

ATLANTIC FOR KIDS

Neil Pepe Artistic Director Jeffery Lawson Managing Director Mary McCann School Executive Director

presents

AND IN THIS CORNER: CASSIUS CLAY

By Idris Goodwin

Directed by Reggie D. White

Rudy
Danté Crichlow

Odessa
Sinclair Daniel

Corky/Sugar Ray
Robinson
Langston Darby

Eddie/Young
Soapbox Guy
Anthony Holiday

Cassius Clay
Franck Juste

Ringside Announcer
Jacquelyn
Landgraf

Cash/Fred Stoner
Eric Lockley

Joe Martin
Andy Schneeflock

sound designer/sound
editing and mixing
Twì McCallum

illustrator
Christopher O'Neal

production coordinator
Imani Champion

atlantic for kids
artistic director
Alison Beatty

And In This Corner: Cassius Clay is produced by special arrangement with Mark Orsini, BRET ADAMS, LTD., 448 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036.

www.bretadamsltd.net

And In This Corner: Cassius Clay was originally commissioned and produced by StageOne Family Theatre, Louisville, Kentucky, with the support of the Mimi and Marshall Heuser New Play Foundation and the Fund for the Arts.

And In This Corner: Cassius Clay will run for 11–17 minutes per episode; or 55 minutes non-stop.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Kobe. Tiger. Usain. Serena. Ali.

Athletes who only need 1 name. Icons who transcended their sport and inspired millions to shoot, swing, run, smash, and jab in their image. When you close your eyes and invoke their name, your mind floods with memories or images of their highest highs and lowest lows. But before they were legends, they were kids. Kids who were shaped by the world and time they grew up in — Compton in the middle of the crack epidemic, post-Colonial rural Jamaica, segregation era Kentucky. Kids who had to keep their eye on the ball (so to speak) and on the prize.

And In This Corner is the story of how a young boy in Kentucky serendipitously found boxing and fought his way to sporting immortality. It's the story of an older brother who loves his family, struggles with school, faces down bullies, and tries to understand the world around him. A world where the color of your skin determines where you can eat or play. A world where names like Jim and Emmett pierce the blissful innocence of childhood like the bell at the end of a round.

The play doesn't run from the darkness of the world Cassius grew up in. Idris Goodwin's knockout play highlights several moments where the racism of pre-Civil Rights Era Kentucky 'hits below the belt' including white supremacist violence at peaceful lunch counter sit-ins where the ugliest of racial slurs are flung at unsuspecting children. Goodwin's play shines a light on these and other issues for all to see — illuminating our own path to revealing the fighter within us all.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the Atlantic Theater and School buildings are on the traditional, unceded lands of the Munsee Lenape people. We pay our respects to the Munsee Lenape and to the Indigenous caretakers of these lands.

As we welcome you into our community today, we encourage you to think about these questions created by Dakota visual artist Angela Two Stars and Navajo theater artist Rhiana Yazzie:

How will you use the new resources, including ideas, you gain by being here? And how will you carry the knowledge of the Native people present, past, and future into your life?

BIOGRAPHIES

DANTÉ CRICHLAW (*Rudy*). Born, raised, and based in Brooklyn, Danté (he/him) is currently in his final semester studying Drama at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Recent credits include *See You Yesterday* (Netflix). His acting training includes time spent at the Atlantic Acting School studio, NYU's Experimental Theatre wing, and the Black Arts Institute. When Danté isn't acting he indulges in street photography, writing poetry, and dancing wherever music can be heard.

SINCLAIR DANIEL (*Odessa*) (she/her) is a New York-based actor and creative. A recent B.F.A graduate of NYU and Atlantic Acting School, Sinclair has worked professionally in theatre, television and voice over performing with The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Atlantic Theater Company, and Williamstown Theatre Festival. Sinclair has been seen in *Peter Pan & Wendy* (Wendy), *Taiga in the Berkshires* (Taiga), "Madam Secretary," and *Testing Dunleavy-Grove: A radio episodic podcast* (Amy). This spring, Sinclair will participate in an artists retreat with The Makers' Ensemble theatre company, where she will perform and facilitate in bringing new and classic works to life in the wilderness.

LANGSTON DARBY (*Corky/ Sugar Ray Robinson*). Langston (no relation to Hughes), native to Laurel, Mississippi (home of *A Streetcar Named Desire* heroine Blanche Dubois), currently resides and works in New York City. Just before the industry shutdown, Langston managed to make his Off-Broadway debut in *The Black History Museum... According to the United States of America*, created and directed by Zoey Martinson with HERE Arts Center. Langston is an eclectic performer with stage credits that include *How I Became a Pirate* (Walnut St. Theatre, dir. Rob McClure) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare in Clark Park, dir. Alex Torra); voiceover performances for the award-winning *Story Pirates Podcast*; improvisation with Comedysportz Philadelphia, and a burgeoning on-camera career with an appearance in Lionsgate/Starz's 2020 short film award winner *Echoes of a Winter Sunshine*. Among other institutions, Langston is an alumnus of Atlantic's Acting Conservatory and a UCB Diversity Scholar. Learn more at langstondarby.com.

ANTHONY HOLIDAY (*Eddie/Young Soapbox Guy*), also known as "Holiday," is currently

attending the Yale School of Drama. Upon graduation, he will receive a Masters in Acting. Holiday has been seen in productions of *Ain't No Dead Thing* (Charles) by A.K. Payne, *Mr. Burns* by Anne Washburn (Homer, Marge), *Measure for Measure* (Claudio), *Locust* (Amos) by Chris Gabo, and *Lenny's Fast Food Kids Gang* (Walter) by Angie B. Jones under the conglomerate of his professors, cohort, and school-mates. Holiday is also a recent graduate of the Atlantic Acting School's Conservatory Program. Credits at Atlantic include *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (El Fayoumy) by Stephen Adly Guirgus, and the Atlantic for Kids production of *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing* (Fleeing Villager/City Man 1) by Finnegan Kruckmeyer. Holiday is an Ensemble Director for Breaking Walls, a global youth collective and has been a mentor and teaching artist in Atlantic's Staging Success program. Holiday was born and raised in New Jersey and is also a graduate of Brookdale Community College where he received his Associates Degree in acting/humanities.

FRANCK JUSTE (*Cassius Clay*) is an actor and comedian raised in Brooklyn, currently in Los Angeles. Can be seen as First Man on Sherman's Showcase IFC/AMC currently streaming on Hulu.

JACQUELYN LANDGRAF (*Ringside Announcer*) is a recent transplant to Los Angeles from NYC. She is a member of the master acting faculty at Atlantic Acting School, where she has directed many student productions and the musical *Strega Nona* for Atlantic for Kids. Select theater performances: Deaf West's *Orpheus*; *Anna Nicole* (BAM/City Opera); John Guare's *3 Kinds of Exile* (Atlantic Theater Company); *The Complete and Condensed Stage Directions of Eugene O'Neill...* (Drama Desk nomination, original cast/tour); Suzan Lori Parks' *365 Days/365 Plays* (The Public Theater); *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Theater for the New City); *Blue-s-cat* (Invisible Dog); *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Pipeline). Alum of the New York Neo-Futurists, writer/performers of *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*. Jacquelyn writes and voices the fiction podcast *It Makes A Sound*, and produced the show's original soundtrack album, *Wim Faros: the Attic Tape*. jacquelynlandgraf.com

ERIC LOCKLEY (*Cash/Fred Stoner*) is an OBIE award-winning actor, writer, comedian, producer and podcast host. Stage: *#DateMe*, *Choir Boy*. Screen: *First Reformed*, *Luke Cage*, *The Inheritance*. Eric's comedic web series,

Blacker, is featured on "Best Web Series" lists and his short film, *The Jump*, is available on Amazon. Eric's plays, including *Blacken the Bubble* and *Without Trace*, have been seen on stages in DC, NY and Chicago. Lockley does sketch comedy, musical improv, and is a featured cast member of *The Homemade Sketch Show* (TubiTV). He was head writer for the inaugural awards ceremony, The Antonyos, celebrating Black Theater. Eric's inspirational podcast, "The 180" is out now featuring guests discussing a moment when they turned their lives around. As a part of The Public Theater's Devised Theater Working Group Eric will have a workshop production of his new Afro-Futurist play, *Sweet Chariot*, at the 2022 Under The Radar Festival. Lockley is also a founder of and produces with Harlem-based orgs, The Movement Theatre Company & Harlem9, creating opportunities for artists of color. @iamericlockley

ANDY SCHNEEFLOCK (*Joe Martin*) is an actor, improviser, director, writer, and teacher. Some recent credits include: TV: "The Equalizer," "Orange Is The New Black," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Luke Cage," "Tales of the City," and "Tommy." Film: *Worth* (premiering on Netflix in September), *Bridge of Spies*, and *Interview Requested*. Theater: *The Hungry Hungry Games* (National Tour), *The Puppet Dead*, *The Story Pirates*, and *Timmy the Great*. He is also a company member of Ten Bones Theatre Company and frequently performs for their sold out *Entirely From Memory* shows at The PIT & Littlefield. andyschneeflock.com @AndySchneeflock

IDRIS GOODWIN (*Playwright*) is an award-winning break-beat poet, playwright, and director of The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. He was recently named a 2021 United States Artist Fellow. In addition to the recently released poetry collection *Can I Kick It?*, he's had several publications from Haymarket Books including *Inauguration* co-written with nico wilkinson, *Human Highlight: Ode To Dominique Wilkins*, and the play *This Is Modern Art* co-written with Kevin Coval. He's appeared on Nickelodeon, HBO Def Poetry, Sesame Street, NPR, BBC Radio, and the Discovery Channel. His plays include *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*, *How We Got On*, *Hype Man*, and *This is Modern Art*.

REGGIE D. WHITE (*Director*) is a New York-based multidisciplinary art-ivist whose acting credits include NYTW, The Public Theater, 59E59, Arden Theatre, Berkeley Rep, and

La Jolla Playhouse. As a director, his work has been featured at The Public Theater, Atlantic Acting School, NY Winterfest, Bay Area Children's Theatre, Berkeley Playhouse, AlterTheatre Ensemble, and more. He is an alumni of Atlantic Acting School, where he now serves as a faculty member and the new Artistic Director of Student Productions, an associate artist with Merrimack Repertory Theatre, a recipient of the TBA TITAN Award, the TCG Fox Fellowship, and is a company member of The Williams Project, a living wage theatre company. He is also co-writing a play with Lauren Gunderson and is the co-host of the comedy podcast, "What's The Tea?". reggiwhite.net

IMANI CHAMPION (*Production Coordinator*) is a freelance AEA stage manager, line producer, and production manager based in NYC. Credits include Broadway: *Grand Horizons*, *My Fair Lady*. Selected Off-Broadway: *Nollywood Dreams*, *The Wrong Man* (MCC); *Coriolanus* Mobile Unit: *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Public Works: *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It* (The Public Theater); *Derren Brown: Secret, Marie & Rosetta* (Atlantic Theater Company); Morocco & MASS MoCA theatre labs with the Sundance Institute. B.A. Theatre Studies, Montclair State University.

TWI MCCALLUM (*Sound Designer/Sound Editing and Mixing*) lives in NYC by way of Baltimore, MD. Her favorite theatrical credits include Kansas City Rep, National Black Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Public Theater, and Baltimore CenterStage. She is currently an apprentice sound editor on tv shows for STARZ and NBCUniversal, and lead sound designer/editor on an upcoming Marvel series. She attributes her artistry to being a former student at Howard University's technical theater program and a graduating student at Yale School of Drama's one-year sound program class of 2021. When not working, she loves taking care of her pet snails named Beyonce, Nicki Minaj, Cardi B, Megan thee Stallion, and Rihanna. twibackstage.me

CHRISTOPHER O'NEAL (*Illustrator*). A New York-based graphic designer turned illustrator, Christopher has gone from designing logos to using his love of character design in animation and film to create more character lead work. Prior to illustration Christopher has worked with brands such as Billy!, Bloomingdales, and D'ussé Cognac. @C.Ryandraw

ATLANTIC FOR KIDS

(Neil Pepe, Atlantic Theater Company Artistic Director; Jeffery Lawson, Atlantic Theater Company Managing Director; Mary McCann, Atlantic Acting School Executive Director; Alison Beatty, Atlantic for Kids Artistic Director). At Atlantic, our aim is singular—to empower simple and honest storytelling that fosters greater understanding of our shared world. As a producer, presenter, and educator of theater, we are driven by the belief that theater can challenge and transform our ways of thinking and urge us to reflect on our role in society.

Atlantic for Kids has presented adventurous theater for young audiences for over 20 years, with two full productions each season. These acclaimed shows are noted for their ability to touch on serious themes while entertaining kids with a blend of music, humor and spectacle. In addition to its weekend performances for families, Atlantic for Kids has welcomed thousands of NYC public school children to weekday performances, including talkbacks with cast members and discussions about the themes of each play. Previous productions have included, among others, Off Broadway Alliance Award winners for Best Family Show *She Persisted*, *The Musical* and *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical*.

For more information, visit atlantictheater.org/productions/kids/

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