The Robey Theatre Company
in association with
The Los Angeles Theatre Center

Presents

KNOCK ME A KISS

Written by
Charles Smith

Directed by
Dwain A. Perry

The Los Angeles Theatre Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department and operated by the Latino Theatre Company.
CAST
(in alphabetical order)

W.E.B. Du Bois .................................................................Ben Guillory*
Nina Du Bois.................................................................Rosie Lee Hooks*
Countee Cullen.............................................................Jason Mimms*
Yolande Du Bois............................................................Toyin Moses*
Lenora..............................................................................Ashlee Olivia*
Jimmy Lunceford..........................................................Keir Thirus*
Understudy (Jimmy Lunceford)........................................Jovan Adepo
Understudy (Yolande Du Bois/Lenora)............................Petal 'd Avril
Understudy (Countee Cullen)..........................................Shon Fuller

*Actors appear courtesy of Actors Equity Association

Time: 1928

A Play in Two Acts

There is one 15-minute intermission

Celebrating Twenty Years of Excellence in Black Theatre
1994-2014
**PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director/Assoc. Producer .................................................. Dwain A. Perry*
Production Stage Manager ................................................. John Freeland, Jr*
Assistant Stage Manager ................................................... Melvin Ishmael Johnson
Scenic Design ...................................................................... Tom Meleck
Lighting Design ..................................................................... Sammie Wayne IV
Costume Design ..................................................................... Naila Aladdin Sanders
Music/Sound Design ............................................................. Gilbert Glenn Brown
Prop Master ........................................................................... Melvin Ishmael Johnson
Graphic Design ..................................................................... Kathie Foley-Meyer
Production Photographer .................................................... Tomoko Matsushita
Publicist ................................................................................. Phillip Sokoloff
Development Director ............................................................ Judith Bowman
Robey Office Manager .......................................................... Marti Newbold

*Team Members appear courtesy of Actors Equity Association*

**Lighting Technician**
Josiah Davis

**Projection Technician**
Corwin Evans

**Multimedia Consultant**
Fritz Davis

*fritz@digitaltheatretechnologies.com*

**Set Construction Team**
Colin Beck
Mark L. Colbenson
Matthew Greene
Christopher Ryan Litten

*Multimedia Elements provided by:*
digital theatre technologies
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Los Angeles County Arts Commission

CBS The James Irvine Foundation

John Sergio Fisher & Associates Inc.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

Eric Garcetti, Mayor
Jose Huizar, Councilmember, 14th District

Matthew Rudnick, Interim General Manager
Hello everyone & welcome to this, The Robey Theatre Company's 20th Anniversary Year. Our Mission is to explore, develop, and produce plays written by, for, or about the global Black experience.

The inspiration for The Robey Theatre Company is Paul Robeson. "The artist must elect to fight for freedom or slavery. I have made my choice. I had no alternative."

Co-Founder, Danny Glover and I have always been admirers of Paul's strength, principles, and integrity. These were and remain ideals we wish to live by and emulate in the work we do. We felt a need for a Company where the sensibility would be that of artists of color. Where that would be the priority, aim, and focus. We wanted to develop an environment that would nurture which is the source of the theatrical creative process -- the Playwright. This institution provides time & resources to assist the playwright’s developmental process and based on work we've done over the years, we have found success in serving as stewards of this work. From the Levy Lee Simon Trilogy, For the Love of Freedom dramatizing Haitian Revolution leaders Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jean Jacques Dessalines, and Henri Christophe to Tom Gibbons' trilogy about race in America Bee Luther-Hatchee, Permanent Collection, and House with No Walls, Robey has sought to offer work that supports, enlightens, and entertains our audiences with a sense of social consciousness that reflects Paul's and our love of humanity. Tim Toyama and Aaron Woolfolk's Bronzerville, Melvin Ishmael Johnson's The Emperor's Last Performance, Kellie Robert's Transitions, Kimba Henderson's The Reckoning, and Kurt Maxey's Pity the Proud Ones were all developed through Robey's playwrights program.

The wonderfully long list of artists, actors, technicians, staff, Friends of Robey, volunteers, foundations, commercial institutions, philanthropists, and individual patrons that have contributed to Robey's growth, we simply would not be here if not for you. Thank You.

Robey appreciates its eight year association with the Los Angeles Theatre Center and the Latino Theater Company. Through this collaboration and partnership, Robey offers its own company members and audiences an opportunity to participate in provocative and innovative theatre in Los Angeles. Thank You.

Robey's Board of Advisors has contributed when counsel was needed. Thank You.

The Robey Theatre Company's Board of Directors has been a pillar of support offering ideas, refining and executing these strategies which allow us to follow through, fulfill our Mission and carry on. Thank You.
The opportunity to do this work, to serve, representing our culture, to be recognized by our audiences, and supported by your continued patronage is reward and where real satisfaction lies. We will continue to serve as we hope you will continue to come, see and hear. Thank You.

**Ben Guillory**  
*Producing Artistic Director*

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Paul Robeson’s incredible life continues to serve as an inspiration to a new generation of leaders. He is the subject of newly written books, and serves as the subject of at least two productions in Los Angeles this year.

Without question, our 20th year is the most extraordinary year ever, as Robey expands and builds community partnerships. *Knock Me A Kiss* is our first full production of the season. Set in the midst of the Harlem Renaissance, W.E.B. Du Bois, one of the greatest intellects of the Twentieth Century asserted his right to choose the man his daughter Yolande should marry. He selected Countee Cullen, part of the “Talented Tenth.” The union was to be the “Marriage of the Century.” But it was trouble before it started.

Later this year we will present a world premiere, *The Magnificent Dunbar*, which pays tribute to a historical and cultural monument, the only hotel in Los Angeles during the 30's and 40's which accepted African American guests, and what a stunning guest list it turned out to be! Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Lena Horn, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, W.E.B. Du Bois, Ray Charles, Thurgood Marshall, former heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, and Paul Robeson, just for starters.

Exciting news: we have initiated a new Membership Program. Package perks offer attendance to readings, previews, opening nights, Weekends in Leimert and a ticket to the Center Theatre Group’s production of the *The Tallest Tree in the Forest*, acclaimed actor/writer Daniel Beaty’s one-man show about the life of Paul Robeson at the Mark Taper Forum.

More exciting news: Robey has joined with the City of Los Angeles in the Leimert Park Village 20/20 Vision Project. We are proud to support the revitalization of Leimert Park Village as an African American Cultural Center in Los Angeles. Robey participates in Weekends in Leimert, the last Saturday of each month at the Historic Vision Theater. So come check it out on April 26.

Most exciting news: To commemorate our 20th Anniversary of Excellence in Black Theatre, Robey will produce a *The First Annual Paul Robeson Theatre*
Festival of twenty 20-minute plays inspired by the life of our namesake, Paul Robeson. The Festival will be held July 19-20.

We want to hear from you. You are part of the Robey family. For more information on the events of our 20th Anniversary Celebration year, please visit our website at www.robeytheatrecompany.org.

Enjoy Knock Me a Kiss!
All the best.

Karen Chappelle
Chair, Board of Directors 2013-2014

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Currently, Mr. Guillory is the Producing Artistic Director of the award winning The Robey Theatre Company, coordinating Robey’s Playwrights Program, directing the Robey Play Reading Series, and serving as instructor for its Advanced Scene Workshop. Co-producing with Elephant Industries *Bee-Luther- Hatchee, Yohen* with East-West Players, *For The Love of Freedom Part I: Toussaint and Part II: Dessalines* with the Greenway Arts Alliance, *Part III: Christophe* with the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, *The Last Season* with Legacy Productions, *A Medley of One Act Plays* at the Los Angeles Theatre Center with the Against Type Theatre Company, *Bronzeville, The River Niger, The Emperors Last Performance, The Reckoning, and Pity the Proud Ones, Camp Logan, and Anna Lucasta* are some of his accomplishments as Producing Artistic Director, and co-founder with Danny Glover of The Robey Theatre Company.

Mr. Guillory received the *San Francisco Critic’s Circle Award*, for his portrayal of Paul Robeson, in the Illustrated Stage’s production of, *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been*. For his Los Angeles performances of Phillip Hayes Dean’s *Paul Robeson*, Mr. Guillory received the *DramaLogue Award* and a Special *NAACP Theatre Award*, and for his directing efforts on *For The Love of Freedom: Part I*, he was presented with an *NAACP Theatre Award*. In 2010 he received honors from *Playwrights Arena* for *Outstanding Contributions to the Los Angeles Theatre Community* a third award from the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP for Best Producer of *The River Niger in 2010*, again for *The Reckoning* in 2011, and in 2013 for *Camp Logan*. Mr.Guillory was also presented with the 2013 *National Black Theatre Festival Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award*.

In the interest of diversity in the Television and Motion Picture industry, Mr. Guillory was invited to forge an on-going partnership with CBS and ABC, resulting in development of a nationwide Industry Diverse Showcase for actors of color.

**Rosie Lee Hooks*** (Nina Du Bois) has been acting for more than 35 years. She began her theatre career at the D.C. Black Repertory Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. where she was a founding member, resident actor and training coordinator for five years. During this time, while working for the Smithsonian Institution, she produced the African Diaspora Program of the Festival of American Folklife and traveled throughout the United States and, on “Official Passport” to the Caribbean, South America and Africa delivering official government-to-government invitations from the United States to the Ministers of Culture in more than 15 countries.

She is a former member of “Sweet Honey In The Rock” and founding member of TBET (The Black Ensemble Theatre) at LATC (Los Angeles Theatre Center). Hooks created the roles of Mrs. Harmon and Mrs. Sasaki in the American premiere of *One Thousand Cranes* at the Mark Taper Forum. After a road tour of the U.S. she traveled to Germany and Austria with the Mark Taper Forum to participate in the International Kinder Theatre Festival and to Rostov-On-Don and Moscow, Russia to recreate the roles. She received rave reviews in *A Change is Gonna Come, Checkmates*, and the *Poetry Cabaret* at Les Deux Café. She is a three time nominee and is the recipient of two prestigious **N.A.A.C.P. Image Awards for Best Supporting Actress** for her role in the original stage production of *227* and Best Ensemble for *Transitions*.

Her television credits include national commercials, as well as “227,” “CBS Storybreak,” “Frank’s Place,” “St. Elsewhere,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Nasty Boys,” “Superman,” and “NYPD Blue.” Film credits include *The Bodyguard, Murder Without Motive, What Goes Around*, and *Last Breeze of Summer*.

Hooks honed her skills as a filmmaker at N.Y.U., Tisch School of Film. Over the past 20 years, she has produced more than 20 films documenting the cultural diversity in the Arts in Southern California, many during her current tenure as Director of the Watts Towers Arts Center and the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

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**THE ROBEY THEATRE COMPANY**

**CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN BLACK THEATRE  1994-2014**
CAST & CREW

Jason Mimms* (Countee Cullen) is proud to be working with The Robey Theatre Company in Los Angeles. Mimms, a Chicago native, began his theatrical training 17 years ago with Chicago Theatre Company, formerly, a well-known black theatre on the city’s South Side. Hooked on the art performance, he later received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts from Clark-Atlanta University. After leading in several dramas - Othello, Fences, and Joe Turner’s Come and Gone - Mimms made his foray into film & television. He was seen in Tyler Perry’s “House of Payne,” “Stomp the Yard 2: Homecoming,” “Chicago Code,” and has several commercials to his credit. He is most known, however, for his recurring role on B.E.T.’s Hell Date Season 2. Jason Mimms is an actor to watch and can be seen performing sketch comedy in the hit weekly show TMI, at The Second City Hollywood.

Toyin Moses* (Yolande Du Bois) is a San Francisco native. She received her degree in theatre from Occidental College and studied at the British American Drama Academy in London. Previously, Toyin toured Will & Company’s one-woman show, Talkin’ Bout My Generation; Playwright’s Arena’s bonded, for which she received a 2012 NAACP Theatre Award Supporting Actress nomination and the Robey Theatre Company’s The Reckoning (2011 NAACP Lead Actress Nomination) among others. She can be seen in the upcoming feature film H4 and the webseries “Discovered.” Toyin serves on the Young Professionals Advisory Board for Inner-City Arts in Los Angeles and is a strong advocate for early childhood arts education. This is Toyin’s fourth opportunity working with the Robey and gives a shout out to the Robey family and crew. She holds ToyeAlmaIzzyAkinWillie as her greatest inspirations. You can follow the happening of Toyin daily at www.toyinmoses.com

Ashlee Olivia* (Lenora) was “Anna” in Robey’s award-winning production of Anna Lucasta in 2012 and was also nominated for Best Female Lead by the NAACP in 2013. She was awarded the Phylicia Rashad Most Promising Actress Award in 2009 by the Black Theatre Alliance in Chicago. Throughout her career she has been compared to a young Eartha Kitt, prompting her to write Mama Earth, a one-woman show based on the emotional roller coaster that was her life, as a solo-jam with MPAACT Theatre Company on the Northside of Chicago in March 2012. She most recently was part of a fun/edgy photo shoot with director/producer Bill Duke for his Dark Girls coffee table book that will be out later this year. After the close of Knock Me a Kiss, join her at the Hollywood Fringe Festival where she will appear as “Clio,” “an ex-teacher
and disillusioned Civil Rights worker" in *A Prayer for the Infidel* written by Kimba Henderson. Ashlee is once again excited to be doing theatre in her home city and is thrilled be back twerkin’ on stage with to her Robey crew-- ;)

**Keir Thirus*** (Jimmy Lunceford) started his acting career in Chicago theatre, taking lead roles in a wide range of productions, including *Checkmates, Top Dog/Under Dog, and The Saint James Infirmary*. Keir made his feature film debut as 1961 Heisman Trophy nominee, 'Bob Ferguson,' in Universal Pictures’ *The Express: The Ernie Davis Story* with Dennis Quaid and Rob Brown. Since then, he’s been seen as “Myers” in Joss Whedon’s prime time sci-fi action-drama, “Dollhouse” for FOX with Eliza Dushku and Harry Lennix, as “Tyler” in the award-winning film, *Cocoa Love*, that premiered on BET and is currently running on the Aspire Channel, and as “The Douglas” in *H4* (A Contemporary Re-imagining of Shakespeare’s Henry IV), starring Harry Lennix, Keith David, Heavy D and Angus Macfadyen. He can currently be seen as “Eddie” in the award-winning web series sitcom, “The Marriage Tour,” which he also co-produces. Go to [www.keirthirusonline.com](http://www.keirthirusonline.com) for more info. “I would like to thank God in heaven for all of my continued blessings, my beautiful and amazingly supportive wife, Alexandra, my ever inspiring son, Keir Paul, and my invaluable mentors Harry Lennix, Angus MacFadyen and Dwain Perry. I would also like to thank The Robey Theatre Company for the honor of casting me in this spectacular play. …GOOD TIMES!”

**Jovan Adepo** (Understudy - Jimmy Lunceford) was born in Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire, England to British-Nigerian parents. He attended college at Bowie State University in MD, receiving his B.A. in political science and philosophy. Jovan has studied under the tutelage of a variety of notable instructors including Elizabeth Mestnik and Lorrie and Dianne Hull of the Actor's Studio. This is his first involvement with the Robey Theatre Company—he thanks Ben Guillory for allowing him a place to exercise the craft, and to interact and learn from such talented people.

**Petal d'Avril** (Understudy - Yolande Du Bois/Lenora) is a native of Los Angeles, California. She attained her B.A in Theatre Arts from Cal-state Dominguez Hills University and continued her studies at The Ruskin acting school. Currently she is studying with The Robey Theater Company's Advanced Scene Study Workshop. This is Petal's first involvement with The Robey Theatre Company. She would like to thank God, her mother and Ben Guillory for the opportunity to do what she loves.
Shon Fuller is a native of small town Anderson Indiana. Some of his stage performances include A Raisin in the Sun, A Soldier’s Play, and Women From the Town. His TV credits include “Days of Our Lives,” “The Young and the Restless,” and national commercials for Doritos and Honda and Wal-Mart. When he is not in an acting class you might find him hiking up a mountain or practicing spinning hook kicks in taekwondo class. Shon would like to thank God for allowing him to live out his dreams and for those people who have supported him living his dream.

*Actors appear courtesy of Actors Equity Association*
CAST & CREW

Dwain A. Perry (Director) is happy to work once again with The Robey Theatre Company and celebrate its 20th Anniversary. Previous directing credits include Transitions by Kellie Roberts, which was selected for the National Black Theatre Festival in North Carolina and also won a NAACP Award for Best Ensemble; The River Niger by Joseph A. Walker and Permanent Collection by Thomas Gibbons, that was co-directed with Harry Lennix for The Robey Theatre Company and Greenway Court Theatre. This production was moved, by the request of Michael Ritchie of the Center Theatre Group, to the Kirk Douglas Theatre where it was nominated for an LA WEEKLY AWARD for Best Revival.

Charles Smith (Playwright) Charles Smith’s plays have been produced Off-Broadway and from coast to coast by theaters such as Indiana Repertory Theatre, Goodman Theatre, New Federal Theatre, The Acting Company, People’s Light & Theatre Company, Penumbra, Crossroads Theatre Company, Penguin Repertory Theatre, Ujima Theatre Company, The Colony Theatre, St. Louis Black Rep, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and Berkeley Repertory Theater.

Nine of his plays received their world premiere productions at Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago. Three of his plays, The Gospel According to James, Sister Carrie, and Les Trois Dumas, were all commissioned and produced by Indiana Repertory Theatre. Les Trois Dumas was produced by People’s Light & Theatre, and by Independent Theatre in Adelaide, South Australia.

Other plays include Freefall, The Sutherland, Black Star Line, Jelly Belly, and Free Man of Color, also produced in Australia, New York, and Los Angeles. His work has received the Joseph Jefferson Award, John W. Schmid Award, Illinois Arts Council Governors Award, Princess Grace Fellowship, Cornerstone National Playwriting Award, Joyce Award, The National Black Theatre Festival’s August Wilson Playwriting Award, Theodore Ward National Playwriting Award, two Black Theatre Alliance Awards, NBC New Voices Award, and numerous other AUDELCO, Jeff, NAACP, and Black Theatre Alliance awards and nominations.

John Freeland, Jr* (Production Stage Manager) has been a stage manager for past Robey Theatre Company productions Camp Logan directed by Alex Morris, The River Niger with Margaret Avery, Pity The Proud Ones by Kurt Maxey, The Reckoning by Kimba Henderson, Levy Lee Simon’s Haitian trilogy For The Love of Freedom, the Ojai Playwrights Conference, Padric Lillis’s play Lights Up On The Fade Out directed by Ron Canada (Hollywood Fringe Festival), Kristina Wong’s Cat Lady (DiverseWorks Art Space - Houston TX), Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare Centre of Los Angeles), The America Play (Theatre @ Boston Court), Yield of Long Bond with Ian McShane and Gregory Zin (Matrix Theatre). Festival credits include Stage Manager / Actor / Director in the
CAST & CREW

International Blind and Visually Impaired Theatre Festival (Zagreb, Croatia), Director for two plays in the 10-Minute Play Fest (NAACP Theatre Festival), Lynn Manning's Weights (Edinburgh Festival Fringe - Edinburgh, Scotland), The National Black Theatre Festival (Winston-Salem, NC). John is also a teaching artist with The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company and (Out) Laws & Justice which assists youth in juvenile probation camps and middle schools to perform plays they’ve written. John is from Middletown, Conn. and attended Wesleyan University. He is a member of Actors’ Equity Association.

Melvin Ishmael Johnson (Assistant Stage Manager/Veteran Intern/Prop Master) is the founder of Dramastage-Qumran and Veterans Community Theater Workshop. He is a member of The Robey Theatre Company's Playwrights Lab. Born December 1, 1947 in Greenville, Mississippi, he graduated from Coleman High School. After high school, Melvin attended Mississippi Valley State University and served in the United States Marine Corps (1969-71). After being honorably discharged from the service, he attended Eastern Michigan University. He is the author of plays Surviving The Nickel, Catch The Tiger, Number One Recruit, Nail Heads and The Emperor's Last Performance.

Tom Meleck (Scenic Design) attended NYU for his Master's Degree in Theatrical Stage Design. He designed Arrabal’s The Architect and the Emperor of Assyria while in New York City. He assisted on the Broadway productions of Lenny, Jesus Christ Superstar, and on Candide at the opening of the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. He also designed the "Rolling Thunder Revue" for Bob Dylan, Aerosmith's "Flying A Tour," "The Blue Oyster Cult Tour," and Richie Blackmore's "Rainbow Tour." Tom's Los Angeles credits include sets and lighting for the musical Paquito's Christmas, Just Men, Parental Discretion, Sacrificial Lamb, Tight Quarters, and Love is Always the Matter. He was nominated as Best Set Designer by the LA Weekly for his work on The Imposter, and twice by the NAACP for For the Love of Freedom Pt. I: Toussaint, and Section 8. He was a two-time Emmy Award-winning shows "Murder, She Wrote," and "The Parsley Garden," Brad Pitt's first film "Across the Tracks," and Natalie Wood's final movie, "Brainstorm." He designed the sets and lighting for the Los Angeles Met Theater's production of California Dreamin' and is designing a series of new Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles commercials for Nickelodeon.
CAST & CREW

Sammie Wayne, IV (Lighting Designer) is an award-winning Actor and Lighting Designer. He is also a Stage Manager and Director (DGA). Since 2010, he has garnered five NAACP Theatre Awards, two for acting and three for lighting. In 2009, he received Best Supporting Actor for One Woman Two Lives, directed by Denise Dowse. In 2013, he received his second Best Supporting Actor Award for Anna Lucasta, directed by Ben Guillory. He received Best Lighting for Loretta Devine's Pieces of Me, Vicki Lynn Reynolds, Hattie: What I Need You To Know and Celeste Bedford Walker's Camp Logan in 2011, 2012, 2013, respectively. He was the stage manager for Bronzeville (the first and second runs). He was a segment Director on "America's Next Top Model" and has directed many theatrical pieces. He has a BS in Computer Science from DePaul University. Back in the day, Sammie was a Computer Programmer and Software Engineer for General Motors and Northrop Grumman.

Naila Aladdin Sanders (Costume Design) has recent credits which include Neighbors for the Matrix Theatre, In the Red & Brown Water, The Ballad of Emmett Till, Gem of the Ocean, and Joe Turner's Come and Gone for the Fountain Theatre, The Color Purple, The Women of Brewster Place: the Musical, and Haram Iran for the Celebration Theatre, The Many Mistresses of Martin Luther King for Ensemble Studio Theatre, and Good Bobby for the Greenway Court Alliance and the 59th Street Theatre in NYC. Bronzeville, The River Niger, Transitions, A House With No Walls, Permanent Collection, and The Haitian Trilogy were designed by Nila for The Robey Theatre Company.

Gilbert Glenn Brown (Music/Sound Design) has a sound design & stage management resume which includes: Mid-life Gangster, Lovin' Chocolate, Love Actually Isn't, Meant to Be all for the 2013 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Cynthia Robinson's ASCENSION in the 2008 New York Fringe Festival & 2009 National Black Theatre Festival. He has also worked on several productions for Los Angeles' The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company and New York based Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center's Positive Youth Troupe as director, writer, technical director and sound designer. Gilbert is also an accomplished performer, garnering several awards and nominations.

Kathie Foley-Meyer (Producer/Graphic Design) is an artist and graphic designer based in Los Angeles. She received an MFA in Critical Studies from California Institute of the Arts and a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. She studied graphic design in the UCLA Extension Design Communication Arts and Art Center at Night design programs, and neon fabrication at Pilchuck Glass School.

She has exhibited her artwork in group shows throughout the US. Most recently she was the creator of Project Bronzeville, a collaborative multimedia arts project that took place in June and July of 2013 and explored the period in
CAST & CREW

Los Angeles history when African Americans resided in the section of town known as Little Tokyo. As part of Project Bronzeville she exhibited her work in a solo show at LA Artcore.

In 2011 her work was exhibited in Artists Unite for Japan, a group show put together by Art from the ashes (AFTA) and the Japan Society in Culver City, California to benefit victims of the earthquake. In 2012 her work was part of AFA's Wellness Works, a group exhibition supporting the construction of a school-based health center at Hollywood High. Her sculpture “Brown People, Glass House” was part of the Museum of Neon Art's Home Sweet Home exhibition at the 2012 Orange County Fair. Kathie served on the Museum of Neon Art (MONA) Board of Trustees from 2006-2012. She currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors of Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE).

Tomoko Matsushita (Production Photographer) was born in 1971 in Osaka Japan. Having a father who enjoys painting and sculpture, Tomoko was encouraged to take art classes at a young age. As an early teen, her exposure to art fueled her curiosity in other cultures. At 17, she convinced her father to let her study English in London for a year. Prior to departure, her father bought her a camera so that she might document her journey, as well as learn the principles of photography. Experiencing her trip behind the lens was the embryo of a dream to become a professional photographer and the beginning of her art career. Upon returning to Japan and finishing school, she packed her camera and moved to Australia for a year, honing her craft and feeding her hunger for culture. In 1994 she enrolled in the Academy of Art School in San Francisco. Feeling the lack of opportunities in Northern California, she headed south to Los Angeles to specialize in portrait, fashion and music photography. This move gave her the opportunity to work with major Hollywood celebrities and music icons, including Snoop Dog, which was her "dream come true". Tomoko is currently living in Los Angeles and enjoying the life of freelance photographer and traveling to Jamaica, Bali, and back to Okinawa, her homeland.

Philip Sokoloff (Publicist) is L.A.’s most active theatre publicist, representing over 100 live attractions annually throughout the city, as well as independent films. He has worked with The Robey Theatre Company for thirteen years. Also an actor, he appears this spring in The Petrified Forest at Theatre West.

Judith Bowman (Development Director) brings some measure of her love for culture and passion for anything creative to every project. The variety of hats she wears for Robey reflects the roles she plays—researcher, grant writer, volunteer coordinator, and project manager. Her energy has helped produce the ancillary historical overview available on the Robey website.
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IN MEMORIAM
We Love and Miss You

Bobbee Zeno
December 17, 1953 - March 19, 2014

Juanita Moore
October 19, 1914 - January 1, 2014

James Avery
November 27, 1945 - December 31, 2013
THE QUMRAN REPORT is a weekly hour-long Internet radio broadcast featuring Community Activists, Politicians, the Cultural Community and the people and organizations that are a part of the Renaissance that has finally arrived for Central City East (Skid Row, Los Angeles). The show was created, developed, and is hosted by Melvin Ishmael Johnson. Listen every Monday evening at 8:00 p.m. at http://www.skidrowstudios.com/. Call in at 1.800.893.9562.
Welcome to our 2014 East of Broadway Spring Season! This season we are proud to present a series of provocative plays that challenge us to consider the relationship between perception and reality, specifically with regard to matters of the heart. Through an array of creative theatrical techniques, this season tackles a range of taboos that are perfect for exploration on stage.

We are thrilled to kick off the Spring Season with The Robey Theatre Company’s production of *Knock Me a Kiss* by Charles Smith. Under the skilled direction of Dwain A. Perry, Smith’s script comes alive and transports us to the Harlem Renaissance era. Questions of love, sex, culture and music collide in a sea of smoke and jazz until we uncover the blazing truths that animate these characters’ lives.

The season also features three World Premiere plays including: *Premeditation* by Evelina Fernandez which explores the lengths a woman will go to in order to stop her husband from leaving his dirty underwear on the bathroom floor; *Hit* by Alice Tuan which takes audiences on a wild, L.A. ride through sex, excess and Zankou Chicken; and *Bright Light City* by Nate Rufus Edelman which takes us to a seedy motel room off the Vegas strip where two hit men await their next mark.

Thank you for joining us this season, we hope you enjoy the show!

Saludos,

José Luis Valenzuela
THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER STAFF

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