

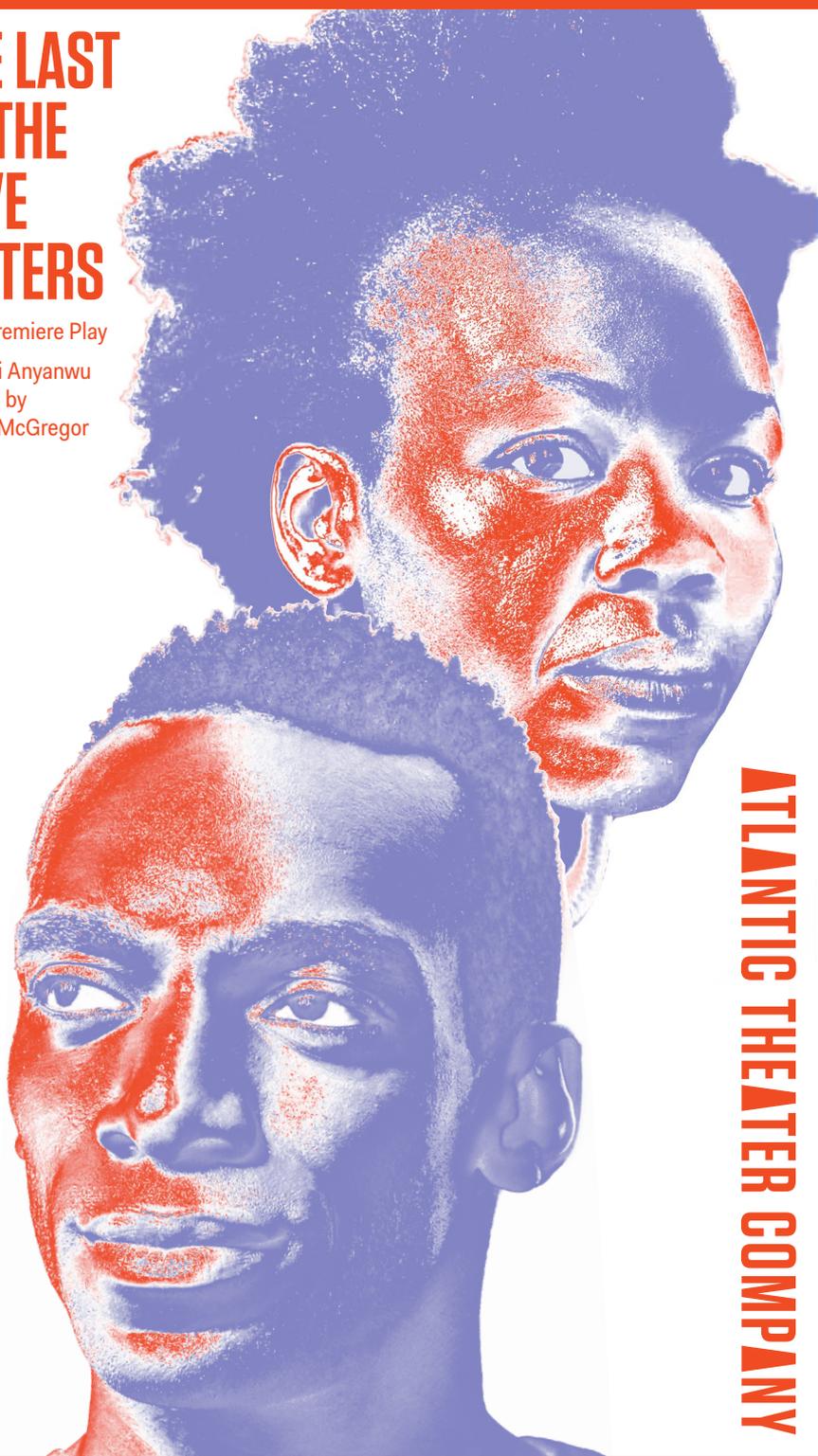
THE LAST OF THE LOVE LETTERS

World Premiere Play

By Ngozi Anyanwu

Directed by

Patricia McGregor



ATLANTIC THEATER COMPANY

ATLANTIC THEATER COMPANY

Neil Pepe *Artistic Director* Jeffory Lawson *Managing Director*

presents

THE LAST OF THE LOVE LETTERS

By Ngozi Anyanwu

Directed by Patricia McGregor

You

Ngozi Anyanwu

You No.2

Daniel J. Watts

Person

Xavier Scott Evans

sets

Yu-Hsuan Chen

costumes

Dede Ayite

lights

Stacey Derosier

sound

Twi McCallum

casting

Telsey + Company

Will Cantler, CSA

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production stage manager

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assistant stage manager

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production manager

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director of development

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Claire Graves

associate artistic director

Annie MacRae

general manager

Pamela Adams

Place: Wherever

Time: Whenever

The Last of the Love Letters will be performed without an intermission

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

If I have art
I have love
If I have love
I am blessed
If I am blessed
Then,
Perhaps this life that is riddled with suffering
and longing,
is worth living.
Or perhaps
...
I should run while I can.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

BIOGRAPHIES

NGOZI ANYANWU (*Playwright, You*) is a playwright, storyteller, and most recently a 2020 Steinberg Playwright Award winner. Previous productions include *Good Grief* (Vineyard Theatre in NYC/ Center Theatre Group in LA) and *The Homecoming Queen* (sold-out world premiere run at Atlantic Theater Company). *Good Grief* was on the Kilroys List 2016 and a semifinalist for the Princess Grace Award, and won the Humanitas Award. *The Homecoming Queen* was on the Kilroys List 2017 and was a Leah Ryan Finalist. Her play *Nike...* (Kilroys List 2017) was workshopped at The New Black Fest in conjunction with The Lark and The Strand Festival in conjunction with A.C.T and Space on Ryder Farm. Ngozi also has commissions with NYU, The Old Globe, Two Rivers Theatre, Atlantic Theater, and Steppenwolf. Anyanwu has also received residencies from LCT3, Space on Ryder Farm, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, The New Harmony Project, New York Stage and Film, and Page 73. She attended Point Park University (BA) and received her MFA in Acting

from University of California, San Diego.

XAVIER SCOTT EVANS (*Person*) is an actor-writer best known for the roles of Akil in HBO Max's "Love Life" Season 2 Ep. 7 ('21), Officer Grey in Anna Gutto's "Paradise Highway" ('21), Manny in *Bottom of the 9th* ('19), "Shades of Blue" ('16), and "Blue Bloods" ('14). His roles in the theater include *Person* in Atlantic Theater Company's Off-Broadway production of Ngozi Anyanwu's *The Last of the Love Letters* directed by Patricia McGregor. He starred as Fish in *The Royale* by Marco Ramirez and Jonny in *The Mystery of Love & Sex* by Bathsheba Doran. Graduate of Circle in the Square Theater School class of 2014 and a proud Wilsonian Soldier.

DANIEL J. WATTS (*You No.2*). Broadway/Off-Broadway: *TINA* (2020 Tony Award Nominee and Outer Critics Circle Award), *Hamilton*, *The Color Purple*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (OBC), *Memphis* (OBC), *In The Heights*, *Ghost* (OBC), *Motown* (OBC), *After Midnight* (OBC). Off-Broadway: *Death of the Last Black Man in the Entire World AKA The Negro Book of the Dead* (Signature Theatre), *Whorl Inside A Loop* (2nd Stage). TV/Film: "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" (Amazon), "The Last OG" (TBS), "Blindspot" (NBC), "Vinyl" (HBO), "The Deuce" (HBO), "Boardwalk Empire" (HBO), "The Night Of" (HBO), "Broad City" (Comedy Central), "The Good Wife" (CBS), "Odd Mom Out" (Bravo), "Person Of Interest" (CBS). Regional: 2019 Barrymore Award (People's Light) and 2020 LA Ovation Award (Geffen Playhouse) for Best Featured Actor for his portrayal of Sammy Davis, Jr. in *Lights Out: Nat "King" Cole* opposite Dulé Hill. Original Work: Daniel J. Watts' *The Jam: Only Child* 2020 Public Theater Under The Radar Festival and has also streamed as part of the Signature Theater (DC) 2020-2021 season. TED talk "To Accomplish Great Things, You Need to Let Paint Dry" appears at go.Ted.com/danieljwatts. Artist in residence at ASU Gammage, contributing artist for Armstrong Now with the The Louis Armstrong House, and NYU Tisch New Studio adjunct professor. BFA Graduate Elon University Music Theatre Program. 2021 Commencement Speaker. 2011 Young Alumnus Award Recipient. wattswords.com IG/Twitter: @dwattsword

PATRICIA MCGREGOR (*Director, she/her/hers*). Born in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Patricia McGregor

is a director and writer working in theater, TV/film, and music. McGregor has twice been profiled by *The New York Times* for her direction of world premieres. Productions include *Lights Out: Nat "King" Cole* (co-writer and director, Geffen Playhouse, People's Light); *Sisters In Law* (Wallis Annenberg); *What You Are, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Measure for Measure* (The Old Globe); *Skeleton Crew* (Geffen Playhouse, Studio Theater); *Good Grief* (Center Theater Group); *Hamlet* (The Public Theater); *Place* (BAM); *The Parchman Hour* (The Guthrie Theater); *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Roundabout Theatre Company); *brownsville song...* (Lincoln Center); *Indomitable: James Brown* (The Apollo); *Holding It Down* (Metropolitan Museum); *A Raisin in the Sun, The Winter's Tale, Spunk* (California Shakespeare Theater); *Adoration of the Old Woman* (INTAR); *Blood Dazzler* (Harlem Stage); *Four Electric Ghosts* (The Kitchen); and the world premiere of *Hurt Village* (Signature Theatre Company). For many years she has directed *The 24-Hour Plays* on Broadway. She served as director for HBO's emerging writer's showcase and tour consultant to Raphael Saadiq and J Cole. Additionally, she was a directing shadow on HBO's "Lovecraft Country." Patricia co-founded Angela's Pulse with her sister, choreographer, and organizer Paloma McGregor, and is Artist in Residence for Adam Driver's Arts in the Armed Forces and serves on the advisory board for the Parent Artist Advocacy League. She is a member of the National Theater's International Director's Lab and a Usual Suspect at New York Theater Workshop. McGregor attended the Yale School of Drama, where she was a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow and Artistic Director of the Yale Cabaret.

YU-HSUAN CHEN (*Scenic Designer*) is an LA and NYC-based set and production designer from Taipei, Taiwan. Selected theater credits include *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (WP Theater/Second Stage) – 2020 Obie Award for Outstanding Set Design winner, 2020 Lortel Award Nominee; *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* (The Movement Theater Company); *The Homecoming Queen* (Atlantic Theater Company); *Measure for Measure* (Public Theater Mobile Unit); *Pump Girl* (Irish Rep); and more. She has also worked in many regional theaters and venues in Asia. Her film credits are numerous and include Hulu's initiative 29 "Your Attention Please" and "Jie-Jie," which won the HBO Asian Pacific

American Visionary Award. More work on her website: yuhsuanchendesign.com

DEDE AYITE (*Costume Designer*) is a two time Tony-nominated costume designer whose Broadway credits include *A Soldier's Play, Slave Play, American Son, and Children of a Lesser God*. Select Off-Broadway credits include *Merry Wives* (The Public); *Secret Life of Bees, Marie and Rosetta* (Atlantic); *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Signature); *BLKS, School Girls...* (MCC); *Bella: An American Tall Tale* (Playwrights Horizons); *The Royale* (Lincoln Center); *Toni Stone* (Roundabout). Regionally, Ayite's work has appeared at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Steppenwolf, Arena Stage, and more. She has worked in television with Netflix, Comedy Central, and FOX Shortcoms. Ayite earned her MFA at the Yale School of Drama and has received an Obie, Lucille Lortel, Helen Hayes, Theatre Bay Area, and Jeff awards, along with four Drama Desk nominations.

STACEY DEROSIER (*Lighting Designer*). NYC lighting designer credits: *The Great Filter* (The Wild Project), *PEEP SHOW* (Soho Rep, Project Number One), *A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction* (Baltimore Center Stage), *The Glorious World of Crowns, Kinks, and Curls* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Letters to My Father* (M-34), *American Dreams* (The Working Theater), *Here We Are* (Theater for One), *School Girls, Or the African Mean Girls Play* (Berkeley Rep), *All the Natalie Portmans* (MCC Theater), *Stew* (Page 73), *How to Load a Musket* (Less Than Rent), *The Copper Children* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Men on Boats* (Baltimore Center Stage), *for all the women who thought they were Mad* (Soho Rep), *White Noise* conceived by Daniel Fish (NYU Skirball), *Playing Hot!* (Pipeline Theater Company), *Mies Julie and Dance of Death* (Classic Stage Company), *Novenas For a Lost Hospital, No One is Forgotten, Lewiston/Clarkston* (Rattlestick Playwright's Theater), and 2018 Lilly Award Daryl Roth Prize recipient.

TWI MCCALLUM (*Sound Designer*) is originally from Baltimore, MD. Her favorite theatrical credits include Kansas City Rep, Baltimore Center Stage, Atlantic Theater Company for Kids, and the new comedy play *Chicken & Biscuits* in fall 2021 as the first woman of color sound designer on Broadway. She has worked in television/digital production for STARZ, NBC, and Marvel. Most importantly, she is a former student of Howard University's

theatre department and a graduate of Yale School of Drama's one-year sound program. When not working, she loves archery, learning American Sign Language, zombie video games, and taking care of her pet snails.

JOSHUA YOCOM (*Prop Supervisor*) is pleased to return to Atlantic! Some of his memorable New York premieres include *The Humans* (Roundabout and Broadway), *The Sound Inside* (Studio 54), *Hangmen* (Atlantic Theater Company and The Golden), *Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven*, *Secret Life of Bees*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *Guards at the Taj*, *The Mother*, *The Night Alive*, *This Ain't No Disco*, *Marie and Rosetta*, *Found* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Collective Rage* (MCC), *Do You Feel Anger* (Vineyard), *Lazarus* (NYTW), *Mary Paige Marlow* (Second Stage), *for all the women who thought they were Mad* (SoHo Rep), and Sarah Ruhl's *Passion Play*. He is eternally grateful for the continued love and support of his husband Roberto.

JONATHAN CASTANIEN (*Production Stage Manager*) (He/him) NYC: Manhattan Theatre Club, Lincoln Center Theater, The Public, NAATCO, HERE Arts, BAM, among others. LA: Artists at Play, the Latino Theater Company, South Coast Repertory, among others. Jonathan holds a BA in Theatre Design and Production from CSU Fullerton. He is a 2018 alumnus of artEquity's National Facilitator Training, he was featured in American Theatre Magazine's December 2018 "People to Watch" list, and is a co-founder/co-Producing Artistic Leader of The Sóng Collective, an initiative that aims to amplify the voices of those from the Vietnamese diaspora. jonathancastanien.com

LISSETTE VELEZ-CROSS (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Off-Broadway: *The Hot Wing King* (Signature Theatre); *Wives*, *The Pain of My Belligerence*, *Noura*, *I Was Most Alive With You* (Playwrights Horizons). Regional: *Skeleton Crew* (Westport Country Playhouse); *Born For This* (ArtsEmerson); *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Richard III* (Actors' Shakespeare Project); *Alcina* (Opera del West); *Fidelio* (NEMPAC Opera); *From the Deep* (FringeNYC). BFA: Stage & Production Management, Emerson College.

TELSEY + COMPANY (*Casting*) With offices in both New York and Los Angeles, The Telsey Office

casts for theater, film, television, and commercials. The Telsey Office is dedicated to creating safe, equitable, and anti-racist spaces through collaboration, artistry, heart, accountability, and advocacy.

ACTORS EQUITY ASSOCIATION ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages and working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

ATLANTIC THEATER COMPANY (Neil Pepe, Artistic Director; Jeffery Lawson, Managing Director). At Atlantic, our aim is singular—to empower simple and honest storytelling that fosters greater understanding of our shared world. We are a family of artists dedicated to exploring essential truths onstage, be it a show at Atlantic Theater Company or a class at Atlantic Acting School. 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. From our Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning productions to our community-based education programs, we are committed to uncovering and celebrating the stories of our varied human existence. Founded as an ensemble of impassioned artists in 1985, Atlantic Theater Company has grown into a powerhouse Off-Broadway company. We challenge, inspire, and awaken audiences with truthful storytelling presented across our two venues, the Linda Gross Theater and the intimate Stage 2 black-box. As a producer of compelling new works, we are committed to championing the stories from new and established artists alike, amplifying the voices of emerging playwrights through our deeply collaborative programs and initiatives. We have produced more than 200 plays and musicals including Tony Award-winning productions of *The Band's Visit* (David Yazbek, Itamar Moses); *Spring Awakening* (Steven Sater, Duncan Sheik); and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Martin McDonagh); Pulitzer Prize recipient *Between Riverside and Crazy* (Stephen Adly

Guirgis); New York Drama Critics' Circle winners for Best New Play *The Night Alive* (Conor McPherson) and Best Foreign Play *Hangmen* (Martin McDonagh); Obie Award winners for Best New American Play *Guards at the Taj* and *Describe the Night* (Rajiv Joseph); and Obie Award Special Citation recipient *Skeleton Crew* (Dominique Morisseau).

STAFF FOR THE LAST OF THE LOVE LETTERS

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 Assistant Costume Designer.....Tyler Alexander Arnold
 Associate Lighting Designer.....Steven Zhang
 Associate Sound Designer.....Christopher Darbassie
 Intimacy Director.....Dave Anzuelo
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 Associate Technical Director.....Jesse Mattes
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 Costume Supervisor.....Suzette Byrd, Rashidah Nelson
 Assistant Production Manager.....Antonio Ribeiro
 Interim Production Manager.....Alberto Ruiz
 Interim Assistant Production Manager.....Julianne Grafeo
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 Thomas Short, Mikey Stevens, Catarina Uceta
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 Scenic Artists.....Chelsea Clark,
 Sophia Costanzi, Elvia Skye Urbano
 Properties Artisans.....Mike Lee, Jessica Smith
 Associate Production Electrician.....Sammy Jelinek
 Lighting Programmer.....Ben Fichthorn
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Public Theater Summer of Joy

Matt Strauss

The good people at The 24 Hour Plays for the inspiration

The good people at Atlantic Theater

This cast and crew

and always Chichi Anyanwu

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Atlantic Board member Deborah Magid, actor Isabelle Huppert and Atlantic Patron Herb Magid at the Opening Night of *The Mother*. ↓



Actor Tony Shalhoub and Atlantic Board member Carol Auerbach at the 2019 Divas' Choice Gala. →



Atlantic Patron Nan Bases with director Ed Sylvanus Iskandar at the Opening Night of *Nomad Motel*. ↓



Playwright Lynn Nottage with Atlantic Board member Ilona Nemeth and Atlantic Patron Alan Quasha at the Opening Night of *The Secret Life of Bees*. ↓



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Photos from *The Mother* and *Nomad Motel* by Gregory Costanzo. Other photos by Steve & Anita Shevett.

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