Anita Samen and David Follmer in memory of their son, Daniel Samen Follmer. TimeLine South is currently sponsored by Walder Foundation.

COMPANY MEMBERS



Company Members are the artistic leaders of TimeLine Theatre Company, working collaboratively together to shape the artistic vision and choose the programming for the organization.

Tyla Abercrombie | Will Allan | Nick Bowling | Janet Ulrich Brooks
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Juliet Hart | Anish Jethmalani | Mildred Marie Langford | Mechelle Moe
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ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

TimeLine's Associate Artists have made enormous contributions to the work on TimeLine's stage, and they also have been leaders off stage, making the company a better place to work and serving as ambassadors in the community. The group plays an important role in shaping TimeLine's artistic growth.

Jared Bellot | Brian Sidney Bembridge | Eva Breneman | William Brown | Aaron Carter
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PLAYWRIGHTS COLLECTIVE

TimeLine has an ongoing commitment to developing the work of established as well as emerging playwrights. The Playwrights Collective, founded under the leadership of Ben Thiem, offers a supportive environment over multiple years for a group of Chicago-based playwrights to develop new plays that are inspired by history and explore the social and political events of today.

2013 - 2016 (Inaugural) Collective

Alice Austen | John Conroy | Emily Dendinger
Frances Limoncelli | Susan McLaughlin Karp | Brett Neveu

2017 - 2018 Collective

Tyla Abercrombie | Will Allan | Maureen Gallagher | Calamity West

2020 - 2021 Collective

Dolores Díaz | Kristin Idaszak | Osiris Khepera | David Rhee

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CREATING A NEW CULTURAL ASSET FOR CHICAGO, IN UPTOWN.

TimeLine is laying the foundation for our next era. After more than 25 years of adapting within rented facilities, we're establishing a theatrical hub in Chicago's vibrant Uptown neighborhood. Far more than just a theatre, this inviting and accessible facility will be a welcoming gathering space for entertainment, education, and community engagement.

Joining other venerable performance venues in the historic Uptown Entertainment District, TimeLine's new home will feature:

- An intimate and flexible 250-seat black box theatre that can be reimagined for every show
- Exhibit galleries that enhance the production experience
- A dedicated Education and Engagement room for student and community programming
- Expanded social spaces, including a bar and café open day and night
- Office, rehearsal, and production space for staff and artists
- Plus opportunities for future expansion, and much more!

Join us in taking this bold step together toward a new home, where everyone is welcomed and where great artistry collides with topics relevant to today's social and political issues.

**"It's Time to create a space to grow and innovate
... a space where past and present intersect and where collaboration
and togetherness will lead us to a better future."**

— Artistic Director PJ Powers

**IT'S
TIME**

MAKE HISTORY WITH US

This once-in-a-lifetime project is a private and public funding partnership. For more information about how you can support this special campaign, please contact Chelsea Phillips, Director of Major Gifts, at chelsea@timelinetheatre.com or 773.281.8463 x116.

Explore more about this thrilling project—including interior and exterior design renderings—online at timelinetheatre.com/its-time.

TimeLine is grateful for the support and confidence shown by the investors in the campaign for our new home.

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