

# TROUBLE IN MIND

WRITTEN BY

**ALICE CHILDRESS**

DIRECTED BY

**DANIELLE DRAKES**

PROSCENIUM THEATRE

NOVEMBER 3-13, 2022



**DEPARTMENT  
OF THEATRE**





UMBC

DEPARTMENT  
OF THEATRE

# Trouble in Mind

## By Alice Childress

Directed by Danielle Drakes

**Scenic Designer**  
Nate Sinnott  
with Tyler Brust

**Wig Designer**  
Lucy Wakeland

**Costume Designer**  
Moyenda Kulemeka

**Dialect Coach**  
Gerrad Alex Taylor

**Sound Designer**  
Sarah O'Halloran

**Dramaturgy**  
Susan Stroupe

**Lighting Designer**  
Gabrielle Camassar

**Stage Manager**  
Cameron Luther

This production will have one 15 minute intermission.

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## Cast

**Wiletta Mayer** Franchesca Parker

**Henry** Lukas O'Boyle

**John Nevins** Marlon Brown, Jr.

**Millie Davis** Niara Taylor

**Judy Sears** Mady Sims

**Sheldon Forrester** Iffy Alachebe

**Al Manners** Duncan McAdam

**Eddie Fenton** Cece Smith

**Bill O'Wray** Anthony Wisdom

### Understudies

**Judy Sears** MaryGrace Ruebens

**Al & Henry** David Tannous

**Bill & Eddie** Nick Leiva

**Al & Bill** Colin Maher

**Wiletta & Millie** Vicky Graham

## Setting

A Broadway theater in New York City, 1957.

### Content Advisory

While *Trouble in Mind* is subtitled a "comedy-drama," it depicts the reality of people of different races in 1950s America, both in real life and on stage. It contains microaggressive and overt racism against Black Americans, uses depictions of racist caricatures, contains racial slurs referring to different groups on marginalized people, and contains a description of past lynching.

## Dramaturgy Notes

About This Play:

This is a play about acting.

This is a play way ahead of its time, first performed in 1955, destined for Broadway in 1957, until the white producers demanded Alice Childress privilege the comfort and feelings of white audience members over the truth of the story.

She rewrote,  
And rewrote,  
And rewrote,

Until it was unrecognizable to her, until it no longer told the truth, and she refused to rewrite any more. So the producers pulled the plug.

This is a play about acting, which in the 1950s was becoming about telling the unvarnished truth of a character's life, instead of heightened archetypes of good or evil.

But this play is about how hard it's always been for Americans to agree on what the truth is, on stage and in the world, who gets to decide, and who gets in trouble.

This is a play about acting: when do you act like someone else's version of you, and when do you act like yourself?

This is a play about truth: do we want our shows to tell us the truth, or do we want to be comforted?

This is a play about trouble: what is worth getting in trouble for?

This play is about getting still for a second, and letting this play trouble our minds.

-Susan Stroupe, Dramaturg

Learn more here:

[The World of Alice Childress and Trouble In Mind](#)

**Join us for a Panel Discussion!**

**To See or Not to See: Acting and Truth in  
Alice Childress' *Trouble in Mind***

**Sunday, November 13th**

**Immediately Following the 2PM Performance**

Following the final performance of *Trouble in Mind*, join a distinguished, multidisciplinary trio of guests in diving deeper into the world of *Trouble In Mind*, in a lively discussion about how playwright Alice Childress took on race, truth, and how we "act" onstage and off, moderated by Guest Dramaturg [Susan Stroupe](#).

On the stage will be [Dr. Kimberly R. Moffitt](#), UMBC's Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, [Dr. Jasmine Lee](#), UMBC's Director of Inclusive Excellence & Initiatives for Identity, Inclusion, and Belonging, and [Gerrad Alex Taylor](#), actor, director, head of the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's [Black Classical Acting Ensemble](#), and dialect coach for *Trouble in Mind*.

Light refreshments will be served.

This event is in part sponsored by [CIRCA](#).

## **Production Faculty & Staff**

### **Production Manager & Technical Director**

Greggory Schraven

### **Assistant Technical Director**

Evan McDougall

### **Production Stage Manager**

Tessara Morgan Farley

### **Associate Scenic Designer**

Tyler Brust

### **Costume Shop Supervisor**

Joan Larkins Mather

### **Assistant Costume Shop Manager**

Margaret Caster

### **Head Electrician / Sound Engineer**

Adam Mendelson

### **Scenic Artists**

Christa Ladny

Tyler Brust

### **Guest Sound Engineer**

Sam Zuckerman

## **Student Production Staff**

**Assistant Director** Waylon Luo

**Assistant Stage Manager** Fay McNair

**Sound Engineer** Jack Bez

**Electricians** Nick Leiva, Mady Sims, Niya John, Renata Taylor-Smith, Seth Kolbe, Miles Abramson, Students of THTR 262

**First Hand Stitcher** Regina Mitchell

**Stitchers** Richie Verbeten, Olapeju Otusajo, Waylon Luo, Niara Taylor, Jordyn Schoonover, Roya Zafar

**Lead Carpenters** Charlie Woods Gunde, Brenden Thompson, Cece Smith, Katie Grim, Nick Leiva, Lara Truslow, Ezra Ormsby, Katie Givens, Cameron Luther, Miles Abramson, Seth Kolbe, Tyler Brust, Emerson Balthis

**Carpenters** Mykayla Conkle, Students of THTR 100 and THTR 264

**Production Assistants** Cameron Luther, Fay McNair

**Box Office Assistant** Renata Taylor-Smith

**Sound Board Operator** Garrett Palmer

**Light Board Operator** Karyn Fuquen

**Deck Crew** Katie Hetzer, Enzo Leone, Nia Zagami

**Wardrobe Head** Jennie Hardman

**Wardrobe Crew** MaryGrace Ruebens, Endora Roden, Shomapti Hussain

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## 2022 - 2023 Season

### Upcoming Performances

#### **You Can See Me in the Dark**

**Directed by Eve Muson**

**Musical Direction by Andrew Hann**

**December 2 – 4, 2022**

A wild ride of monologues, scenes and songs that celebrate the secrets we keep and the secrets we reveal. Performed by the company of actors in Audition and Business of Acting, this year's company of actors perform cutting edge work written by award-winning playwrights on the contemporary scene.

#### **The Grown-Up**

**By Jordan Harrison**

**Directed by Joseph Ritsch**

**April 6 – 16, 2023**

Ten year old Kai is given a magical crystal door-knob by his grandfather that enables him to travel through space and time to see future events in his life. As he moves through time, he realizes how quickly time escapes our grasp. Both poignant and zany, Pulitzer Prize finalist Jordan Harrison expands on the notion that life is too short to miss any moment of it.

#### **Stories Told Small**

**Directed by Colette Searls and Nate Sinnott**

**May 4 – 8, 2023**

Written and directed by UMBC Theatre students – Stories Told Small packs big meaning into miniature dramas, using puppetry and all manner of tiny objects to spin novel tales.

**Learn more about our upcoming season,  
and purchase tickets [here](#).**



UMBC

# DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

At UMBC we believe that theatre is an ever-changing art form, responding to and creating new ideas that confront our ethical, political, and artistic ideas and practices. Degree programs leading to an Acting, BFA, a Theatre BA; Theatre Studies Track, or a Theatre BA; Design & Production Track provide students with the interdisciplinary skills to become actively engaged with their art and with the world around them. A dedicated faculty focuses on each student's evolution as an artist and as a person, making the study of theatre at UMBC a life-changing experience that stimulates, challenges and inspires.

## **New Ways and New Plays — Our Vision for the Future:**

UMBC Theatre fosters artistically innovative and socially engaged graduates in a leading liberal arts program. Using the latest technologies and practices, we experiment with theatrical forms, create provocative new work, and give voice where it is most needed.

Learn more at [theatre.umbc.edu](http://theatre.umbc.edu).

**Full-Time Faculty/Staff** Eve Muson (Chair), Eric Abele, Nikki Hartman, Joan Larkins Mather, Susan McCully, Evan McDougall, Adam Mendelson, Laurie Newton, Margaret Caster, Gregory Schraven, Colette Searls, Nate Sinnott

**Part-Time and Adjunct Faculty/Staff** Susan Stroupe, Gerrad Alex Taylor, Jeff Miller, Andrew Hann, Rohaizad Suaidi, Danielle Drakes, Susan Rome, Katie Hileman, Melissa Frielich

**Special Thanks To** Dean Kimberly Moffitt and Provost Philip Rous, Director of Arts and Culture Tom Moore, Kiirstn Pagan, Laura Schraven and Commonvision, Cael Mulcahy, the CAHSS Operations, Imagination Stage, and Lynn Cazabon.

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