

Your Family Arts Center

**DALLAS
CHILDREN'S
THEATER**

Presents

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

**THE WATER
GUN SONG**

Written by **IDRIS GOODWIN**

Directed by **JAMAL GIBRAN STERLING**

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

ESAU PRICE SAM

GUINEA BENNETT-PRICE JULES



ESAU PRICE

(Sam)

Esaus Price is a rising 8th grade student at Harry Stone Montessori School. His recent acting credits include *Penny Candy* and *A Christmas Carol* at Dallas Theater Center, *The Freedmans* and *Re-Tales* with Soul Rep Theatre Company and the lead in Tonya Holloway's short film, *A Yen for Princess Agua*. His previous school appearances include Judge Hathorne in *The Crucible*, Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods Jr.* and Charlie Bucket in *Willy Wonka Jr.*



GUINEA BENNETT-PRICE

(Jules)

Guinea Bennett-Price is a Dallas born actor, director, playwright and Theater educator. She holds a BFA in Theater from Howard University in Washington D.C. and an MFA in Theater from Texas A&M at Commerce. She is a co-founder and Artistic Director of Soul Rep Theatre Company where her acting and directing credits include *The Freedmans*, *The Shine Plays*, *Black Nativity*, *Her Stories*, *Spunk*, *In The Blood*, *For Colored Girls... , Once On This Island*, and *Dreamgirls*. In 2018, Soul Rep Theatre

Company collaborated with Dallas Children's Theater on the production of Ezra Jack Keats' *Snowy Day and Other Stories* and Guinea directed the delightful production that celebrated innocence and the joy of the small wonders in a child's world. She also directed *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* and *Most Valuable Player* at DCT. Other DCT performance credits include: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Señora Tortuga* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*. She currently teaches playwriting and voice/diction at her alma mater, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.



JAMAL GIBRAN STERLING

(Director)

Jamal Gibran Sterling is an actor and voice over artist based out of Dallas, Texas. A native of Detroit, Michigan he graduated from Southern Methodist University's MFA Acting Program in 2002. After years working on projects in Los Angeles and New Orleans, Jamal permanently relocated to Dallas where he continues to perform in a variety of productions on stage and screen. Most notable among

Jamal's on screen work (which includes a host of films, television shows and commercials) are his performances in the television series *10-8* and *American Dreams* as well as multiple Dallas-based television series such as *Prison Break*, *Chase*, and *Dallas*. A long term resident of Dallas, Mr. Sterling has appeared on stage in several productions in the city including *Our Lady Of 121st Street*, *A Soldier's Play*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Diamond Dick: The Tulsa Race Riots Of 1921*, *Fences*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Race*, *Mississippi Goddamn*, *Firestorm*, *Nuestra Pastorela*, *The Royale*, *Othello*, *Lonely Planet* and *Penny Candy*. Jamal, who along with his wife Nicole and daughter, India, resides in Plano, TX, is also a teacher for Ignite Middle School in Dallas ISD. He is a proud company member of Kitchen Dog Theater.

ADDITIONAL WATER GUN SHOW CREDITS

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
Cherish Robinson Original Theme Music



DENISE LEE

(Project Producer and 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 Assistant)

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.