

Am I Next?

Voices from Wilmington, NC

A piece devised by
UNCW theatre students.
Directed by Robin Post

uncw
theatre

Nov. 12-15 &
Nov. 19-22
8 p.m. Thurs.-Sat.
2 p.m. Sun.



Mainstage Theatre
Admission free of charge
uncw.edu/theatre

Accommodations for disabilities may be requested by
contacting Susan Wilder at 910-962-2061 at least
two days prior to the event.

A message from the Department Chair

The COVID Season Mainstage #2

Well it sure has been an interesting time since March when everything changed because of COVID. UNCW has gone through massive change and our Faculty/Staff and our students have had to make major changes in their life and their education. When we knew we were returning in the fall, the faculty brainstormed on how we could best bring productions back, but do it safely for our Faculty/Staff/Students/Audience. We started from scratch. We postponed the season of plays that we had already chosen. We then found plays that would allow for social distancing of our actors. We created minimal sets/costumes so we could have as few students as possible in the shops and theatres at a time. We marked out the Theatre seating so audience would be safe. We found a way to allow our students to have the experiences of producing a series of plays. Our actors are required to either wear a mask or face shield, so it might look a little weird, but the important thing is we are able to do theatre in front of a live audience the way it is intended.

Something else happened in the spring that also impacted our nation, our community, our university and our students; The **“Black Lives Matter”** movement ignited an examination of our nation’s systemic racism. As stated on our Department’s home page: **“We share the anger and the hope of those who are protesting racism across America. It must be confronted within our university as well, and it must be confronted by each member of our community: black, brown, and white. There is no middle ground between racism and anti-racism. We must all commit ourselves to confront racist ideologies, sentiments, and actions, if we wish to see UNCW live true to its values of diversity, integrity, and excellence.”**

The play you are seeing today is one way we are confronting these issues. Professor Post along with students, staff and faculty from our Department have created this piece to speak their truth and the truth of the community. Some of what you hear may make you uncomfortable, but it is important that you listen and examine your own behaviors of bias and discrimination. Ask yourself, what can I do to improve and make myself and my community better? We CAN do better. We MUST do better.

Thomas Salzman
Chair



From the Director and Dramaturg:

Am I Next? Voices from Wilmington, NC

Students from the Department of Theatre have created the production you are about to see: *Am I Next? Voices from Wilmington, NC*. Centering Black lives, this play is a tapestry of voices that expresses the pain of the past, celebrates Black culture, and exposes the ongoing racism and brutality of the present. Modeled, in part, after Anna Deavere Smith's verbatim theatre practice, *Am I Next?* is a combination of new work created by the students plus verbatim interviews that they conducted with friends, family, local activists, scholars, community leaders, and UNCW professors and students.

Wilmington is one of the epicenters of atrocity for people of color in this country. In 1898, a *coup d'état* resulted in the theft of land, power, prestige, and dignity from the Black community, in addition to the slaughter of hundreds of Black citizens. This violent overthrow silenced the prominent local Black-owned newspaper, murdered Black government officials and business owners, and replaced them with white folks, a pattern followed across the country to keep Black people from being treated as equals and fellow citizens. No one has ever been brought to justice for these murders or for the destruction of property and livelihoods. Students in the Department of Theatre have authored *Am I Next?* with this history at their doorstep; the wounds of racism and white supremacy are clearly still present, as Black voices within the university struggle to be heard and seen, and as Black people across the country consistently face brutality and injustice. Our students, tonight, speak in their own voices and in those of community members, aiming to reveal the profound scars of American racial history while also sharing moments of light, love, and celebration.

Am I Next? is only one of a series of events, initiatives, programs, and committees that aim to investigate the legacy of racism and to build access, equity, diversity, and inclusion across our UNCW community. In the summer of 2020, chairpersons and directors from across UNCW expressed these values along with the urgency of this present moment. This statement can be found on our website at the Department of Theatre:

We mourn with the victims of racist violence across the United States. We know the names George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. Yet, our society inflicts countless acts of injustice and brutality on black and brown people continually. We do not know how to name them all.

We share the anger and the hope of those who are protesting racism across America. It must be confronted within our university as well, and it must be confronted by each member of our community: black, brown, and white. There is no middle ground between racism and anti-racism. We must all commit ourselves to confront racist ideologies, sentiments, and actions, if we wish to see UNCW live true to its values of diversity, integrity, and excellence.

Robin Post, Director

Charles Grimes, Dramaturg

Resources that are readily available at UNCW:



Anti-racist learning community:

<https://uncw.edu/cte/antiracismresources/>

Resources at the library:

<https://library.uncw.edu/guides/antiracism>

Wilmington 10: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilmington_Ten

The Atlantic: The Lost History of an American Coup D'état

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/08/wilmington-massacre/536457/>



Co-sponsored by UNCW Black Student Union

Ensemble:

Kahlil Allen
Brenna Flanagan
Ashley Flowers
Dajah Glenn
Addison Hamlet
Ashley Jackson

John McCall
Ariel Montoya
Cierra Peterkin
Breonte' Scarboro
Tanner Whicker
Davis Wood

Am I Next? Voices from Wilmington, NC will be presented without an intermission. Running time: 65 minutes.

Face masks are required at all times when you are within the Cultural Arts Building. Please adhere to social distancing of 6'0" from each other. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to keep everyone safe!

Scene Breakdown:

Next Question performed by Cierra Peterkin

Braveheart performed by Davis Wood

Race is a Social Construct performed by Tanner Whicker

Black and Proud performed by Breonte' Scarboro

Church performed by Kahlil Allen, Dajah Glenn, Breonte' Scarboro, Cierra Peterkin, Ashley Jackson, and John McCall

A History of Wilmington performed by Brenna Flanagan and John McCall

My Brother performed by Breonte' Scarboro

Avatar performed by Addison Hamlet and Ashley Jackson

Credibility performed by Kahlil Allen

Locker performed by Ariel Montoya

Pretty For A... performed by Dajah Glenn

Centering Blackness performed by Ashley Jackson

Salon performed by Ashley Jackson, Cierra Peterkin, Dajah Glenn, Addison Hamlet, and Breonte' Scarboro

I know you're Asian, but what do I say? Performed by Ashley Jackson

Boy Scouts performed by Tanner Whicker

High performed by Addison Hamlet

Comfortable? performed by John McCall

Racism Lives in Our Bodies performed by Kahlil Allen

Choose Kindness performed by Kahlil Allen

I Feel Like a Villain performed by Brenna Flanagan

Cracker Barrel performed by Davis Wood

Irish Fighting performed by Addison Hamlet

White Privilege performed by Ashley Flowers

The House is on Fire performed by Breonte' Scarboro

Black Lives Matter Too. Performed by Addison Hamlet

Reunion performed by Kahlil Allen, Dajah Glenn, John McCall, Ashley Jackson, Cierra Peterkin, Addison Hamlet and Breonte' Scarboro

Language performed by Ashley Jackson

Stupid Things performed by Ashley Jackson, Cierra Peterkin, Addison Hamlet, Dajah Glenn, Kahlil Allen, and Breonte' Scarboro

How is it Still Happening? Performed by Ashley Flowers

Gun Store performed by John McCall

I'm Sorry performed by Ashley Flowers

Education is Political performed by Davis Wood

Obama performed by Dajah Glenn

Stop F*cking Killing Black People performed by Davis Wood and Cierra Peterkin

Say Their Names performed by Dajah Glenn

Am I Next? Performed by Cierra Peterkin

Bios:

Kahlil Allen '22 (Ensemble) is a junior at UNCW. In 2017, he won Best Dramatic Monologue at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He won Best Male Actor and Best Dramatic Actor at the North Carolina Black Repertory Company in Winston-Salem. He appeared in *The Lion King* as Scar and in *The Big Decision* as Kevin.

Brenna Flanagan '22 (Ensemble) is making her Mainstage debut with this performance, after appearing in UNCW's Second Season production of *The Connection*. She is a theatre and communication major with a minor in journalism graduating in 2022. She hopes to continue acting in her career, whether through theater, film, or television. She is grateful to Robin for this opportunity, and to the rest of the cast for their hard work on this important piece.

Ashley Flowers '20 (Ensemble) is a theatre performance major, graduating in December. She is humbled by this opportunity and is thankful for all the hard work put in by the cast and crew. Black Lives Matter.

Cassie Frazier '21 (Stage Manager) is working on her 14th UNCW production. She is a senior majoring in theatre design and technology and minoring in business. Her focuses are in costume design, stage management, and arts administration. She is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work with such an amazing, director, cast, and crew. Above all, she hopes that the audience learns just as much from this powerful performance as she has.

Dajah Glenn '21 (Ensemble) is a theatre major with a concentration in performance. This will be her third show on the mainstage previously appearing in *Diana of Dobson's* and *The Comedy of Errors*. After graduation in May, she plans to pursue a career in TV/Film.

Addison Hamlet '23 (Ensemble) is a theatre major with a concentration in performance. She previously appeared in Dr. Grimes' second season show, *Self-Accusation*. Addison would like to express her gratitude to her cast, crew, director(s), professors, and the entirety of the UNCW Theatre Department for all of their encouragement and hard work!

Ashley Jackson '23 (Ensemble) is ecstatic to take the stage in her first main stage production. She is a theatre major with a concentration in performance. Prior to her debut at UNCW she appeared in *Man on the Moon*, *Debra the Adventurer* and *Cabin Mystery* at Appalachian State University.

Ariel Montoya '21 (Ensemble) is making her mainstage debut for UNCW with this performance, she was previously in *Self-Accusation*. She is a senior theatre performance major and is planning to pursue acting as a career after graduation. She wants to thank the cast, crew, and directors for the opportunity and experience.

Cierra Peterkin '22 (Ensemble) is making her theatre debut for UNCW with this performance. She is a theatre major with a concentration in performance. This is her first show ever and she is grateful that the theatre department saw something in her that is worth putting on stage.

Breonte' Scarboro '21 (Ensemble) is a senior. She is excited to be in her first main stage show. Her concentration is a theatre performance major. Breonte' has been in two student-lead shows: *The Inferior Sex* and *Eight to Eighteen*. She would like to thank God, friends, and family.

Tanner Whicker '21 (Ensemble) is excited to be cast in such an important and relevant show for the UNCW Theatre Department. Tanner is a senior here at UNCW majoring in theatre with a custom concentration. He has participated in both technical and performing aspects within the department.

Tanner has worked on prior productions for UNCW including *Billy Witch*, *Stop Kiss*, and *Six Character in Search of an Author*. He has also performed within the Wilmington community theatre scene in productions like *Shakespeare in Love* (Opera House Theatre Company), *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Exchange) and was in the premiere of *The Curse of Quinton Rowe* a new musical. Tanner would like to firstly thank his director Robin Post for choosing him to a part of this production. He'd also like to thank his fellow cast mates, especially the POC for sharing their stories with true honesty and allowing him to be in the space and allowing him to listen and learn.

Davis Wood '22 (Ensemble) is studying theatre performance, and design and technology. This is his fourth Mainstage Production at UNCW. His previous Mainstage experience includes *Comedy of Errors*, *Darkness: The Enemy Inside*, and *Diana of Dobson's*. He was also in the Student Lab Production of *The Cake* in the spring of his freshman year. First, he would like to thank God for His wisdom and guidance, and his Director Robin Post and fellow cast mates for opening his eyes and heart to the realities of the source material.

John McCall '16 (Ensemble, Assistant Director, Projection Designer) graduated from UNCW in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts, Production Design and Technology. He is the lighting/sound/projection supervisor for the UNCW Department of Theatre and is a lighting technician for the UNCW Office of the Arts. In 2019, McCall was awarded best lighting design for *Twelfth Night* (Alchemical Theatre) by the StarNews Wilmington Theater Awards; he had previously been nominated in the same category for *Macbeth*. Other productions include *Big Fish* (City Stage) and *Measure for Measure* (Alchemical Theatre).

Olivia Harris (Contributing Musician) hails from Brooklyn, NY, but as the daughter of Dr. Harris, she has spent most of her childhood summers in Wilmington. A graduate of Columbia University in the city of New York, Olivia is a singer, songwriter, and musician, with music featured on Netflix's *Tales of the City*, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and most recently Tyler Perry's *Sistas* on BET. Her musical work is dedicated to opening dialogue on difficult topics such as gentrification, celebrating Black culture and spreading joy through various projects. With her band Olivia K and the Parkers, she will be releasing her project Sankofa in the very near future.

Khiry Huggins (Contributing Musician) is a local musician (viola) and a 2017 Alumni of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington's Department of Theatre. Huggins' passion for playing classical music began in sixth grade when he started playing the viola in Orchestra. Throughout his educational and professional career, he continued his musical journey by implementing the viola in various genres of music from Gospel, Pop and even some R&B. Khiry has also performed theme song covers from nostalgic TV shows, movies, and video games on Facebook. His primary goal is to encourage, educate, and most of all, inspire others to not only enjoy string instrumental music, but also embrace the understanding of the African American contribution to all genres of music.

For UNCW Department of Theatre faculty bios scan this QR code



Production Team:

Director: Robin Post

Technical Director: Max Lydy

Scenic Design: Randall A. Enlow

Lighting Designer: Thomas Salzman

Costume Design: Ensemble, with additional costume pieces by Cassie Frazier '21

Sound Design: Ashley Flowers '20 and Ensemble

Projection Design: John McCall '16

Dramaturg: Charles Grimes

Assistant Director: John McCall '16

Contributing Musicians: Olivia Harris and Khiry Huggins '17

Stage Manager: Cassie Frazier '21

Scenic Construction Supervisor: Ross Helton '12

Lighting, Sound and Projections Supervisor: John McCall '16

Costume Studio Supervisor: Michelle Bengivengo

Paint and Properties Supervisor: Matt Hapeman '17

Facility Maintenance Engineer: Lindsay Payne '17

Master Carpenter: Christopher Kelley '21

Master Electrician/Programmer: Haley Koontz '21

Light Board Operator: Haley Koontz '21

Sound Board Operator: Nick Mason '21

Projections Operator: Zack Taylor '23

Video Stream Technicians: Parker Ard '21, Alessandra Mantovani '21 and Daniel Richards '21

Wardrobe Supervisor: Hunter Rock '21

Running Crew: Ben Cornett '20, Jennifer Davila-Morales '21, Sean O'Brien and Jack Towner '21

Marketing Associate: Cassie Frazier '21

House Manager: Qaadir Hicks '18

Poster Design: Cassie Frazier '21

Special thanks to: Robb Mann, Dan Sweeney and Michael Frusha

TECHNICAL CREW:

Costume Studio Staff: Angela Fasano '23, Cassie Frazier '21, Abigail Norris '20, Hunter Rock '21 and Jasmine Parker '21

Costume Construction: MJ Diagonale '22, Brenna Flanagan '21, Meredith Frewerd '22, Ashley Jackson '23 and Autumn McLeod '21

Scenic Studio Staff: Dalton Bradshaw '22, E.C. Bailey Cobb-Curtis '24, Emily Dunn '24, Ashley Flowers '21, Christopher Kelley '21, Hayley Koontz '21, C.C. Lilford '20, Mike Miller '23 and Amah Stukes '23

Technical Assistant: Zach Davis '21 and Davis Wood '22

Scenic Construction and Painting: Ethan Bevenour '24, Cody Cavanaugh '22, Kathryn Dowdee '22, Angela Fasano '23, Mikaela Gonzalez '22, Sydney Lay '21, Ridge Lewis '22, Ian Macdonald '22, Zach Mathis '23, Sierra Mehrley '23, Mike Miller '23, Dylan Paul '23, Elliot Stanford '23, Stephanie Stevens '22, Tori Thomas '21, Jack Towner '22 and Sayaka Yamamoto '24

Electrics Crew: Alex Sargent '23

Properties Crew: Parker Ard '21, Jude Corbett '22, Claire Golder '22, Christopher Kelley '21, Henry Rhoton '23, Alex Sargent '23, Kara Shoup '21, Noah Strickland '21 and Kasey Thrippleton '21

Paint Crew: Trip Cameron '23, Jemma J. Collins '21, Andreas Cornejo '24, Benjamin Cornett '20, Kathryn Dowdee '22, Bekah Eakes '23, Angela Fasano '23, Brenna Flanagan '21, Ashley Flowers '21, Dason Fuller '23, Addison Hamlet '23, Russel Harris '21, Noah Lawson '21, Sydney Lay '21, Ridge Lewis '22, Meghan, McDonald '23, Sierra Mehrley '23, Mike Miller '23, Sean Patrick O'Brien '22, Cierra Peterkin '22, Hunter Rock '22, Brandi Simmons '21, Conner Smith '21, Zack Taylor '23 and Tessa Throneburg '22

UNC Wilmington Department of Theatre Faculty and Staff

Full Time Faculty

Thomas Salzman	Chair & Professor, Lighting Design
Marshall Botvinick	Lecturer, Accelerated Online Program & Dramaturgy
Paul Castagno	Professor, Playwriting
Randall A. Enlow	Associate Professor, Scenic & Lighting Design
Myke Holmes	Lecturer, Acting, Improvisation
Max Lydy	Associate Professor, Production Manager & Technical Director
Christopher Marino	Associate Professor, Voice & Movement
Robin Post	Associate Professor, Acting
Mark D Sorensen	Professor, Costume Design
Ed Wagenseller	Associate Professor, Acting & Directing
Elizabeth Wellman	Assistant Professor, Theatre History & Theory

Part-Time Faculty

Nancy Podrasky Carson	<i>Dance</i>
Jessica Gaffney	<i>Stage Make-up</i>
Charles Grimes	<i>Dramatic Heritage, Theatre History</i>
Clare Kiley	<i>Intro to Theatre</i>
Jack Landry	<i>online Intro to Theatre</i>
Peter Savage	<i>online Intro to Theatre</i>
Kindra Steenerson	<i>online Intro to Theatre</i>

Department Staff

Michelle Bengivengo	Costume Studio Supervisor
Matt Hapeman '17	Paint and Properties Supervisor
Ross Helton '12	Scenic Construction Supervisor
John McCall '16	Lighting, Sound and Projections Supervisor
Lindsay Payne '17	Facility Maintenance Engineer
Susan Wilder	University Program Associate

How can you help?

Thanks for asking!

- Contribute to our department's trust or scholarship funds. Please call department chair Thomas Salzman at 910.962.7364. (See information below for donor levels.)
- Donate gently used items such as furniture and clothing we may consider for sets and costumes.
- Continue to join us at the theatre and bring friends.

**Our sincere gratitude to those who have so generously
enriched our department over the years.
Your financial and moral support is vital and appreciated.**

Please contribute to our department's scholarship funds or trust fund. Any level of financial support or type of in-kind donation of products or services is most welcome. Consider as well these donor levels with accompanying amenities:

LEADING PLAYER: \$1,000+. 36 tickets to be used in any combination across our six season productions. Be our guest at special departmental events. Program listing.

FEATURED PLAYER: \$500+. 24 tickets to be used in any combination across our six season productions. Be our guest at special departmental events. Program listing.

SUPPORTING PLAYER: \$250+. 12 tickets to be used in any combination across our six season productions. Program listing.

ENSEMBLE PLAYER: \$100+. 6 tickets to be used in any combination across our six season productions. Program listing.

To become a Department of Theatre "player" or for additional information, visit our Web site @ www.uncw.edu/thr or phone 910.962.2061.

Thank you

to the following donors to the Department of Theatre*

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