



Miss Evers' Boys

by David Fedshuh
produced by Marvin & Maureen Rogers
directed by Lorraine Brooks



FEBRUARY 9 - 25, 2024

TICKETS:



laurelmillplayhouse.org

Miss Evers' Boys was originally produced by Center Stage, Baltimore, MD, Stan Wojewodski, Jr., Artistic Director, Peter M. Culman, Managing Director
Subsequently produced by Center Theater Group of Los Angeles at Mark Taper Forum, Gordon Davidson, Artistic Director, Stephen J. Albert, Managing Director



508 Main St., Laurel, MD 20707 | 301-617-9906

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This is my second time directing at Laurel Mill, and I am very excited to be presenting *Miss Evers' Boys*, especially during Black History Month.

Miss Evers' Boys tells the story of the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male (also called the Tuskegee Study). The Tuskegee Study first came to my attention as a graduate student in public health. It was used as an example of what can happen when well-meaning people make decisions that can have dire, unpredicted, consequences. It was also an example of how stereotypes, ignorance, and assumptions about racial differences affect the delivery of health care and therefore affect the well-being of entire populations. The decisions made during the Tuskegee Study still affect the healthcare delivery system today. Even now, the disparities in the availability and quality of care for African Americans are still apparent. And many African Americans continue to be reluctant to trust the US Healthcare System, as a consequence of Tuskegee and other “experiments” in which Black patients were used as “guinea pigs”.

The play is driven by the fictional character of Eunice Evers, who is based on Eunice Rivers, the real-life nurse who worked in the Tuskegee Study. In some scenes Nurse Evers goes back and forth from working in the study, to testifying before a Senate subcommittee forty years later in 1972. The Senate subcommittee was charged with investigating the Study, after a reporter exposed some unethical actions on the part of the Tuskegee Study investigators.

Today we have laws in place that guarantee the fair and ethical treatment of participants in clinical trials – laws that require, among other things, informed consent. The subjects in the Tuskegee Study were not given information about their true diagnosis and were misled about the consequences and prognosis of syphilis.

The play is a fictional account of the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male. Fictional in the sense that these characters did not exist, however the events they speak of, and the decisions behind the events, are true. My desire is to call attention to incidents such as this, in the hopes of increasing our understanding of the realities of Black History in the United States.

Lorraine Brooks

Cast

Tim Godbee

Jackie Youm

Pierre Walters

Derek Sollosi

Martin Young

Chevell Thomas

Evan Simon

Caleb

Miss Evers

Dr Eugene Brodus

Dr John Douglas

Ben

Hodman

Willie

UNDERSTUDIES

Shiesha Mc Neill

Steven Todd Smith

Nurse Evers

Dr. Douglas

SCENES

ACT 1 - CONTAGION

INTRO - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 1972

1 - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 1932

2 - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 2 months later

3 - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 1 week later

4 - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 6 months later

5 - Office of Dr. Brodus, 2 weeks later

6 - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 2 weeks later

7 - Office of Dr. Brodus, 3 days later

8 - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 1 week later

ACT 2 - PROGRESSION AND ENDPOINT

1 - Gillee dance and Office of Dr. Brodus, 1946

2 - Treatment Center, 1 month later

3 - Office of Dr. Brodus, 1 week later

4 - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 2 weeks later

5 - Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 3 months later

6 - Memorial Hospital, 4 months later

7 - Office of Dr. Brodus, 2 months later

8 - A field, 2 days later

Possum Hollow Schoolhouse, 1972

Production Crew

Maureen Rogers
Lorraine Brooks
Jacqueline Youm
Jim Jones and Joyce Camper

Producer
Director
Assistant Director
Technical Advisors

Stage Manager

Jana King

Lighting and Sound Design
Lighting and Sound Technician
Lighting and Sound Programming

Lorraine Brooks
Lori Bruun
Michael Hartsfield, Patrick
Pase

Photography
Costumes
Props
Brooks

John Cholod
Marge McGugan
Jana King, Lorraine

Set Construction
Set Design

David Wilkins
Lorraine Brooks

Set Painting
Prologue and Epilogue
Original Art and Poster Design

Cast
Lorraine Brooks
Leslie Kekuewa

Language Coach

Michael Eurice

Programs

Marge McGugan

Original music

Martin Young

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New York

Meet the Cast



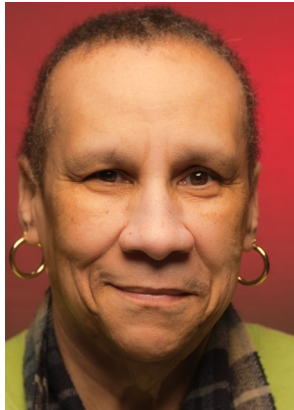
Lorraine Brooks (Director) is originally from New York City. She has appeared onstage in several productions, with Laurel Mill Playhouse, Vagabond Players in Baltimore, Upstage Artists in Beltsville, and Upcounty Players in Germantown. For over 20 years she hosted *Health Center*, a public health cable TV show in NYC, and she is a founding member of Deep Roots Productions, a collaborative of Black women in the arts, dedicated to producing stories relevant to Black culture and history. She also founded Retro Radio Players, a group of actors recreating classic radio scripts. In addition to acting and directing, Lorraine is also an accomplished artist whose work is in collections in the US, UK, Netherlands, and the Caribbean. Her work can be seen at www.lorrainebrooks.biz, and heard on Spotify as Retro Radio Players. She is currently writing “Visions Behind Visions”, a biography of her uncle Keith Simon, who was a painter during the Harlem Renaissance. Lorraine is happy to be back at Laurel Mill Playhouse, where she began her directorial career. She thanks her cast and crew, and the Producers at Laurel Mill for their hard work and dedication in presenting this important story.



Jacqueline Youm (Nurse Eunice Evers | Assistant Director) is honored to share this important black story. She was last seen at LMP as Juror #4 in *12 Angry Jurors*. She is a Senegalese American actor, director, playwright, lawyer, and French, English, Spanish, Mediation, and Negotiation teacher. She is passionate and insatiable when it comes to storytelling. Some of her favorite credits include Round House Theatre: ADENIKEH in *Nollywood Dreams* (Helen Hayes nom); Dominion Stage: STOOL PIGEON in *King Hedley II* (WATCH award); Chesapeake Shakespeare Co: HELENA in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Best Medicine Rep: Laurel Mill Playhouse (LMP): CORRYN in *Gidion's Knot*; JO ANNE in *The Trip* (Helen Hayes nom); LMP: CLARICE LYLE in *Consecrated Ground*; Silver Spring Stage: NORA in *A Doll's House Part II*; Strand Theatre Company: *Romeo/Juliet*; Sisters Freehold: Yinghe in *The Sleepover*. She thanks her family, friends, and her community for their wondrous support! She gives her all to her ancestors and mother. You can find many of her virtual productions on Youtube (Cestjackie): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvd4LWK9h1msuj9oeFXHtng> | Instagram: @jy_artiste | Facebook: Jacqueline Elisabeth “La langue est un théâtre dont les mots sont les acteurs.” Ferdinand Brunetière



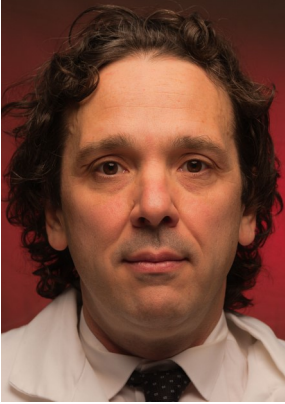
Tim Drake Godbee (Caleb) is a native of Augusta, Georgia, and has resided in Laurel, Maryland since 2015. A U.S. Navy veteran who served on multiple ships around the world, he currently works as a communication consultant after working in federal civil service for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters, The Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Tim attained his Bachelor of Science in Media and Communication from FSU in Florida and attended Norfolk State University where he was a member of the Spartan “Legion” Marching Band. In his first appearance on stage, he'd like to thank his family, friends, castmates, and the Laurel Mill Playhouse for their support and encouragement.



Jana King (Stage Manager) is a 3rd Generation native Washingtonian. She recently retired after 40 years as a Special Education Visual Arts teacher in DC and Prince George's County. She was a founding member and served as Stage Manager for Upstage Artists in Beltsville, and most recently was Stage Manager for the Laurel Mill Playhouse production of *Consecrated Ground*. She is also a founding member of Deep Roots Productions. When not involved in a production, Jana devotes her time to her artwork, using the stipple technique. She is happy to be back at Laurel Mill, and proud to be part of this production.



Evan Simon (Willie) comes from Caribbean descent. This is my first time on the stage at Laurel Mill Playhouse. I found great love for acting at a young age all thanks to my original director! Theatre has taught me so many life lessons that I use daily each day but the main one is adaptability. There is always more than one way to tackle a situation, that's basically my view on life to take everything on with a smile!



Derek Sollosi (Dr. John Douglas) is excited to make his Laurel Mill Playhouse debut in the role of Dr. John Douglas in *Miss. Evers Boys*. He started acting in his teens and continued throughout college at St. Francis University, earning his acceptance in the National Theatre Honor Society, Alpha Psi Omega. Derek has performed in several productions consisting of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Salem Witch Trials*, *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Shakespeare's*, *The Tempest*, *Grease* and many others. He was also casted for the **Equality Inc** troupe performing interactive shows addressing date rape/violence at colleges and universities all along the east coast. In addition to performing on stage, Derek has been a Video Producer for over 20 years and currently serves on the Board of Directors at the Roxey Ballet, in Frenchtown, NJ. Derek's proudest ongoing role however has been the character of "Dad" to his two beautiful and amazing daughters, Veronika and Rozi. He would like to thank the memory of Kenny Resinski for teaching him every step and emotion he's learned on stage and is forever grateful for the support of his Mom, Sheila and his amazing cast of family and friends from his hometown, just outside of Philly. Go Birds and Pax et Bonum!



Chevell Thomas (Hodman) started acting at a young age with standout performances in preschool and elementary school. He continued through high school and had formal training at the Maryland Center for the Arts. He went on to perform in several regional theater productions while in college, most notably, *The Jero Plays*, Mari Evans' *Eyes*, and *The Amen Corner* at Theatre Cornell in Ithaca, NY. After college he took his acting skills into the classroom incorporating them into his middle and high school math and science pedagogy. He currently works in the health care industry and often "performs" as a corporate trainer. Credits include: *Oklahoma!* (ERHS), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Theatre Cornell), *The Jero Plays* (Theatre Cornell), *Man on a Mountain* (Encore Dinner Theatre), *Josiah Henson: No Uncle Tom* (AmaZing Theatre) and *For God and Country* (AmaZing Theatre). Now, he continues his journey as Hodman Bryan in *Miss Evers' Boys*.



Martin Young (Ben) is rapidly becoming one of the most recognizable actors in the DMV. He has been featured in films on Tubi, YouTube and Vimeo. Laurel Mill Playhouse entertained his riveting debut performance in *Consecrated Ground* by George Boyd (2023). Those who were fortunate enough to see that performance still get emotional. Upstage Artist cast him in Arthur Miller's, *A View From The Bridge* (2023). Martin is thrilled to be joining Director Lorraine Brooks again for *Miss Evers Boys* by David Feldshuh. First and foremost, I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for another opportunity to perform at Laurel Mill Playhouse. I would also like to thank my family and friends for their unwavering support. Thank you to my cast mates and production crew. A special thank you to Lorraine for interrupting her manicure which in turn introduced me to theater! Last but not least thank you to Ms. Maureen Rogers for your continued support!



LORI BRUUN (Lighting and Sound Technican) is thrilled to be back at again at LMP. She previously stage managed *Afflicted* and *Spider's Web*. She has also appeared on stage, alongside her husband and daughter, as Braun when Tatum directed *Laughing Stock*. Lori has also stage managed for Bowie Community Theatre and Best Medicine Rep. and directed one-acts at LMP, most recently Jeff Dunne's *One's Cup of Tea* and *Et Tu, Brew Tea*. Her most recent theatrical experience was playing Mr. Collins in LMP's production of *Pride and Prejudice*. Lori appreciates her family's support for her theatrical adventures.

Pierre Walters (Dr. Eugene Brodus) was born in Washington, DC, and developed a love for acting early in life. In the past 20 years, Pierre has appeared in over 30 stage productions, including notable performances as Claudius in *Hamlet*, Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Evan Mitchell in *The Window King*, Torvald in *A Doll's House*, CC Showers in *The Diviners*, and Walter Acts Benjamin in the acclaimed production of *The Mojo and the Sayso*. Pierre has recently appeared as Walter Lee in *A Raisin in the Sun*, Fred Barnes in the award-winning *Tears of the Soul*, Jerry in *The Zoo Story*, Herb Fraser in *For God and Country*, Alex Hawkins in *What Was Done*, Floyd Barton in August Wilson's *Seven Guitars*, and Buddy in *Book of Grace*. Pierre has also appeared in over 30 films, was recently nominated for The Baltimore Crown Awards Actor of the Year, and received The Queens World Film Festival's Best Actor award for his role as Glenn Johnson in the feature film *The Red Effect*. Pierre is proud to join the ensemble cast of *Miss Evers Boys* under the direction of Lorraine Brooks.

Steven Todd Smith (Dr. Douglas Understudy) is a Baltimore area actor, new to the DMV theatre world. With over a decade of theatrical experience in NYC, LA, regional tours, and virtually, he is most excited to kick off this new chapter with Miss Evers' Boys. Grateful to the whole team and Laurel Mill Playhouse for the warm welcome! Recent credits include *Romeo* (*Romeo & Juliet*, Chaos Theatre Collective), *Michael* (*Picking Up*, D2 Theatre, NYC), *Barry* (*Halfway There*, New World Stages + Regional Tour). B.F.A., NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

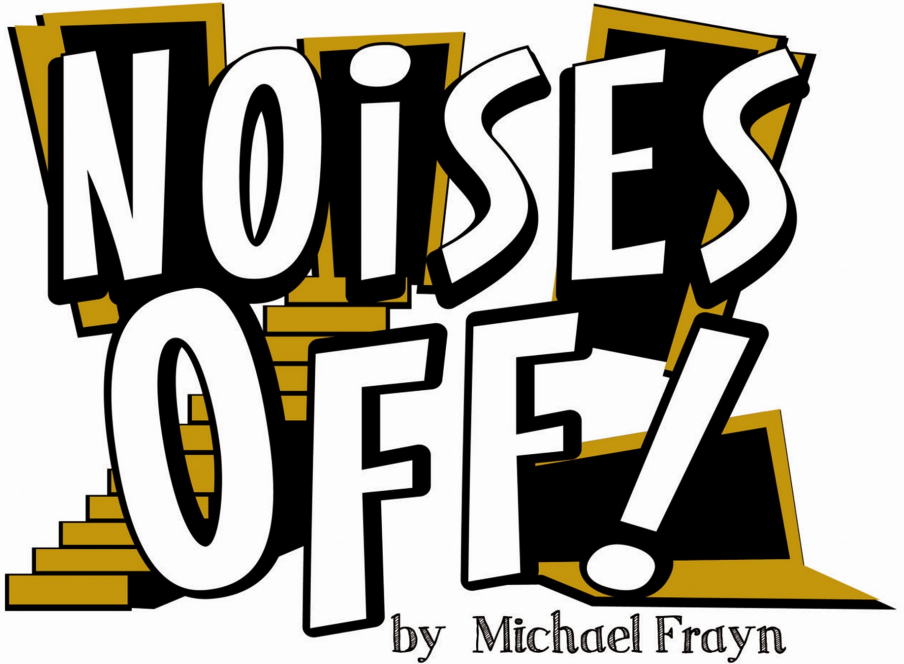
Shiesha McNeil (Miss Evers Understudy) is an actress, poet, painter and performer. She is a native Washingtonian, who recently relocated back to the area. She has a penchant for poetry and spoken word performance, evidenced by her time, competing with her slam team at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Recently she played Lou Bessie in *The Old Settler* with The Bowie Community Theater. She has always had a love of acting and performance.



Next—

At Laurel Mill Playhouse

Laurel Mill Playhouse Presents



**NOISES
OFF!**
by Michael Frayn

Directed by Alex Campbell | Produced by Maureen Rogers

Performance dates—March 8 through March 24, 2024



Tickets now available by clicking on
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www.laurelmillplayhouse.org



Live and on stage—April 14, 2024, at 2 pm

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Chesapeake Harmony Chorus loves to sing and invites you to visit a rehearsal. We are a women's singing group based in the greater Annapolis MD, area. We sing four-part acapella harmony in the barbershop style and are a chapter of Sweet Adelines International. We rehearse at Historic Baldwin Hall in Millersville, Md, every Wednesday night at 7:pm. For more information about visiting a rehearsal or joining the chorus, please contact us at Membership1@ChesapeakeHarmony.org.



**Coming to Laurel Mill Playhouse this
Spring**



Director -Michael Hartsfield

Producer—Maureen Rogers

Musical Director—Mimi McGinniss

April 26 through May 19, 2024

LAUREL MILL PLAYHOUSE

508 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Reservations - Visit us at: www.laurelmillplayhouse.org

OUR HISTORY

Burtonsville Players Inc., doing business as Laurel Mill Playhouse, is a non-profit, tax exempt (501c3) status, community theater group. Originally organized thirty five years ago as the Burtonsville Players Inc., Laurel Mill Playhouse recently bought and completely renovated a 100 year old building in the middle of historic Laurel, Maryland. This makes Laurel Mill Playhouse one of the few community theater organizations to own their own facility.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the community with the opportunity to expand the cultural base of the quad-county area. We do this through theater arts, combining music, art, dance, youth, and senior activities.

Our group has the determination to provide space and resources to foster a creative environment.

Our encouragement of individuals to be challenged by new works and skills will lead to discovery and expansion of creative potential in the community.

Our goal is to provide training and initiate outreach opportunities within the counties we serve.

Board of Directors

Corporate Officers

Marvin Rogers – President

Larry Simmons – Vice-President

Diana Simmons – Secretary

Patrick Pase – Treasurer

Michael Hartsfield – Director

Lorraine Brooks – Director

Lori Bruun – Director

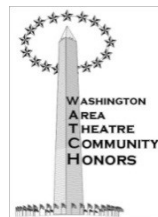
**Marge McGugan – Props/Wardrobe Storage
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**Maureen Rogers – Artistic Director
and Public Liaison**

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