

DETROIT '67

FEB 16-17 / Pasant Theatre

By Dominique Morriseau

Produced by Detroit Public Theatre

Directed by Brian Marable

This performance is sponsored by Delta Dental of Michigan.

Tonight's performance will run approximately 2 hours,
including a 15-minute intermission.



View the digital program at
whartoncenter.com/program

Cast

Dani Cochrane
Aja Dier
Brian Taylor
Malik Reed
Yolanda Davis

Caroline
Bunny
Sly
Lank
Chelle

Creative Team

Brian Marable
Sarah Ackerman
Monika Essen
Reyanna Patterson
Jarrett Thomas
Lumumba Reynolds II
Cornell Jermaine
Badriyyah Wazeerud-Din

Director
Production Stage Manager
Scenic & Properties Designer
Costume Coordinator
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Wig and Makeup Consultant
Assistant Stage Manager

Detroit '67 is produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Detroit '67 was developed with the assistance of the Public Theater, Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director and received its World Premiere there on March 12, 2013.

The World Premiere was co-produced by The Classical Theater of Harlem, Ty Jones, Producing Artistic Director.

Developed at The Lark Play Development Center, New York City.

Actor Dani Cochrane & stage manager Sarah Ackerman are members of the Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

Scenic & Properties Designer Monika Essen is a member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829

Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional actors and stage managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.
#EquityWorks

About Detroit Public Theatre

Detroit Public Theatre produces nationally recognized plays and programs with world-class writers, directors, actors, and designers in the heart of Detroit's cultural district. We create bold, relevant work that illuminates the thrills, joys, and challenges of our shared humanity. Learn more at detroitpublictheatre.org.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

A Note from The Director

I'm honored to be directing Dominique Morisseau's phenomenal play, *Detroit '67*, for my Detroit Public Theatre directorial debut. This play is also the first Dominique Morisseau piece that I performed in. In 2016, I made my DPT and Baltimore Center Stage acting debuts in *Detroit '67*, and that production brought my career to new heights and new places. To be directing it now for Detroit Public Theatre is a wonderful full circle moment. I will forever be grateful to DPT and Dominique Morisseau for trusting me with this huge responsibility, now and also back in 2016, when we first brought this incredible play to Detroit.

This play holds a SPECIAL place in my career, my life, and my heart. I'm a native Detroiter, and my 80-year-old father often explains to me what it was really like in July of 1967. Race relations in this country, specifically between white and Black America, were flammable—just as they had been since the beginning. The avenues for business and property ownership were lopsided in Detroit and throughout the country. These inequities and issues form the backdrop for this play. And, much like today, these issues combined with a spark, the #1 Beef—the abuse of power and authority coming from those sworn to protect and serve—to ignite Detroit's historic 1967 summer uprising.

I know you will feel nostalgic when you experience this play, in the costumes, the music, and the characters! I know you will feel how DETROIT this play is, because it is all that and a bag of Better Mades. But I also hope this play will make you stop and think and ask, “Is it 1967, or is it 2022?” Because, outside of the nostalgia, it’s really hard to tell.

—Brian Marable

BIOS

DANI COCHRANE (*Caroline*) [she/her] is a Detroit-based stage and screen actor, as well as an experienced voiceover artist and director. She holds an MFA in acting from the Hilberry Repertory Company at Wayne State University, has studied abroad at the Moscow Art Theatre School, and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. DPT credits include: *Detroit '67* at the Charles H. Wright Museum, the world premiere of *Birthday Candles*, and *Cry It Out*. Other select credits: *Birthday Club* and *Blithe Spirit* at Meadow Brook Theatre, *A Very Williamston Christmas* at Williamston Theatre, and *Anatomy of a Hug* at Tipping Point Theatre, for which she won a Members' Choice Award for Best Actress. DaniCochrane.com.

AJA DIER (*Bunny*) [she/her] is a multi-disciplinary artist working in theatre, film, television, music, and performance. She is an ensemble member at A Host of People and has collaborated and performed in AHOP's original works: *Cleopatra Boy*; *Neither There, Nor Here*; and *Re-Release*

Party: The Golden Record, performing locally and touring nationally. She is a 2020 Kresge Artist Fellow and a 2018 Gilda Award winner in live arts awarded by the Kresge Foundation. She holds a BFA in acting from the State University of New York at Purchase College and is a proud alumnus of Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. She creates and performs music as Salakastar. Connect with Aja on Instagram: @salakastar.

MALIK/MALEEK REED* (*Lank*) [they/them] is a multi-hyphenate artist born and raised in Detroit and currently based in New York City. Recent work includes: Theatre: *Mud Row* (Premiere Stages); TV: *Law & Order: Organized Crime* (NBC), *Random Acts of Flyness* (HBO), *The Best Man: The Final Chapters* (Peacock), *East New York* (CBS); Commercial: Buffalo Wild Wings. All praise is due to God. Gye Nyame. Eternal thanks to Marilyn G McCormick, who has served as a master refiner in my life. Lastly, thank you to my mother Joyce Gilbert, who fuels my ambition with her magic; your endless support and love are what give me the courage to create art. WORK HARD AND PRAY HARDER.
www.malikreed.com

BRIAN SULLIVAN TAYLOR (*Sly*) is a native metro Detroiter with experience in theatre, film, commercial, print, and voiceover. As a young actor, Brian was trained in theatrical performance at the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. Once he discovered his passion for acting, he never stopped chasing his dream. In 2015, he decided to turn his passion into a career and join the professional acting ranks. Brian made his professional theatre debut in 2017, in Detroit Public

Theatre's award-nominated production of Dominique Morisseau's *Skeleton Crew*. He played the role of Dez, a young working-class man, with big dreams for his future. Brian is a SAG-AFTRA actor, along with many other endeavors. He serves as adjunct faculty at the College for Creative Studies, casting director for local production company Area 56 Ent, and acting coach at his own studio, the Detroit Drama Studio, where he is certified to train actors in the Ivana Chubbuck technique, *The Power of the Actor*. He currently trains with Ivana as a student in her master class as well. He believes that actors should always be training their instrument. Brian is very excited to make his return to Detroit Public Theatre in their touring production of *Detroit 67* in the role of Sly.

YOLANDA DAVIS (*Chelle*) Detroit native Yolanda Davis is proud to make her Detroit Public Theatre debut with *Detroit '67*. An alum of Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit and Interlochen Center for the Arts, Yolanda is an actor, writer, vocalist and producer who studied music composition and writing at Columbia College Chicago. In Chicago she began commercial acting work and appeared in *Spoon River Anthology* (Joseph Jefferson Award for Supporting Actress in a musical, 2006) and *Raisin* at Chicago's Court Theatre. Other credits include *Passages* with Plowshares Theatre and various independent films. In 2022 she released her first single, *Meditation*, with a full album releasing later this year, and is currently writing projects for TV and film. Yolanda thanks her family and friends for their support and belief in her work.

DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU (*Playwright & DPT Executive Artistic Producer*) [she/her] is the author of *The Detroit Project* (A 3-Play Cycle): *Skeleton Crew* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Paradise Blue* (Signature Theatre), and *Detroit '67* (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem and NBT). Additional plays include: *Confederates* (Signature Theatre), *Pipeline* (Lincoln Center Theatre), *Sunset Baby* (LAByrinth Theatre), *Blood at the Root* (National Black Theatre), and *Follow Me To Nellie's* (Premiere Stages). Her Broadway production of *Skeleton Crew* (Manhattan Theatre Club) is Tony® nominated for best play and she is also the Tony® nominated book writer on the Broadway musical *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations* (Imperial Theatre). TV/Film projects: She has served as co-producer on the Showtime series *Shameless*. She's currently developing projects with Netflix and HBO, and wrote the film adaptation of the documentary *STEP* for Fox Searchlight. Awards include: Spirit of Detroit Award, PoNY Fellowship, Sky-Cooper Prize, TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBFT August Wilson Playwriting Award, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, OBIE Award (2), and the Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, named one of Variety's Women of Impact for 2017-18, and a recipient of the 2018 MacArthur Fellowship [aka "genius grant"].

BRIAN MARABLE (*Director*) [he/him] is a native Detroiter. He is a graduate of Cass Tech Performing Arts Department and attended the Wayne State University Theatre program. He is a father, a son, and a brother. Theater credits include:

Detroit '67 (Baltimore Center Stage/Detroit Public Theatre,) *Skeleton Crew* (Old Globe/People's Light/Detroit Public Theatre/Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati,) *Pipeline*, *Paradise Blue* (Detroit Public Theatre), and, most recently, *Thurgood* (Chautauqua Theater Co./Detroit Public Theatre). He is honored and thrilled to be making his directorial debut with this show and this dream team.

SARAH ACKERMAN* (*Production Stage Manager/ Makeup Artist/Wig Maintenance*) [she/they] is a freelance stage manager from Warren, MI. She is thrilled to be working on this piece again, as she was PSM for the 2022 production at the Charles H. Wright Museum. Sarah has a BFA in stage management from Michigan State University. She travels the country stage managing musicals, operas, concerts, and events, with her most recent credits being *Stuck Elevator* (Nashville Opera) and *Nunsense* (ArtisTree Music Theatre Festival). Her event stage management credits vary, with clients such as Mastercard, Ford, WeWork, and The Detroit Jazz Festival. She acts as director of technical theatre for the Stoney Creek Theatre Company, teaching high school students stage management, prop design, electrics, sound, wig/makeup design and scenic art. Sarah also freelances as a scenic painter, makeup/wig designer, theatre educator, and vocalist. Proud member of Actors' Equity. Many thanks to Mom, Dad, Charlie, and the DPT staff.
sarahmackerman.com.

MONIKA ESSEN (*Scenic & Props Designer*) [she/her] is an award-winning, nationally recognized artist and designer. The recipient of the prestigious Lawrence DeVine Award for

Outstanding Contribution to Theatre, she studied Interior Architecture and Environmental Design at Parsons School of Design NYC and received her MFA in scenography from the renowned Hilberry Repertory Co. Ms. Essen has designed over 250 productions in theatre, opera, and film, and is currently resident designer at the Michigan Opera Theatre, where she recently designed their highly acclaimed productions of *Frida* and *Bliss*. Her designs have also been seen onstage at the Atlanta Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Cincinnati Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera. Some favorite local productions include *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *The Impossibility of Now*, and *A Christmas Carol* at Tipping Point Theatre; and *Murder Ballad*, *American Hero*, *Paradise Blue*, and *Detroit '67* at Detroit Public Theatre. Additionally, she creates art, furniture, museum exhibits, interiors, and full sensory, multimedia environments for residential and commercial clients, including the Detroit Zoo. All her design work can be viewed at www.studioepoque.com.

REYANNA PATTERSON (*Costume Coordinator*) [she/her] comes to *Detroit '67* after serving as an assistant costume designer for *Mud Row* and the 2022 production of *Detroit '67* with Detroit Public Theatre. She previously served as wardrobe and props supervisor for Ghostlight's 2022 Obsidian Theatre Festival. She is a recent '22 graduate with a BA in film, television, and media and a theatre design and production minor from the University of Michigan.

JARRETT THOMAS (*Lighting Designer*) [he/him] is thrilled to be returning to DPT after five years away from Detroit. Lighting design: *Everybody's Talkin* (Mosaic Youth Theatre),

Concert of Colors (Charles H. Wright), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Park Players), *The Crucible* (Mosaic Youth Theatre), *Urinetown* (Park Players). After having a show halted by the pandemic, he is excited to be again surrounded by the magic of live theatre.

LUMUMBA REYNOLDS II (*Sound Designer & Audio Technician*) [he/him] is native of Detroit, born in 1967 a few weeks after the uprising. His family house is off 12th Street, just 1.7 miles from the epicenter of this story. He considers it a close, very personal honor and responsibility to help tell this story. Lumumba was educated in the Detroit Public Schools. During the summers, he studied stagecraft and public speaking under renowned entertainer and Motown artist Kim Weston's Festival For The Performing Arts. After graduating from Cooley High School, he went on to earn a degree from Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts. Lumumba has a passion for mentoring youth and is very entrenched in the Detroit community. He is a master teacher of sound, videography, photography, stage management, and production. Hundreds of young students have benefited from his instruction at Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, Fellowship Chapel, UCC, and Detroit School of the Arts.

BADRIYYAH WAZEERUD-DIN (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is delighted to be a part of the DPT family, in their beautiful new home. She has worked on DPT productions *Mud Row* and *Noura* (build, load crew, light board operator). She has been a stage manager for the African World Festival. As a resident of Detroit, DPT's creative space in the community resonates deeply with her, where diverse and powerful stories

come to life. She loves the performing arts; she has appeared in musical theatre productions and has performed as an instrumentalist. Badriyyah is a captivating singer-songwriter and recording artist who enjoys performing and telling stories through music. She has performed and recorded with many artists including Painted Pictures, Malik Alston, The Linwood Ensemble, Sean Blackman, and Veronique. Spending time with family and friends brings her the greatest blessings and joy.

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