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*every tongue confess*  
The Hottest Theatrical Event of the Summer  
July 12 – August 25, 2013

**ATLANTA – As the summer heat rises, Horizon Theatre Company launches the Atlanta Premiere of *every tongue confess* by one of today’s hottest playwrights Marcus Gardley.** Imaginative director Thomas W. Jones II brings Gardley’s passion-filled mystery to life with the help of original blues and gospel music by Composer and Music Director S. Renée Clark. **Jones calls the work “a highly theatrical rollercoaster ride that is both provocative and redemptive,” and continues, “People will be healed by this play.”**

*every tongue confess* runs July 12 – August 25, 2013 at Horizon Theatre in Little Five Points/Inman Park (1083 Austin Avenue NE, 30307, corner of Euclid and Austin Avenues). Performances are Wednesday through Friday at 8 PM, Saturday at 3 PM and 8:30 PM, and Sunday at 5 PM. Tickets start at \$20. Tickets and information are available at [horizontheatre.com](http://horizontheatre.com) or 404.584.7450.

#### THE PLAY

Hailed by critics as the next August Wilson, Gardley is a poet-playwright whose work is rooted in both history and magic realism and brings a new perspective to African American storytelling. **“I want to make people dream,” says Gardley. “I want to inspire people, give them hope,** talk about difficult things. Ask big questions... My hope in all my works is to look at history in a new way, to tell the stories that we don’t know, the stories that were hidden.” Originally produced at Arena Stage in Washington D.C., the play received nominations for the Steinberg New Play Award, the Charles MacArthur Award, and was a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. Said the *Washingtonian* of the play, “Part magic realism, part miracle play, part parable, *every tongue confess* is a sort of epic theater-poem exploring sin, loss, and redemption...Gardley’s script combines humor with raw, searing emotion.”

*every tongue confess* brings light to conflicts around race, faith, and family. The play is a perfect fit with Horizon’s mission of connecting people, inspiring hope, and promoting positive change through the stories of our times. And in fact, Gardley shares a similar vision. **“In all of my plays, there’s a sense of community...This is the reason I do theater – to bring people together...My job is to write to all people...I want to find a way to bring more young people and diverse groups into theater.”** With an intergenerational, diverse cast and engaging story, the work provides many windows through which audience members can take the journey and find resolution.

## THE STORY

The summer heat is rising and flames are flying high in this fantastical whodunit uncovering the culprit behind a string of church fires in Boligee, Alabama. As the temperature climbs, the church goers start gossiping and the secrets slip out – a widow touched by the Holy Spirit, a son with big dreams, a stranger with a mysterious past, a young girl whose voice has left her, and a father who struggles to connect. Wrapped in combustible comedy and the sweat-soaked gospel and blues music of the Deep South, intergenerational stories of loss and redemption collide. Gardley blends ancient myth and magical realism with the local TV news to create a fiery theatrical furnace in which some will be saved, some will be purged, and the truth cannot escape.

## DIRECTOR and COMPOSER/MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Thomas W. Jones II brings his signature highly-kinetic directing style to this play fused with music, comedy, and mystery.** He has directed, written, and performed in more than 150 plays worldwide. Last summer's world premiere of *Sheddin'* marked his eighth Horizon Theatre production, having previously written and directed *A Cool Drink A Water*, *Three Sistahs*, and *Two Queens One Castle* and directed *Blue*, *The Bluest Eye*, *Hallelujah Street Blues*, and *And Her Hair Went With Her*. *Sheddin'* was recently awarded a featured slot at the 2013 National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Tom is co-founder of Jomandi Productions in Atlanta, where for over 20 years as Co-Artistic Director and later Producing Director, he saw Jomandi soar to become the third largest African-American theatre company in the United States. In 2000, Tom and his co-founders left Jomandi to create VIA International Artists, Inc. His work as writer, director, and actor has been acclaimed nationally and internationally. His work has received 39 Washington, DC Helen Hayes Award nominations, winning 12 awards, including Best Director for *Home* and *Bessie's Blues*, which he also wrote. He has also received three New York Audelco Award nominations, the Dramalogue Award, the San Diego Critics Award, and the NAACP Phoenix Award among others.

Horizon also welcomes back longtime collaborator and Suzi Award-winner **S. Renée Clark** (*Sheddin'*, *Three Sistahs*, *Avenue Q*) as composer and music director for *every tongue confess*. Says Gardley of the importance of the music in his play, **"I grew up in the church and my father was a preacher, so gospel naturally comes out of me. But gospel, at its root, is the blues. It's very powerful. I like music that gets to the heart of the story without too much flourish."** Ms. Clark will bring that power to *every tongue confess* with her original music and soundscape.

## PLAYWRIGHT

**Marcus Gardley** is a self-described poet-playwright who Horizon first encountered when he came to workshop his play *Sweet Dream Grandpa* in Horizon's 2003 New South Play Festival while he was still in graduate school for playwriting at Yale. He returned to Atlanta in 2005 as a finalist in the first Kendeda Graduate Playwriting Competition at the Alliance Theatre. He grew up in the 1980s in Oakland, CA where he spent his Sundays in church listening to his father preach. The black church has informed and inspired some of Gardley's finest work, including *every tongue confess*.

Though he started out as a poet, Gardley became captivated by playwriting during his college years at San Francisco State. He went on to Yale School of Drama where he studied under celebrated African American playwright Lynn Nottage. Immediately after receiving his MFA he was commissioned to write *dance of the holy ghost* as part of Yale Repertory Theatre's 2005-2006 season. He then started a seven-year residency with New Dramatists in New York City.

In addition to the premiere of *every tongue confess* at Arena Stage, Gardley's other recent premieres are *On The Levee*, a musical which premiered at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater and was nominated for 11 Audelco Awards including outstanding playwright, and *And Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi*, which was produced at The Cutting Ball Theater and received the SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award nomination for outstanding new play. Other notable productions are *dance of the holy ghost* at Yale

Repertory Theatre (now under a Broadway option), (*Limitations of Life* at the Empty Space in Seattle, and *like sun fallin' in the mouth* at the National Black Theatre Festival. He is the recipient of a Helen Merrill Award, a Kesselring Honor, the Gerbode Emerging Playwright Award, the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Award, the Eugene O'Neill Memorial Scholarship, and the ASCAP Cole Porter Award.

Though still early in his career, Gardley has quickly become a rising star in American theatre. He was recently awarded a playwriting residency at Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago by the Mellon Foundation, chosen as one of 50 writers to watch by *Dramatists Magazine*, and awarded the 2011 PEN/Laura Pels award for Mid-Career Playwright. He is a member of New Dramatists, The Dramatists Guild, and The Lark Play Development Center, as well as a professor of Playwriting at Brown University.

### CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

*every tongue confess* highlights familiar faces and new talent with Horizon veterans **Minka Wiltz**, **Bernardine Mitchell**, and **Enoch King** anchoring the cast. Audiences will remember Wiltz from her commanding performance as Pearl in Horizon's *Black Pearl Sings* in 2010. Here she takes on the role of preacher and healer Mother Sister, a widow touched by the Holy Spirit. Mitchell returns to Horizon after 2011's acclaimed production of *Three Sistahs*, this time playing Missionary, a gospel storyteller who helps weave the mysterious Southern tale. King, most recently seen as Hambone in *Two Trains Running* at True Colors Theatre Company and on the Horizon stage as Walter in *The Waffle Palace*, joins Mitchell as one of the three storytellers, Brother.

Broadway, film, and television star **Victor Love** makes his Horizon debut as the play's enigmatic stranger Blacksmith. **Brian Kurlander** takes on the challenging role of estranged father Stoker Pride after appearances across Atlanta including roles in *FLY* and *My Name is Asher Lev* at Theatrical Outfit, *In the Next Room* at Synchronicity Theatre, and last summer at Georgia Shakespeare. **Deborah Bowman** and **Lauren Boyd** also make their Horizon debuts as mother and daughter pair Bernadette and Benny Pride. Bowman is new to Atlanta and is a regular in the city's jazz scene, while Boyd returns to Atlanta after pursuing an MFA at The New School in New York. Rounding out the cast are **Brad Raymond**, seen regularly in the Alliance Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*, as gospel chorus leader Elder as well as grave digger Jeremiah, and recent Tri-Cities High School graduate **Richard Hatcher** as Mother Sister's son Shadrack.

**Set designers Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay** (Horizon's *The Book Club Play*, *The Waffle Palace*, *Time Stands Still*) return after several acclaimed designs for a more abstract venture with this show. Also returning are **Nyrobi Moss** (Horizon's *Sheddin'*, *Three Sistahs*, *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*) handling costumes and resident lighting designer **Mary Parker** (Suzi Award for *Avenue Q*, also *The Book Club Play*, *The Waffle Palace*, *Time Stands Still*). New to Horizon are video designer **Mike Post** (Georgia Shakespeare's *The Glass Menagerie* and many shows at the Center for Puppetry Arts), sound designer **Jason Polhemus** (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), and props designer **Pamela Hickey** (Atlanta Opera). The team is lead by stage manager **Jude W. Futral**, one of Horizon's regular collaborators.

### BRING A GROUP!

*every tongue confess* is the perfect summer outing for your church group, alumni organization, or social circle! Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more. Horizon has a lounge space available for rental for pre-show gatherings. Contact Marketing Manager, Kristen Gwock Siltan at 404.523.1477 x111 for more information.

### TICKETING INFORMATION

General admission tickets for *every tongue confess* start at \$20. Tickets may be ordered by phone at 404.584.7450 or online at [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com). Performances start July 12, 2013 and run through August 25, 2013. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8 PM; Saturday at 3 PM and 8:30 PM; and Sunday

at 5 PM. Ticket prices are subject to change. 8% sales tax will be added to all ticket orders. Internet convenience fee added to all online orders. No refunds, exchanges, or late seating.

**CAST**

Mother Sister	Minka Wiltz*
Blacksmith	Victor Love*
Missionary/Tender Meeks	Bernardine Mitchell*
Brother/Bobby	Enoch King*
Stoker Pride	Brian Kurlander*
Bernadette	Deborah Bowman*
Elder/Jeremiah	Brad Raymond
Shadrack	Richard Hatcher
Benny Pride	Lauren Boyd

\*Member of Actors Equity Association

**CREATIVE TEAM**

Director	Thomas W. Jones II
Playwright	Marcus Gardley
Composer/Music Director	S. Renée Clark
Scenic Designers	Moriah and Isabel Curley-Clay
Lighting Designer	Mary Parker
Costume Designer	Nyrobi Moss
Video Designer	Mike Post
Props Designer	Pamela Hickey
Sound Designer	Jason Polhemus
Stage Manager	Jude Futral*

**PRESS PHOTOS**

Press photos are available for download at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/horizontheatre/sets/72157633789769126/>

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**ABOUT HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY**

Horizon Theatre Company, 1083 Austin Avenue, connects people, inspires hope and promotes positive change the stories of our times. We produce professional area and world premieres of smart, funny, and provocative contemporary plays. For more information about tickets, group sales, or to receive a season brochure, call 404.584.7450 or visit [horizontheatre.com](http://horizontheatre.com).

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