

**BURNING
COAL
THEATRE
COMPANY**

Wait 'Till

You See This

A Celebration of New Works and Emerging Artists

**June
5th
to 23rd**

\$10

Radio

by Al Smith

\$10

Ex-Boyfriends

by Dani Coan

**\$20-
\$32.50**

Home

by Samm-Art Williams

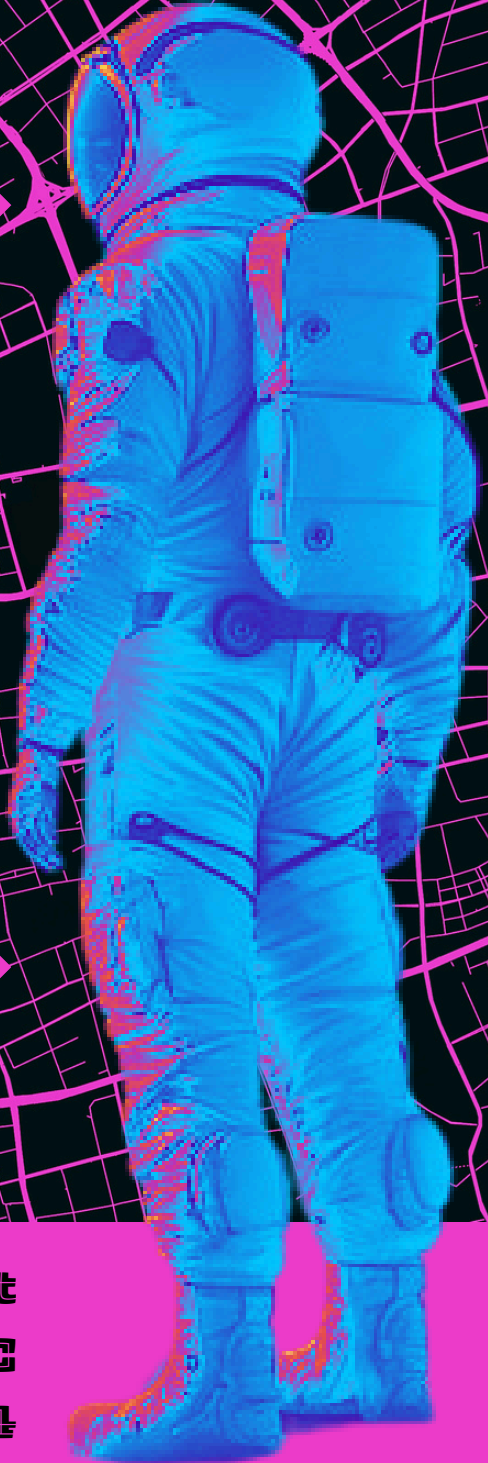
in collaboration with Pure Life Theatre

\$10

A House

(After Ibsen's Ghosts)

by Lucius Robinson and Jerome Davis



More info
and tickets available
at burningcoal.org
or by calling
919.834.4001

**224 Polk St
Raleigh, NC
27604**



Burning Coal is an intimate professional theatre company and an incorporated, non-profit [501 (c) (3)] organization.

RADIO

By Al Smith

Directed by Lucy Jane Atkinson

Starring Ben Apple

Synopsis: Radio tells the story of Charlie Fairbanks, who was born in the dead center of the United States at the dead center of the 20th century. Americans are going to the moon, and Charlie's sure he'll be the first one there. But as he shines his spotlight on the moon, so too does it illuminate the darker side to his nation's history.

Dates:

Wednesday, June 5th at 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 8th at 4:30 pm

Thursday, June 13th at 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 16th at 4:30 pm

Saturday, June 22nd at 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 23rd at 2 pm

Production Team

Lucy Jane Atkinson (Director)

Lucy is an award-winning director and dramaturg who specializes in new writing. A graduate of LAMDA's Post Graduate Director's course, and a member of the National Theatre's Directors course. In 2018 she was named as number 1 on The Stage's Top Talents To Watch. She has been scouted to direct new plays on both sides of the Atlantic, and has won awards for her work on multiple continents.

Selected credits as Director:

For Burning Coal: *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth Thawing From The Ice, I & You*. Elsewhere: *Barriers* (National Theatre), *A Hundred Words For Snow* (Trafalgar Studios, Winner: Offie Best Actress. Nominated: Offie Best Director, Best New Play), *The Sleeping Sword* (Watermill Theatre), *Spy For Spy* (Riverside Studios), *Testament* (ViaBrooklyn, New York, Winner: BroadwayWorld Best Director 2022), *Meat* (Theatre503), *Girls & Boys* (Crow's Theatre, Toronto), *The Enchantment* (HERE Arts Centre, New York). As Staff Director: *Middle* (National Theatre).

Beth Gargan (Costume Designer)

Beth is an avid theatergoer and quilter, and is thrilled to add costuming to her resume. Recent productions include: *KidsWrite* (Burning Coal), *26 Pebbles* (Justice Theater Project), *Arcadia* (Burning Coal), and *12 Angry Jurors* (JTP). She also did the costuming for JTP's 2023 summer camp, working with 120 lively campers in *Annie Jr.* She will reprise the costumer role for this year's summer production of *Matilda Jr.* Thanks to the great production team and actors for their fun collaboration and support. What a great summer of theater at Burning Coal!

Juan Isler (Sound Designer)

Juan, a native of Kinston, NC, grew up singing and earned a music-business degree at Winston-Salem State University in 1993. He worked as a deejay before coming to Raleigh, where he got a job as technical director at what is now Spectrum News in 2004. He has worked on more than 50 plays in venues across the Triangle on both sides of the stage, as actor, technician and director. He is the resident sound designer at Justice Theater Project. He is the board chair at Beltline To Broadway. He is an active member of the Raleigh Arts Commission and a recipient of the Raleigh Arts Commission Medal of Arts award. He is also the technical director for the newly founded Reclaiming Our Time Production Company.

Landon Carson (Lighting Designer)

Landon is grateful to return to the space they grew up in after spending several years pursuing a degree in Lighting Design at UNCG. Landon spent many of their formative years fulfilling many different roles on a variety of Burning Coal productions and is now the resident Lighting Designer for Theatre Academy Productions. Their most recent work was *Death By Design* at Peace University as a collaboration with Pure Life Theatre Company. Landon would like to thank Deb Royals for the encouragement to pursue their dreams, Jerome Davis for the incredible opportunity to design the second stage series, and Ric Allen, for the reminder that being oneself is an “awesome responsibility.”

Julianna Frasca (Production Stage Manager)

Julianna is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre for the 2024 Second Stage Series after stage managing for *Hymn* earlier this year. Before Burning Coal, she stage managed for Eastline Theatre on Long Island in their productions of *Angels in America* (both parts), *In the Next Room*, and *Being Earnest*, a queer adaptation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other credits include stage manager for *Canned Laughter* at the Downtown Urban Arts Festival, and assistant stage manager for *Malefactions* at Cradle Theatre Company. Julianna would like to thank her wonderful husband, William, and loving dog, Nacho, for supporting her while she takes the car every night for rehearsals.

Rae Hedges (ASM)

Rae is a graduate of Appalachian State University with degrees in Theatrical Design & Technology and English Language & Literature. She has worked as a professional stage manager with a specialization in musicals since 2010 with tours and productions nationwide. Her dream is to expand her work onto other continents in the coming years! She is incredibly honored to have been given yet another opportunity to work both with this brilliant team and Burning Coal to create this beautiful production. Special love to her supportive partners and her little superheroes - without whom her “show” would never go on... Rowan - Age 4, Emery - Age 3, and Lucas - Due in September.

Carry Vaughan-Sprouse (House Manager/ASM)

Carry is a graduate of Appalachian State University with degrees in Theatre Education (K-12) and Creative Writing. She has been with Burning Coal since January 2013. Some of her favorite productions to work on have been: *Iron Curtain Trilogy* (Raleigh and London productions, 2013), *Romeo and Juliet* (2015), *Dark Vanilla Jungle* (London production, 2016), *The Normal Heart* (2018), *A Hundred Words for Snow* (2020), *I and You* (2021), and *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth Thawing from the Ice* (2022).

Meredith Riggan (Painter)

Meredith is a North Carolina based artist and is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre Company for the Second Stage Series productions. Meredith has been with Burning Coal theatre for 8 seasons. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Scenic Art from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Meredith has worked as the Scenic Charge Artist at several theatres around North Carolina including William Peace University, Half Pint Theatre, Sweet Tea Shakespeare, Triad Stage, City Arts-Greensboro Children's Theatre, The Winston Salem Theatre Alliance, ECU Loessin Playhouse, along with several freelance jobs such as painting for The International Festival and painting custom pet portraits.

ColeTrain (Shop Dog "Paint Assistant")

ColeTrain is excited to be a part of another production at Burning Coal Theatre. He has been "assisting" his Scenic Artist Mom in several theatres since he was 7 weeks old (he will be 13 this year). He has no formal training in scenic art, but he is great at supervising projects, looking cute, and tries to leave a paw print on every set. ColeTrain is a 10/10 good boy.

Cast



Ben Apple (as Charles Fairbanks Jr.)

Ben graduated with his BFA in Acting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2014. His credits with Burning Coal Theater Company include *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth Thawing from the Ice* (Chris), *Peter Pan and Wendy* (Nana/Starkey), *King Charles III* (Prince Harry), *A Number* (Bernard 1/Bernard 2/ Michael Black), *Far Away* (Todd), *The Greeks* (Haemon/Polynices), and *Rum and Vodka* (Man). Other regional credits include *Brother Wolf* (Triad Stage), *Snow Queen* (Triad Stage), *The Illusion* (Triad Stage), *Romeo and Juliet* (NC Shakespeare Company), *The Foreigner* (Firebox Theater Company), *Recent Tragic Events* (Interrobang Theater Project), *Bad Jews* (Big Wig Productions)

EX-BOYFRIENDS

By Dani Coan

Directed by Barbette Hunter and
Amelia Lumpkin

Synopsis: Step into Maya's world of love, laughter, and heartbreak as she takes you on a wild ride through the complex landscape of her past relationships in Ex-Boyfriends. This thought-provoking and hilarious show delves into the depths of Maya's psyche, where her ex-boyfriends double as manifestations of her inner struggles. From grappling with religion to challenging toxic masculinity, each former flame represents a unique facet of Maya's emotional journey. Get ready to laugh, cry, and reflect on love, life, and the tangled threads that connect us all.

Content Advisory: language, eating disorders, emotional abuse, depictions of penis.

Dates:

Thursday, June 6th at 7:30 pm

Friday, June 7th at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 12th at 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 15th at 4:30 pm

Saturday, June 22nd at 2 pm

Sunday, June 23rd at 4:30 pm

Production Team

Dani Coan (Co Producer)

Dani is thrilled to be starring in her first full length play, *Ex-Boyfriends*. As a producing artist, Dani's work covers themes of self-discovery, the complexities of relationships, and telling stories from her own life to promote healing and empathy. Dani started her acting career at NC State University, starring in many shows, most notably as Emily Webb in *Our Town* and being awarded the Performing Artist of the Year Award in 2021. In 2022, Dani debuted her one-woman show, *Mosaic* at NC State's TheatreFest. Most recently, Dani was last seen in *Chicken and Biscuits* as Simone at NRACT. Dani would like to thank the incredible team of women that have helped make this show a reality, her dramaturg Griffin James, and her incredible fiancée, Phil for always supporting and encouraging her to reach for the stars.

Jerome Davis (Co-Producer)

For Burning Coal Theatre: *A Little Night Music, Arcadia, Evita, Ashe in Johannesburg, The Weir* (twice), *Rat in the Skull, Pentecost, Winding the Ball, Steward of Christendom, Night & Day, Company, Road to Mecca* (twice), *Juno & the Paycock, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Taming of the Shrew, Inherit the Wind, Hamlet, Hysteria, Prisoner's Dilemma, 1960, The Seafarer, Shape of the Table, Enron, Jude the Obscure Parts 1 & 2, Shining City, The Heretic, Iron Curtain Trilogy* (Raleigh and London), *Sunday in the Park with George, Spoonface Steinberg, Written on the Heart, Dark Vanilla Jungle* (London), *Iphigenia in Splott* (Raleigh and DC). Acting: *Love's Labours Lost, Mound Builders, St. Nicholas, Skylight* and *Talley's Folly* (Raleigh and London). Also, *Skylight* in Orlando and *King Lear* (Lear/Wilmington). Other: *See How They Run* (Southern Pines), *Twelfth Night* in Apex and *Turn of the Screw* for NC Opera. Jerry worked with or studied with Uta Hagen, Adrian Hall, Richard Jenkins, Hope Davis, Horton Foote, Denis O'Hare, Nikos Psacharapolous, Julie Bovasso, Ralph Waite, Oliver Platt, Ben Gazzarra and Ellen Burstyn at Trinity Rep (Providence), People's Light & Theatre (Philadelphia), NJ Shakespeare, SoHo Rep, Barrow Group, Columbia University, Phoenix Theatre (SUNY/Purchase). This is his 27th year running Burning Coal which he and his wife Simmie Kastner founded in 1995. He received the 2019 Raleigh Medal of Arts.

Barbette Hunter (Director)

Barbette is thrilled to be co-directing *Ex-Boyfriends* with Ameila Lumpkin. She is a professional actress who has performed with numerous theatre companies in the Triangle. Some of her favorite appearances include Rose in *Fences* (Justice Theater Project, 2010); Venus Hottentot in *Venus* (Raleigh Ensemble Players); Esther in *Intimate Apparel*, Magnolia Ellis in *The Dance on Widow's Row*, Quilly McGrath in *The Old Settler* (Raleigh Little Theatre). Since 2004, she has been a teaching artist for Raleigh Little Theatre and Cary Applause! Youth Theatre. As an artistic director, she has directed productions for Seed Art Share, Cary Applause! Youth Theatre and most recently Raleigh Little Theatre. As a stage manager, she has worked on productions and events for Cary Applause! Youth Theatre, Seed Art Share, North Raleigh Arts & Creative Theatre, African American Cultural Festival and Raleigh Little Theatre. She holds a BA in Speech/Communications from NC State and has done some graduate work at UNC Greensboro (Acting). She is employed by the City of Raleigh as a program coordinator for Raleigh Arts. Thank you, Dani for this opportunity to work with you.

Amelia Lumpkin (Co-Director)

Amelia is overjoyed to co-direct this new play alongside Barbette Hunter. She is a champion of local theatre having directed for The Justice Theater Project (*We are Proud...*), Raleigh Little Theatre (*My Wonderful Birthday Suit*), OdysseyStage (*Ona*, *The Night Walker*), NRACT (*Chicken & Biscuits*), Burning Coal (Asst. Art), and Agape Theatre Project (Asst. *Sweet Mama Stringbean*). She loves crafting space in the development process for artists to bond with one another, share their talents, and grow in unexpected ways. Three cheers to Dani and to Maya, both dynamic women who have much to teach us through their stories in poetry and prose. Follow Amelia's next directing project with Cary Players Community Theatre (Melinda Lopez's *Sonia Flew*, Spring 2025) and next acting project with OdysseyStage's reading of *Something Beautiful* by Katrina Tarson on September 8, 2024.)

Veronica Dress (Intimacy Director)

Veronica is thrilled to support this premiere of *Ex-Boyfriends* as their intimacy director! Founder of The Dress Rehearsal, a sexuality education and intimacy coaching practice, Veronica is passionate about creating consent-forward spaces where everyone can thrive. You can find her directing intimacy throughout the Triangle for companies like Burning Coal Theatre, National Women's Theatre Festival, Raleigh Little Theatre, and Duke University. When she isn't in the rehearsal room, you can find her staring adoringly at her cats, traveling with her community, or shimmying on the burlesque stage. Thank you to the cast and team of *Ex-Boyfriends* for allowing her to join in on this incredible production!

Juan Isler (Sound Designer)

Juan, a native of Kinston, NC, grew up singing and earned a music-business degree at Winston-Salem State University in 1993. He worked as a deejay before coming to Raleigh, where he got a job as technical director at what is now Spectrum News in 2004. He has worked on more than 50 plays in venues across the Triangle on both sides of the stage, as actor, technician and director. He is the resident sound designer at Justice Theater Project. He is the board chair at Beltline To Broadway. He is an active member of the Raleigh Arts Commission and a recipient of the Raleigh Arts Commission Medal of Arts award. He is also the technical director for the newly founded Reclaiming Our Time Production Company.

Landon Carson (Lighting Designer)

Landon is grateful to return to the space they grew up in after spending several years pursuing a degree in Lighting Design at UNCG. Landon spent many of their formative years fulfilling many different roles on a variety of Burning Coal productions and is now the resident Lighting Designer for Theatre Academy Productions. Their most recent work was *Death By Design* at Peace University as a collaboration with Pure Life Theatre Company. Landon would like to thank Deb Royals for the encouragement to pursue their dreams, Jerome Davis for the incredible opportunity to design the second stage series, and Ric Allen, for the reminder that being oneself is an "awesome responsibility."

Melanie Payne (Assistant Stage Manager)

Melanie is a 2016 graduate from the American Musical & Dramatic Academy NY! You may have recently seen her in *Hands On A Hardbody* (Norma & Assistant Director) with Galler Players, *Ragtime* (Harlem Ensemble) with McGregor Hall, *Dogfight* (Ruth Two Bears/Swing/ Dance Captain) with Studio1, *A Little Princess* (Ermengarde) with Sweet Tea Shakespeare, *Freaky Friday* (Hannah) with Gallery Players, *She Persisted* (Sonia Sotomayor) with Pure Life Theatre, *Cinderella* (Cinderella) with Raleigh Little Theatre. She is so excited to make her ASM debut with this amazing team that has welcomed her craftiness! IG: beauty_is_payne11

Julianna Frasca (Board Op.)

Julianna is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre for the 2024 Second Stage Series after stage managing for Hymn earlier this year. Before Burning Coal, she stage managed for Eastline Theatre on Long Island in their productions of *Angels in America* (both parts), *In the Next Room*, and *Being Earnest*, a queer adaptation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other credits include stage manager for *Canned Laughter* at the Downtown Urban Arts Festival, and assistant stage manager for *Malefactions* at Cradle Theatre Company. Julianna would like to thank her wonderful husband, William, and loving dog, Nacho, for supporting her while she takes the car every night for rehearsals.

Thank you also to:**Stage Manager: Akili Holder-Cozart****Scene Design by: Dani Coan, Akili Holder- Cozart, Melanie Payne****Costume Designer: Aerial Sanders, Barbette Hunter**

Cast



Jacob Berger (as Adam)

Jacob is very thankful to be playing Adam (in his opinion, the best boyfriend!) in this exciting, new play. Some of Jake's recent credits include: *Arcadia* (Burning Coal), *Sense and Sensibility* (Southern Wake Players), and *Fuddy Meers* (Switchyard). He wants to give a shoutout to this play for encouraging him to incorporate puppetry in his church's Vacation Bible School this Summer!



Jaye Bullock (as Damon)

Jaye is happy to be a part of *Ex-boyfriends*, and is grateful to their director and their castmates for helping them tackle the challenging character of Damon. You may have recently seen them in NRACT's *Chicken & Biscuits*, as well as the workshop performance of the new musical *Touché*. Many thanks to their parents, Joan and David, for supporting them in their artistry, and the Triangle theatre community at large for being so welcoming.



Dani Coan (as Maya)

Dani is thrilled to be starring in her first full length play, *Ex-Boyfriends*. As a producing artist, Dani's work covers themes of self-discovery, the complexities of relationships, and telling stories from her own life to promote healing and empathy. Dani started her acting career at NC State University, starring in many shows, most notably as Emily Webb in *Our Town* and being awarded the Performing Artist of the Year Award in 2021. In 2022, Dani debuted her one-woman show, *Mosaic* at NC State's TheatreFest. Most recently, Dani was last seen in *Chicken and Biscuits* as Simone at NRACT. Dani would like to thank the incredible team of women that have helped make this show a reality, her dramaturg Griffin James, and her incredible fiancée, Phil for always supporting and encouraging her to reach for the stars.



Katie Milligan (as Jo)

Katie is elated to join this cast (including the playwright, Dani!) and crew for this production of *EX-BOYFRIENDS*. Previous productions include: Dolley Madison in *ONA* (OdysseyStage), Margaret Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility* (FVCT), Brakenbury in *Richard III* (STS), Jackie in *DOT* (NRACT), Catherine Simms in *The Foreigner* (CBP), and Mariane in *Tartuffe* (VST). Special thanks to Heather Benjamin, Emily Chiola, and Steven Milligan.



Jarred Pearce (as Bryce)

Jarred, who was born in Virginia Beach but grew up in North Carolina, is extremely grateful to be in his fourth stage production. He played Papa Bear in the *3 little Pigs* (Raleigh Little Theatre), he also played ensemble in *Blood Wedding* (Raleigh Little Theatre). After that he did his very first show here at Burning Coal last September called *Ona* where he took on two roles: one as the reverend Richard Allen and the other as a sailor named Jack Staines. He is very stoked and excited to be in this production with so many skilled artist and wants to continue to express his joy of acting by helping share this emotional roller coaster of a ride story with everyone. His dreams and aspirations are to strive to be one of the best actors of his time in staged shows, tv shows and also movies. Acting is what he truly loves and theatre is forever his home.



Nat M. Sherwood (as Charlie)

Nat earned their stage legs at NC State University Theatre, where they received two Performing Artist Awards for their portrayals of Meg in *Leading Ladies*, Yente in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Sunny Jacobs in *The Exonerated*. Their original play, *A Good Little Rain*, written in loving memory of their “Momma Bear,” Vicki Poole Sherwood, received the Arts NC State Creative Artist Award in 2018. After studying Practical Aesthetics at NYC’s Atlantic Acting School, Nat continues to perform professionally throughout the Triangle. Recent credits include Billy in *Enemy of the People*, Annie in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and Letter Writer #2 in *Tiny Beautiful Things*.

HOME

By Samm-Art Williams

Directed by Jade Arnold

Synopsis: Optimistic and strong, Cephus Miles is content to work the land on the small North Carolina farm he inherited from his family. Everything is as it should be until his childhood sweetheart rejects him and goes off to college. Opposed to the war in Vietnam, Cephus refuses to serve and is imprisoned as a draft evader. By the time he is released, Cephus has lost his land to the tax collector, so he heads north to build a new life. With a good job and a slinky new girlfriend, he finds the big city exciting and rewarding. But soon the dream begins to fade—he loses his job and becomes involved in drugs and prostitution. Pulling himself together, Cephus returns to the land and his old sweetheart. They left to seek happiness elsewhere, and they have returned to one another older, wiser, and aware of the true meaning of HOME.

Content Advisory: Language, Suggestive Intimacy

Dates:

Saturday, June 8th at 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 9th at 2 pm

Saturday, June 15th at 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 16th at 2 pm

Wednesday, June 19th at 7:30 pm

Thursday, June 20th at 7:30 pm

Production Team

Verlene Oates (Producer and Stage Management)

Verlene is the Producing Manager for Pure Life Theatre Company. She cares deeply about the continued development of the company's Revolutionary Voices. She is the proud Nana of four adorable young people- the newest one is just four months old! Verlene has a long history of working with the state government in North Carolina before retiring in 2019. She loves live theater and has performed with Pure Life Theatre, Justice Theater Project, Garner Towne Players, Women's Theatre Festival, MOJOAA, Raleigh Little Theater, DL Productions, NC State University SummerFest, and Li V Mahob.

Jade Arnold (Director)

Jade is thrilled to work with the Pure Life Company and its artistic and professional members. He is a devoted Husband and Father of three from Durham, NC. Knowing that the area contains some of the best artists that exist, he stays close. Jade is also an actor who directs and teaches at the university and high school levels. He earned his Bachelor's degree from UNC at Wilmington and his Master's from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Working in all mediums, he had appeared in dozens of Theatrical productions, and his film credits include everything from commercials to industrials to full-length films. As a classically trained actor, he has the tools for modern and heightened language texts and enjoys bringing nuance and refreshment to traditional plays and creating something different. He is grateful to his family and friends for their love and support and dedicates this work to his Mother, Joyce, who recently found her way Home.

Jennifer Ijeoma (Costume Design)

Jennifer is delighted to be a part of Pure Life Theatre Company. She works with Pure Life Producing Manager Verlene Oates to support and further develop the work of the Revolutionary Voices, the young adult group under the Pure Life umbrella. Her love for the arts has propelled her to dive more into the theatre world. Jennifer loves hanging out with her sister-friend, Deb Royals-Mizerk, to find cool costume pieces. She has costumed The Motown Sounds Of Christmas, Fences, MaRainey's Black Bottom, and She Persisted. She has also created costumes for the Revolutionary Voices summer camp Newsies and Beauty and the Beast. Jennifer has worked in education for 27 years and is currently working with Pure Life Theatre and young adults here in the Triangle to broaden the reach and scope of the NAACP's ActSo program.

Jireh Ijeoma (Sound Design)

Jireh is a 2024 Cardinal Gibbons High School graduate and will attend NC A&T University in the fall. As a sound designer and/or operator, he has worked on multiple shows in the Raleigh-Triangle area, including some of the following: For Justice Theater Project: Sound Operator (Man of La Mancha), Sound Operator (Cabaret). For Pure Life Theater: Sound Operator and Designer (She Persisted). Jireh is also an actor and has been on stage for multiple shows, including For Burning Coal Theatre: Anthony (I and You). For Cardinal Gibbons High School: Bright Star and Matilda, For Raleigh Little Theatre: (Bob Marley's Three Little Birds), etc. He is also a core leadership member of Pure Life Theatre's Revolutionary Voices Theater Company. He has assisted in developing an entire core leadership team composed primarily of people of color, allowing these young adults who appreciate theater to have a voice in the community. Jireh has a passion for theater and developing new creative abilities on stage.

Landon Carson (Lighting Designer)

Landon is grateful to return to the space they grew up in after spending several years pursuing a degree in Lighting Design at UNCG. Landon spent many of their formative years fulfilling many different roles on a variety of Burning Coal productions and is now the resident Lighting Designer for Theatre Academy Productions. Their most recent work was Death By Design at Peace University as a collaboration with Pure Life Theatre Company. Landon would like to thank Deb Royals for the encouragement to pursue their dreams, Jerome Davis for the incredible opportunity to design the second stage series, and Ric Allen, for the reminder that being oneself is an "awesome responsibility."

Deb Royals (Stage Management and Set Design)

Deb is honored to be a part of the Pure Life Theatre Company and is eager to support its mission to explore and nourish truth, hope, redemption, and love. She is deeply grateful for the support of her husband, Joe, and loves him and their three boys - Danny, Noah, and Eli beyond words.

Wendell Scott (Set Design)

Wendell Scott is excited to work with Pure Life again. He is an experienced bass and lead guitar player and enjoys playing all types of music. Wendell is a master carpenter and loves woodworking. He currently works as an IT professional.

Julia Gainey (Costume Consultant)

Ms. Julia Gainey is the resident director of costume design for Pure Life Theatre. She most recently designed the costumes for the highly acclaimed Pure Life productions of August Wilson's *Fences*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *She Persisted*, *The Motown Sound of Christmas*, and *Purlie*. She is a lifelong seamstress who has been serving and designing for 60 years. She has received several accolades for her work. Pure Life Theatre is another opportunity to share her gifts, and she appreciates this opportunity.

Maria Barber (Marketing)

Maria LaChelle is a performing artist who loves positively impacting lives through theater and volunteerism. Her best-loved acting credits include *Color Purple* (Justice Theater Project), *She Persisted* (Pure Life), and *Crowns* (Agape Theatre). Additionally, she is the owner of @ballherschoicesports, where she endeavors to empower women through flag football and community events.

Cast



TyDiam Coleman (as Woman Two)

TyDiam is excited to be part of Samm Art Williams' *Home*. Some of her recent roles have been in *The Motown Sound of Christmas*, *Purlie*, *Memphis*, *Black Nativity*, and *For Colored Girls*. When she isn't on stage, TyDiam loves having fun, dancing, inspiring others, and spreading hope! She would like to thank her family & friends for supporting her passions and her efforts to share with the world: "You Matter!" P.S. You Matter!



Ajani Kambon (as Cephus Miles)

Ajani has produced hip-hop albums and children's books and graced the stage in various productions. His journey, which took a new turn with a podcast show, has led him to engage with audiences from diverse backgrounds comfortably. His repertoire includes appearances in educational panel discussions, music videos, film productions, and stage plays, including *Fences*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Face of Emmett Till*, and *Purlie*.



Moriah Williams (Woman One)

Moriah Renee Williams is thrilled to return to the stage after taking some time off to adjust to becoming a new mom. With Pure Life Theatre, she has been in *The Face of Emmett Till* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Moriah Renee would like to dedicate her performance to her family "I could not have made any of this possible without you. I love you."

A HOUSE

(AFTER IBSEN'S GHOSTS)

Adapted by Lucius Robinson and Jerome Davis

Directed by Jerome Davis

Featuring Lucius Robinson

Synopsis: A play in three short scenes. We meet the Alvings and the Engstrands, two families at polar opposite ends of the economic spectrum (and all played by actor Lucius Robinson). In this one-person show, Burning Coal regular and current Baltimore resident Lucius Robinson stars under the direction of Burning Coal Artistic Director Jerome Davis. In the play, we watch as a disease, not to be talked about in polite company, comes to infest not just its immediate victim, but the entire community in which he lives. Incest, syphilis, an overbearing mother, a dead but not forgotten father, a maid who may be more than she seems, its all part of Ibsen's world, a world of secrets, shadows, lies and ghosts.

Dates:

Saturday, June 8th at 2 pm

Sunday, June 9th at 4:30 pm

Friday, June 14th at 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 15th at 2 pm

Friday, June 21st at 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 22nd at 4:30 pm

Production Team

Jerome Davis (Director)

For Burning Coal Theatre: *A Little Night Music*, *Arcadia*, *Evita*, *Ashe in Johannesburg*, *The Weir* (twice), *Rat in the Skull*, *Pentecost*, *Winding the Ball*, *Steward of Christendom*, *Night & Day*, *Company*, *Road to Mecca* (twice), *Juno & the Paycock*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Hamlet*, *Hysteria*, *Prisoner's Dilemma*, *1960*, *The Seafarer*, *Shape of the Table*, *Enron*, *Jude the Obscure Parts 1 & 2*, *Shining City*, *The Heretic*, *Iron Curtain Trilogy* (Raleigh and London), *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Spoonface Steinberg*, *Written on the Heart*, *Dark Vanilla Jungle* (London), *Iphigenia in Splott* (Raleigh and DC). Acting: *Love's Labours Lost*, *Mound Builders*, *St. Nicholas*, *Skylight* and *Talley's Folly* (Raleigh and London). Also, *Skylight* in Orlando and *King Lear* (Lear/Wilmington). Other: *See How They Run* (Southern Pines), *Twelfth Night* in Apex and *Turn of the Screw* for NC Opera. Jerry worked with or studied with Uta Hagen, Adrian Hall, Richard Jenkins, Hope Davis, Horton Foote, Denis O'Hare, Nikos Psacharapolous, Julie Bovasso, Ralph Waite, Oliver Platt, Ben Gazzarra and Ellen Burstyn at Trinity Rep (Providence), People's Light & Theatre (Philadelphia), NJ Shakespeare, SoHo Rep, Barrow Group, Columbia University, Phoenix Theatre (SUNY/Purchase). This is his 27th year running Burning Coal which he and his wife Simmie Kastner founded in 1995. He received the 2019 Raleigh Medal of Arts.

Chris Rubingh (Assistant Director)

Chris is a recent graduate of Muhlenberg college and multi-disciplinary artist from California. As a performer he recently made his Off-Broadway debut in the play *Bloodshot* at ART in New York. He has also performed at such theatres as The Hangar Theatre (NY), Priscilla Beach Theatre (MA), and The Barn Theatre (MI). Directing credits include *Down; The Ballad of Larry Walters*, *The Scarlet Verse*, the experimental dance show *EMERGE*, co-directing and performing in the one-man shows *My Arm by Tim Crouch* and *The Magic Show* written by himself and Amira Jackson, choreographing "*For All*" a multimedia dance piece, and serving as director and co-curator for *NOW; 147 days*, an art exhibit looking to bring action towards the atrocities of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Upcoming: directing *God of Carnage* in Richmond, CA

Beth Gargan (Costume Designer)

Beth is an avid theatergoer and quilter, and is thrilled to add costuming to her resume. Recent productions include: *KidsWrite* (Burning Coal), *26 Pebbles* (Justice Theater Project), *Arcadia* (Burning Coal), and *12 Angry Jurors* (JTP). She also did the costuming for JTP's 2023 summer camp, working with 120 lively campers in *Annie Jr.* She will reprise the costumer role for this year's summer production of *Matilda Jr.* Thanks to the great production team and actors for their fun collaboration and support. What a great summer of theater at Burning Coal!

Juan Isler (Sound Designer)

Juan, a native of Kinston, NC, grew up singing and earned a music-business degree at Winston-Salem State University in 1993. He worked as a deejay before coming to Raleigh, where he got a job as technical director at what is now Spectrum News in 2004. He has worked on more than 50 plays in venues across the Triangle on both sides of the stage, as actor, technician and director. He is the resident sound designer at Justice Theater Project. He is the board chair at Beltline To Broadway. He is an active member of the Raleigh Arts Commission and a recipient of the Raleigh Arts Commission Medal of Arts award. He is also the technical director for the newly founded Reclaiming Our Time Production Company.

Julianna Frasca (Production Stage Manager)

Julianna is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre for the 2024 Second Stage Series after stage managing for *Hymn* earlier this year. Before Burning Coal, she stage managed for Eastline Theatre on Long Island in their productions of *Angels in America* (both parts), *In the Next Room*, and *Being Earnest*, a queer adaptation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other credits include stage manager for *Canned Laughter* at the Downtown Urban Arts Festival, and assistant stage manager for *Malefactions* at Cradle Theatre Company. Julianna would like to thank her wonderful husband, William, and loving dog, Nacho, for supporting her while she takes the car every night for rehearsals.

Landon Carson (Lighting Designer)

Landon is grateful to return to the space they grew up in after spending several years pursuing a degree in Lighting Design at UNCG. Landon spent many of their formative years fulfilling many different roles on a variety of Burning Coal productions and is now the resident Lighting Designer for Theatre Academy Productions. Their most recent work was *Death By Design* at Peace University as a collaboration with Pure Life Theatre Company. Landon would like to thank Deb Royals for the encouragement to pursue their dreams, Jerome Davis for the incredible opportunity to design the second stage series, and Ric Allen, for the reminder that being oneself is an “awesome responsibility.”

Meredith Riggan (Painter)

Meredith is a North Carolina based artist and is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre Company for the Second Stage Series productions. Meredith has been with Burning Coal theatre for 8 seasons. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Scenic Art from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Meredith has worked as the Scenic Charge Artist at several theatres around North Carolina including William Peace University, Half Pint Theatre, Sweet Tea Shakespeare, Triad Stage, City Arts-Greensboro Children's Theatre, The Winston Salem Theatre Alliance, ECU Loessin Playhouse, along with several freelance jobs such as painting for The International Festival and painting custom pet portraits.

ColeTrain (Shop Dog "Paint Assistant")

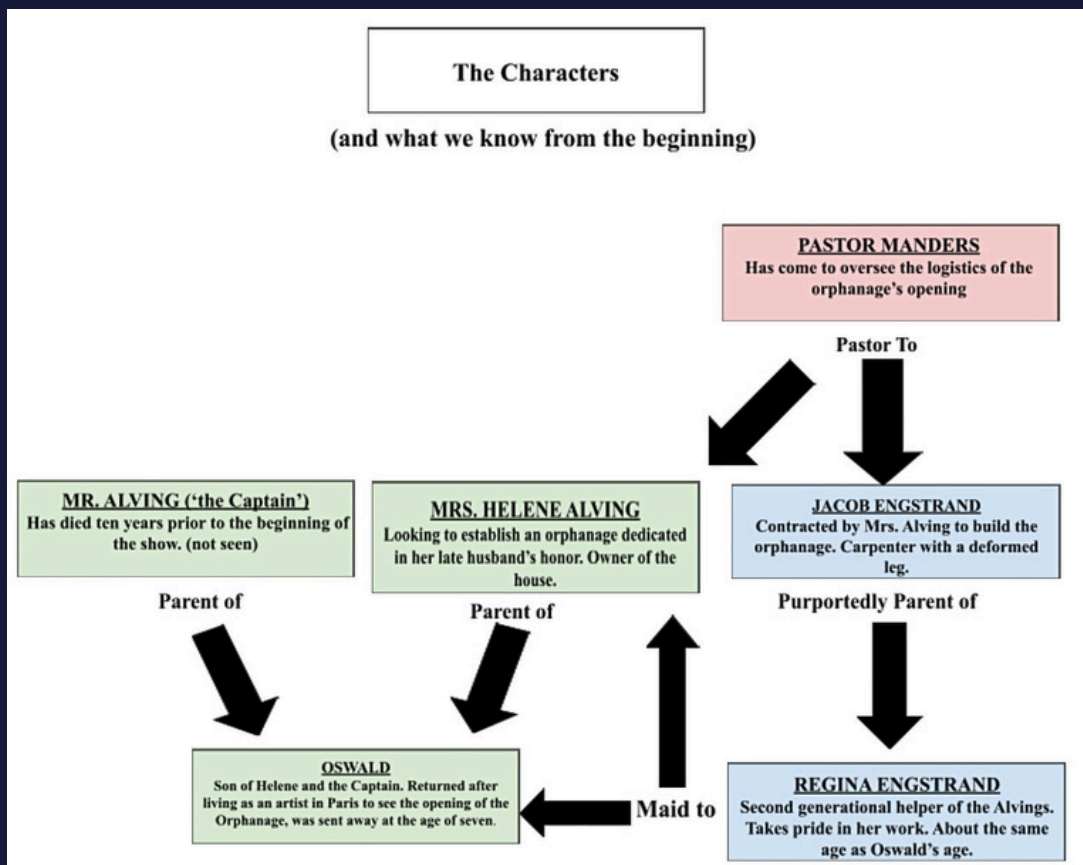
ColeTrain is excited to be a part of another production at Burning Coal Theatre. He has been "assisting" his Scenic Artist Mom in several theatres since he was 7 weeks old (he will be 13 this year). He has no formal training in scenic art, but he is great at supervising projects, looking cute, and tries to leave a paw print on every set. ColeTrain is a 10/10 good boy.

Cast

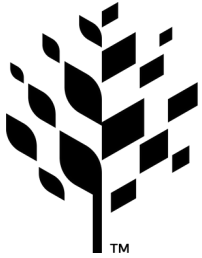


Lucius Robinson

Lucius is a Princess Grace award-winning performer, director, writer, and teacher who received his MFA from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater. As a deviser, he has created and performed original work across the country. Long ago, when living in the Triangle, he appeared in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (REP), *The Rivals* (Deep Dish), *The Pillowman* (Manbites Dog), *Blood Knot* (StreetSigns) *Love and Information*, *Howie The Rookie* (Delta Boys) and *Goodnight Everything* (Little Green Pig), among others. He is grateful for the opportunity to return home with a new show and dedicates his work to Fred and John. For *Burning Coal: Hamlet*, *The Lovesong of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, *The Prisoner's Dilemma*, *Twelfth Night*, *Kidswrite 2009*, *Henry V* (On Trapeze), *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *The Weir*.



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