

Your Family Arts Center

**DALLAS
CHILDREN'S
THEATER**

Presents

**Idris Goodwin's
Social Justice Play Series**

**NOTHING
RHYMES WITH
JUNETEENTH**

Written by **IDRIS GOODWIN**
Directed by **CHERISH ROBINSON**

This project is made possible in Dallas thanks to
The Melinda and Jim Johnson Family

Additional funding also provided by Deborah and Craig Sutton

THE CAST

ALEXIS MUTURIPETE
GENO YOUNG.....JEAN



ALEXIS MUTURI

(Pete)

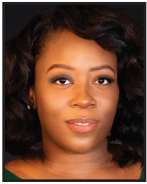
Alexis Muturi is thrilled to be making her debut at Dallas Children’s Theater. She was seen most recently as Child Three in *Funny You Don’t Act Like a Negro* at Theatre Three in Dallas and prior to that as Little Timoune in *Once On This Island* at the Firehouse Theatre. She starred in several roles at her middle school – Robinson Middle School and made her acting debut at the Jewish Community Center of Dallas. She is starting her freshman year at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts. She enjoys singing, travelling and spending time with her family and friends



GENO YOUNG

(Jean)

Dallas native Geno Young is a musician and fine arts advocate who influences many facets of today’s musical landscape. A grammy-nominated songwriter, he is a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School for the performing and Visual Arts, and a graduate of Howard University in Washington DC. Geno has toured extensively in the U. S. and Europe as a performer, musical director, producer, conductor and lecturer. He has served as musical director and producer for some of soul music’s most influential performers including Erykah Badu, Les Nubians, Leela James and many others. Geno served as one of the first African-American Governors for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (Texas) and is a voting member of the Grammy awards. Mr. Young has consistently garnered stellar reviews for his work in the theatre. A small list of his music direction credits include *The Color Purple*, *Aida*, *Aint Misbehavin’*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Don’t Bother Me*, *I Can’t Cope*, *Hairspray*, *Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill*, *Spunk* and *The Seven by Will Power*.



CHERISH ROBINSON

(Director)

Having over 20 years of experience as an artist, she has traveled throughout Europe and the United States as a singer, producer, composer, music director, and songwriter. With musical references spanning over genres such as classical to jazz, music theater to gospel, she has sung behind some of the industry’s most impressive singers including Erykah Badu and The Roots (The Tonight Show Band) and even appeared on The Colbert Show as a background vocalist. Cherish has musically/vocally produced and arranged albums for artists such as, Elle King, The Texas Gentlemen, and Paul Cauthen. Her voice and productions have been featured in television shows such as: *Big Little Lies*, *Greys Anatomy*, and the Amazon Prime original movie, *My Spy*. She has been a contributing arts and entertainment writer for *Elisia Magazine*, the co-host of a radio show, *The Midday Lockdown*, and *BroadwayWorld.com* (Dallas) has heralded her as “one of DFW’s sharpest musical theater moments in recent memory” even mentioning her as one of DFW’s Fresh Faces of 2017. She was recently seen in *SISTER ACT* at Savannah Theatre in Savannah, GA (Deloris). *MADAGASCAR* at Casa Manana (Gloria the Hippo), *DETROIT ‘67* at Jubilee Theater (Bunny), *SISTER ACT* at Irving MainStage (Deloris), *PASSING STRANGE* at Theater Three (Desi), and Grand Prairie Arts Center *ALL SHOOK UP* (Sylvia/Music Director). As an AEA member, she won the 2020 Column Award winner (Best Actress in a Musical) for her performance as Deloris in *SISTER ACT* at Watertower Theatre. She composed, music directed, and starred in *SOLSTICE* written by Jonathan Norton for Theatre Three. She enjoys teaching and coaching voice and piano to her many students and is writing a book slated for release December 2020.

ADDITIONAL NOTHING RHYMES WITH JUNETEENTH CREDITS

Denise Lee	Project Producer and Lead Talkback Facilitator
Robyn Flatt, Artie Olaisen, Nancy Schaeffer	DCT Project Artistic Producers
Janel Villatoro	DCT Production Manager and Show Stage Manager
Josh Smith	Technical Director, Editor
Lyle Huchton.....	Costume Shop Supervisor
Brian Christensen.....	Sound Engineer, Editor
John Moss.....	Facilities & Education Production Manager
Cherish Robinson.....	Original Theme Music
Thomas Collier.....	Talkback Facilitator



DENISE LEE

(Project Producer and Lead Talkback Facilitator)

Denise Lee is an award-winning Dallas based actress/singer who has performed in all genres of entertainment for more than three decades. She has performed on stages in almost every theater in the Metroplex. She is the founder and Executive Producer of the Denise Lee Onstage Cabaret Series and the Dallas Cabaret Festival which is entering its 6th year. 2020 marks the 4th time she has been voted ‘Best Vocalist’ in the Reader’s Voice Awards of the *Dallas Voice*. She also has an extensive film and television resume. She has delighted international crowds with performances in jazz clubs in Shanghai, Beijing, Switzerland and France. Lee has recently added ‘playwright’ to her list of accomplishments. Her first play, *Funny, You Don’t Act Like A Negro*, had its world premiere at Historic Theatre Three in February. Denise Lee has had a long relationship with Dallas Children’s Theater and over the years playing such roles as the Evil Stepmother in *Rapunzel* as well as roles in *Charlotte’s Web*, *Kegger*, *A Glory Over Everything*, and *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*. She was also cast as Nana in *Last Stop on Market Street* prior to the COVID-19 shutdown.

In addition to her work as an artist, Denise Lee established ‘Community Conversation’ through her *Change the Perception* initiative following the tragic Dallas police shootings. For four years, these monthly gatherings have been bringing people from all walks of life together for respectful, open, honest dialogue in order to heal racial and community tension. For these efforts, she has been awarded the Rudy Eastman Diversity Award by the Live Theater League of Tarrant County, a Special Citation of Recognition by the DFW Theater Critics and, in August of 2019, she was the recipient of Cathedral of Hope’s Hero of Hope Award.

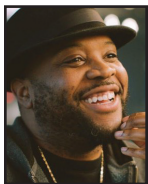


THOMAS COLLIER

(Talkback Facilitator)

Thomas currently works with technology in the field of automation, cognitive computing, analytics and artificial intelligence. He has spent some time in the modeling industry doing print work and TV commercials. He spent two years as a modeling coach and teacher. In his leisure time, he enjoys short and long distance cycling.

Almost four years ago while searching online for discussion panels, he discovered and attended *Change the Perception’s Community Conversation* where he met Denise Lee. Intrigued by the origin and purpose of the group, the topics of discussion, and the format in which they were conducted, he stuck around. He now serves as Vice President on the Board of Directors.



IDRIS GOODWIN

(Playwright)

Across two decades Idris Goodwin has forged a multi-faceted career as an award-winning playwright, Break Beat poet, director, educator, and organizer. Idris is the newly appointed Director of The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. A catalyst for culture, Goodwin uses his full creative powers to galvanize people to the community square. He is a creative voice for change, impassioned by art for social good. His critically acclaimed plays like *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*, *How We Got On*, and *Hype Man: A Break Beat Play* are widely produced across the country at professional theatres, college campuses, and non-traditional spaces alike. He's been honored to receive developmental support from institutions like The Kennedy Center, The Eugene O'Neill Conference, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, and The Playwrights' Center. 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: An Ode to Dominique Wilkins* co-written with Kevin Coval, and the play *This Is Modern Art* also co-written with Kevin Coval. He's appeared on HBO *Def Poetry*, *Sesame Street*, NPR, BBC Radio, and the Discovery Channel. Passionate about cultivating new audiences in the arts, Goodwin served two seasons as Producing Artistic Director at StageOne Family Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky. He actively serves on both the advisory boards of Theatre for Young Audiences USA and Children's Theatre Foundation Association.