

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

For immediate release

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Hi-resolution photos are available on request.

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Pillsbury House Theatre announces large local cast for *the road weeps, the well runs dry, Sept 27-Oct 27.*

James A. Williams, James Craven, and Regina Williams lead an 11-person cast at Pillsbury House Theatre's intimate 96 seat theatre. Directed by Marion McClinton (Best Director 2013, *City Pages*), *THE ROAD WEEPS, THE WELL RUNS DRY* by Marcus Gardley also stars Harry Waters Jr., George Keller, Jake Waid, Santino Craven, H. Adam Harris, Darius Dotch, Keli Garrett, and Traci Allen. The show opens on September 27 and closes October 27 at Pillsbury House + Theatre, 3501 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis.

This abnormally large cast for a Pillsbury House Theatre production is made possible through a national partnership with the Lark Play Development Center in New York as well as collaboration with three other producing theaters around the country. Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska; the Los Angeles Theatre Center in California; and the University of South Florida Theater Department in Tampa are working together with Pillsbury House Theatre to premiere this play for a national audience throughout the 2013-2014 season. The initiative, called **Launching New Plays into the Repertoire**, funded in part by the Mellon Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation, is designed to transform the American theater repertoire to reflect shifting demographics and emerging issues of local, national and global concern. *The Artistic Directors of each theatre will participate in a public pre-show discussion about the initiative on the PHT stage on Sunday, October 13 at 2 pm (before the 3 pm show).*

ABOUT THE PLAY

Magical, epic, urgent, and poetic, *the road weeps, the well runs dry* merges myth, folklore, and the history of Black Seminole people in Wewoka, Oklahoma, where they founded the first all-black town in America. Self-proclaimed Freedmen (Black Seminoles and people of mixed origins), watch all they have built collapse into civil war when new religion and the old ways come into conflict, former enslavers arrive, the leader of the Freedmen seeks revenge, and the well water runs dry.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marcus Gardley is one of the country's most acclaimed young playwrights. His most recent play, *Every Tongue Confess*, premiered at Arena Stage starring Phylicia Rashad and directed by Kenny Leon. It was nominated for the Steinberg New Play Award, the Charles MacArthur Award and was a recipient of the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. His musical, *On The Levee*, premiered last summer at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater and was nominated for 11 Audeco Awards including outstanding playwright. He was awarded the 2011 PEN/Laura Pels award for Mid-Career Playwright and a 2013 USA Artist Fellowship. He is also a playwright-in-residence at Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago, Illinois.

Marcus will be coming to Minneapolis to participate in rehearsal and lead workshops in the community. He will also be available for interviews on request.

TICKET INFORMATION

Performances are September 27—October 27, Wednesday-Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 3 pm

Opening Night, September 27 @ 7:30 pm

Audio-description by Rick Jacobson, October 13 @ 3 pm

ASL-interpreted performance TBA

Free child available at select performances.

Post-show discussions TBA.

Pre-show discussion with Artistic Directors from Alaska, California, and Florida on Sunday, October 13 @ 2 pm.

Individual tickets can be reserved at pillsburyhousetheatre.org or by calling the Guthrie box office at 612-825-0459.

All tickets are pick-your-price. Pay whatever you want at any performance.

ABOUT THE THEATRE

Pillsbury House Theatre is proud to be a professional, Equity theatre unlike any other. In addition to our Mainstage series of contemporary drama, PHT also manages the Chicago Avenue Project, Breaking Ice, Arts on Chicago, and the Pillsbury House Neighborhood Center. In partnership with Pillsbury United Communities, one of the largest human services organizations in the state, Pillsbury House Theatre demonstrates that the highest quality art is an integral part of all healthy communities.