

The Flea presents
the world-premiere production of

HANG TIME

written and directed by Zora Howard



Produced in partnership with
W.A.C.O. (Where Art Can Occur) Theater Center
and Butler Electronics

Photo by Claude Alexandre



Dedication from the Playwright

“... for Claude, Alexandre, and Zachary. My menfolk.”

Featuring

Cecil Blutchter* as BLOOD

Dion Graham* as BIRD

Akron Watson* as SLIM

Understudy

Aaron Morton*

Production Stage Manager: Beatrice Pérez-Arche

Assistant Stage Manager: Sydnei Williams

Scenic Design: Neal Wilkinson

Costume Design: Dominique Fawn Hill

Lighting Design: Reza Behjat

Sound Design: Megan Culley

Movement Director: Charlie Oates

Assistant Costume Designer: Carla Thomas

Assistant Lighting Designer: Xiangfu Xiao

Company Wellness Consultant: Shelley Nicole

Suspension Illusion : Rick Sordelet/Sordelet Inc.

Wardrobe Supervisor: Carla Thomas

Casting: Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA, tbd casting co.

Physical Therapy Services: Harkness Center for Dance Injuries

Scenic Builders: Tom Carroll Scenery



*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, The Flea, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

Special Thanks

Claude & Alex Howard, Martin Meccouri, Dominique Morriseau, John Eisner, Gabby Palitz, Charlie Oates, Kyle Donnelly, Emily Shain & Luis Vega, Peter Goldstein, Jack Fuller, Elijah Bean, Justin Emeka, Kari Olmon, Kamal Bolden, Joshua Boone, Brian D. Coats, William Hall, Jr., Reginald André Jackson, Christopher Livingston, Keith Randolph Smith, Bedlam NYC, Ojai Playwrights Conference, & Seattle Rep., Nia Holston, Equal Justice Initiative

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Creative Team



Zora Howard (Playwright/Director) is a Harlem-bred writer and performer. Plays include STEW (2021 Pulitzer Prize Finalist; Page 73 Productions); THE MASTER'S TOOLS(Williamstown Theatre Festival); BUST (2022 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Finalist); and GOOD FAITH. In 2020, her film Premature (2020 Film Independent John Cassavetes Award nominee), which she co-wrote with director Rashaad Ernesto Green, opened in theaters following its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. Zora is the inaugural Judith Champion Fellow at Manhattan Theatre Club, a 2022 Lilly Award and Helen Merrill Award recipient and is currently under commission from Seattle Rep, MTC, and Wessex Grove.



Cecil Blutchter (Blood) Regional Theater: Pipeline (Actor's Theatre of Louisville); Petrol Station (The Kennedy Center). NYC: The Hot Wing King (Signature Theatre); Tempo (Ensemble Studio Theatre); Showtime Blues (Ensemble Studio Theatre). Film: Premature (Dir. Rashad Ernesto Green); Skin (Dir. Guy Nattiv); Sketch (Dir. Mariama Diallo). Television: Hightown (Lionsgate); TheGame (Paramount+) The Good Fight (CBS All-Access); Random Acts of Flyness (HBO). Training: M.F.A. (Penn State). Follow: @CecilCreates
Website: CecilBlutchterCreates.com.



Dion Graham (Bird): From HBO's The Wire, Dion is thrilled to be here for this premiere at The Flea! Broadway: Machinal, Not About Nightingales (also London's Royal National Theatre, dir. Trevor Nunn); International: The Gospel At Colonus (Edinburgh Int'l Festival, dir. Lee Breur), Pillars (Ibsen Conference, Norway); Off-Broadway: On The Levee, Lobby Hero (Lortel Award nom.), 10 Things To Do Before I Die, A Hard Heart, Washington Square Moves, 2, A View Of The Dome, Watbanaland, Elliot Loves among others. Premieres and classics in NYC and at numerous leading regional theatres. Film/TV: Madam Secretary (Fred Cole), The Blacklist, Elementary, The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty, Malcolm X, Mercy, The Good Wife, Gossip Girl, NYPD Blue, Homicide, Hoop Life, Hack, Law & Order (all three) and more. He's an award winning and highly esteemed audiobook narrator. He's also the series narrator for A&E's The First 48. Critically acclaimed, his performances have been praised as thoughtful and compelling, vivid and full of life.

Creative Team



Akron Watson (Slim): Most recently seen on stage as “Rusty” in The Kennedy Center’s critically acclaimed production of “Guys & Dolls” (2022). Broadway: The TONY, EMMY, and GRAMMY winning “The Color Purple” Revival (Bobby, Grady U/S), The TONY winning “The Play That Goes Wrong” (Trevor), The TONY, GRAMMY winning “Hamilton: An American Musical” (Aaron Burr). Off-Broadway: Fortress of Solitude (Subtle Distinction, The Public Theater), Black No More (winner of 2022 Lortel Award, The New Group/Signature Theater). Regional: Mr. Holland’s Opus the musical (as Glenn Holland, Ogunquit Playhouse), Sister Act (as Curtis, Papermill Playhouse), Dreamgirls (North Shore Music Theater), To Kill a Mockingbird (as Tom Robinson, Dallas Theater Center) The Royale (as Jay Jackson, Repertory of St. Louis). Film: Spilt Milk (as Rodney), Seasons of Gray (as Chris), Miss Juneteenth (as Bacon). TV: Empire (as Eric Houston, FOX), Chicago Med (as Trevor, NBC). Voice-over: One Piece: Heart of Gold (as Psycho P), Borderlands Pre-sequel (as Dunks Watson), The Walking Dead: Survival Instinct (as Chris Brian), American Idol season 7.



Aaron Morton (Understudy) is an actor, writer and artist born and raised in Plainfield, NJ. Founder of Bridge to Reality, a nonprofit geared towards increasing the presence of people of color in the arts through the mentorship of high school students of color (www.bridgetoreality.org). Theater: Room Enough (for Us All), Pipeline, Othello. Film: Beauty (Writer Lena Waithe, Dir. Andrew Dosunmu), When They See Us (Dir. Ava DuVernay). TV: “FBI: Most Wanted”, “For Life”, “Bull”, “Blacklist”. Education: Columbia University (MFA), Colgate University www.aaronmorton.com

Bea Pérez-Arche (Production Stage Manager) is a Cuban American Theatre Artist, based in New York City. She is honored to be a part of this production and to work alongside such a phenomenal creator and incredible company. She has primarily worked at The Public Theater on the New York Shakespeare Festival, Under The Radar Theatre Festival and with the Public Shakespeare Initiative. She is an Associate Artist at Sanguine Theatre Company and has worked with a range of companies including, Tectonic Theater Project, One Whale’s Tale, Women’s Project Theater, Little Island, Chelsea Factory and Ballet Collective. She received her BFA in Theater Arts: Design & Production from Boston University. She focuses her work on creating community in the rehearsal room and currently freelances as a stage manager and dramaturg.

Sydnei Williams (Assistant Stage Manager) is a stage manager from Astoria, Queens. From Quintessence Theatre Group: Mary Poppins. From THE Rev. Theatre: ‘Ain’t Misbehavin’, State Fair, Hunchback of Notre Dame, Catch Me If You Can, Footloose and Buddy Holly: The Buddy Holly Story. From Oswego State Theatre: The Wedding Singer. Sydnei is an expert scrapbooker and baker of brownies. It has been such an honor bringing this new work into the world, it has been such a life changing experience. Thank you so much for all the support in my life.

Creative Team

Neal Wilkinson (Scenic Design) is a set designer, visual artist, and production manager. His most recent set design was the American Vicarious production of *Shooting Celebrities* by John Ransom Phillips, which was presented at the Flea in 2022. Previously, Neal's design work has been presented at venues such as the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Lincoln Center, the Finnish National Opera, and Spoleto Festival, as well as other theater festivals internationally. As a member of the Builders Association from 2003 to 2019, he designed works including *House/Divided*, *Elements of OZ*, and *Strange Window*. Neal's company *Corps Liminis* provides production management for theatrical productions, museums, and installations. Most recent projects include *Particular Matter(s)* by Tomas Saraceno and the *Yanomami Exhibition* at the SHED, *Lightscape* at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the *Signals* exhibition at MoMA.

Dominique Fawn Hill (Costume Design) Broadway: *Fat Ham*. Regional: (Portland Center Stage); *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*, *Rent* (The Shed); *Dark Girl Chronicles: CHRONICLE X* (National Black Theatre); *125th & FREEdom* (The Public Theater & The National Black Theatre); *Fat Ham* (Playwrights Horizons & CTG); *Tambo & Bones* (MTC); *Where the Mountain Meets the Sea*. Awards and Nominations: Lucille Lortel Award Nominee, Obie Award, and the USITT/USA Prague Quadrennial Best Costume Design Award. Website: dominiquehill.com.

Reza Behjat (Lighting Design) Reza Behjat is a freelance visual storyteller and lighting designer based in NYC. He began his career in Iran - where he worked with some prominent directors for several years. Besides numerous productions he designed in his home country, Reza's works have been shown in Off-Broadway and regional theaters across the United States such as Audible, Atlantic Theater, Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theater, The Guthrie Theater, Wilma Theater, Actors Theater of Louisville, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, PlayMakers Rep, etc. Off-Broadway: *Good Enemy* (Audible), *Wish You Were Here* (Playwrights Horizons), *The Vagrant Trilogy*, *Out of Time* (Public Theater), *English* (Atlantic Theater), *P.S. (Ars Nova)*, *Henry VI* (NAATCO), *Hamlet* (Waterwell), and etc. Opera: *Angelique*, *Le Portrait De Manon* (Manhattan School of Music), *Ritual of Breath* (Dartmouth College, Stanford Live), *Gianni Schicchi*, *Buoso's Ghost* (Michigan Opera). Awards: Knight of Illumination Award for Nina Simone: *Four Women*. Drama Desk Awards and multiple Henry Hews Design Awards.

Megan Culley (Sound Design) Selected Design: *Antigone* (Cleveland Play House); *The Loophole* (The Public Theater); *Holmes & Watson Apt. 2B* (KCRep); *Grounded/Hurricane Diane*; (Dobama Theater); *Terminus* (New York Theatre Workshop); *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (ACT of CT); *Stranger Sings!* (Off-Broadway); *Inanimate* (The Flea Theater); *The Last Match* (B Street Theatre); *Roan @ the Gates* (Luna Stage); *The Color Purple* (Theatre Horizon). Selected Associate Design: *A Christmas Carol with Jefferson Mays* (Broadway); *Flying Over Sunset* (Broadway); for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf (The Public Theater); *The Old Man and the Old Moon* (KCRep).

Creative Team

Charlie Oates (Movement Direction) has worked at numerous theaters as a movement director including La Jolla Playhouse, The Mixed Blood, The Old Globe, Cincinnati Playhouse, San Diego Rep, Chautauqua Theatre Company and the Denver Center Theatre Company and has been a guest artist in leading actor training programs internationally. His years as a creator and performer of original physical theatre works including, Truck Dog (with James Donlon), Staying Married (with Moira Keefe) and his solo work, Man Overboard have taken him across North America, the Pacific and Europe and his work as a director has been seen throughout the U.S., New Zealand, Prague and Berlin. The majority of his lengthy career as a movement teacher in MFA acting programs was spent at the University of California, San Diego where he served as department chair and received the Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award. Following his retirement from UCSD he has continued to direct, teach and serve as a movement director at theatres and universities.

Xiangfu Xiao (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a New York-based Lighting Designer. He holds an MFA in Lighting Design from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Design Credits: The Diamond (Pregones/PRTT, NY), Measure For Measure (Mark O'Donnell Theater, NY), King Charles III, Marisol, 'Tis Pity She's a Housewife (NYU Tisch), Curiouser, Butterfly Play, PBS vs. Senate (Columbia University), Graduate this Weekend Musical (Da Yin Theatre, Beijing, China), Huang Liang Yi Meng (National Grand Theatre, Beijing, China). Associate/Assistant Credits: Sound Of the Silk Road Musical (LD: Ken Billington, Shaanxi Grand Theatre, Xi'An, China), The March To Liberation (LD: Robert Wierzel, David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center, NY), Life is a Dream (LD: Cha See, Center Stage, Baltimore), Sanctuary City (LD: Cha See, Arena Stage, Washington D.C.), Becomes A Woman (LD: M.L. Geiger, NY City Center). xiangfuxiao.com

Carla "Fly Carla" Thomas (Assistant Costume Designer & Wardrobe Supervisor) is a costume designer, wardrobe stylist and style contributor. She is a creative and motivated Local USA 829-IATSE union wardrobe professional who loves all things fashion. She can do it all! She's the one designing and styling your favorite commercials, tv shows and movies! Hailing from Baltimore, cultivated at Howard University and now thriving in Brooklyn, Carla is always on a plane or in a showroom. "Some said Carla, how you get so fly. I said from not being afraid to fall out the sky." Find her talking fashion and inspiring as Fly Carla on Instagram.

Rick Sordelet (Suspension Illusion Consultant), Rick and Christian Kelly-Sordelet created Sordelet Inc., a Native-owned action movement company with 30 years experience. They have done 80 Broadway productions, including The Lion King, and currently Tina the National Tour with 52 first-class productions worldwide, National Tours, Operas and Films, They teach at William Esper Studio, HB Studio, CUNY Harlem, Montclair State and 22 years at Yale School of Drama. Rick is a board member for Red Bull Theater. To learn more, visit www.sordeletink.com and follow us on Instagram at www.Sordeletinc.com

Creative Team

Shelley Nicole (Company Wellness Consultant) is the founder of Sovereign Hands Wellness, is a transformational healer using the power of love and the energetic magic of music to shift the world. What makes Shelley's practice distinct is her direct connection to clients as a performing artist and healer which gives her unique insight into the hearts and minds of the artists she serves. Shelley Nicole is also a songwriter, vocalist, composer, actress and leader of the band Shelley Nicole's blaKbüshe, which has released three albums, she who bleeds..., The Quick & Dirty EP and I Am American produced by Grammy winning guitarist, Vernon Reid. Shelley is a featured member of Burnt Sugar the Arkestra Chamber, Shelley Nicole has graced a myriad of stages including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and The Apollo Theater. As an actress she plays key roles in Nia O. Witherspoon's "Priestess of Twerk" and "Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower Opera."

Stephanie Yankwitt, CSA, tbd casting co. (she/her/hers). Resident Casting Director at Soho Rep. Current theatre (NYC): Lunch Bunch (PlayCo), Public Obscenities (Soho Rep/NAATCO), The Coast Starlight (LCT) Crumbs from The Table of Joy (Keen Co.), and SMART (EST). Ongoing work with Tectonic Theater Project, NAATCO, La Jolla Playhouse, Theater-Works Hartford, Primary Stages, The Sol Project, and Long Wharf Theatre. Ongoing work with Lexicon Films, Culture House, and O Positive. Member: CSA, Equity in Entertainment Committee.

Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

WACO (Where Art Can Occur) Theater Center is a contemporary performing and visual arts organization, dedicated to the empowerment of Los Angeles artists, young people and stories of the African diaspora. Founded in 2017 by Richard and Tina Knowles Lawson, WACO commissions, develops, presents and produces artistic works to provide artists and young people a platform and voice to showcase their creativity. Find out more about WACO and our programs at wacotheatercenter.com or [@wacotheater](https://www.instagram.com/wacotheater) on IG.

Butler Electronics (Producing Partner) was founded in 2022 by Zora Howard as a vehicle to develop and produce the work of provocative artists in need of support to launch their creative projects. We are proud to partner with the Flea Theater to co-produce the world premiere of **HANG TIME**.



Mission

We support and invest in experimental art by Black, brown, and queer artists. We provide space, financial support, producing partnership and other resources so that they may develop and share their vision in community with audiences.

Core Values

Human centered

We invest in people before things. We recognize that people are at the core of our work and will create opportunities that are equitable, fair and promote open access. When making decisions, we will consider everyone's humanity, unique life experiences and circumstances.

Anti-racism & Anti-oppression

We actively work to dismantle structures that reinforce systemic racism and we replace them with structures that empower all of our community members and stakeholders. We are pro-Black, pro-brown, pro-woman/femme and pro-queer, at a minimum. We acknowledge this list is not exhaustive, and embrace the multitude of ever-evolving identities and intersections.

Collaboration

We work together and we are not siloed. We value when artists, staff and stakeholders participate in the development of the organization. We invite heterogeneity and differences of opinion.

Innovation

We believe in pushing boundaries and challenging the status quo, on stages and in our operations.

Sustainability

We are accountable for our impact on the environment. We will do our part to sustain our planet for future generations.

Transparency

We communicate clearly and don't speak in coded language. We are honest about what we can and cannot provide, and about how resources are divided. We invite our community to hold us accountable to our expressed values and mission.

Visit www.theflea.org for tickets and more information.

GET SOCIAL: [@thefleatheater](https://www.instagram.com/thefleatheater) [facebook.com/thefleatheater](https://www.facebook.com/thefleatheater)

The Flea is located at 20 Thomas Street in TriBeCa, 3 blocks above Chambers Street, between Broadway and Church Street

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The Flea Thanks its Institutional Funders:

