



JAMIL JUDE

Artistic Director

Creative and strategic thinker
dedicated to making art that thrives at
the nexus of artistic excellence and
civic action

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Artistic Director, True Colors Theatre

2019 - Present

- **Lead Curator of Artistic Programs**
- **Transitioned organization from founder-led to a values-based producing model**
- **Visionary leadership led to deeper investments from philanthropic entities**
- **Developed co-leadership model with Managing Director**

Lead Curator of Artistic Programs

Establishes a cohesive vision and artistic theme each season

Sankofa Seasons: Three-year cycle of storytelling

- Created a three-year plan that united mainstage programming, education program, and community engagement under a cohesive vision
- Empowered team of producers and administrators to develop enrichment events and partnerships with mutually interested community groups; allowed for longer lead times to recruit funders to support the work
- Concept of Sankofa borrows on West African symbology that focuses on learning from the past to prepare for the future; three-year cycle features organization's 19th, 20th, and 21st anniversary season

Change and Transition Management

Successfully steered organization through the departure of founder Kenny Leon

Assumed Artistic Director position after sixteen months of serving as Associate Artistic Director

- Unanimously selected by Board and outgoing Artistic Director to lead organization
 - Built trust with stakeholders to assuage any concerns about organization's future and deepened investment in company's direction
 - Worked with Board committee to establish and implement a five-year strategic plan
 - Partnered with Art Equity to host their annual convening in Atlanta; positioned True Colors as a leading institution in the advancement of DEIA
 - Instituted field-wide best practices to improve workplace culture
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True Colors Theatre**
Other Highlights
Include:

- **Launched the Next Narrative Monologue Competition, a national high school program featuring newly commissioned monologues from today's leading Black playwrights**
- **Formed the Drinking Gourd, a network of Black theaters dedicated to co-commission, co-develop, and co-premiere work of Black artists across the country**
- **Established the Connectivity Department - outward facing department that creates authentic relationships with community organizations centered around the art**
- **Four seasons of plays including world premieres, virtual, and live productions**

Increased Investment from Leading Foundations
Built on past relationships with funding community to secure transformational funding for organization

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and South Arts pledged multi-year support; foundations and individuals committed funds to long range projects

- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation supported True Colors at \$250K over three years, their largest investment in True Colors, to date
- South Arts recognized True Colors as a "Southern Cultural Treasure" and awarded the organization with a \$300K gift, over three years
- The Ford Foundation and The National Endowment for the Arts combined to contribute \$110K to the New Work Development program, The Drinking Gourd
- Bloomberg Philanthropies awarded organization several grants to further the Artistic and Administrative vision
- Theatre Communications Group and the Fox Foundation awarded organization with funding to support a resident actor, Tonia Jackson
- Fostered largest bequeathment in True Colors history

Formed Productive Partnership with Managing Director

Worked in a co-leadership model with a new-to-theatre leadership partner

Sole leader responsible for Artistic programs; shared responsibility for fiscal management

- Grew organization's budget by 25% during tenure
 - Maintained entire staff throughout pandemic; increased size of staff in subsequent years
 - Partnered with Managing Director to build a more transparent leadership model that established confidence in staff and healthier dynamics within the company
 - Navigated company through financial challenges of the last few years; worked to create new investment strategies for reserved funds
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Artistic Director

Associate Artistic Director, True Colors Theatre 2017 - 2019

- **Lead New Work Program**
- **Primary public representative and brand ambassador for the organization**

- Senior staff/artistic team member – assisted in season planning, artist recruitment, and creative team selection. Responsible for ensuring all productions met artistic quality standards
- Created a reading series that toured to multiple venues throughout the city expanding the organization's reach and increased audience's appetite for new plays
- As Kenny Leon worked out of town regularly, became lead contact for relationships with funding and artistic community
- Served as an ambassador of True Colors Theatre to Atlanta community which led to new artists experiencing their True Colors' debuts

Artistic Programming Associate, Park Square Theatre 2015 - 2017

- **As part of Theatre Communications Group Leadership University Fellowship**
- **Mentored directly by Artistic Director**

- Senior staff/artistic team member – assisted in season planning, artist recruitment, and creative team selection.
- Member of the strategic planning committee; developed a five-year strategic plan – including succession planning for outgoing Artistic Director
- Director of the Arts Access/Outreach team – developed new strategies to engage communities, artists, and organizations previously underserved and underrepresented; implemented “consensus organizing for the arts” as a core philosophy; lead and facilitated cultural awareness trainings; created new programs and developed organizational partnerships that actively engaged students of color in educational theatrical opportunities; strengthened Park Square’s commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives

Co-Founder/Lead Producer, New Griots Festival 2014 - 2017

- **Tripled organization's budget and programs within two years**

- Festival dedicated to celebrating, advocating, and advancing the careers of emerging Black artists in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. Festival showcased emerging Black artists in various disciplines (visual, performing, literary, etc.).
 - Executed fundraising, marketing, fiscal management, artist selection and festival planning
 - 2017 Festival presented as part of Guthrie Theater's 2016-2017 season
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Producer in Residence, Mixed Blood Theatre

2011 - 2014

- **As part of the National New Play Network (NNPN)**
- **Selected as first-ever Producer in Residence for NNPN program; only available to former Arena Stage producing fellows**

- Member of the production team – lead producer for several mainstage, touring shows, and festivals including the world-premiere production of *Crashing the Party* and *Center of the Margins* festival - a triptych of plays that explored the complex world of people living with disabilities
- Created "Free Speech" - an audience engagement program that offered talkbacks and panel conversations that supplemented mainstage shows
- Created programs that connected organization to the neighboring Somali community that offered performance opportunities to residents

American Voices New Play Institute Producing Fellow, Arena Stage

2010 - 2011

- **As part of Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship**

- Resident producer for Katori Hall's and Charles Randolph Wright's playwright residency
- Served as Assistant Director for the world premiere of Marcus Gardley's *every tongue confess* - the inaugural production in the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle
- Part of the 60th anniversary staff for Arena Stage - the first to work inside the new Mead Center for American Theater

Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship, Arena Stage

2009 - 2010

- Specialized in casting and producing
- Worked alongside Arena Stage's Education department to cast actors for their programs
- As part of the fellowship, studied the writing and work of Zelda Fichandler; participated in workshop and listening sessions taught by Mrs. Fichandler

References

Contact information available by request

- Emilya Cachapero, TCG
- Kenny Leon, Broadway Director
- Chris Coleman, Artistic Director, Denver Theatre Center
- Jack Reuler, Former Artistic Director, Mixed Blood

Education

Colgate University
Bachelor of Arts, English Major

JAMIL JUDE

DIRECTOR
MEMBER SDC



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Notable

Caribbean American
Cultural Arts
Foundation Honoree

2022

TCG Opening
Plenary Speaker

2020

Georgia Equality
Community Builder
Award

2019

Turn the Spotlight

2018-2019

TCG Fellowship,
Leadership U

2015-2017

NNPN Producer in
Residence

2011-2014

Directing Experience

(Partial list)

Clyde's by Lynn Nottage (Nov '23)

The Incredible Book Eating Boy

by Madhuri Shekar ^

Choir Boy by Tarell Alvin McCraney

Paradise Blue by Dominique Morisseau

Skeleton Crew by Dominique Morisseau

And in this Corner: Cassius Clay

by Idris Goodwin

King Hedley II by August Wilson

Appropriate by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

The Highwaymen by Josh Wilder ^

Baltimore is Burning by Kory Pullam ^

The Shape of Things by Neil LaBute

My Children! My Africa! By Athol Fugard

The Piano Lesson by August Wilson

Dead Man's Cell Phone by Sarah Ruhl

for colored girls who considered suicide...

by Ntozake Shange

New Play Workshop

(Partial list)

Co-Founders by Rhyme Combinator

Polar Bears, Black Boys & Prairie Fringed Orchids

by Vincent Terrell Durham

S.A.H.M. by Sonhara Eastman (virtual)

Co-Founders by Rhyme Combinator (virtual)

Scarfoot Lives by Idris Goodwin

Parks: A Portrait of a Young Artist

by Harrison David Rivers

The Drop Off by James Anthony Tyler

Gravity by Josh Wilder

every tongue confess by Marcus Gardley

The Highwaymen by Josh Wilder

Denver Theatre Center

The Alliance Theatre

Denver Theatre Center and
A.C.T. (Seattle)

Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre

Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre

Birmingham Children's Theatre

Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre

Curious Theatre

History Theater

Underdog Theatre Company

Daleko Arts

Park Square Theatre

Olney Theatre

Theatre in the Round

Forum Theatre/

Round House-Silver Spring

ACT (San Francisco)

Denver Theatre Center

National Black Theatre and

B.M.P.F.

N.A.M.T.

The Playwrights' Center

History Theatre

The Playwrights' Center

Pillsbury House Theater

Arena Stage

History Theatre

^ World Premiere