

Susan Albert Loewenberg, Producing Artistic Director,
PRESENTS

The Mountaintop

By Katori Hall

Directed by Shirley Jo Finney

MARCH

Thursday 1, 8:00pm

Earl Cameron Theatre,

Friday 2, 8:00pm

City Hall

Saturday 3, 8:00pm

CAST

Gilbert Glenn Brown
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Karen Malina White
CAMAE

PRODUCTION TEAM

Leia Crawford
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Sean Cawelti
VIDEO DESIGNER

Carin Jacobs
COSTUME DESIGNER

Mary Losurdo
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Mark Holden
SOUND DESIGNER

Rich Rose
SCENIC DESIGNER

Anna Lyse Erikson
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& TOUR MANAGER

Daniel Ionazzi
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Ronn Lipkin
MUSIC SUPERVISOR

The Mountaintop was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City, and was first produced by Theatre 503 in June 2009 and further produced at Trafalgar Studio One in July 2009 by Sonia Friedman Productions and Jean Doumanian, Tali Pelman for Ambassador Theatre Group, Bob Bartner, Freddy DeMann, Jerry Frankel, Ted Snowdon and Marla Rubin Productions Ltd.

The Mountaintop was developed at the 2008 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a program of the Playwrights Foundation (Amy L. Mueller, Artistic Director).

The Mountaintop is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.


THIS PRODUCTION CONTAINS MATURE LANGUAGE. THERE WILL NOT BE AN INTERMISSION.



The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment of any kind during performances is strictly prohibited.

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for more information





Programme

PROGRAMME NOTE

Many of you know King as a hero, as a figure bigger than life. Some of us only know the name of Dr. King as a holiday where we don't have to go to work or school. Others, like myself, saw him marching on television, and were inspired by his speeches. There might be some among you who actively marched and protested while he was alive. We were all awed by and fearful for the man who constantly walked into the eye of the storm, and was willing to put himself in harm's way for his belief in a better world of justice and equality.

In King's final speech, he tells us how he would like to be remembered:

“...say I tried to love and serve humanity...Say that I was a drum major for peace.”

I am thrilled and honored to be collaborating with L.A. Theatre Works in presenting Katori Hall's esteemed play, *The Mountaintop*, on the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's death.

-Shirley Jo Finney, **DIRECTOR**

LA THEATRE WORKS MISSION AND BACKGROUND

Under the leadership of Producing Director Susan Albert Loewenberg, L.A. Theatre Works (LATW) has been the foremost radio theatre company in the United States for more than thirty years. LATW is broadcast weekly in America on public radio stations, daily in China on the Radio Beijing Network, streamed online at www.latw.org, and aired on many other international outlets including the BBC. Our unique model – using cutting-edge technology to preserve ephemeral live theatre - transcends the limits of the physical stage, making us the industry leader in providing access to live and recorded theatrical performances, with an unparalleled annual reach of millions. Through our commitment to artistic excellence, educational and outreach efforts and innovative distribution technologies and content formats, we provide an immersive, imaginative, and affordable on-demand theatre experience to anyone, anywhere, any time. Today, LATW's Audio Theatre Collection includes more than 500 classic and contemporary titles – the largest library of its kind in the world. Much lauded, the Collection is available to the public on CD, and digital downloads through LATW's website, retailers such as Amazon, iTunes and Audible.com, and through our podcast series. For more information on these programmes, visit www.latw.org.

GILBERT GLENN BROWN - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

has been working professionally as an actor for over 15 years. Highlights in theater include: *When Jazz Had the Blues* (CEK Productions/The Matrix Theatre), *Harriet Jacobs* (Kansas City Rep), *Civil War Christmas* (Huntington Theatre), *TopDog/UnderDog* (Seattle Rep/Center Theatre Group), *Spunk* (True Colors Theatre Company), *The Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek* (Fountain Theatre), *Serial. Black. Face.* (Actor's Express), *Gospel at Colonus* (Ebony Repertory Theatre Company), *Martin: Before the Dream* (NEC), *Charleston Olio* (Goodman Theatre & National Black Theatre Festival). TV credits include: *Queen Sugar* (OWN), *Stranger Things* (Netflix), *Mr. Mercedes* (Audience), *Valor* (CW), as well as recurring roles on *The Inspectors* (CBS), and *Good Behavior* (TNT), also roles on *Survivor's Remorse* (Starz), *ER* (NBC), *The O.C.* (FOX), *Cold Case* (CBS), *Shark* (CBS), *CSI: Miami* (CBS), and *The Shield* (FX). In film, Gilbert appears with Taraji P. Henson & Sam Rockwell in the soon to be released *Best of Enemies*. Other credits include *Dreamgirls*, *Drumline 2*, and *Raising the Heights*. Among Gilbert's numerous awards and nominations are the NAACP Theatre Award, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, and the Audelco Award. He

has done commercials and voice-overs for a variety of clients, most recently a voice-over for the NFL. Gilbert holds a BFA from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

KAREN MALINA WHITE - Camae

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Karen is most known for her work in the film *Lean on Me* with Morgan Freeman, and for her television roles on *The Cosby Show*, *A Different World*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Living Single*, and *Malcolm and Eddie*, to name a few. Most recently she has been in: *Shameless*, *Snowfall*, *Animal Kingdom*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *VEEP*, *Mike and Molly*, *The Mentalist*, and *Southland*. Her highly recognizable voice was featured on The Disney Channel's *The Proud Family*, as the character of Dijonay. Her theatre credits include: *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Liar*, *The Wedding Band*, and *As You Like It* (Antaeus Theatre Company), where she is a company member; *Permanent Collection*, *Salt Fish N' Bakes*, and *Distracted* (Mixed Blood Theatre); *The Ballad of Emmett Till* (LA Drama Critics Circle Award, LA Ovation Award), *Citizen* and *Runaway Home* (The Fountain Theatre); originated role the of Rosa in *Chain* by Pearl Cleage, and *Brown Silk* and *Magenta Sunsets* (RACCA); *The Old Settler* (International City Theatre - NAACP nomination); the world premiere of *In the Valley of the Shadow* (Rogue Machine); originated the role Ernestine in the West Coast premiere of *Crumbs From the Table of Joy* by Lynn Nottage (South Coast Rep – NAACP Image Award), and *The Talented Tenth* (NAACP Image Award). Karen can be seen in the award winning short films, *The Ties That Bind*, *Where Do We Go From Here*, and the independent feature *Silent Cry Aloud*. Karen attended The High School for Creative and Performing Arts and holds a BFA from Howard University (Cum Laude).

SHIRLEY JO FINNEY - Director

is an award-winning international director of theatre, television, and film, as well as an accomplished actress. She has worn her director's hat in some of the most respected regional theater houses across the country including The McCarter Theatre, The Pasadena Playhouse, The Goodman Theatre, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Cleveland Playhouse, the Fountain Theatre, L.A. Theatre Works, the Crossroads Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival, the Sundance Theatre Workshop, The Mark Taper Forum, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the State Theatre in Pretoria, South Africa.

Most recently, Miss Finney directed and developed the critically acclaimed world premiere of *Citizen: An American Lyric*, by the award-winning PEN poet Claudia Rankin. Other recent works include: *Facing Our Truth: The Trayvon Martin Project* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, the Lark Foundations' rolling world premiere of *The Road Weeps*, by Marcus Gardley, at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Brother/Sister Plays*, Lisa B. Thompson's *Single Black Female* at Crossroads Theatre Company, and Dominique Morisseau's *Detroit '67* at the Penumbra Theatre. She also helmed the international all South African Opera *Winnie*, based on the life of political icon Winnie Mandela.

Miss Finney is the recipient of many prestigious awards such as SDCF's 2017 Denham Fellowship for her production of *Runaway Home* by Jeremy Kamp, LA Stage Alliance's Ovation Award, the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award, the LA Weekly Award, the NAACP, the Santa Barbara Independent Award, and the UCLA Department of Stage, Film and Television Distinguished Alumni Award.

KATORI HALL - Author

is a playwright and performer hailing from Memphis, Tennessee. Her award-winning play *Hoodoo Love* premiered at the Cherry Lane Theatre in 2007. It was developed under Lynn Nottage as part of the theatre's 2006 Mentor Project. *Hoodoo Love* received three Audelco nominations (Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, August Wilson Playwright Award). Her other plays include: *Remembrance*, *Hurt Village*, *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning*, *The Mountaintop*, *On the Chitlin' Circuit*, and *Freedom Train* (KCACTF ten minute play national finalist). Her work has been developed and presented at the following venues: the American Repertory Theatre, Kennedy Center, Cherry Lane Theatre, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Schomburg Center, BRICLab, Women's Project, World Financial Center, Lark Play Development Center, New Professional Theatre, The O'Neill, The Juilliard School, Stanford University, and Columbia University. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lecompte du Nouy Prize, North Manhattan Arts Alliance Fellowship, New York State Council on the Arts Commission Grant, New Professional Theatre's Writers' Festival award, Fellowship of Southern Writers Bryan Family Award in Drama, New York Foundation of the Arts Fellowship in Playwriting and Screenwriting, Royal Court Theatre Residency, and the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award. She has also been a Kennedy Center Playwriting Fellow. As an actor, her credits include: *Law & Order: SVU*, *The President's Puppets* (The Public), *Growing Up a Slave* (American Place Theatre), *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (American Place Theatre), the world premiere of *Amerika* (Theatre de la Jeune Lune/American Repertory Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Moscow Art Theatre School), *Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death* (Classical Theatre of Harlem), *Schooled* (WOW Café Theatre), and *Black Girl* (Sande Shurin Theatre). As a journalist, her work has been published in *The Boston Globe*, *Essence*, *Newsweek*, and *The Commercial Appeal*. She graduated from Columbia University in 2003 with a major in African-American Studies and Creative Writing. She was awarded top departmental honors from the university's Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS). In 2005, she graduated from the American Repertory Theatre Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University, receiving a Master of Fine Arts in Acting. She is now a student in the Juilliard School's Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program. She is a proud member of the Women's Project Playwrights' Lab, the Lark Playwrights' Workshop, and the Dramatists Guild. www.katorihall.com

Original Broadway production produced by Jean Doumanian, Sonia Friedman Productions, Ambassador Theatre Group, Raise the Roof 7, Ted Snowdon, Alhadeff Productions/Lauren Doll, B Square + 4 Productions/Broadway Across America, Jacki Barlia Florin/Cooper Federman, Ronnie Planalp/Moellenberg Taylor and Marla Rubin Productions/Blumenthal Performing Arts, in association with Scott Delman.
