



**Now in our 38th season, Horizon's mission is to connect people, inspire hope and promote positive change through contemporary theatre and the stories of our times.** We seek to inspire, celebrate, enlighten and build bridges between audiences and to ignite new artists and audiences with a passion for theatre that connects to their lives. We produce outstanding new plays by today's playwrights that reflect our community and are relevant, smart, entertaining, positive, and lead with hope. We offer outstanding education programs in theatre for elementary age through young professionals.

Horizon began our 2020 season with the smash-hit live production of **ONCE**. Almost every performance was sold-out, and we had a week-long extension of this live performance that brought the magic of love, community, and music to Atlanta audiences. Soon after **ONCE** closed, we were forced to close our doors due to COVID-19 mandated social-distancing. **We are excited to announce our return to live indoor performances with our 2022 season, beginning in January 2022.**

In the post COVID-19 world, we have expanded our mission to include **Horizon at Home: New Online Streaming Initiative**. This innovative program brings FREE, discounted, and by suggested donation virtual content to our patrons in the safety and comfort of their homes. **This year, we plan to continue our virtual programming in support of and alongside our live mainstage season.** Some live productions will be streamed, as union contracts and rights allow. Talkbacks, Sneak Peeks and Community Conversations will be offered both virtually and live.

We have also launched **The New Georgia Woman Project: Black Women Speak**, an exciting new project developing nine new plays by and about Black women of Georgia based on interviews with 100+ Georgia women of color. **Below you will find a summary in reverse consecutive order of Horizon's virtual and live programming from 2019-2022.**

## BLACK WOMEN SPEAK INCREASING THE CANNON OF PLAYS BY BLACK WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS



Photos from top to bottom, left to right: Marguerite Hannah (Horizon Associate Producer, BWS Project Creator), Shay Youngblood (Playwright), AriDy Nox (Playwright), A'ndrea J. Wilson, (Playwright), Keena Redding (Horizon Director of Equity & Impact, BWS Project Facilitator) Candrice Jones (Playwright) and Lawanda Green (Horizon Assistant Managing Director, BWS Assistant Producer)

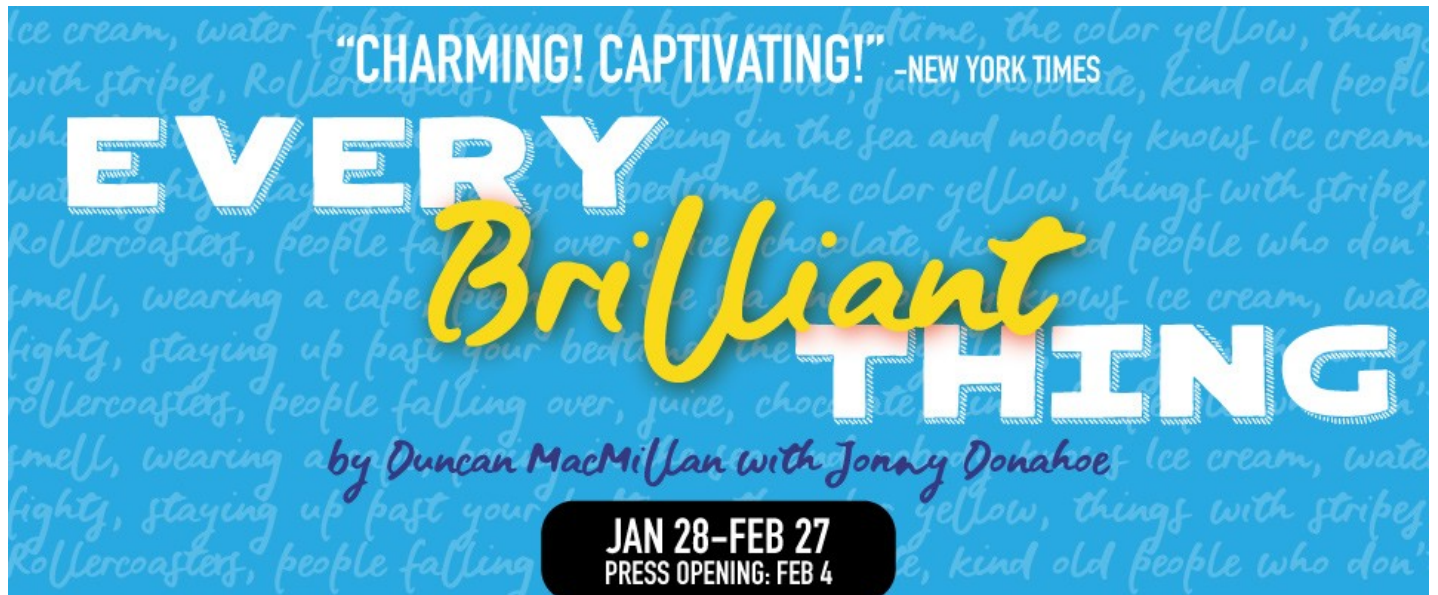
**Horizon Theatre's New Georgia Woman Project: Black Women Speak** creating a series of plays chronicling the experiences of today's Black women of Georgia. The project brings together nine Black women writers, writing plays inspired by Georgia Women. Helmed by Horizon's African-American Associate Artistic Producer Director, Marguerite Hannah and Assistant Producer LaWanda Green, 100+ Georgia women of color were interviewed to develop nine new plays of and by Black women in Atlanta that will be developed at Horizon with some premiering on our stage over the next five years. Horizon presented *Black Women Speak: First Fall Look* in fall 2021 at the Alpharetta Art Center and at Horizon both live and on Zoom, introducing the project and the writers along with readings of select scenes from these new plays. The plays are currently being written and developed and will be workshopped in 2022.

**The New Georgia Woman Project: Black Women Speak** is sponsored in part by the National New Play Network, an alliance of professional theatres that collaborate in innovative ways to develop, produce, and extend the life of new plays. Horizon is one of only 18 theatres in the country awarded funding by the inaugural Bridge Program which supports new plays by, for, about and with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous People of Color) artist and audience communities."

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/black-women-speak/>

**ATLANTA, SOUTHEASTERN AND WORLD PREMIERES  
OF CONTEMPORARY PLAYS AND MUSICALS**

**COMING IN 2022**



1) Ice cream. 2) Water fights. 3) Staying up past your bedtime and being allowed to watch TV. One fall day, a child begins a list of everything that makes life worth living when his/her mother is in the hospital recovering from “being sad”. As time passes, the list grows and becomes an epic chronicle of life's small joys that impacts the storyteller in unexpected ways, offering light and hope in the dark corners. This funny and emotional journey charts the lengths we will go for those we love--and draws on the audience's help to tell the story. The story-teller is played by three separate actors, performing on different nights of the Horizon run. The Atlanta-based performers are O’Neil Delapenha, Megan Hayes, and Shelby Hofer.

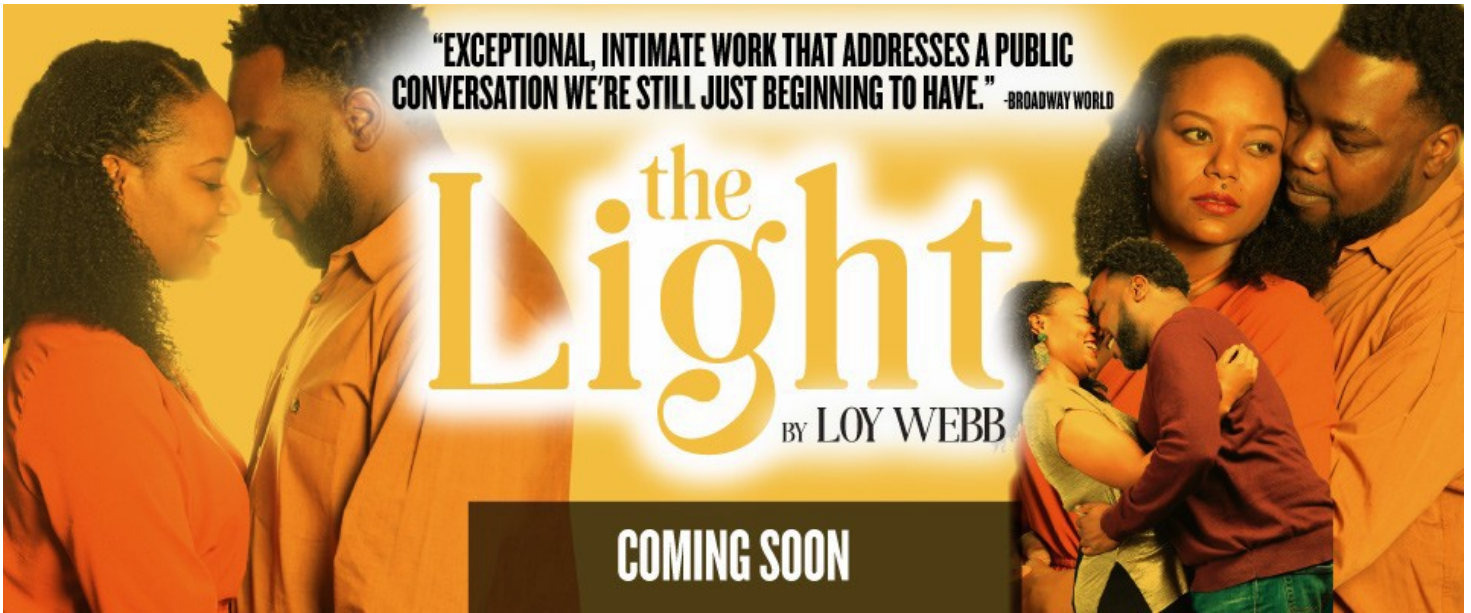
“This is not like any show I have ever seen before,” says director Jeff Adler, Horizon’s Co-Artistic/Technical Director. “It’s intimate and personal with the actors interacting directly with the audience before and during the play. Every night will be a different experience with each actor and audience bringing their stamp to the play. We have reduced the seating capacity of the theatre and included playing spaces throughout the audience to increase the intimacy while keeping COVID safe. The show is filled with humor, joy, and hope, even though it tackles the very serious topic of mental health and its legacy in a family. Audiences will leave feeling uplifted, more connected to their loved ones, and hopefully appreciative of all the small miracles that make life worth living every day.”

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/every-brilliant-thing/>



**ATLANTA, SOUTHEASTERN AND WORLD  
PREMIERES OF CONTEMPORARY PLAYS AND  
MUSICALS**

**COMING IN 2022 (*Continued*)**



*Photo: Cynthia Barker and Enoch King*

Directed by Horizon Associate Artistic Producer, Marguerite Hannah, and featuring the talents of two of Atlanta's most dynamic actors, Enoch King and Cynthia Barker, *The Light* is a roller coaster journey of laughter, romance and despair that uncovers how the power of radical love can be a healing beacon of light. A surprise proposal takes an unexpected turn that upends the world of Genesis and Rashad, forcing them to confront a secret from the past.

Horizon was preparing to preview the exciting Southeastern Premiere production of *The Light* during the onset of the March COVID lockdown. We swiftly shifted focus to present a live-streamed Sneak Peak of this #MeToo themed play as our initial *Horizon At Home* Virtual Program offering. In addition to the Sneak Peak and to further impact our community around this powerful and important play, we also conducted two actor led discussions at Spelman and other local colleges.

***The Light* is scheduled to be performed in Spring 2022 as part of our live season. It is ideal for Horizon's reopening plan, as the play features a small, two-person cast and focuses on the African-American community.**

**<https://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/the-light/>**

## LIVENEW SHOWS HOSTED BY WOMEN AND WRITERS FROM OUR REGION

Our Hosts: The energetic hosts leading Southbound are actor/writers Megan Hayes (Horizon's Sex with Strangers and Waffle Palace Christmas) and Brittani Minniweather (Sweet Water Taste and The Ghosts of Little Five Points).



From the depths of the ATL, Horizon Theatre is spotlighting the stories bubbling up from artists from the Beltline to the West End to Buford Highway. ***Southbound: True Life Tales from the ATL and Beyond*** is the newest original show from Horizon. The inaugural serial show premiered online April 5, 2021. Each episode revolves around a theme and includes stories, spoken word song, film and other short-form performance, told from the heart by writers, musicians, actors, journalists, leaders, and celebrities.

**Southbound began as a monthly on line show and moved to LIVE at Horizon in fall 2021. In 2022 the show will be presented live at Horizon bi-monthly and will be filmed and offered virtually as part of Horizon at home.** Horizon currently has all episodes of ***Southbound*** archived and available to view on our website and YouTube channel.

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/southbound-true-life-tales-from-the-atl-and-beyond/>

# OUTDOORPROGRAMMING

Summer 2021



Horizon was delighted to present the innovative out-door swash-buckling adventure **HOW I BECAME A PIRATE**, Music and Lyrics by Janet Yates Vogt & Mark Friedman. Transforming the Little Five Points Center for Arts and Community outside space into a socially-distanced theatrical oasis, Horizon partnered with Destination Theatre to present this hit new family musical based on the best-selling children's book by Melinda Long with illustrations by David Shannon.

July 10 & 17 and August 1 & 8, 2021, Horizon served 300 family members who experienced this exciting new musical. With a diverse cast of talented Atlanta actors, the show was a hit with adults and children alike. Horizon is excited to announce, we will continue the partnership with Destination Theatre for performances of future family focused shows.

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/how-i-became-a-pirate/>



## HORIZON AT HOME

We were honored to have received **Atlanta Magazine's 2020 Best of Atlanta Award for Best Virtual Programming** for **Horizon at Home: New Online Streaming Initiative**. This innovative initiative brings creative virtual content to our patrons in the safety and comfort of their homes, including interviews with renowned theatre artists, contemporary play readings, educational programming, and cutting-edge performance streaming. **Below you will find a summary of Horizon's virtual programming, including photos of plays and events.**



**Horizon At Home, our exciting new online streaming initiative**

**<https://www.horizontheatre.com/horizon-at-home/>**

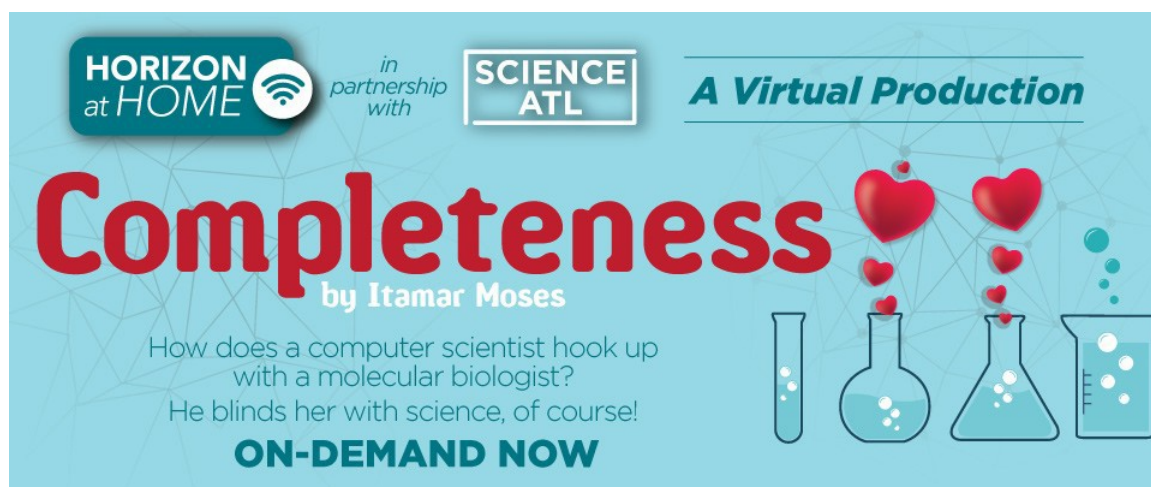
**Includes 4-tiers of programming:**

1. **On the Horizon series:** live-streamed performances of acclaimed contemporary plays created by professional actors and directors on Zoom followed by conversations with the writer, creative team and or guest respondents related to the issues of the play.
2. **New South Play Festival:** new plays in development by writers from our region, women or writers of color, especially plays that speak to racial inequality. The plays are work-shopped via Zoom, culminating in free live-streamed readings.
3. **Educational Programs** - programs that reach deep into the community, exposing young people to theatre and training future artists, including: New South Young Playwrights Contest and Festival, a free week-long playwriting intensive for high school and college students; Playwriting In-School Residencies with professional playwrights conducting free playwriting workshops in underserved high school and middle schools; and our Apprentice and Intern Companies; free training programs for early career playwrights, actors, stage managers, and arts administrators.
4. **Artist Events:** Interviews, performances, and innovative classes (cooking, and singing) featuring Horizon artists. Examples include A Musical Party with the Cast of ONCE, A Mother's Day event with performances of short pieces about motherhood by local writers and actors, Cooking Ala Lala (a weekly cooking show with Horizon actress Lala Cochran), a recurring talk show hosted by director Tom Jones, and Sing with Keena (singing workshop with music director Keena Redding), and a monthly performance series, *Southbound: True Life Tales from the ATL and Beyond*. Horizon is excited to successfully engage, inform, and entertain our audiences in the comfort of their home through a wide variety of social platforms.

## EXTENDED RUNS OF ATLANTA, SOUTHEASTERN AND WORLD PREMIERES OF CONTEMPORARY PLAYS AND MUSICALS ON HORIZON AT HOME

### Live Streamed Extended Run Events

*Horizon At Home (HAH)* our online streaming platform was a huge success in 2020/2021. Created in response to social-distancing mandates, *HAH* features FREE, low-cost, or by suggested donation virtual performances for our patrons to enjoy in the safety and comfort of their homes. This virtual programming gives extended access to audiences and includes artist led classes and events, educational programming, live-streamed performances, and new plays. While many of the plays and performances presented in 2020 were wildly successful and received rave reviews, we decided to feature two of the plays presented on *HAH* again in 2021, *Love M. & Completeness*:



Written by Tony-Award Winning playwright Itamar Moses (*The Band's Visit*) and produced in partnership with Science ATL, Horizon extended the run of the virtual hit new play *Completeness*. In partnership with Science ATL, we presented the show for community groups in 2021, including the Atlanta Science Festival where we hosted post show discussions with 3 local PhD candidates in science at Emory. This romantic comedy takes a modern look at love through a scientific lens.

What happens when brain and heart collide? Two grad students might have the answer, if they can look up from their research long enough to find out. Featuring a diverse cast of Atlanta's most talented actors, the show is a huge hit with critics and audiences.

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/horizon-at-home-completeness/>



**Live Streamed Extended Run Events**  
***(continued)***

AHF

**HORIZON**  
THEATRE COMPANY

BLACC  
BLACK LEADERSHIP  
AIDS CRISIS COALITION

Based on Interviews with Mothers, Sons, and AIDS Activists

*Love, M.*  
*a letters play*

BY Clarinda Ross  
DIRECTED BY HEIDI MCKERLEY

POST-SHOW CONVERSATION PARTNER:  
Hingout HEALTH IQ

**STARRING**  
LAMMAN RUCKER  
OWN Networks' *Greenleaf*

TERRY BURRELL

CLARINDA ROSS

CHRIS HECKE

STREAMING NOW

**Watch FREE at [horizontheatre.com/love-m](https://www.horizontheatre.com/love-m/)**

Written by southern playwright, Clarinda Ross and directed by award-winning director, Horizon Associate Artist, Heidi McKerley (*The Wolves*, and *ONCE*), *Love M.* was presented in partnership with AIDS Healthcare Foundation. A powerful story about mothers, sons, and AIDS activists in the early days of the AIDS crisis, the show features TV's *Greenleaf* star, Lamman Rucker and Broadway and television actress Terry Burrell. Horizon extended this virtual hit to impact a larger audience, including a special event hosted by Positive Impact and Bet Haverim Synagogue as part of Pride month observances. The event featured a post-show discussion with AIDS care workers, researchers and activists discussing the impact of AIDS on communities today and updates on current research and treatment. *Love M.* can be seen on Horizon's YouTube, Facebook, and web channels for viewers across the globe.

**<https://www.horizontheatre.com/love-m/>**

*Live Streamed Events (continued)*



Horizon curated a festive theatrical feast of plays from well known and brand new Atlanta artist in celebration of Earth Day 2021. Watch some of your favorite Horizon artists celebrate our planet and its future! Experience a dozen short plays and scenes from local and national writers whose stories and styles are as diverse as their settings. From RuPaul's fracking ranch in Wyoming to a dream world of talking trees, go on a series of adventures with over 20 characters straight from your computer. Earth Love was recorded with a live Zoom audience on May 13, 2021 and is now available view on our YouTube channel. Featured artists included award-winning Black Women Speak playwright Shay Youngblood, Atlanta actress Mary Lynn Owen, and award winning playwright Margaret Baldwin

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/earth-love/>

*Live Streamed Events (continued)*



As a unique Mother's Day celebration, we brought together our favorite playwrights and actors for a fun night of scenes, songs, and stories about moms and daughters. Frantic, funny, fraught, and fruitful, these are moms and daughters on the edge – a one night theatrical celebration of “Mom”!

The production included hilarious and heartfelt new short works by Horizon's favorite writers including Gloria Bond Clunie (*Sweet Water Taste*), Suehyla El-Attar (*The Perfect Prayer, Third Country*), Shay Youngblood (*Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*) starring many of the actresses you know and love. Plus, some fun excerpts from past Horizon plays about mothers and daughters. We also featured special guest Angela Robinson (*The Haves and the Have Nots, Law & Order: SVU*, and *Another Bed*) who made an appearance to share a special theatrical gift.

Additional Performances by diverse Horizon Artists, past and present included: *Sky* by Gloria Bond Clunie, *Shaking the Mess Out of Misery* by Shay Youngblood, *Knead* by Mary Lynn Owen, *Getting There* by Suehyla El-Attar, “Another Mother Daughter Fight” Song by Vynnie Meli, Margaret Baldwin performance, *Roman Candle Summer* by Neeley Gossett, *Empty Rooms* by Annie Harrison Elliott, *The Gratitude Journal* by Rebekah Suellau, *A new play* by Elyzabeth G Wilder, *Paper House* by Lee Nowell, and mother/daughter video clips from *Once*, *Freaky Friday*, *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* and other past Horizon shows.



### *Live Streamed Events (continued)*



Written by Tony-Award Winning playwright Itamar Moses (*The Band's Visit*) and produced in partnership with Science ATL, Horizon was excited to present the virtual Southeastern premiere of the hit new play *Completeness*. This romantic comedy takes a modern look at love through a scientific lens.

What happens when brain and heart collide? Two grad students might have the answer, if they can look up from their research long enough to find out. Performed September 25-26 and October 2-3, and featuring a diverse cast of Atlanta's most talented actors the show was a huge hit with critics and audiences.

Post-show discussion immediately following each show allowed audience members to engage directly with the artists, directors, and special guest, Moses. Horizon's partnership with Science ATL gave audiences access to scientists studying the types of computer science and molecular biology described in the play.

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/horizon-at-home-completeness/>

### *Live Streamed Events (continued)*



*Photo: Gina Rickicki*

Written by some of the greatest comic and dramatic talents of Atlanta, Mark Kendall (Alliance's *The Magic Negro*, Dad's Garage), Gina Rickicki (*Gina's Garbage Hour*, Dad's Garage), Neeley Gossett (writer, Found Stages) and conceived by Co-Artistic Director Lisa Adler and Nichole Palmietto, Horizon's National New Play Network Producer in Residence who also directs. *The Ghosts of Little Five Points* is a comic Halloween experience hand-crafted for Atlanta 2020. Atlanta Audiences were introduced to frighteningly funny Little Five Points ghosts from familiar haunts like the Euclid Avenue Yacht Club, The Vortex, The Star Bar, and Variety Playhouse.

With costumes, and props by Horizon's award-winning resident designers Moriah and Isabel Curley-Clay, the show featured More than a dozen ghosts played by some of Atlanta's favorite actors, including Lala Cochran (Horizon's *Cooking Ala Lala*, *Waffle Palace*, *The Santaland Diaries*), Kevin Gillese (Director of Dad's Garage TV), Skyler Brown (Horizon's *Once*), Eden Mew (*Fun Home*, Actor's Express), Brittani Minniweather (Horizon's *Sweet Water Taste*), O'Neil Delapenha (Shakespeare Tavern), and Michelle Pokopac (Horizon's *The Wolves*), and more!

[https://www.horizontheatre.com/the-ghosts -of-little -Vive-points /](https://www.horizontheatre.com/the-ghosts-of-little-five-points/)

**NEWPLAYSINDEVELOPMENT  
BY WRITERS OF COLOR, WOMEN,  
AND WRITERS FROM OUR REGION**

**NewSouthPlayFestival**



Suehyla El-Attar is an Egyptian-American award-winning playwright and actress. She is also Horizon's lead artist for our In-School Playwriting Educational Residencies. As a writer, her work has been commissioned by and premiered at Horizon Theatre (*The Perfect Prayer*; *Third Country*) and 7 Stages (*The Doctor*, *The Devil*, & *My Dad*). She is a recipient of the Mississippi Theatre Association Playwright award (2011) and Gene Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award (2014). Her New South Playworks commissioned work *Nope. That's Just My First Name* was a huge hit with audiences.

In this one-woman show Suehyla tells hilarious stories about what it's like being a progressive Muslim, Egyptian woman living in the south. Audiences were invited to "Pick Their Own Adventure" during this innovative new show as they chose what thoughts/memories they wanted Suehyla to explore during the performance! The show ran August 23 & 30 and September 6, 2020. It will premiere live at Horizon in fall 2022 as a touring show, playing in homes, businesses and organizations after an initial run at Horizon.

*This performance was wonderful! I could have listened to many more of her stories. When she performs again, I will tell my friends so they can tune in as well."* -

Audience Member

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/horizon-at-home-nope-thats-just-my-First-name/>



**A Virtual Production**

# A SHOT

# A LOVE STORY INSPIRED  
BY BLACK LIVES MATTER

BY GLORIA BOND CLUNIE

& MORE THEATRE FOR ELECTION EVE 2020

HORIZON  
at HOME



GLORIA BOND CLUNIE

FEATURING



DONNA BISCOE



MARY LYNN OWEN



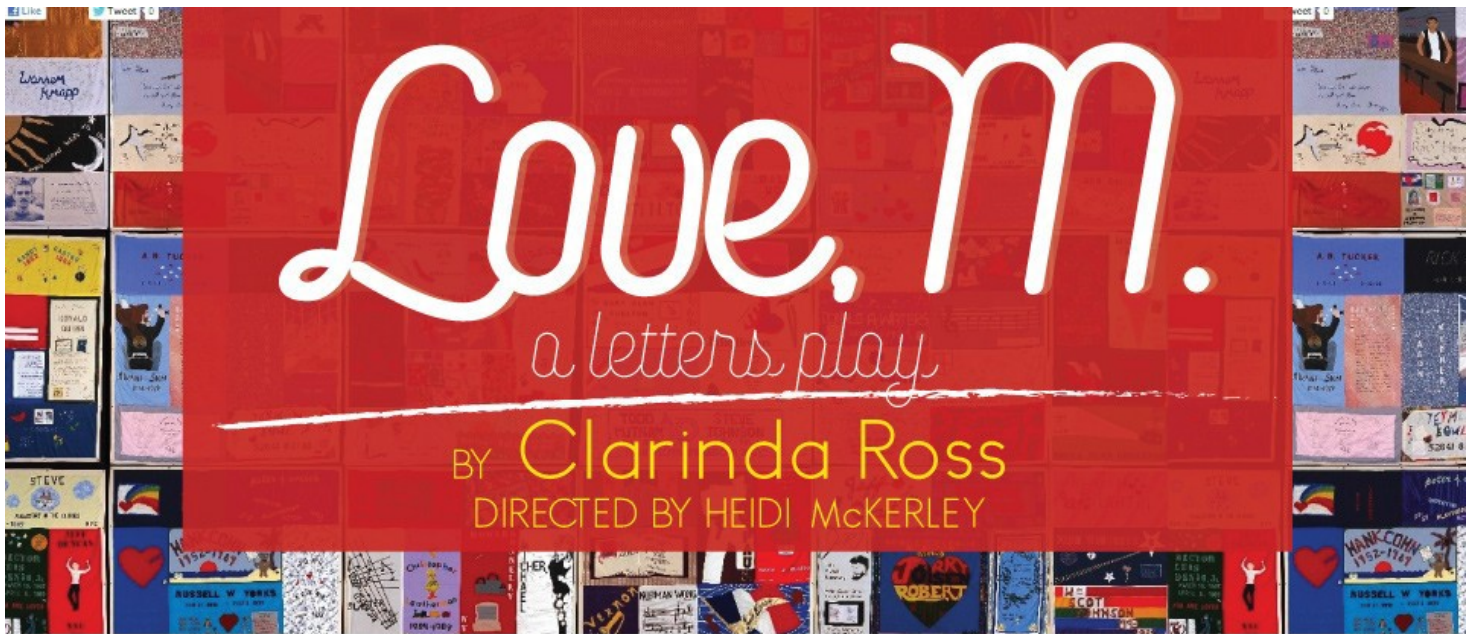
JUSTIN WALKER

**PREMIERES NOV 1 • 5PM**

As part of our *Horizon for Change Series* and a New South Playworks Southeastern Premiere, Horizon is currently featuring the one-act, *A Shot: #A Love Story Inspired by Black Lives Matter*. A powerful Black Lives Matter story written by Gloria Bond Clunie, author of Horizon's *Sweet Water Taste*, and directed by Associate Artistic Producer Marguerite Hannah, the show stars two of Atlanta's best actors, Donna Biscoe and Justin Walker. When Mrs. Nettie Morris (Donna Biscoe) goes to the neighborhood campaign office of congressional hopeful Jeffrey Talbott (Justin Walker) determined to save her grandson from Chicago's violent streets and incarceration with an ingenious plan -- a very personal life and death struggle takes a surprising turn.

Also featured after this inspirational presentation are short theatrical pieces from veteran Atlanta theatre artists and up and coming talent: *Sum of Us*, by Mary Lynn Owen (Actor, Writer); *Incense* by Theresa Davis (originally written and performed for Horizon's *The Ghosts of Little Five Points*); *Be A Hero* by Eden Mew (*Madeline's Christmas*, *The Ghosts of Little Five Points*); and powerful recitations of past historical voices performed by Aminah Williams and Derrick Robertson, Jr. (Horizon Apprentice Company 2020).

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/horizon-at-home-a-shot/>



Based on interviews with Mothers, Sons, and AIDS Activists

PREMIERING ON WORLD AIDS DAY, **DEC 1, 2020**

Written by southern playwright, Clarinda Ross, directed by award-winning director, Horizon Associate Artist, Heidi McKerley (*The Wolves*, and *ONCE*), *Love M.* was presented in partnership with AIDS Healthcare Foundation for a December 1, 2020 World AIDS Day premiere. The free virtual premiere featured Lamman Rucker of the television show *Greenleaf* and Terry Burrell of stage and screen and can be seen on Horizon's YouTube, Facebook, and web channels for viewers across the globe. The show also included a virtual after-show community conversation with Black and gay thought leaders to delve further into the issues in the play.

Told through letters, *Love, M.* is the story of two mothers at the dawn of AIDS. Atlanta white socialite Deborah writes to her son, Chris, who is pursuing his dream of becoming an actor. Myrtle, a Black southern Baptist, writes to her son, Timothy, an idealistic young lawyer. With humor and humanity, and the AIDS Quilt as backdrop, *Love, M.* weaves the abiding threads of the healing power of love, as the characters piece their way towards acceptance.

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/love-m/>

## INNOVATIVE CLASSES, TALK SHOWS, AND INTERVIEWS FEATURING HORIZON ARTISTS

### Artist Events



*Tom Talks* is an exciting new talk show hosted by Thomas W. Jones II, an award-winning, Fulton-County-based, Horizon Theatre Associate Artist. Featuring guests from the arts and community, Tom takes the audience on a deep dive into issues facing our city, including candid conversations about race, equity, and the arts.

Tom has written and directed numerous plays on the Horizon stage in the past 14 years, including *Blackberry Daze*, *A Cool Drink A Water*, *Three Sistahs* and *Two Queens One Castle* to name a few. He also directed the Suzi Award-Winner for Best Play *Shakin the Mess Outta Misery*, *Uprising*, *'da Kink in my Hair*, *Right ON*, *Every Tongue Confess*, *Hallelujah Street Blues*, and *And Her Hair Went With Her*. and *The Bluest Eye*. He was the co-founder of Jomandi Productions in Atlanta, which became the third largest African American theatre company in the United States.



## ArtistsEvents(continued)



LaLa Cochran is an award-winning Horizon actress (*Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nigh-Time*, *Sweet Water Taste*, *Waffle Palace* and *Santaland Diaries*) who also loves to cook. In summer 2020, she took Atlanta audiences by storm with her exciting virtual cooking show *Cooking Ála Lala!* With twelve weekly episodes premiering on Saturday mornings, this show left our audiences hungry for more. In addition to being an exceptional actress, Lala is also an incredible cook and master gardener. This garden to table show deeply resonated with our audiences as Lala whipped up tasty desserts, exquisite main courses, all paired with tasty wines in her cozy Inman Park urban kitchen. We followed up with a holiday episode in December 2020.

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/horizon-at-home-cooking-a-la-lala/>

## ArtistsEvents(continued)



Keena Redding, Horizon's Director of Development and Director of Equity & Impact, is an actress, singer, singing teacher/vocal coach, and music director of *Madeline's Christmas* and *Waffle Palace Christmas*. *Sing with Keena* is an interactive singing class for audience members. Have you ever wanted to sing on Broadway??!! Here is your chance! As part of the HORIZON AT HOME SERIES: HORIZON AT PLAY, we have designed a unique and fun experience for our audience, a chance to train with a professional voice teacher/singing coach in front of a live Zoom audience. Horizon's *Sing with Keena* is an exciting new way to receive virtual voice lessons from a professional in a supportive and entertaining environment. *Singing with Keena* is like being on a virtual Horizon stage!

Pre-COVID-19

**First Atlanta-Created Production of Broadway Hit**

***ONCE*, play by Enda Walsh, Music and Lyrics by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová**

Produced January 31 – March 8, 2020 - at Horizon



Pictured Ensemble: Paul Glaze, Jessica De Maria, Hayden Rowe, Chris Damiano, Sophia Sapronov, & Daniel Burns



Pictured Ensemble: Paul Glaze, Daniel Burns, Skylar Brown, Sophia Sapronov, Maggie Salley, Chase Peacock, Jessica De Maria, Hayden Rowe & Chris Damiano



***ONCE*, play by Enda Walsh, Music and Lyrics by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová (continued)**



Pictured: Maggie Salley & Chase Peacock



Horizon's locally created production of the eight-time Tony Award Winning musical *ONCE*, was a foot-stomping success! Based on the Academy Award-Winning movie by the same name, and directed by Horizon's celebrated Associate Artist, Heidi Cline McKerley, *ONCE* was a sold-out sensation at Horizon, leaving audiences laughing, crying, and begging for more. Adding to the exhilarating atmosphere, we transformed our intimate 172-seat theatre into an immersive, in-the-round experience, featuring a talented ensemble cast of Atlanta actor/musicians. Each performer played multiple instruments, which added to the excitement of the show. On the streets of Dublin, an Irish musician and a Czech immigrant are drawn together by their shared love of music. Over the course of one fateful week, their unexpected friendship and collaboration evolves into a powerful but complicated romance, heightened by the raw emotion of the songs they create together. *ONCE* is a joyously uplifting show that strikes an unforgettable chord in audiences and speaks to the power of music to connect us all.

**THREE PREMIERE HORIZON  
PLAYS PUBLISHED BY  
SAMUEL FRENCH**

*The Ballad of Klook and Vignette* Book by Ché Walker, Music & Lyrics by Anoushka Lucas and Omar Lyefook **U.S. Premiere at Horizon January 19 – February 18, 2017**



Pictured: Brittany Inge & Amari Cheatom

*Project Dawn* by Karen Hartman **National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere at Horizon September 22 – October 29, 2017**



Pictured Ensemble: Maria Rodriguez-Sager, Brooke Owens, Lane Carlock, Christy Clark, Bobbi Lynne Scott, Carolyn Cook & Marianne Fraulo

*How Black Mothers Say I Love You* by Karen Hartman  
**U.S. Premiere at Horizon July 13 – August 26, 2018**



Pictured Ensemble: Wendy Fox-Williams, Yvonne Miranda Singh & Minka Wiltz

## NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

### Alpharetta Arts Center



Horizon Theatre Company and Alpharetta Arts Center was thrilled to partner to bring new classes taught by Horizon-affiliated theatre artists to Alpharetta.

The Alpharetta Arts Center offers a wide variety of multidisciplinary classes, workshops and lectures for children, teens and adults. To keep classes and creativity going for everyone, in addition to in- person classes, the Alpharetta Arts Center now has virtual class offerings.

As a result of COVID-19, minimum class requirements were not met in the fall, but we are continuing our partnership with Alpharetta. We presented our new play project *Black Women Speak* at Alpharetta Arts Center in fall 2021 and look forward to more classes and performances in 2022.



# Education Programming

## NEW SOUTH YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS CONTEST AND FESTIVAL

Held annually during June



Pictured: YPF2021 students

Now in its 24th year, the New South Young Playwrights Festival focuses on the support and development of the next generation of American dramatists. Each year, Horizon solicits plays from students in high schools in Georgia and colleges nationwide. More than 100 plays are evaluated by a panel of professional theatre artists and educators. The 20-30 winners of the contest are invited to participate in the Festival, a tuition-free, week-long playwriting intensive training program that culminates in a public reading of students' works. **This year the New South Young Playwrights Festival took place May 31 –June 5, 2021. This is the second year Horizon presented the New South Young Playwrights Festival virtually, again a resounding success. Here is an example of the (2021) program.**

<https://www.horizontheatre.com/education-and-community/new-south-young-playwrights-festival-2021/>



**VIRTUAL**

**2021 NEW SOUTH  
young playwrights  
festival**



**MAY 31 – JUNE 5, 2021**

**NEW SOUTH YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS 5 MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL**  
JUNE 5, 7PM

**www.horizontheatre.com 404.584.7450**

The project is made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Molly Blank Fund, and Warner Media.





Major funding is provided by the Fulton County Commission under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Horizon is also supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art.

### About Horizon's New South Young Playwrights Festival

This year, the winners of our New South Young Playwrights Contest, who hail from all over the country, joined us for a one-week virtual playwriting experience at Horizon. During this intensive program, they were submerged in the world of playwriting and theatre. They wrote every day and worked with their mentors/dramaturgs. They attended seminars and workshops taught by nationally acclaimed guests. They met professional playwrights of all ages and backgrounds. They saw plays, discussed, and debated. They heard their own work read by professional actors. And most importantly, they were nurtured and supported as young artists and as the future of American theatre. The short plays that you will see today were written this week as a part of their residency at Horizon.

### The PLAYS

- ATLAS OF THE STARS** • by Alexandria Passanisi  
U. Texas at Austin  
Tay: NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL • Tay: KAYODE SOYEMI  
Atlas: MEGAN HAYES • Stage Directions: JUSTIN WALKER  
(Mentor: Alexa Derman; Director: Cynthia D. Barker)
- CYCLES** • by Yazmeen Mayes Kennesaw State University  
Nicky: ASIA ROGERS • May Tag: MAGGIE BRIGEL •  
Tommy: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES • Stage Directions: KOFI OWUSU  
(Mentor: Kara Davidson; Director: Nichole Palmietto)
- THE TIME MACHINE** • by Maria I. Arreola Macalester College  
Meg: HANNAH CHURCH • Alicia: MARGARET IVEY • Little Boy: JUAN SEBASTIAN CRUZ • Stage Directions: KEVIN GIAN  
(Mentor: Megan Tabaque; Director: Heidi McKerley)
- THERAPY WITH BOOKS** • by Kalani Washington  
Oconee County High School  
Anne: CARA MANTELLA • Sibylle: PARRIS SARTER •  
Derek: LAMAR K. CHESTON • Bennett: ROBIN BLOODWORTH •  
Stage Directions: NINI HUTCHERSON  
(Mentor: Alysha Griffin; Director: Jami Jude)
- SPECIAL DELIVERY** • by Gabriel Hansley Morehouse College  
Dani: NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL • Nolan: KAYODE SOYEMI •  
Stage Directions: JUSTIN WALKER  
(Mentor: Darren Canady; Director: Cynthia D. Barker)
- CELESTIAL ECHOES** • by Miguel Silan University of Georgia  
Bennett: KOFI OWUSU • Isaac: BRANDON MICHAEL MAYES •  
Stage Directions: ASIA ROGERS  
(Mentor: Kara Davidson; Director: Nichole Palmietto)

## Education Programming (Continued)

### PLAYWRIGHTS IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCIES



Pictured: This Years' Playwriting In-School Residency 2021 Norcross High School Students

In addition to **The New South Young Playwrights Festival**, Horizon also conducts **FREE Playwriting in School Residencies**. Horizons residencies offer schools an opportunity to expand their curriculum and increase their students' writing and critical thinking skills in a fun, challenging and participatory format. The program cultivates writing skills, creativity, collaboration, self-awareness, confidence and knowledge of theatre as an art form in participating students. It gives access to the arts and teaches discipline, teamwork, analytical thinking, and problem-solving to young people regardless of their chosen career path or extracurricular activities. Playwriting residency students are also encouraged to submit new plays to **Horizon's New South Young Playwrights Contest and Festival**. Residencies last 1-10 weeks and may take place during school hours or after school. Currently Horizon has provided over 40 semester-long playwriting residencies to middle and high schools. For the past two years, we successfully made the transition to teaching these classes online and were able to serve more schools by reducing the playwriting teacher's travel time.

Our teaching artists have experience with creating safe spaces where students are comfortable working as an ensemble, sharing ideas, participating in group exercises, and giving constructive feedback on peer writing. Our **Playwriting in School** teaching artist is an award-winning playwright. Suehyla El-Attar is an Atlanta-based professional female playwright of color who has successfully taught our residencies since 2014 and whose plays have been produced at Horizon and all over the country.

**Horizons Playwriting in School Residencies** are in alignment with national and state performance standard curriculum areas: Theatre/Drama and English/Language Arts and adheres to the Georgia Fine Arts Standards for Excellence (GSE) for Grades 9-12 Theatre Arts (Acting I, II, III and Fundamentals of Theatre I and II). The students work on increased composition skills, including developing sentence structure, plot structure, story/argument arc, and narrative techniques. Our curriculum uses hands-on techniques that lead to each student writing their own short play by the end of the residency. The short plays created are shared publicly as best suits the individual school. This may be a classroom only reading/performance or a public performance at the school or Horizon. When schools choose a staged reading of the students' works at Horizon, we invite family, friends, classmates, and school administration to celebrate with us at the theatre.

## Education Programming (Continued)



Pictured: Students & Teachers from The New School

### Education Partnership with The New School - Teaching Artist Residency

**THE NEW SCHOOL** - Horizon Theatre and The New School (TNS) have partnered to allow Horizon to provide theatre department services for The New School, a non-profit alternative high school focused on artists and entrepreneurs. Horizon provides ongoing instruction, production, and performance opportunities throughout the school year. Instruction and experience in all phases of theatre creates this comprehensive program, including areas such as acting, writing, directing, design, and producing. The program also allows for students to utilize the Horizon mainstage for workshops, classes and performances, including their self-produced 24 Hour Play Festival. This partnership allows Horizon to provide ongoing theatre instruction, production, performance opportunities, mentoring from Horizon artists, and collaboration with seniors from Atlanta Senior Centers.

**Apprentice Company.** 10-month pre-professional training program held annually.



Horizon's Apprentice Company is a 10-month training program for post-college graduates who are starting their careers in playwriting, acting or stage management. The program introduces them to the business side of theatre, cultivates their skills, exposes them to the Metro Atlanta market, and fosters mentorships. The program is helmed by Horizon Associate Producer and Atlanta veteran actress, teacher and director Marguerite Hannah. Many of our Apprentice Company members go on to work in Atlanta, all over Georgia and across the country in theatre, television and film. In 2020, Horizon apprentices successfully completed their end of the year programming (classes, seminars, and performances) virtually. We featured a weekend showcase of their one-act plays this October as part of our *Horizon at Home* offering. The program has gone on hiatus during 2021 and is being revised for relaunch in 2022.



**2019 LIVE PRODUCTIONS  
ATLANTA, SOUTHEASTERN AND  
WORLD PREMIERES OF CONTEMPORARY PLAYS**

**New South Play Festival**

*Sweet Water Taste* by Gloria Bond Clunie, Produced July 12 – August 25, 2019 at Horizon



Picture Ensembles: LaParee Young, Lala Cochran, Jen Harper, Chris Kayser, Enoch King, Brittani Minnieweather, & Justin Walker

*Sweet Water Taste* by Gloria Bond Clunie (continued)



Picture Ensemble: LaParee Young, Lala Cochran, Jen Harper, Chris Kayser, & Justin Walker

**Horizon's area premiere of *Sweet Water Taste* was a huge hit with Atlanta audiences. It was produced as part of Horizon's New South Play Festival program. Now in its 23rd year, the New South Play Festival is Horizon's year-round program that develops and produces new plays from, for and about the contemporary South, with a focus on plays by women, writers of color and writers from the region. Horizon has garnered national acclaim as a center for development of new plays and writers from our region. The Festival has been hailed by *Creative Loafing* as "the place that finds and defines Southern plays.**

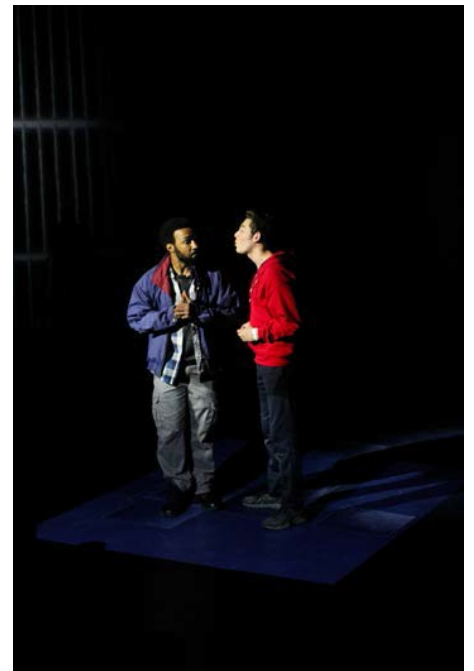
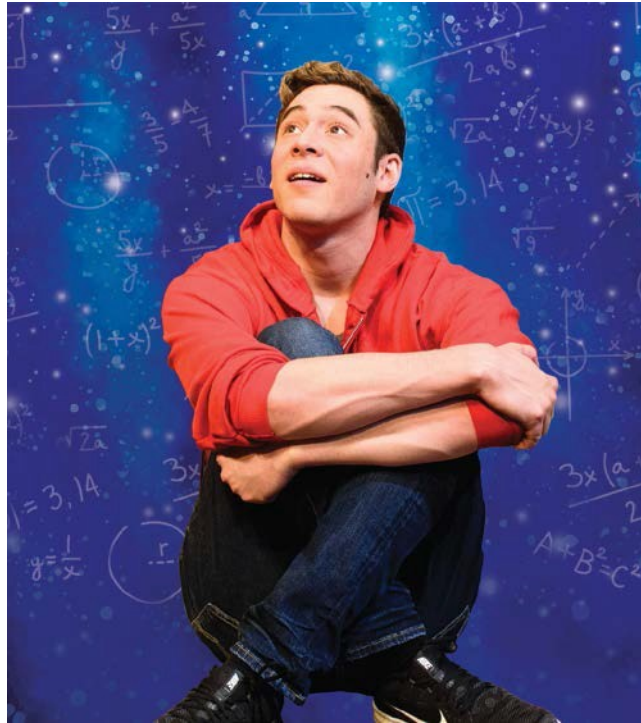
**All hell and a little bit of heaven break loose in this funny, irreverent, and topical play.** When Elijah Beckford, a prominent southern black undertaker, approaches his wealthy white cousins, Charlie and Elizabeth Beckford, and demands to be buried in "the family cemetery," chaos ensues. The show featured a cast of some of Atlanta's finest actors, including Atlanta favorites: Lala Cochran, Enoch King and Chris Kayser as well as LaParee Young and Jen Harper, both stars of the hit television show *Greenleaf*. Horizon continued to positively impact audiences with after-show *Community Conversations*, where audiences members had the opportunity to hold candid dialogues about finding common ground in race relations in America today.



**Smart, Provocative Plays About Relevant Contemporary Issues by  
Playwrights with International Acclaim**

**Winner of Seven Olivier Awards and Five Tony Awards**

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Simon Stephens. Based on the Novel by Mark Haddon Produced September 20 – October, 27, 2019 at Horizon.**



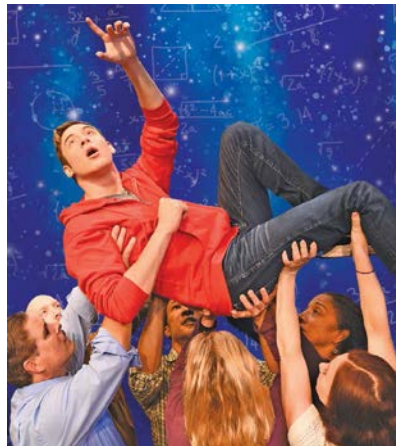
Top Picture: Brandon Michael Mayes  
Bottom Left Picture: Jimi Kocina & Brandon Michael Mayes

Center Picture: Lala Cochran, Megan Dominy, Christopher Hampton, Jimi Kocina, Brian Kurlander, & Brandon Michael Mayes  
Bottom Right Picture: Christopher Hampton & Brandon Michael Mayes



***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Simon Stephens  
(continued)**

Winner of 7 Olivier Awards and 5 Tony Awards including 'Best Play,' *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time*, brings Mark Haddon's best-selling novel to thrilling life. Adapted for the stage by two-time Olivier Award-winning playwright Simon Stephens, this beautifully written, heart-warming play, introduces the audience to the world of autism through the capable eyes of 15-year-old math whizz, Christopher.



Ensemble Pictures: Lala Cochran, Megan Dominy, Christopher Hampton, Jimi Kocina, Brian Kurlander, & Brandon Michael Mayes

Brilliant, exceptional and autistic, Christopher takes us on an amazing and profound adventure. After being wrongly accused of murdering his neighbor's dog, he resolves to find the real culprit. But when his investigation uncovers painful truths about his family, he dares to strike out on his own on an amazing journey that turns his life upside down. In this play, we see the world as Christopher sees it, through an autistic lens.

**Horizon's Southeastern Premiere of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is a co-production with Aurora Theatre.** Co-Directed by award-winning directors Lisa Adler (Horizon Theatre Co-Artistic/Producing Director) and Justin Anderson (Aurora Theatre Associate Artistic Director) the show featured a talented ensemble cast of diverse Atlanta actors. Winning praises from audiences and critics alike, the show featured state of the art projections, lighting and powerful acting that brought audience members to their feet.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* was sponsored in part by The Marcus Autism Center, a subsidiary of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and included partnerships with Emory Autism Center, Spectrum Atlanta and Autism Speaks.** The show featured *Community Conversations* (sponsored by Macy's) that gave the audience further insight into the world of autism through panel discussions, question and answer sessions and actor talkbacks. Horizon featured *Community Conversations* with Emory Autism Center, Marcus Autism Center, and Spectrum Atlanta.

## **Innovative New Scripts by Award-Winning Playwrights**

***The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe** Produced January 25 – March 3, 2019 at Horizon.



Pictured: Katie Causey, Anna Williford, Rebeca Robles, Ebony Jerry, Michelle Pokopac, Shelby Folks, Shannon McCarren, Jasmine Thomas, & Erika Miranda

*Photo: Jasmine Thomas*

**A 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama Finalist play, written by Sarah DeLappe, and directed by award-winning, Horizon Associate Artist, Heidi Cline McKerly, Horizon's *The Wolves* delivered powerhouse performances.**

We were delighted to open our 2019, 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season with the Southeastern premiere of this innovative new play. Horizon took “Girl Power” to the next level as the cast, made up some of the most talented and diverse young actresses in Atlanta, took the stage and Horizon’s audiences by storm. With crisp powerful dialogue, interspersed with intense soccer drills, a girl’s indoor soccer team warms up, navigates the big questions, and wage tiny battles and wars with all the vim and vigor of a pack of adolescent warriors. A portrait of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for nine American girls who just want to win. We partnered with many community soccer leagues to offer discounted tickets making the show more accessible to and drawing in a younger audience, many of whom were new to Horizon.

## ***Pipeline* by 2018 Macarthur Foundation Genius Grant Recipient Dominique Morisseau**

Produced March 22 – April 21, 2019 at Horizon.



Top Left: Jay Jones, Stephen Ruffin & Lamar K. Cheston

Top Right: Wendy Fox-Williams; Bottom: Wendy Fox-Williams & Stephen Ruffin

***Pipeline* was nominated for five 2018 Lucille Lortel Awards, including ‘Outstanding Play,’ and playwright, Dominique Morisseau is a 2018 MacArthur Genius Grant Recipient.** This powerful and timely play tells the story of Nya Joseph, a dedicated, inner-city public high school teacher who is committed to her students’ achievement, while she sends her only son, Omari, to a private boarding school. When Omari is involved in a controversial incident which threatens him with expulsion from his school, Nya is forced to reconcile Omari’s rage, her own parental decisions, and the public and private school systems, as she rallies to save her son. Horizon partnered with The Atlanta Board of Education to bring educators to the play, which drew racially and age diverse audiences, including parenting and school groups, all of which saw the show at discounted rates. Directed by the award-winning husband and wife team, Tinashe Kajese Bolden & Keith Arthur Bolden, audiences and critics were stunned by the quiet and intense beauty of this show, which saw many teary-eyed standing ovations. After leaving the show, one audience member left a tear-filled voice message saying, ***“I am so emotional that I needed to call you and tell you that Pipeline was a truly excellent play. The acting was superb...everything was excellent...Thank you, thank you so very much for the work you do.”***



## **Ripped-from-the-Headlines Plays by Powerhouse Playwrights**

***The Cake* by Bekah Brunstetter, writer for TV's hit show *This is Us*.**

May 17 – June 23, 2019 at Horizon



**Pictured Top: Marcie Millard & Allan Edwards**

**Pictured Bottom: Rhyn McLemore Saver, Parris Sarter & Marcie Millard**

**Making its Southeastern Premiere and directed by Horizon Apprentice Company Co-Director, Lauren Morris, *The Cake* was a favorite of both critics and audiences alike.** When Della, a North Carolina baker and devout Christian, is asked to bake a wedding cake for her best friend's daughter, she is overjoyed. But that joy is short-lived when she learns that the intended is another bride. Struggling to reconcile her deeply-held belief in "traditional marriage" and the love she has for the woman she helped raise, Della finds herself in strange new territory. Inspired by a story ripped from the headlines, this marvelously funny play by Bekah Brunstetter (producer and writer for TV's *This is Us*) is proof that love is the key ingredient in creating common ground. Horizon partnered with AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Macy's, local United Methodist Churches, Synagogues, and many LGBTQIA organizations to sponsor *Community Conversations* to further discuss important issues in the play. The show reached deep into the LGBTQIA community as well as attracting a racially and age diverse audience of returning and new patrons. Per the playwrights suggestion, and adding to the excitement of the production, Horizon partnered with several community bakeries, who provided bite-sized pieces of cake to each audience member as they exited the theatre after each show.

## Family Series Production

***Madeline's Christmas* Book & Lyrics by Jennifer Kirkeby, music by Shirley Mier based on the book by Ludwig Bemelmans returns December 2022**



Pictured: The 2018 Cast of *Madeline's Christmas*

Our popular annual production of *Madeline's Christmas*, celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> year in 2019. After a two-year hiatus, we are planning its return for 2022. Adult professional actors perform on stage with two dozen girls from all over the Metro Atlanta area in this Atlanta holiday favorite. Produced in partnership with the Atlanta Children's Theatre (ACT), ACT Artistic Director Spring Mason directs this Family Series production based on Ludwig Bemelmans beloved children's book. This program provides a high quality, intensive training experience for the young actresses and draws thousands of audiences from across the Metro region and beyond.

## Holiday Show

### ***Horizon New South Play Festival World Premiere - Waffle Palace Christmas***

by Larry Larson and Eddie Levi Lee, November 15 – December 30, 2018 and reprise in 2019 at Horizon.



Pictured: LaLa Cochran, Topher Payne, Enoch King



Maria Rodriguez-Sager, Larry Larson & Marguerite Hannah

In 2018, Horizon said goodbye to the alternative holiday comedy favorite *The Santaland Diaries* after 19 years and hello to the World Premiere of *Waffle Palace Christmas* and its heartfelt southern humor scattered, smothered and covered in a spicy holiday sauce. The charming characters from our sell-out *Waffle Palace* returned in this long-awaited sequel, full of fun, laughter and Christmas cheer. The show's director and dramaturg was award-winning Horizon Co-Artistic/Producing Director, Lisa Adler and was written by award-winning actor/playwrights Larry Larson and Eddie Levi Lee. *Waffle Palace Christmas* featured a talented cast of ethnically and age diverse Atlanta actors.