

# Greenwood: American Dream Destroyed

In Honor of  
Black History Month



GODLEE ENTERTAINMENT, INC.  
AND METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF NEW YORK PRESENT AN  
EQUITY STAGED READING OF

## GREENWOOD: AMERICAN DREAM DESTROYED

Followed by Q&A

February 20 & 21, 2024  
MCNY Manhattan Campus



# ABOUT THIS EVENT

Metropolitan College of New York  
and Godlee Productions  
present  
Greenwood: American Dream Destroyed

6:30 pm - Staged Reading  
8:00 pm - Q & A with the Director, Lynn  
Godfrey and the Playwright, Celeste Bedford  
Walker

## SYNOPSIS

"Greenwood: American Dream Destroyed" examines the tragedy that took place on May 30 – June 1, 1921, in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma. In highly segregated Tulsa, Oklahoma, an African American community known as the "Negro Wall Street" grew and thrived. The Greenwood District boasted one of the country's most affluent African American communities. Black citizens created their own entrepreneurial opportunities with a vibrant business district, including banks, hotels, cafes, movie theaters, modern homes, and an excellent education system. Then disaster and devastation struck.

Tulsa police arrested a young black man on an unsubstantiated charge. An inflammatory report in the Tulsa Tribune the following day spurred a racial confrontation and the Greenwood District found itself looted and burned for over 24 hours by white mobs.

Thirty-five city blocks lay in charred ruins, over 300 black residents were killed, 600 African American businesses burned to the ground, and thousands were left homeless. Greenwood: American Dream Destroyed tells this powerful story from the perspective of three generations of the Boley family, a representative composite of an African American family that may have lived during that tragic and tumultuous time.

History of Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed by  
Celeste Bedford Walker:

- It evolved from a short play I wrote for my church about 20 years ago, in 2002, to highlight entrepreneurship in the community.
- Readings in New York by Essence of Acting group, 2015-2019, New York and East Coast, ArtsQuest, Bethlehem PA, University of Delaware, Newark DE, Sage Russell College, Troy N.Y. Manhattan University, N.Y.

"Once upon a time, there was a place called  
Greenwood. Let it never be forgotten." —  
Playwright's note: Celeste Bedford Walker,  
"Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed"



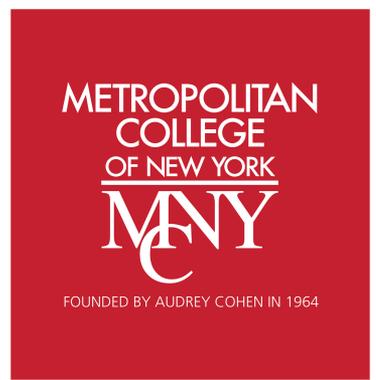
## WHO WE ARE

Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) is a non-profit, Middle States Accredited college founded by educational innovator Audrey Cohen in 1964. MCNY is a vibrant and unique Purpose-Centered learning institution composed of three schools; The Audrey Cohen School for Human Services and Education, the School for Business and the School for Public Affairs and Administration offering undergraduate and master's degrees and certificates in 20 different programs. With its commitment to social justice and more than 12,000 active alumni, MCNY makes a professional and social impact globally.

We take great pride in bringing back “Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed” to New York City for a second time. This presentation represents our commitment to social justice by giving voice to those who were silenced.

## OUR MISSION

To provide a superior, experientially-based education that fosters personal and professional development, promotes social justice, and encourages positive change in workplaces and communities.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*With heartfelt gratitude, we thank...*

Director Lynnne Godfrey of Godlee Productions, Inc., Essence of Acting and Playwright Celeste Bedford Walker, without whom this presentation would not have been possible.

President Joanne Passaro for her constant dedication to our students, social justice and Purpose-Centered Education and for making this presentation possible.

Vice President Joy Colelli who had the vision to bring Greenwood to MCNY in 2020 and its return today.

The MCNY staff and students who worked enthusiastically and altruistically to make this presentation possible.



## OUR PARTNERS



GodLee Entertainment, Inc.

GodLee Entertainment, Inc. was established in March 2002 by Lynnne Godfrey and Carl E. Lee. Ms. Godfrey serves as CEO and President. Mr. Carl E. Lee serves as CFO. [lynniegodfrey.com](http://lynniegodfrey.com)



Essence of Acting (EOA)

EOA was established in 2015. It was created under the umbrella of GodLee Entertainment, Inc. and remained there until 2019, when the Ensemble became financially independent.

The artistic range of the Ensemble's current core members ranges from Broadway (Theatre) and Cinema and Television veterans to young people becoming members after entering the business with a couple of years of performance history. All are professional, learning and drawing on each other's life experiences to enhance their artistic performances. [essenceofacting.com](http://essenceofacting.com)

# CELESTE BEDFORD WALKER

## PLAYWRIGHT

Celeste Bedford Walker's award-winning canon includes over forty plays, videos, documentaries and films that have been performed and viewed in major venues across the country. She has received numerous commissions to write dramas, comedies, and musicals for theaters, schools, museums, and organizations. Currently, she is writing a new play commissioned by BOLD Theater Women's Leadership Circle grant for Houston's Ensemble Theatre.

Recognized by the U.S. Congress for her historical contribution as producer and author of works that bring to light lost stories of African American history, Walker has received several honors and awards in theatre including The Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP Theatre Awards for Best Playwright/Best Play for positive portrayal of Blacks in the media and the National Black Theatre's August Wilson Playwriting Award for significant contributions to Black and American Theatre. She is a proud member of the Texas Institute of Letters, The Dramatists Guild and The Essence of Acting.

Walker's eclectic plays are timeless and universal, embracing the sacred and the mundane, the serious and the comic, but what they all have in common is an awesome delight in the wisdom and the witlessness of the human condition.

<https://www.celestebedfordwalker.com/>



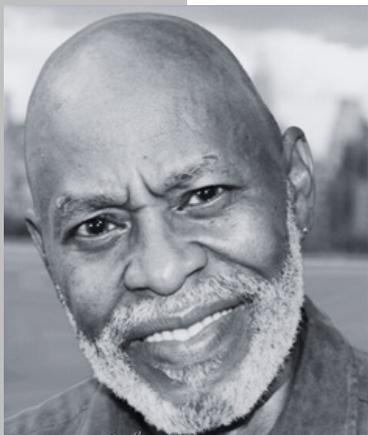


## CAST

### GABRIELLE C. ARCHER

SOLENE BOLEY/ COVER: MARIA BONILLA

Gabrielle has had the honor, privilege, and pleasure of working with Essence of Acting Company 4 years ago. There, she found an intergenerational safe-haven spear-headed by the fearless Ms Lynnne Godfrey and supported by Mr Franz Jones & Company. She found a community where we were empowered to create and produce together. There, she found a safe space to be challenged, play, grow, learn, and stretch her craft with incredible and seasoned talent while honoring our past and future. She's indebted to and grateful for the opportunity to tell this critically important moment in time in another safe space. May we continue to share our stories and build. You can follow her on IG @gabriellecarcher to see future projects. Thank you!



### MARVIN BELL\*

LAWRENCE PRITCHARD/FRANK BOLEY

Marvin Bell, hailing from St. Louis, embarked on a 35-year career as a stand-up comedian before venturing into acting. While honing his comedy chops, he made his acting debut in local community theater productions, featuring works by Charles Fuller, James Baldwin, and David Mamet. Despite his success in comedy, Bell's passion for acting persisted, leading him to embrace small acting roles in New York City. His breakthrough came with the lead in Paul Rudnick's 'REGRETS ONLY,' propelling him into a flourishing theater career. Notable performances include portraying Hoke Colburn in 'DRIVING MISS DAISY,' earning him a Broadway World nomination. Bell's repertoire extends to August Wilson plays, including 'FENCES' and 'THE PIANO LESSON,' as well as Todd Kreidler's adaptation of 'GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER.'



### D'AMBROSE BOYD

BILL BOLEY

D'Ambrose Boyd, a versatile performer, has graced the stage with legends like Eartha Kitt, Mickey Rooney and Brenda Braxton. His notable performances include roles in "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Wizard of Oz," and "Five Guys Named Moe." He has also contributed to cast recordings and voice-overs for NICKELODEON and NBA 2k21(22). Recent TV appearances include "New Amsterdam" (NBC) and "FBI: Most Wanted" (CBS). Boyd is a proud SAG/AFTRA, AEA, and IATSE•Local 764 member. Beyond acting, he's an accessory designer, photographer, and producer/host for SINGERS SPACE OPEN MIC. Boyd is excited to collaborate with ESSENCE OF ACTING in the production of GREENWOOD, directed by Lynnne Godfrey. Explore his photography on FB/IG @ D'Ambrose Boyd Photography and [www.dambroseboyd.com](http://www.dambroseboyd.com). Boyd, a Momma's Boy, fondly remembers and misses his beautiful Mother.

# CAST

## VALESKA CAMBRON

STAGE DIRECTIONS/ COVER: MOLLY BOLDEN

Valeska is thrilled to be performing with Essence of Acting again. As a company member, she performed with EOA in the role of Deanna for the play Unentitled by Charles White. Valeska began her career as a classical performer and operatic singer having the opportunity to sing recitals and operas at venues throughout the continental United States and Italy. Some of Valeska's favorite roles are Jory (Disgraced), Sarah (Ragtime), Liebeslieder (A Little Night Music), Glinda (The Wiz), Frasquita in Carmen and Tytania (Benjamin Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream). Valeska enjoys singing in tight three-part harmonies with The Randy Andys - a tight three-part harmony female group that sings the 80s, 90s, and today's pop songs arranged to the styles of the 1940s female trios. One of her career highlights was her solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall. Valeska is a board member and co-treasurer for Essence of Acting.



## ISMAEL CASTILLO\*

COVER: JIMMIE JONES (DIAMOND DICK)/LEVITICUS SOLOMON/ESQUIRE

Ismael Castillo, a graduate of The New School of Drama with an MFA in Acting and City College with a BA in Psychology of Leadership and Theater, is an ensemble member of Broken Box Mime Theater Group and Pregones/PRTT. Recent credits include BKBX at PHYSFESTNYC, "Burned" (Pregones), and "Adriel's Bones" (Harlem9). Find him on IG: @is.castillo\_



## MARINA CATALÁN

COVER: MARIA BONILLA

Marina Catalán is a Chilean-American actor who has appeared in a variety of productions in the South Florida area, including soap operas produced by Telemundo Networks, commercials, infomercials, plays, voiceovers, and dubbing. Since moving to NY in 2016, she has worked in commercials, print, audio description for Netflix, voiceovers, and theater. She is also a bilingual director and Spanish voiceover/on-camera sessions coach. For more, visit: [marinacatalan.com](http://marinacatalan.com)





## CAST

### VALERIE DAVID\*

MARIA BONILLA

Valerie David, a NYC-based performer/playwright, reprises Maria's role in Greenwood. She showcases her award-winning solo shows: "The Pink Hulk," sharing her cancer survival journey, and "Baggage From BaghDAD," depicting her family's escape from religious persecution. These productions resonate with resilience amid adversity, paralleling global struggles. "Baggage From BaghDAD" earned acclaim at the Stockholm Fringe Festival. With a background in Off-Broadway and improv, David uplifts children through "Broadway Hearts." Recently, she starred in the play reading, "Obit." Grateful to the Greenwood team, she extends her appreciation. Explore more at <https://pinkhulkplay.com/>.



### BRENDA THOMAS DENMARK

GRANDMOTHER BOLEY

Brenda has appeared on numerous stages, including the Broadway productions of Neil Simon's "Proposals", and August Wilson's "Joe Turner's Come And Gone". Other Stages include Lincoln Center Theatre ("God's Heart"); Negro Ensemble Company ("From The Mississippi Delta"); New Federal Theatre ("Trial Of One Short-Sighted Black Woman"); Circle Repertory Theatre ("Keepin' An Eye On Louie" "Borderlines" and "Raft Of The Medusa"). Regional Theaters include The Long Wharf and St. Louis Repertory Theatre. Brenda has appeared in various films including "In Too Deep" "Mixing Nia" "Hurricane" and "Center Stage" to name a few. Her career includes numerous episodes of "Law And Order" "Special Victims Unit" and "Criminal Intent" along with multiple Commercials and voiceovers. She is an AUDELCO Award recipient and a core member of Essence of Acting (EOA).



### LESLIE DOCKERY

COVER: DELLA SAMPSON

A proud member of SDC with an Audelco award for best choreography, Leslie Dockery proves to be a meaningful part of every production she is involved in. Dockery's choreographing credits include the revival of Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope (York Theater) and as associate choreographer for the original workshops of Broadway's Smokey Joe's Café. Dockery has served as choreographer for Off-Broadway's Little Ham, From My Hometown, and as director, choreographer, and creator for Off Broadway's Beehive and Ugly is a Hard Pill. As a performer, Leslie has performed in hit Broadway shows such as "EUBIE" and "Sophisticated Ladies."

Ms. Dockery is the resident choreographer for The Alumni Ensemble of Harlem and Queen Esther Marrow's Harlem Gospel Singers. Staying true to her artistic craft and abilities, Leslie is pleased to be an active member of EOA for the past five years.

# CAST

## T. CAT FORD\*

STAGE DIRECTIONS

T. Cat Ford, an accomplished actor, playwright, and oral historian, has originated roles for renowned playwrights like Romulus Linney and Lanie Robertson, performing globally. Notably, she starred in Linney's "GINT" at the International Ibsen Festival and portrayed Jessie Mae Watts in Horton Foote's "THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL" in England. Recently, she shone as Daisy Werthan in Alfred Uhry's "Driving Miss Daisy" in New Jersey. Ford's plays have graced stages at venues such as the Barter Theatre and The York Theatre Company. Her short film "A Calling" won Best Ensemble Cast at the Culver City Film Festival. She leads the Coffee County Memory Project, honored with the 2023 American Association of State and Local History Award of Excellence, and curates the workshop series PLAYBACK & FASTFORWARD.



## LYNNIE GODFREY\*

MOLLY BOLDEN

Lynnie Godfrey, a distinguished artist, embarked on her Broadway journey under the tutelage of Lloyd Richards, making her debut in the musical revue "EUBIE!" shortly after graduating from Hunter College. She's a recipient of the Tyrone Guthrie Award for Directing Excellence, and her accolades include Drama Desk, Dramalogue, NAACP, and Audelco Awards for her outstanding performances. As a director, she's helmed Off-Broadway productions like Charles White's "UNENTITLED" and readings of new works by Celeste Bedford Walker and Charles White. Godfrey's television and film credits span from Norman Lear's "704 HAUSER" to Oprah Winfrey's "THE WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE." She's the founder of THE ESSENCE OF ACTING and president of GODLEE ENTERTAINMENT, INC.



## JULIUS HOLLINGSWORTH

PEG LEG (HORACE TAYLOR)

Julius Hollingsworth is a journeyman and activist in the entertainment industry for over 53 years as a multi-hyphenate. A multiple award recipient. Including an Emmy Award as an actor in ABC-TV's To Be A Man, as well as other awards. You can reach him by going to his website, [juliusollingsworth.com](http://juliusollingsworth.com). He is a member of the Essence of Acting Company.





## CAST

### DONALD HYMAN

PEG LEG (HORACE TAYLOR)/COVER: BILL BOLEY

Donald Hyman is a Brooklynite who now calls Albany, NY home. He has a BS from St. Francis College and an MA in Urban Studies/MS in Secondary Education from Long Island University. Hyman is a first-place winner for drama for his piece "The Dedication" about the Vietnam Memorial. He will perform in May 2024 at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Denver, Colorado. He is currently vice-chairman for CHANNEL ALBANY and has produced "ALBANY TEMPO SPECTRUM" for ten seasons. He also produces "Capitol Region Portraits" for Proctors Open Stage Media. He portrayed "Frederick Douglass" in "Standing on the Promises" for the Harriet Tubman Titan Awards.



### SYDNI JACKSON

COVER: SOLENE BOLEY

Sydni Janeé is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. In addition to her love for musical theatre, she grew a passion for film acting just before she graduated. Since graduating, Sydni has performed in various plays with Black & Brown Theatre and the Inspired Acting Company in Detroit, MI. She is featured in an audiobook with Black & Brown Theatre entitled "Rapunzel Story Time" on Apple Music, Spotify, and YouTube. Her first featured role in the short film "NAKED" can be found on Amazon Prime. She also has starred in two independent feature films entitled "The Affair" and "The Perfect Murder" that are now streaming on Tubi. This will be Sydni's first performance opportunity with the Essence of Acting company, and she hopes it will not be her last.



### ALEX JONES

LEVITICUS SOLOMON/ESQUIRE

Alex Jones is proud to be a part of EOA's production of Greenwood: an American Dream Destroyed. Alex is an actor, singer-songwriter, and performing artist from Brooklyn New York and has earned his BA from Marymount Manhattan College. Theatre credits include Wicked City Blues (Off Broadway) Henry IV (Hip to Hip Theatre Company) Mandela Architecture (Leadership Masters) Unentitled (Essence of Acting, New York Theatre Festival) Mayfield (Tada Theatre) Commercial credits include Sennheiser, Walmart, Applebees, ADT, Thomas Reuters.

# CAST

## FRANZ JONES\*

### STAGE DIRECTIONS

Franz Jones is an actor/blog writer/director living in Brooklyn. He has recently been named in Marquis Who's Who in America 2022-2023. He has appeared on Broadway in the original production of Roger Miller's "Big River" in the role of Bill. He has worked Off-Broadway at several theaters, including Cafe LaMaMa, Soho Rep, The Lion Theatre, and New Media Rep. He has played Othello in "Othello" at the New Harmony Theatre, Estragon in "Waiting for Godot" at The New Art Theatre, Serge in "Art" at the Shadowland Theatre, and Mendel in "The Melting Pot" for Everyday Inferno among other works. He has appeared in several classical works such as "The Winter's Tale," "The Comedy of Errors," "Hamlet," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Bartholomew Fair." Franz attended Texas Christian University, a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Delaware (PTTP) and a Diana Sands Scholarship from Circle in the Square Theatre School.



## JAY AUBREY JONES\*

### LAWRENCE PRITCHARD

Renowned for his versatile performances on stage and screen, Jay Aubrey Jones has made a lasting impact in entertainment. Recently, he charmed audiences as Ezekiel Foster in Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" at Bucks County Playhouse. With Broadway credits including "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," "Cats" and appearances at the Metropolitan Opera in "Porgy and Bess," Jones has showcased his talent across prestigious stages. His extensive resume spans regional theaters like Bucks County Playhouse and Yale Repertory Theatre, as well as film and television roles in "Shortcut to Happiness" and "Gotham." Notably, he became the voice behind the viral "Laurel vs. Yanny" internet debate. Jones honed his craft at the Syracuse University Drama Department, solidifying his reputation as a captivating and multifaceted performer.



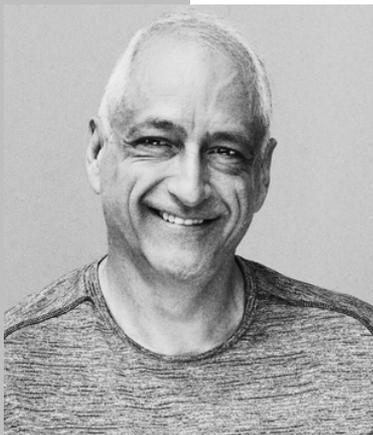
## JULIA LEMA\*

### DELLA SAMPSON/ COVER: GRANDMOTHER BOLEY

A seasoned performer with a remarkable career, Julia Lema has graced both on and off-Broadway stages in an array of unforgettable productions. From captivating audiences in "Lena Horne: The Lady & Her Music" to bringing characters to life in "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Having Our Say," "To Kill A Mockingbird" and "Crowns," Julia's talent knows no bounds.

Beyond her prowess as a performer, Julia is also a gifted director and choreographer. She has helmed productions like "Five Guys Named Moe" and breathed new life into multiple renditions of "Ain't Misbehavin'."





## CAST

### TONY MACY-PÉREZ\*

COVER: FRANK BOLEY/BILL BOLEY/LAWRENCE PRITCHARD/DR. JACKSON/PEG LEG (HORACE TAYLOR)

Tony Macy-Pérez is a Cuban-American actor/writer/director. He just finished directing "Al Gore Rhythm" for HB Studios. His play "Requiem for a Life" has been published in the Strawberry One-Act Festival Anthology. His play "90 Miles of Separation" can be viewed on YouTube.

He is very honored to work with this wonderfully talented company on such an important work.



### JOSHUA PYRAM

JIMMIE JONES (DIAMOND DICK)

Joshua Pyram is a Musical Theatre performer, concert vocalist, and founder/owner of 350 Studios LLC., an event photography company specializing in weddings and corporate Events. He studied musical theatre at Howard University and went on to study acting and anthropology at Brooklyn College. His most recent works include his 3rd season as a cast member of MTV's Wild N' Out, performing with names like Nick Cannon and Kevin Hart. He starred as the lead vocalist of Stevie Wonder's Cabaret Tribute: A Place in the Sun at the acclaimed Florida Studio Theatre. He has had sold-out performances at the iconic stages of Green Room 42 and 54 Below. Joshua is highly honored to be a part of the Greenwood legacy once again. You can follow his journey on Instagram @joshpyram or visit his website at [www.joshuapyram.com](http://www.joshuapyram.com)



### TROY VALJEAN RUCKER\*

DR. JACKSON

Troy is a versatile performer with extensive experience in theater, television, and voiceover work. Notable Off-Broadway roles include Romeo in 'Romeo & Bernadette' and appearances in 'Relapse.' Regional and NYC highlights encompass diverse productions like 'Mr. Holland's Opus,' 'Angels In America,' and 'Scottsboro Boys.' Toured nationally in 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and collaborated with the International Symphony Orchestra in Europe. Additional credits include performances at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center and TV appearances on 'Law & Order: Organized Crime,' Lifetime, and the History Channel. Experienced in commercials and voiceovers.

# CAST

## JESSICA-BRITTANY SMITH

COVER: SOLENE BOLEY

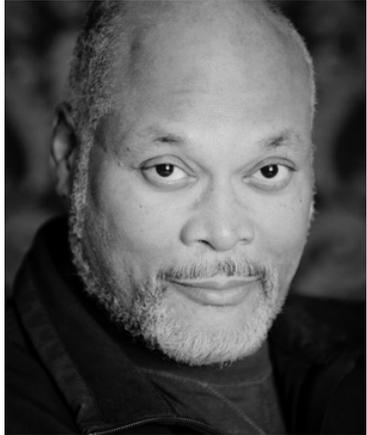
Jessica-Brittany (JB) is a vibrant multidisciplinary artist based in New York, blending talents in voice, acting, and activism. From Stella Adler's teen conservatory to NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, she has honed her craft. With a BFA in Drama, she's graced stages like the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and Netflix's "Friends From College." JB's leadership extends to co-founding NYU's Black Alumni Network, earning her the 2019 Michael Parkes Distinguished Alumni Award. Known as Jaibee, she crafts music intertwined with visual elements. Across mediums, JB aims to inspire others to move, think, and spark change through her art, leaving an indelible mark on both the artistic and social landscape.



## RAPHAEL NASH THOMPSON\*

FRANK BOLEY

An accomplished actor with a diverse portfolio spanning Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional theater, film, and television. Notable Broadway credits include "The Sign In Sidney Brustein's Window." Off-Broadway, [Thompson] has delivered standout performances in productions like "Shared Sentences" and "F\*cking A." Their talent shines on the regional stage, with appearances at esteemed venues such as the Actors Theatre of Louisville and the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Onscreen, [Thompson] has left an indelible mark with roles in "Searching For Bobby Fischer" and "Elementary." With a passion for storytelling and a dedication to their craft, [Thompson] continues to captivate audiences worldwide.



## KIM WAFER

DELLA SAMPSON

Kim Wafer has had the pleasure of working with various theater groups throughout New York State. Some of her favorite performances and portrayals include Ruth - Raisin in the Sun, Ragtime, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Shirley Chisholm, Della - Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed, Vivian Baptiste - A Lesson Before Dying, Mrs. Birling-An Inspector Calls, Sophie Washington in "Flying West," Mrs. Cecil Ackroyd in Murder of Rodger Ackroyd, and Billie Dawn in Born Yesterday EOA's salon. It is an honor and blessing to work on the Greenwood project again with this wonderful company. Thank you to Celeste Bedford Walker for sharing this important part of our history in such a powerful way.



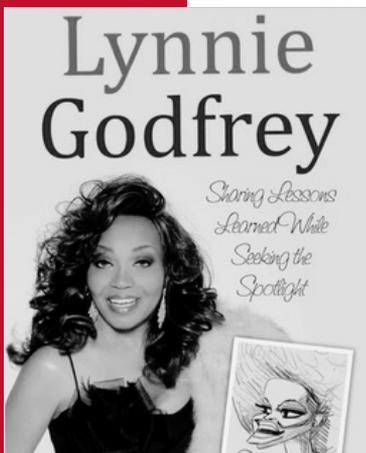
*\*The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*



# LYNNIE GODFREY

DIRECTOR OF GREENWOOD AND  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF ESSENCE  
OF ACTING

Lynnie Godfrey's career is a tapestry of achievements across stage, screen, T.V. and beyond. She honed her craft at CUNY Hunter College under the mentorship of Broadway luminary Lloyd Richards (director of "A Raisin In The Sun"), leading to her Broadway debut in "EUBIE!" post-graduation. Notable accolades include the Tyrone Guthrie Award for Excellence in Directing, a Drama Desk Nomination, and recognition from organizations like Dramalogue, NAACP and AUDELCO Awards for her outstanding performances and productions.



Her directing repertoire spans Off-Broadway gems like Charles White's "UNENTITLED," Thornton Wilder's "INFANCY," and Lorraine Hansberry's "TO BE YOUNG, GIFTED and BLACK." Television and film credits showcase her versatility, including roles in Norman Lear's "704 HAUSER," Oprah Winfrey's "THE WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE," and the Disney film "V.I. WARSHAWSKI."

Ms. Godfrey is a seasoned performer, director, and trailblazer, founding THE ESSENCE OF ACTING to provide actors with challenging creative opportunities. She actively contributes to various artistic and philanthropic endeavors, including serving on panels like the New York State WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP.

Additionally, Ms. Godfrey is deeply involved in the theater community, holding memberships in esteemed organizations like Actors' Equity, SAG-AFTRA, and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.



Her recent ventures into Zoom and live streaming underscore her commitment to showcasing new works, including pieces by Celeste Bedford Walker and Charles White. Beyond her professional achievements, Ms. Godfrey is also a published author and recording artist, sharing her experiences and talents through her books and C.D.s.

For more about Lynnie Godfrey and her work, visit [www.lynniegodfrey.com](http://www.lynniegodfrey.com).

# ARTISTIC, PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

## FRANZ JONES

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCTION COORDINATOR  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ESSENCE OF ACTING

Franz Jones, a versatile talent based in Brooklyn, NY, shines as an actor, blog writer, and director. Honored in Marquis Who's Who in America 2022-2023, he follows his mother, Dr. Effie H. Jones, recognized in Who's Who in American Education. Franz's stage credits range from Broadway's "Big River" to Off-Broadway gems at Cafe LaMaMa and Soho Rep. With a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Delaware and a Diana Sands Scholarship from Circle in the Square Theatre School, Franz Jones continues to leave a profound mark in the world of theater.



## MIKE PHIPPS

HOUSE MANAGER

Mike Phipps, a New York City native, brings over 30 years of design experience from the Garment Industry, collaborating with top names like Carl Banks, Kenneth Cole, and Ralph Lauren. Transitioning to Essence of Acting, Inc., Mike merges his passion for inclusive fashion with theater. Known for challenging norms and crafting pieces that resonate, he aims to infuse theater with fresh perspectives. Currently pursuing a T.E.S.O.L. master's program part-time, Mike underscores his commitment to growth and learning. With expertise in fashion and education, Mike Phipps is poised to significantly impact both design and the performing arts.



## MORGAN LEE

STAGE MANAGER

Morgan Lee is a seasoned stage manager passionate about orchestrating seamless productions. She has managed everything from plays to recitals, concerts and more. Her stage management credits include All My Sons, The Picture of Dorian Gray, and Machinal. She is delighted to join the reading of Greenwood as the stage manager and contribute to the power of storytelling. When Morgan is not stage managing behind the scenes, she is following her other passions of acting and singing.



## JULIE LEMA

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

A seasoned performer, Julia Lema has left an indelible mark on Broadway and Off-Broadway stages. From captivating portrayals in "Lena Horne's - The Lady & Her Music" to memorable roles in "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Having Our Say," "To Kill A Mockingbird," and "Crowns," Julia's versatility shines through. Beyond her acting prowess, she's a skilled director and choreographer, infusing new energy into productions like "Five Guys Named Moe" and multiple iterations of "Ain't Misbehavin'."





FOUNDED BY AUDREY COHEN IN 1964

Thank you to the MCNY Community,  
our staff, alumni and friends who so generously  
supported this Black History Month presentation  
of  
“GREENWOOD: AMERICAN DREAM DESTROYED”  
and  
OUR MISSION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE!

**There's still  
time to give...**



MCNY MANHATTAN  
60 WEST STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10006  
(212) 343-1234

MCNY BRONX  
463 EAST 149TH STREET  
BRONX, NY 10455  
(718) 665-7787

[mcny.edu](http://mcny.edu)