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THE SEACOAST REPERTORY THEATRE’S PRODUCTION OF:

THE BUS STOP

DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY
NAJEE A. BROWN

STAGE MANAGER AND PRODUCTION MANAGER
ZACHARY AHMAD-KAHLOON

LIGHT DESIGN
MATT COST

SOUND DESIGN
ANDREW CAMERON

SET DESIGN
DAVE WALTERS

COSTUME DESIGN
JULIE MANOUCHEHRI

SCENIC ARTIST
ED PHILLIPS

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A subscription is a season ticket. It gets you tickets to every (or almost every) show. You get to pick your seats well in advance and get a hefty 20% discount off of single-ticket price.

A membership is a one-time or recurring donation that supports our award-winning programs. Membership has great perks like exclusive events, names in the program, and discounts at local businesses.

Members support the day-to-day operations of the theatre and allow us to maintain affordable ticket prices and tuitions. With your tax-deductible contribution. The Rep will continue to entertain, educate and inspire - which in turn, improves the community and contributes to the economic and cultural vitality of the Seacoast.
SOS offers NH’s most comprehensive peer based recovery support services to individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system.

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- 1% of NH state residents are Black yet 8% of people in NH jails and 5% of people in NH prisons are Black.
- In NH Prisons since 1978 the Black incarceration rate has increased **278%**.
- There were 2441 people in NH prisons in 2018, a **432% increase since 1983**.
- In NH Jails since 1990 the Black incarceration rate has increased 58% and in 2015 Black people were incarcerated at **6.8 times the rate of white people**.
- In 2017, Black people were incarcerated in NH prisons at **3x the rate of white people**.

SOS supports Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and recognizes the criminal justice system in NH is systemically racist. SOS advocates and demands criminal justice reform in NH to end oppression of BIPOC **immediately**.

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information is courtesy of “Incarceration Trends in NH” by Vera Institute of Justice
(www.vera.org/state-incarceration-trends) 2019
Everything begins in seed form and grows into an experience. I first came up with the idea for this play while sitting in a park waiting for my friend to come out of work. It took me about four years to finally put the pen to paper. When I did my first reading, there were only 10 people in the audience. When no one seemed to want to produce this production, I put my money together and produced it on my own with the help of my closest friends and talented actors who I knew from childhood. That led to six sold out shows in New York City. Now we are here. Nothing is impossible.

There are so many stories of forgotten people that should be told at this time especially in this political climate and “The Bus Stop” is definitely one of them. The prison system affects every American. I dedicate this to the families who are affected every day by the prison system.

I would like to thank God for causing me to create this production. I acknowledge completely that without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you for sending me wonderful, generous people to help this vision come to pass. To my parents, grandparents, Micah, Hope Jamari and Tonito, I love you. Thank you for shaping me to the person I am today. To my family, thank you for being supportive, thank you for your unconditional love. It is that love that allows me to dream big. To my cast, Sandi, Denise, Jo, Tiffany, Simone, Kevin and Keondre, I couldn’t ask for God to send me a more gifted group of people. You were the glue that held this together. Every rehearsal you came in ready to tell this story, making this the best experience my life. Thank you guys for helping my dreams come true. To my friends, Paul, Jordan, Davon, Gio and Anaya. You guys have been an extended family that has been there for me through my hardest moments, I couldn’t ask for better friends. To my Green Acre/Eliot Baha’i family. Thank you for taking care of me. You stepped up to produce this production.
To my production team, Frank, Robert, David, Ed, Nura, Julie, Claudia, Zak and Glenn. This belongs to you. Own it. It was your hard work that got us here. To my Seacoast Rep family, let's make history together. Thank you Ben and Brandon for considering me and my art. Your vision will change this world. To my mother, you are my best friend. My only desire is to make you proud. Thank you for listening to me. Thank you for raising me to be a good person. You are my sole inspiration for this whole piece.

Najee A. Brown
Director
Green Acre is proud to be the lead sponsor for The Bus Stop. The director and playwright Najee A. Brown has been serving as Green Acre's Artist-in-Residence for the last year and we are grateful to have been able to provide the rehearsal space, design and build the set and support the efforts to keep the project alive during the pandemic. We are so glad to see it come to life at the Seacoast Rep!

Since the health crisis limited the opportunity for in-person performances of The Bus Stop, the Green Acre team in collaboration with Najee and three of the actors translated a scene from the play into an online workshop for area high schools with a dialogue space about the play’s themes — including the power of words, forgiveness, resilience, and generation gaps. Here’s what participants have been saying about the workshops:

“I want to have more conversations about the complexity of race in America.” - 10th Grader, Berwick Academy

“It was the most honest and genuine conversation that I have engaged in since moving to Maine.” - Member of the York School Department’s Inclusion Advisory Group

“Thank you for being, hands down, the BEST adults that have worked with our students this year. I was truly blown away by the way you all empowered and inspired all of us.” - Faculty adviser for the York High School Civil Rights Team

Green Acre offers arts-based dialogue workshops to Middle and High Schools students and is currently looking to expand to additional schools in the area. To learn more or set up a workshop please email Robert Sapiro, Administrator at rsapiro@usbnc.org or call at 207-439-7200 x7000.
Green Acre is a Bahá’í Center of Learning in Eliot, Maine whose mission is to offer immersive learning experiences for children, youth, adults and families in an environment of physical, social and spiritual beauty to empower participants to build their community and elevate the discourse around themes from the Baha’i Writings on justice, nobility, resilience and the oneness of humanity.

***

“Racism is a profound deviation from the standard of true morality. It deprives a portion of humanity of the opportunity to cultivate and express the full range of their capability and to live a meaningful and flourishing life, while blighting the progress of the rest of humankind. It cannot be rooted out by contest and conflict. It must be supplanted by the establishment of just relationships among individuals, communities, and institutions of society that will uplift all and will not designate anyone as “other”. The change required is not merely social and economic, but above all moral and spiritual.” - 22 July, 2020, Universal House of Justice, the international governing council of the Bahá’í Faith

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CAST

Deb.......................................................... Sandi Clark Kaddy
Beverley.................................................. Denise Richardson Gordon
Isabella...................................................... Simone Lewis
Katrina..................................................... Tiffany Colston
Mahogany.................................................. Joanna Kelley
Sean, Isaiah............................................... Najee A. Brown
Kevin....................................................... Keondray Lucas
Bill, Mahogany’s Father.......................... Kevin Wade Mitchell
WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

SANDI CLARK KADDY (Deb) a.k.a Sandi Kaddy. A graduate of Elmira College with a BA in Theater. Proud mom of two sons, Ken and Chris, blended family of 6 beautiful grandchildren. Sandi’s love for theater began at a young age, when her mom would write skits to keep her and the other 9 siblings occupied. Of course they had to perform them at family and friends functions. Sandi recently retired from the Ogunquit Playhouse, so you may find her digging in the garden, feeding the birds, riding on the back of a motorcycle and of course onstage performing. She is the founder of “Jukwaa Mazoa” theatre productions, doing everything from acting, directing, producing, costumes and casting whatever it takes to get the show up and running. Sandi is a strong community supporter and volunteers for various NH based Non-profits including the Seacoast African American Cultural Center, Seacoast NAACP, North Star Amezion Church, supporting Black Lives Matter programs and Green Acre Bahai”. Sandi has been seen in many productions on the Seacoast and surrounding area’s for a many years, she has had the pleasure of being onstage at The Player’s Ring, SRT, Rochester Opera House, Newington Town Hall, Capital Center for the Arts, Newburyport Firehouse, Dunnaway Center in Ogunquit Maine, Mill Pond Center for the Arts in Durham, NH, NH Theater Projects and thrilled to have come full circle to her original home The Rep. She couldn’t be happier to being involved in this incredible original production of The Bus Stop. Working with this cast of crazy females has been an amazing experience. Thanks Najee for this and future opportunities. #SeacoastSandi #MamaRoxx

DENISE RICHARDSON GORDON (Beverly) has been performing for over 30 years. Denise is best known for her stand up comedy. She has performed in comedy clubs across the USA. Denise has also performed in Having Our Say at the Players Ring in Portsmouth. Doubt, Big River, and Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat with the Pittsfiled Players in Pittsfield NH. The Waiting Room, Bob TV in Boston Mass. Denise is also known in the area for directing and devoloping the children’s summer acting program at the Ogunquit Playhouse in Ogunquit Maine. Denise’s proudest accomplishment was co-writing her first musical with her daughter “We are the Dream” a musical about Martin Luther King performed in NYC in 2017.

SIMONE LEWIS (Isabella) is a new actress to the Seacoast Repertory Theatre. Simone is a Cheerleading and Tumbling Coach. She coaches, at Bay State Allstars NH in Dover, NH. Simone is excited to perform at the Rep this summer.
WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

TIFFANY COLSTON (Katrina) has embedded her roots within the arts after graduating from the prestigious Berklee College of Music with a major in Music Business in 2010. She then found her passion within giving back and sharing her gifts as not only an artist and entertainer, but as a teacher to hundreds of beautiful souls in Massachusetts and NH. She has had the wonderful opportunity to travel and perform in countries such as Switzerland, Serbia, Canada, and many more across the world. During her college years, she had the opportunity to share the stage with many greats such as Earth Wind and Fire's, Phillip Bailey, and Sweet Honey in the Rock. These experiences have given her the tools to teach voice, dance, theatre, acting, piano and performance to hundreds on the East Coast over the past 10 years. She is the former owner of Musical Arts of Dover and currently now owns Tiffany Colston Studios. Currently, she is working on several projects with highly acclaimed, Oscar winning, Ernest Thompson. As an active artist/entertainer/teacher internationally, she continues to inspire and embark in her career while being the best mom to her lovely daughter, Myla Colston.

JOANNA KELLEY (Mahogany) is to make her theatrical debut in The Bus Stop. Drawn to the dynamic writing and movement behind the play, it was a natural fit for her. Joanna is a New Hampshire native, living in Portsmouth. In 2018, she opened her own café and bar in the heart of the downtown. She is active in local politics and sits if the board of several non profits. With a persistent passion for the arts, Joanna is overwhelmed with excitement for the project.

NAJEE A. BROWN (Sean, Isaiah) can be described as nothing else than a young entrepreneur. After starting his media company, Mindlezz Thoughtz in 2011, they have helped provide the proper resources to aspiring artists. In addition to running his own media and arts company, Najee Brown also produces his own music, he writes, directs and has danced on every stage from The Apollo to Carnegie Hall. Most recently, Najee wrote and produced his play The Bus Stop, which sold out six times in New York City in 2018 and premiered at Seacoast Repertory Theater in 2020. Co-wrote and directed the musical Glimmerings Of Hope which premiered in New York City and toured Michigan, Spring of 2019 and Directed and Choreographed the award-winning musical Henry Box Brown A Musical Journey, in Edinburgh Scotland last summer. Najee is now the curator of the Sol Series at Seacoast Rep which will begin January 2021.

KEONDRAY LUCAS (Kevin) is a young aspiring actor who hopes to one day be able to act on the Television screen. Keondray is always on the look out, whether it be for acting gigs or just to lend a helping hand to the community.

KEVIN WADE MITCHELL (Bill, Mahogany's Father) has been acting for four decades. A graduate of the Elma Lewis School of Performing Arts in Dorchester Mass. it's been a few year since he has performed at the SRT. He performed as Crooks in of Mice and Men also Rev. Sykes in To Kill A Mockingbird at SRT. He has recently done an appearance N.H. Chronicle and has appeared on PBS as Frederick Douglass. Other roles include Martin Luther King Jr. (All the Way) at the Player's Ring, Bing Julie (Guys and Dolls) at Prescott Park Arts Festival, and Bono (Fences) at the Firehouse Center for the Arts.
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NAJEE A. BROWN (Director) can be described as nothing else than a young entrepreneur. After starting his media company, Mindlezz Thoughtz in 2011, they have helped provide the proper resources to aspiring artists. In addition to running his own media and arts company, Najee Brown also produces his own music, he writes, directs and has danced on every stage from The Apollo to Carnegie Hall. Most recently, Najee wrote and produced his play The Bus Stop, which sold out six times in New York City in 2018 and premiered at Seacoast Repertory Theater in 2020. Co-wrote and directed the musical Glimmerings Of Hope which premiered in New York City and toured Michigan, Spring of 2019 and Directed and Choreographed the award-winning musical Henry Box Brown A Musical Journey, in Edinburgh Scotland last summer. Najee is now the curator of the Sol Series at Seacoast Rep which will begin January 2021.

ZACHARY AHMAD-KAHLOON (Stage Manager, Production Manager) Previous Seacoast Rep credits include Billy Elliot (ASM), Evita (SM), Once (ASM), Christmas Carol (PM) and Ragtime (Rehearsal Stage Manager/PM), A Chorus Line (PM), and half of the team of Bump, Grind and Rosé on Seacoast Rep Radio! Zak recently joined the Seacoast Rep team as the Production Manager and has to thank Kate Dugas for keeping his life together for all of quarantine.

MATT COST (Lighting Designer) embarked on a career as a theatrical lighting designer while an undergraduate at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. From there he went on to work at Portland Stage Company in Portland, Maine, Seacoast Repertory Theatre, Boston University, The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and many other institutions. His work has been seen all over New England as well as South Carolina, Mexico, and Macau. Matt lives in East Weymouth, MA with wife Abby, son Simon George, and pitbull Roadie.

JULIE MANOUCHEHRI (Costume Designer) is a textile artist with a current focus on fashion and design. She lives in southern Maine with her family, and has very much enjoyed her first foray into theatre costuming.
PRODUCTION TEAM

DAVID B. WALTERS (*Set Designer, Master Carpenter*) as worked on many shows over the years. Most recently at Marshwood High School from 2001 to 2010 on such shows as: *The Wizard of Oz; Seussical; Secret in the Wings; Metamorphoses; Oklahoma!; Camino Real; Aida; Savage Love; A Christmas Carol; Cinderella; West Side Story; Music Man; Oliver* (twice); *Kiss Me Kate; The Laramie Project; Springfield; and The Love of Don Perlimplin* for Bellisa in the Garden among others. His first transformative experience with the theater was in 1975 running the light board for *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* on stage in the duck pond at San Lorenzo Park in Santa Cruz, CA. when the park lost power and we used the headlights of cars to finish the show. The show must go on!

NURA WALTERS (*Properties Designer*) is a BFA college graduate and volunteer member on the Green Acre Art Committee. She has many fond memories of being heavily involved with theatre programs in high school and college. She is honored to have been able to contribute in bringing this incredible play to life.

ED "E.C." PHILLIPS (*Scenic Artist*) graduated from the Arts Institute of Pittsburgh PA in 1977 and then moved to Rochester NY and open a design studio with my son for over 5 years. He then took on the task of Executive Director for the Community Arts Center in Phelps NY for 7 years from 2007-2014. Ed started with them by teaching art classes, sitting on the board of directors as a member and then stepped in the director position for 5 years. He then Started work for Green Acre, a Baha’i Center of Learning in September of 2018 and hold a position on the Green Acre Arts Committee. As member of the Art Committees an opportunity to work on the set of *The Bus Stop* and he jumped on it. He painted the backdrops and helped with the build. Ed has been involved in the arts all his life and enjoys every aspect of ALL the arts.

BEN HART & BRANDON JAMES (*Artistic Directors*) Ben Hart and Brandon James have more than 45 years combined experience in theatrical scenes around the globe. Prolific artists, and partners in life and in art, they have toured internationally, premiered off-Broadway productions, shown their visual arts and sculptures in gallery exhibits, published books, and directed, choreographed and designed dozens of blockbuster, award-winning productions under the moniker of *The Mad Men Of Oopsy Daisy, Inc!* They have been recognized as master puppet makers and puppeteers, set and costume designers, and are acclaimed for their forward thinking, outside-the-box minded productions and performance art experiences. In addition to the artistic direction of the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, they have been presenting their award winning sci-fi, serial song and dance saga “Mad Haus- A Performance Portmanteau As Conceptualized By The Mad Men Of Oopsy Daisy Inc!” for years to a ferociously loyal fan base and cult following. They are passionately dedicated to the art of storytelling, and strive to serve the mission of making existence a better place through the shared experience of live theatre arts.

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