



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
**ESSENTIAL
THEATRE**



2025-2026 SEASON | November 5-9, 2025

Ronald O. Davis Acting Studio



Sibling Rivalry

WRITTEN BY JAMES WEBB

DIRECTED BY RUBEN ARANA

MAESA ANDERSON ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

RUBEN ARANA SET DESIGN

EDITH CARNLEY COSTUME DESIGN

C. BACOTE ROBINSON LIGHTING DESIGN

KIMBERLY K. HARDING SOUND DESIGN

MAESA ANDERSON STAGE MANAGER

Produced by Special Arrangement with James Webb

WARNINGS: Profanity, Adult content, Contains scenes involving alcohol use, sexual content

Cameras and recording devices of any kind are absolutely prohibited in the theatre. Please turn off or set to silent mode, your cell phones, pagers and any alarm watches before the show begins. Please refrain from cell phone usage during the performance. The house manager reserves the right to ask disruptive audience members to leave without refund.





DIRECTOR'S NOTES

RUBEN ARANA

In the poignant and humorous play, *Sibling Rivalry*, the loss of family members is a catalyst for sibling conflict, love, and laughter. The story unfolds through four vignettes, each capturing a distinct moment in a family's history as they navigate the complexities of grief. Set in rural south Alabama, the siblings' relationships are multifaceted, marked by both

affection and antagonism as well as refinement and crassness. Their arguments and bickering serve as a coping mechanism, a way to mask the pain and vulnerability that comes with losing loved ones. Despite their differences, the siblings' love for each other is palpable, and their humor becomes a lifeline, helping them to find moments of levity in the darkness.

Through the vignettes, the play explores the absurdities and complexities of family dynamics in the face of mortality. The siblings' interactions are both heartbreaking and hilarious, often simultaneously. Their struggles to come to terms with loss are relatable, and their humor becomes a way to honor their loved ones. The play's use of humor also highlights the resilience of family bonds, showing that even in the midst of grief, love and laughter can coexist. By embracing the complexities of family relationships, *Sibling Rivalry* creates a space for audiences to reflect on their own experiences with loss, love, and the power of humor to heal.

James Webb, a distinguished alumnus of FAMU's Essential Theatre program, brings his heartfelt stories to life. With a legacy of mentorship and artistic growth, Webb's connection to FAMU has profoundly impacted countless students over the years. Now, we're thrilled to revive his powerful narrative in the Ronald O. Davis Studio, where his stories will continue to resonate with audiences. Enjoy!

SETTING

Present Day. Small southern homes/locales that reside on the border of Mississippi and Alabama

ACT I

“Prologue”

Host Kyndal Jones
Brother..... Quinnes Parker Jr.
Sister Shya A. Lee

“Mama’s Dress”

Monica Brianna Bell
Terrell Kendall Smith
Nate Keith Wesley
Roshanda Dariyelle Norris
Sean Brandon Charles
Dominique Kyndal Jones

“A Word From Our Sponsors: Part I”

Fred Johnson Keith Wesley
Vera Johnson Shya A. Lee

“Audience Participation: Part I”

Host Kyndal Jones

“Grand Bay, Alabama”

Nova Lee Brianna Bell
Bobbie Jean Dariyelle Norris
Lonzo Quinnes Parker Jr.

“A Word From Our Sponsors: Part II”

Kevin Johnson Kendall Smith
Lisa Johnson Kyndal Jones

“Audience Participation: Part II”

Storyteller Shya A. Lee
Host Kyndal Jones

There will be a 10-minute intermission.

The sound of the chime indicates the time to return to your seat.

ACT II

“A Word From Our Sponsors: Part III”

Patsy Johnson Brianna Bell

“Brother’s Code”

Jarvis Keith Wesley
Michael Quinnes Parker Jr.
Marcus Kendall Smith
Geraldine Brianna Bell

“Audience Participation: Part III”

Host Kyndal Jones

“A Word From Our Sponsors: Part IV”

Melvin Johnson Quinnes Parker Jr.
Vera Johnson Shya A. Lee

“Boxed In”

Percy Keith Wesley
Dot Kyndal Jones

UNDERSTUDIES

Female Understudy Shya A. Lee
Male Understudy Brandon Charles

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless specific announcement for that appearance is made at the time of performance.



PLAYWRIGHT'S PROFILE

JAMES WEBB

James Webb is a Charlotte-based playwright, director, and educator whose work centers on the Black experience. As a playwright, Webb has written *The Contract* and *Sibling Rivalry*, along with several youth theatre works, including *The House of Jean-René*, *STEAM*, and *Wrestling with Angels*. In 2023, he received a playwriting fellowship from the Queen City New Play Festival for his play *The Book of Layman*.

Webb recently directed Three Bone Theatre's production of *...What The End Will Be* and Children's Theatre of Charlotte's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Catching the Moon*. His work has been produced at Mill Mountain Theatre (Roanoke, VA), Common Ground Theatre (San Diego, CA), Essential Theatre (Washington, D.C.), Confrontation Theatre (Portland, OR), Ensemble Theatre (Los Angeles, CA), Theatre Row (New York City, NY), and the International Black Theatre Festival (Winston-Salem, NC). He is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Davidson College in North Carolina and spends his summers as a resident director and playwright with the Irene C. Edmonds Youth Theatre in Tallahassee, FL.



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNicholas Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for the national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performances.

Cast Profiles



BRIANNA A. BELL

MONICA, NOVA LEE, PATSY JOHNSON, GERALDINE

is a sophomore transfer Theatre Performance major, Journalism minor from Broward County, FL. This is her first production with the Essential Theatre. She previously performed in *The Weight of Words* (Mom) at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Inez) at Broward College. She is currently a member of the Essential Theatre Union.



BRANDON CHARLES

SEAN, MALE US

is a sophomore Theatre major with a minor in Health Administration, born and raised in Miami, FL. He has performed in *Once on This Island* and *The Wiz* at Dr. Michael Krop Senior High School, as well as in productions at the Lehman Theater at Miami Dade College. He was a member of the chorus for three years at Dr. Michael Krop Senior High School and has been dancing for nearly four years with Diva Arts Dance Studio. Brandon is an experienced singer, actor, and dancer.



KYNDAL JONES

HOST, DOMINIQUE, LISA JOHNSON, DOT

is a fourth-year Theatre Performance major from West Palm Beach, FL. She recently appeared in *Dearly Departed* as Suzanne at Monticello Opera House; Her credits with the Essential Theatre include *Chicken and Biscuits* (Simone Mabry US), *Single Black Female* (Single Black Female 2), *The Wiz* (ensemble), *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery* (Miss Mary, Miss Shine), and *Good Times: The Windfall* (Wilona Woods). Kyndal has also served as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Disappearing Acts* and served as the Vice-President of the Essential Theatre Union for the 2024-2025 academic year. This is her 6th production with the Essential Theatre.

Cast Profiles



SHYA LEE

SISTER, VERA JOHNSON, STORYTELLER

is a third-year Theatre Performance scholar from Miami, FL. Her performance credentials include Superior-rated twirling at Miramar High School, *Flyin' West* (Ms. Leah), *One Monkey Don't Stop No Show* (Beverly), FAMU's *The Wiz* (Dancer/Ensemble), *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery* (Fannie Mae), *Disappearing Acts* (Swing/Operator 1/Picketer), *Dearly Departed* (Delightful), and *Zooman* and the Sign (Ash)



DARIELLE NORRIS

ROSHANDA, BOBBIE JEAN

is a Senior Elementary Education scholar whose passion lies in theatre and whose heart is devoted to children's education. This marks her first performance with the Essential Theatre. She loves singing, dancing, and reading, and is a proud Thespian who performed at nationals in *Grey's Anatomy* (Old Patient). She has previously performed as Little Inez in *Hairspray* and continues to find joy and purpose in performing on stage.



QUINNES "Q" PARKER JR.

BROTHER, LONZO, MICHAEL, MELVIN JOHNSON

is a fourth-year Theatre Performance scholar from Atlanta, GA. His latest performances include *Luke/Business Man in Day of Absence*, JJ Evans in *Good Times: The Windfall*, and Junior in *Dearly Departed*. Quinnes is also a spring 2025 initiate of the Omicron Gamma Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America.

Cast Profiles



KENDALL SMITH

TERRELL, KEVIN JOHNSON, MARCUS

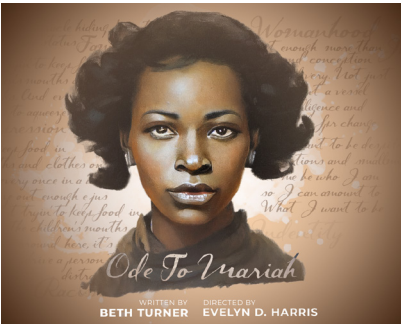
is a first-year Computer Science major from Jacksonville, FL. He has appeared in numerous plays at Samuel W. Wolfson High School, including *Beauty and the Beast: The Musical* and *SpongeBob: The Musical*. He has also appeared in an independent production titled *Can You See Me?*



KEITH WESLEY

NATE, FRED JOHNSON, JARVIS, PERCY

is a senior Theatre Performance student with a minor in Journalism from Stockbridge, GA. He most recently appeared in Palaver Tree Theater's production of *Calming the Man* (Michael). His Essential Theatre performance credits include *Thoughts of a Colored Man* (Wisdom), *Two Trains Running* (West), and *Romeo & Juliet* (Balthasar). Other credits include Essential Theatrical Associates/Monticello Opera House's production of *Dearly Departed* (Royce) and Theatre Tallahassee's *Fences* (Cory/Lyons US). Keith is the recipient of the 2025 Antoinette M. Humphries Award and was named an S. Randolph Edmonds Young Scholar by the Black Theatre Network.



UPCOMING PRODUCTION

JOIN US FOR **ODE TO MARIAH**
RUNNING **FEBRUARY 5 - 8, 2026**
AT THE **RONALD O. DAVIS ACTING STUDIO**

We invite you to experience Black Masks: Four Decades of Black Arts Excellence, celebrating Beth Turner's lasting impact in Black theatre. On display at the Foster Tanner Fine Arts Gallery, January 29 – July 11, 2026.

Student Managers



MAESA ANDERSON

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STAGE MANAGER

is a 4th-year Theatre Performance scholar from Atlanta, GA. Her Essential Theatre debut began with *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet Alternate), followed by *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery* (Daughter), and *Confederates* (Sara). Her technical theatre experience began as the Sound Board Operator for *Thoughts of A Colored Man* and now as the Stage Manager for *Sibling Rivalry*. Maesa was also a member of the FAMU Connection for two consecutive years.



TRINITY RASPBERRY

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

is a 3rd year Theatre Performance major from Chicago, IL. She has appeared in *The Wiz* (The Good Witch of the North), *Two Faced* (James), and *Clyde's* (Rafael) at Tilton Drama Academy and The FAMU Essential Theatre.

Faculty & Staff

Valencia E. Matthews	Director of Theatre Dean, College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities
Ruben Arana	Scene Design
Edith Carnley	Costume Design
Willis Fedd	Director of Marketing
Kimberly K. Harding	Management Theatre History Sound Design
Evelyn D. Harris	Performance Properties Special Events
C. Bacote Robinson	Technical Director Lighting Designer
Anedra Small	Performance Vocal Coach Criticism Recruitment
Luther D. Wells	Associate Director of Theatre Performance Recruitment

Production Staff

Productions Manager	Luther D. Wells
Technical Director	C. Bacote Robinson
Assistant Director	Maesa Anderson
Stage Manager	Maesa Anderson
Asst. Stage Manager	Trinity Raspberry
Company Manager	Keith Wesley
Lighting Designer	C. Bacote Robinson
Light Board Operator	Michael Royals
Sound Board Operator	Sterling Smith
Sound Programmer	Kimberly K. Harding
Properties Supervisor	Evelyn D. Harris
Properties Assistants	Naheisha Nozistene, Nathan Forbs
Set & Properties Crew	Technical Production Set Lab
Costume Supervisor	Edith Carnley
Wardrobe Crew	Paris Sophrey, Joel Thompson, Ashton McCallum
Costume Assistants	Shaun Wilson, Kashayla Horne, Amira Churchwell
Costume Construction Crew	Maesa Anderson, De'Miya Harris, Shya Lee, Ashton McCallum, Azaira McCants, Jordon Noland, Michaels Royals, Oksana Shropshire, Joel Thompson
House Managers	Naheisha Nozistene, Justin Troupe
House Staff	Sion Brown, Jalia Dunbar, Jae Edwards, Janiah Jefferson, Jade Livingston, Charles Moss
Distribution Managers	Jae Edwards, Keith Wesley
Director of Marketing	Willis Fedd
Ticket Sales and Patron Services	Kimberly K. Harding
Public Relations and Advertising	Willis Fedd
Social Media Content Developers	Willis Fedd, Oluwamodupe Oloyede,
& Marketing Assistants	Layla Richardson, Amir Burgess
Box Office Manager	Monica Woods
Box Office Staff	Diana Belizaire, Trinity Raspberry
Will Call Manager	Skyla Stephens
Subscriber Relations Managers:	Jae Edwards, Jade Livingston
Publicity Graphic Artist	Willis Fedd
Program Layout	Willis Fedd
Photography & Videography	Willis Fedd

Acknowledgements

FAMU Office of Communications, FAMU Parking Services,
FAMU Plant Operations and Maintenance,
FAMU Police Department, FAMU TV 20, FAMUAN, Tallahassee Democrat,
Navaeh Sylvester

Essential Theatre

2025 -2026 SUBSCRIBERS

ESSENTIAL BENEFACTOR \$1000 - \$2,500

Fitz and Camille Blake	Larry and Sharon Robinson
Wendell L. Holden, Jr.	Dr. Gary and Katrina Rolle
Rev. and Mrs. Theodore Houston	Laurette Scott
T'Keyah Crystal Keymah	Angela LaRuth Tidwell
John Pryor	Dr. Kenneth Williams

ESSENTIAL ANGEL \$550 - \$999

Sharon "Shabu" Anderson	Shauna Y. Smith
Beverly Barber	McClain, Shawnta and Odell Stroud
Drs. A.J. and Mildred Brickler	Dr. Alonda Thomas
Delta Sigma Theta <i>Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter</i>	The Family of Mrs. M. Lucile Williams
In Loving Memory of John R. and Ivradell W. Haugabrook	Rodner and Clarise Wright

ESSENTIAL STAR \$300 - \$ 549

Cheryl Anderson	Bev DeMello	Drs. Darryl and Latricia Scriven
Dr. Na'im Akbar	Kenneth R. Dukes	Patricia Thompson
Kimberley E. Brown, MSW	Tony and Gretel LaRocca	Jeff and Lynn (Bowens) Turner
In Memory of Queen H. Bruton	William and Vernell McCray	Earl and Annette Washington
Elaine Bryant	Jennifer Wilder McKinney	Mr. and Mrs. Keith Wesley, Sr.
Ceseann Daugherty-Carroll	Dr. Larry and Mrs. Betty H. Rivers	Sylvia D. Williams
Carolyn Cummings, Esq.	Jacquelyn Ross and Tonya Session	Dr. Vivian Wright Wilson
Tara Y. Davis	LemRoy (Nick) Saunders	

ESSENTIAL FRIEND \$150 - \$299

Alfreda Blackshear	Dr. Malinda Jackson-James	Jermaine and Takisha Robertson
Joanne Clark	Cassandra Jenkin	Stephanie Roeser
Patricia A. Clem	Brenda G. Johnson	Kia Sanders
Selvin and Sharon Cobb	Gloria Jones	Martha L. Saunders
E. Murrell Dawson	Rhonda Jones	Darnell and Gwendolyn Singleton
Dr. Emma Waters Dawson	Alan R. Kagan, M.D.	Betty Smith
Alberta Duffee	Chinoah Kelley	Mary Spencer
Bernard and Janis Edwards	In loving memory of Curtis and Trudi King	Caretha Thomas
Talethia O. Edwards	Phillip and Abigail Madison	Elton E. Thomas
Gwendolyn Fillyau	Doris Maloy	Harris and Mary Wells
Wileen Footman	Carolyn Anita McGriff	Dr. Marilyn Weatherspoon
Richard Gragg	Hester O'Rourke, RN	Gee Wilson
Dr. Phyllis Gray-Ray	A. Nevell Owens	Lorene Wilson
Barbara D. Green	Cedric T. and Sylvia G. Petties	Alice W. Williams
Vera Haugabrook	Christine and Dennis Reilly	Kim Lyles Williams
Fredia Houston	Eunice Rivers	Dhyana Ziegler, Ph.D.

ESSENTIAL SUBSCRIBER \$70 - \$149

Akiba Aliyy	Nancy Godette	Alveria Redding
Mattie Allen	Mary Lafitte Grayson	Juanita L. Robinson
Faye B. Brown	Brina Hamilton	Dee Rush in Memory Of Dr. F. R. Rush
Clothelia Calhoun	Wendell E. Kimbrough II	Valeria Singleton
Stephanie L. Clarke	Mavis LaBounty	Kara Palmer Smith
Gwendolyn Dixon	Gloria Marion-Smith	Terri LaRuth Smith
Donna Erlich	Brigitte Marshall	Francesca Thomas
Sharon Ford	C. Okoro	Takisha West
Gail Garrett	Eva M. Parker	Margaret D. White
Blondenita T. Gibson	Beverly Randolph	Alzora Ruth Williams