

**361 E. CADY STREET, NORTHVILLE, MI 48167** PHONE: 248.347.0003 | TIPPINGPOINTTHEATRE.COM

NORTHVILLE 101 East Main Street at Center 248.349.6940 OrinJewelers.com

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\$2,695

# THE MOUNTAINTOP by Katori Hall

Original Broadway production produced by Jean Doumanian, Sonia Friedman Productions, Ambassador Theatre Group, Raise the Roof 7, Ted Snowdon, Alhadeff Productions/Lauren Doll, B Square + 4 Productions/ Broadway Across America, Jacki Barlia Florin/Cooper Federman, Ronnie Planalp/Moellenberg Taylor and Marla Rubin Productions/Blumenthal Performing Arts, in association with Scott Delman.

*The Mountaintop* was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City, and was first produced by Theatre 503 in June 2009 and further produced at Trafalgar Studio One in July 2009 by Sonia Friedman Productions and Jean Doumanian, Tali Pelman for Ambassador Theatre Group, Bob Bartner, Freddy DeMann, Jerry Frankel, Ted Snowdon and Marla Rubin Productions Ltd.

*The Mountaintop* was developed at the 2008 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a program of the Playwrights Foundation (Amy L. Mueller, Artistic Director).

#### There will be no intermission during this performance.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author(s)'s rights, and actionable under United States copyright law.

# Welcome to **TIPPING POINTTHEATRE**



### "... you don't have to be perfect to be a creator of change."

Coming up in the Mid-South, the dream of one day working in entertainment was fresh in this Delta boy's mind. Back in February of 2008, I was given the opportunity to perform Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "Mountaintop Speech" at Oakshire Elementary School in the Whitehaven area of Memphis, Tennessee. Though my young 3rd-grade self did not completely understand the monumental piece, the performance I gave had a community impact. My Southern Baptist Church upbringing enabled me to fall into an electrifying cadence of the speech that surprised the parents, school leadership and, most importantly, a local civil rights leader who was at the Black History Program. They asked my parents if I could come to the Lorraine Motel for an event celebrating Dr. King. My parents agreed. A week later, I performed at the Lorraine Motel. My performance aired on the local Memphis news, and the spark of creating was lit. That day kick-started a passion that has ultimately landed me here at Tipping Point Theatre, bringing the Mid-South to the Midwest.

The Mountaintop does more than explore a fictional account of the final night on Earth for Dr. King; this play explores the humanity of the famous civil rights leader. We are allowed to pull back the worldly perfection around how Dr. King is perceived in society to see the perfect imperfection of him as a person. One of the key ideas that this play explores is that you don't have to be perfect to be a creator of change. In the fight for civil rights in this country, the thing that we often focus on is the leaders of the movement. This centralization of momentum is damaging for movements and that can be tracked historically. Like Katori Hall states in the script, "The tall tree is felled first." Though this is true, we must remember that one tree alone doesn't make a forest. I hope that patrons feel empowered to be creators of change themselves.

We all have a weight to carry in this race, a weight that no one is exempt from, which is something Dr. King knew well. The baton must pass on, and we all must do our part to make sure it is never dropped.

Vincent Ford, Jr. Director & Associate Artist Cast

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Nigel Tutt**\* Camae **Faith Berry**\*

### Understudies

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Dez Walker** Camae **Nyah Pierson** 

# Setting

Place Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee Time April 3, 1968

There will be no intermission during this performance.

\*member, Actors' Equity Association

# **Production Team**

Director Vincent Ford, Jr. Scenic Design Monica Spencer Properties Design Ezra Korycinski Costume Design Saawan Tiwari Lighting Design Sam Weiser Sound Design Kennikki Jones Technical Director Michéal Ricks Stage Manager Kaila Madison\* Assistant Stage Manager Liv Morris Health & Safety Manager Ezra Korycinski Health & Safety On-Call Nyah Pierson Carpenter Monica Spencer



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### Tipping Point Staff

Producing Artistic Director **James R. Kuhl** Company Manager **Natalie LaCroix-Tann** Associate Artists **Vincent Ford, Jr. | Nyah Pierson** Apprentice **Ezra Korycinski** 

### **Board of Directors**

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The Tipping Point Theatre 2021/22 Season is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.





## **Meet The Cast**



#### Nigel Tutt | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What up doe! Nigel is a Detroit native and graduate of Wayne State University's Theatre and Dance Department who currently resides in Los Angeles, California. Select theatre productions in which Tutt has appeared include Top Dog Under Dog, A Raisin in the Sun, Harriet Jacobs, Mamma Mia, and Sister Act. Tutt is elated to be back home doing some REAL theatre, feeling the

energy of the people in the space, and doing what he loves. "I have some big shoes to fill with the role of King. MLK wasn't just a giant within history, he was a human be-ing in the moment just like the rest of us. As the saying goes: 'Film is for the directors, TV is for the writers, and the stage is where the actor gets to work their chops.' To God be the glory for this production. I hope you all have a great time."



#### Faith Berry | Camae

Faith is overjoyed to be performing with Tipping Point Theatre! She is a graduate of Wayne State University, where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. Her most recent roles include Sam in Thistle Rose Academy of the Arts' *In Pieces* and Cleopatra in A Host of People's *Kilo Batra: In Death More Radiant*. A classically trained musician, she now enjoys writing music and singing show tunes in her free time. She

would like to thank God, her mother Roslyn, Samuel Jr., Richard I, David, and Devin, for seeing her one step further in her artistic journey.

# **Production Team**

#### Katori Hall | Playwright

Katori is a playwright and performer hailing from Memphis, Tennessee. Her award-winning play Hoodoo Love premiered at the Cherry Lane Theatre in 2007. It was developed under Lynn Nottage as part of the theatre's 2006 Mentor Project. Hoodoo Love received three AUDELCO nominations (Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, August Wilson Playwright Award). Her other plays include Remembrance, Hurt Village, Saturday Night/ Sunday Morning, The Mountaintop, On the Chitlin' Circuit, and Freedom Train (KCACTF ten minute play national finalist). Her work has been developed and presented at the following venues: the American Repertory Theatre, Kennedy Center, Cherry Lane Theatre, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Schomburg Center, BRICLab, Women's Project, World Financial Center, Lark Play Development Center, New Professional Theatre, The O'Neill, the Juilliard School, Stanford University, and Columbia University. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lecompte du Nouy Prize, North Manhattan Arts Alliance Fellowship, New York State Council on the Arts Commission Grant, New Professional Theatre's Writers' Festival award, Fellowship of Southern Writers Bryan Family Award in Drama, New York Foundation of the Arts Fellowship in Playwriting and Screenwriting, Royal Court Theatre Residency, and the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award. She has also been a Kennedy Center Playwriting Fellow. As an actor, her credits include Law & Order: Svu, The President's Puppets (The Public), Growing Up a Slave (American Place Theatre), Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (American Place Theatre), the World Premiere of Amerika (Theatre de la Jeune Lune/American Repertory Theatre), Spring Awakening (Moscow Art Theatre School), Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death (Classical Theatre of Harlem), Schooled (WOW Café Theatre), and Black Girl (Sande Shurin Theatre). As a journalist, her work has been published in The Boston

Globe, Essence, Newsweek, and The Commercial Appeal. She graduated from Columbia University in 2003 with a major in African-American Studies and Creative Writing. She was awarded top departmental honors from the university's Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS). In 2005, she graduated from the American Repertory Theatre Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University, receiving a Master of Fine Arts in Acting. She is now a student in the Juilliard School's Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program. She is a proud member of the Women's Project Playwrights' Lab, the Lark Playwrights' Workshop, and the Dramatists Guild. katorihall.com

#### Vincent Ford, Jr. | Director + Associate Artist

Vincent is from Anguilla, Mississippi. He attended Tri-Cities High School in Atlanta, Georgia, and graduated from their Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Drama Department. Vincent is an actor, director, and fight choreographer. He is a University of Michigan Acting Alumni and recently graduated from Northwestern University School of Communication with a Master of Science in Leadership for Creative Enterprises. Vincent is always thrilled to share pieces of African American Theatre and grateful for every opportunity to share stories of color. He believes that our art heals, and the best way to get on one accord is to learn each other's experiences.

# **Production Team**

#### Kaila Madison | Stage Manager

Kaila is an alumnus of Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit 2017 and Eastern Michigan University Class of 2019. They are very excited to be back in the world of live theater and are happy to return to the Tipping Point after their run of *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *The Baxter Sisters*. Kaila welcomes you to this space and thanks you for joining us for a night of legacy and humanity as we imagine the final moments of an iconic trailblazer of peace and equity in MLK. They would also like to thank Mom, Dad, Chris, Aristotle, Buka, and Yaz for being there through it all: "Your love and support is worth everything and has shaped me into who I am today."

#### Liv Morris | Assistant Stage Manager

Studying at the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre and Dance, Liv (they/he/she) is a sophomore directing major and is delighted to have their first official Assistant Stage Manager position with Tipping Point Theatre. Thus far, he has held directing and assistant directing positions in shows such as *Radium Girls, 21 Chump Street,* and *Giddy Up.* She is also no stranger to the stage, having held roles such as Matron "Mama" Morton (*Chicago*) and Alf (*Peter and The StarCatcher*). Liv hopes to continue their directorial studies while exploring ways to bring more black narratives to the stage with a long-term goal of founding his own black entertainment company.

#### Monica Spencer | Scenic Designer + Carpenter

Monica attended the Young Americans College of the Performing Arts, continued studying musical theatre at the New York Film Academy, and recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University with degrees in Art and Media Broadcast Journalism. Monica's love for theatre has led her to work both on and off the stage. She has designed, built, and painted sets for The Flint Rep, Theatre Nova, Oakland Community College, The Encore Musical Theatre Company, Black and Brown Theatre Company, Northern Stage, and The Detroit Opera House. Monica previously ran Bella Fortuna's Dinner Theatre and has entertained guests with Carnival Cruise Line. She is currently playing Siobhan in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at the Dio Dining & Entertainment. Check out MonicaSpencer.weebly.com for future performances and other artistic endeavors.

### Ezra Korycinski | Properties Designer + Health & Safety Manager + Apprentice

Ezra is Tipping Point Theatre's apprentice for Season 14-15. His previous work includes *Don't Talk to the Actors* (Beatrice), *Riding A Mad Horse* (Johnny), directing *You Can't Take It With You*, and writing/co-directing *Dark Roast Comedy*. His favorite show to-date remains adapting and directing *It's A Wonderful Life* with his old theater crew in December 2020. A hearty thanks to his partner, Elliot, for being willing to have dinner at 11pm some nights.

# **Production Team**

#### Saawan Tiwari | Costume Designer

Saawan is a Manhattan-based costume designer and graduate of the University of Michigan.They also teach through Roundabout Theatre Company and Big Green Theater. Saawan is thrilled to return to Michigan and get to work on a show with such importance and relevance in the modern era. Selected credits include *Footloose* (American Stage), *Bruise and Thorn* (Pipeline Theatre Company), *Far From Canterbury* (Barnstormers Theatre), *Prospect Hill* (Piper Theatre), and *Yerma* (University of Michigan). Saawan is a proud member of the LGBTQ+ and AAPI communities. saawandesigns.com

#### Sam Weiser | Lighting Designer

Samantha "Sam" (she/her/hers) is excited to be working on *The Mountaintop* and working at Tipping Point Theatre! Sam is currently living and working as a designer and theatrical electrician in New York City. She was recently selected as the 2022 Howell Binkley Lighting Fellow. You can check out her lighting designs and other projects at samanthaweiserLD.com.

#### Kennikki Jones | Sound Designer

Kennikki is an award winning writer/director from Detroit. She first fell in love with sound design when she obtained her Master of Fine Arts in Film from Florida State University designing her short film, *Knock Knock*. The film was accepted into 20 film festivals, garnered 14 awards, and recently went viral on Screamfest's Youtube channel. Her most recent theatrical sound designs include A Christmas Carol and The Actors. Kennikki is excited to be working with Tipping Point again on The Mountaintop!

#### Michéal David Ricks | Technical Director

With a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre and a Bachelor of Science in set design, Michéal (originally from Detroit) now resides in Los Angeles and has acclimated himself as a soughtafter set/lighting designer this side of the millennia. Nominated in 2007 for an NAACP Image Award for Best Set Design Crash Pad, Michéal also designed sets for Dawgs, Shoplife, and 9 to 5. He also received a 2014 NAACP nomination for The Magnificent Dunbar Hotel (The Robey Theatre Company), which debuted to a sold-out house in its extension runs at the Los Angeles Theater Center. In lighting, he designs for concert dance like the Brazilian Ballet Company, PhilaDanCo, Lula Washington's Dance Theatre, and theatrical companies Golden Performing Arts Center and Center Stage Opera, for which his credits include Parade, Peter Pan, Amahl and the Night Visitors, The Wizard of OZ, Ragtime, and La Trivita to name a few. "I don't just design sets, I create awe-inspiring environments that encompasses and compliments the world of stage and its stories ..."

#### Nyah Pierson | Health & Safety Manager On-Call + Associate Artist

A Metro Detroit native, Nyah recently graduated from the University of Michigan - Theatre & Drama and LSA Departments. During her time at Michigan, she worked on various productions within the program and the surrounding community. She has mentored youth in the Metro Detroit & Ypsilanti areas by directing, teaching, and performing. She continues to teach youth in the Metro Detroit areas through the non-profit organization, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, of which she is also an alum ('16). Outside of TPT, Nyah is focusing on her music, co-hosting the podcast Rant Much???, and diving deeper into the surrounding artistic community.

# Tipping Point Staff

#### James R. Kuhl | Producing Artistic Director

James has been Tipping Point Theatre's Producing Artistic Director since 2009. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Alma College and his Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Wayne State University. He completed The Purple Rose Theatre Apprentice Program, as well as a two-year internship with Alma College, where he helped teach classes. James learned set carpentry while working at Interlochen Fine Arts Camp and is a past winner of the Heck Rabi Playwriting Competition for The Kings of Unionville, which was later performed at Tipping Point as its first world premiere play. James recently won a Wilde Award for his performance of Every Brilliant Thing, which he now tours to local organizations as one of TPT's central Outreach Programs. Tipping Point acting credits include: Starbuck in The Rainmaker, Austin in True West, Ernest in The Importance of Being Earnest, and the one person show of Every Brilliant Thing. At Tipping Point he has directed The Last of the Red Hot Lovers, The Cocktail Hour, The Mystery of Irma Vep, Fiction, I Hate Hamlet, Murder at The Howard Johnsons, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, The Outgoing Tide, Stella and Lou, American Wee-Pie, Don't Dress for Dinner, Ripcord, Funnyman, and The 39 Steps. James has worked as an area actor with The Purple Rose Theatre, Williamston Theatre, The Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Boarshead Theatre, Spotlight Theatre, Croswell Opera House, and the Summer Studio Theatre in Illinois. He has also been a member of The Detroit Public Theatre's Advisory Board since its inception in 2015. James has served as an adjunct professor at Eastern Michigan University, and is currently a Part Time Faculty member at Wayne State University in the Department of Theatre and Dance, where he has also directed productions of Blithe Spirit and August: Osage County. James is a proud father of 3 and loving partner of 20 years to his wonderful wife Hallie. James is committed to a lifelong career of supporting and advocating for the wellbeing of artists and the art of theatre

#### Natalie LaCroix-Tann | Company Manager

Natalie's passion for theatre started in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and she's been hooked ever since. Her involvement in theatre has taken many forms through the years including: acting, directing, stage managing, and designing props. With an interest in learning all aspects of theatre, she graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a major in Theatre Arts in 2015. After completing the TPT Apprentice Program in 2017, she's excited to continue to help promote and grow the theatre. Interested in seeing her work and what's new at The Point? Check out our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter pages! "Thank you to our patrons, my family, and Malik! We couldn't do it without you!"

# Too Heavy For Your Pocket

by Jiréh Breon Holder

May 13 – June 12 , 2022



Open Book Theatre 1621 West Road, Trenton 734 288-7753 openbooktc.com

In the summer of 1961 when Bowzie leaves his classes at Fisk to join the Freedom Riders he leaves behind his family and friends. A powerful look at the balance between security and risk, the bonds of love and friendship, and the personal cost of progress.

Proof of vaccination and masks required.

# **MEMBER REWARDS** Benefits for your yearly donation.

Tipping Point Theatre is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your contribution directly impacts the success of our mission. Because of donors, we're able to enrich the Michigan theatre community by creating over 90 jobs for local artists each season. Through our budget and our audience spending before and after shows, we inject over \$1,000,000 into the local economy on a yearly basis. We also provide staffing for youth theatre through the PUPS program and have a performance partnership with Wayne State University. Thank you for your ongoing financial support of Tipping Point — it makes a tremendous difference!

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#### ACTOR \$250-\$499 | all the Apprentice benefits plus...

- Purchase tickets or reserve seats 5 days in advance of the general public
- 1 concession voucher per show\* (6)

#### DIRECTOR \$500-\$749 | all the Actor benefits plus...

- \$3 discount on guest tickets
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#### PRODUCER \$750-\$1,249 | all the Director benefits plus...

- Purchase tickets or reserve seats 7 days in advance of the general public
- Recognition in the lobby
- \$4 discount on guest tickets
- 1 additional concession vouchers per show\* (total of 2 per show)

#### CADY CLUB \$1,250+ | all the Producer benefits plus...

- First access to all tickets including Opening Night
- \$5 discount on guest tickets
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\*Concessions may not be served at every performance due to Covid-19 precautions. Other redeemable item(s) will be available in these instances.

#### MEMBERSHIP RUNS JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

Membership rewards valid during our 14th Season. Contribution period is aligned with our fiscal year of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Special benefits are available for those who have provided for Tipping Point Theatre in their will or through our planned giving arrangements. Please contact James Kuhl, TPT Producing Artistic Director, to discuss further.

# **SEASON 14 DONATING MEMBERS**

Thank you to these individuals and businesses who have donated to the theatre for Season 14. Season Passes for Season 14 are now on sale in the box office and online. Many supporters choose to make their annual donation at the time of purchase. *Donations received as of May 11, 2022.* 

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### 2021/22 SEASON At-A-Glance

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

#### Nov. 18-Dec. 19, 2021

Previews Nov. 18-19 | Opening Nov. 20 Wed. Matinee Nov. 24, Dec. 8, & Dec. 15

ON SALE Cady Club Sept. 27 | Producer Sept. 29 | Actor/Director Oct. 1 | General Oct. 6

### THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Feb. 3-Mar. 6, 2022

Previews Feb. 3-4 | Opening Feb. 5 Wed. Matinee Feb. 16 & Mar. 2

ON SALE Cady Club Dec. 13 | Producer Dec. 15 | Actor/Director Dec. 17 | General Dec. 22

### THE BAXTER SISTERS

Mar. 31-Apr. 24, 2022

Previews Mar. 31-Apr. 1 | Opening Apr. 2 Wed. Matinee Apr. 13 & Apr. 20

ON SALE Cady Club Feb. 14 | Producer Feb. 16 | Actor/Director Feb. 18 | General Feb. 23

### THE MOUNTAINTOP

#### May 19-June 18, 2022

Previews May 19-20 | Opening May 21 Wed. Matinee June 1 & June 15

ON SALE Cady Club Mar. 28 | Producer Mar. 30 | Actor/Director Apr. 1 | General Apr. 6

### TRACY JONES

#### June 30 - July 24, 2022

Previews June 30-July 1 | Opening July 2 Wed. Matinee July 13

ON SALE Cady Club May 16 | Producer May 18 | Actor/Director May 20 | General May 25

#### **PERFORMANCES:**

Thurs., Fri., and Sat. at 8pm | Wed. and Sat. matinees at 3pm | Sun. at 2pm

### **LOCAL THEATRE** Can't get enough theatre? Check out what else is happening in the Metro Detroit area.

**Barn Theatre** Augusta, MI barntheatreschool.org

**Black and Brown Theatre** Detroit, MI blackandbrowntheatre.org

Break the Chain Theatre Company btctheatreco.squarespace.com

**Detroit Public Theatre** Detroit, MI detroitpublictheatre.org

**Detroit Repertory Theatre** Detroit, MI detroitpublictheatre.org

**The Dio** Pinckney, MI diotheatre.com

**The Encore Musical Theatre Company** Dexter, MI theencoretheatre.org

Farmington Players Farmington Hills, MI **Flint Repertory Theatre** Flint, MI flintrep.org

**The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company** West Bloomfield, MI jettheatre.org

**Open Book Theatre Co** Trenton, MI openbooktheatrecompany.net

**Planet Ant Theatre** Hamtramck, MI planetant.com

**Ringwald** Ferndale, MI theringwald.com

**Shakespeare in Detroit** Detroit, MI shakespeareindetroit.com

**Theatre Nova** Ann Arbor, MI theatrenova.org

**Williamston Theatre** Williamston, MI williamstontheatre.org

# **TICKET INFORMATION** Schedule, pricing and all the details.

Preview — \$28 Opening Night — \$48 Friday and Saturday Night — \$40 Saturday and Sunday Matinee — \$36 Wednesday Matinee and Thursday Night — \$33

#### DISCOUNTS

Military — \$2 off regular ticket price. Senior (62 or older) — \$2 off regular ticket price. Student (up to age 24 with valid ID) — \$10 ticket

Discounts not applicable for previews, Opening Nights or special events.

#### PREVIEWS

See a production before its official opening for just \$28 and share your thoughts at the post-show "talk back" with the producing artistic director. Previews are the first two performances of each production.

#### **GROUP RESERVATIONS**

Receive a \$3 per ticket discount with a reservation of 15 or more. Combine this with the senior discount for tickets as low as \$26 each. Contact the Box Office for more information.

#### HOW TO ORDER

Advanced reservations are recommended and can be made online or by calling our Box Office. Online sales are not eligible for any discounts. Tickets may also be purchased with cash, check or credit card at the Box Office.

#### GIFT CERTIFICATES

Give the gift of live theatre! Gift certificates are available at regular ticket prices and are valid for a full year.

#### NO CALL, NO SHOW

All unclaimed ticket reservations will not be refunded and cannot be exchanged for another show once the performance begins. TPT reserves the right to sell empty seats at performance times.

#### SEATING

Reserved seating begins 20 minutes before the show. Due to the intimacy of our space, late arrivals will be seated at the discretion of the house manager. If your Season Pass tickets are not picked up 10 minutes prior to show time, we reserve the right to sell your seats.

#### ACCESSIBILITY

All performances are accessible. Please mention special accommodations when making reservations.

#### EXCHANGE & CANCELLATION POLICIES

Due to COVID-19, our exchange & cancellation policies are currently waived. We are asking artists, audiences, staff, and volunteers to monitor their health and stay home if they are exhibiting any Covid and/or flu-like symptoms. All tickets are refundable and exchangeable up to the day of the performance. As new information regarding the spread of COVID-19 becomes available each day, Tipping Point is committed to adapting our policies and procedures to keep all who enter our doors safe. For up to date information on our COVID-19 policies, visit www.TippingPointTheatre.com.

To purchase tickets, visit TippingPointTheatre.com or call (248) 347-0003



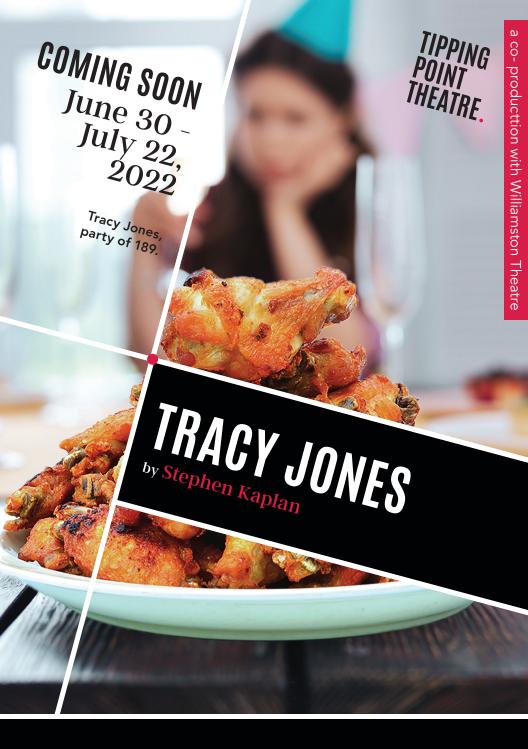
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