



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA  
**DRAMA**

drama  
DVA

***Every Tongue Confess***

by Marcus Gardley

Directed by Theresa M. Davis

Ruth Caplin Theatre

October 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 at 8:00pm

October 19 at 2:00pm

DEPARTMENT OF

# DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

## EVERY TONGUE CONFESS

by **Marcus Gardley**

Directed by **Theresa M. Davis**

Scenic Design by **Rachel DelGaudio**

Costume Design by **Gweneth West**

Lighting Design by **R. Lee Kennedy**

Sound Design by **Wren Curtis**

Music Direction by **Anthony Johnson**

Voice, Text, and Accent Coaching by **Kate Burke**

Fight Direction by **John Paul Scheidler**

Choreography by **Katie Baer Schetlick**

Technical Direction by **Austin Manning**

*Every Tongue Confess* is presented by special arrangement with  
Marcus Gardley and William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, LLC.

Presented with support from the Office of the Provost and the  
Vice Provost for the Arts and in cooperation with The Carter G. Woodson Institute  
for African American and African Studies.

### CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Missionary/Tender Meeks.....	Amanda Diamond
Elder/Jeremiah.....	Richard Cooper
Brother/Bobby.....	Brandon C. Lee
Bernadette.....	Mendy St. Ours
Benny Pride.....	Madeleine Lawson
Shadrack.....	Israel Vaughan
Mother Sister.....	Angelica Jackson
Stoker Pride.....	Jon Emm
Blacksmith.....	Bernard Hankins
Congregation Members.....	Ronald Middleton*, Aisha Thomas, Ashlyn Walker, Kelsey Watkins
Understudies.....	Ronald Middleton (Shadrack, Brother), Aisha Thomas (Missionary, Mother Sister), Whitney Wegman (Bernadette)

\*Fight Captain

TIME & PLACE: The summer of 1996 in Alabama and Kentucky

*There will be one 15-minute intermission.*

## WHO'S WHO IN EVERY TONGUE CONFESS

**Kate Burke** (Associate Professor, Voice and Speech).

**Richard Cooper** *Boys Next Door* (U.Va. Drama); *To Kill A Mockingbird, You Can't Take It With You* (Heritage); *As You Like It* (Midsummer Players); *The Homecoming* (Hamner Theatre); *Seven Guitars, Topdog/Underdog, Vinegar Hill* (Live Arts).

**Wren Curtis** (U.Va. 2011): *Elephant's Graveyard, Dark Play* (U.Va. Drama); *Chance, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (PVCC Drama); *The Master and Margarita, Adding Machine: A Musical* (Live Arts).

**Theresa M. Davis** (Associate Professor, Cross Cultural Performance).

**Rachel DelGaudio** (2nd Year, MFA Scenic Design): *Museum* (U.Va. Drama).

**Amanda Diamond** (3rd Year, Drama): *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (FYP); *Arabian Nights* (Spectrum Theatre).

**Jon Emm** *How I Learned to Drive, Wait Until Dark, Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged, Bobby Gould in Hell* (Los Angeles); *The Crucible, The Marriage Proposal* (San Francisco); *Memory of Water* (Live Arts).

**Bernard Hankins** (U.Va. 2004): *I Shall Not Be Moved* (Phoenix Theatre); *A Call to Action* (Y.A.L.I.); *Move* (Cypher).

**Angelica Jackson** (U.Va. 2013): *A Christmas Carol, Pinkalicious, The Rise & Fall of Little Voice* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Cinderella, Christmas in Washington* (Lincoln Theatre); *Parade, Pippin* (U.Va. Drama); *Avenue Q* (Spectrum).

**Anthony Johnson** First Baptist Church West Main.

**R. Lee Kennedy** (Associate Professor, Lighting Design).

**Madeleine Lawson** (3rd Year, Drama & English): *Then...* (The Cry Havoc Company, NYC); *Museum, The Forgetting River* (U.Va. Drama).

**Brandon C. Lee** (U.Va 2006): *Clybourne Park* (Live Arts); *Turn* (AMC); *When Freedom Came* (PBS & The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation).

**Austin Manning** (3rd Year MFA Technical Direction): *A Flea In Her Ear, You Can't Take It With You* (U.Va. Drama).

**Katie Baer Schetlick** (Lecturer, Dance): Dixon Place, Movement Research (NYC); The Museum Perron Oost (Netherlands); The International Dance Theatres Festival (Lublin); Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival (Cairo).

**Mendy St. Ours** (U.Va. 2000): *Misalliance, In the Widening Gyre, Our Country's Good, Love's Fire, The Homecoming, The Maids* (U.Va. Drama); *Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Angels in America, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Live Arts).

**Aisha Thomas** *I Shall Not Be Moved, Court-Martial at Fort Devens* (Phoenix Theatre); *A Call to Action* (Y.A.L.I.); *Donning of the Kente Ceremony* (U.Va. Drama).

**Israel Vaughan** (3rd Year, Leadership & Public Policy).

**Whitney Wegman** (U.Va. MFA Drama 2014): *Crazy For You, You Can't Take It With You, Rhinoceros, Romeo and Juliet, Vinegar Tom* (U.Va. Drama); *The Dead Guy* (OnStage Atlanta).

**Gweneth West** (Professor, Costume Design).

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Director .....	Alexandria Wishy
Company Stage Managers.....	Nancy-Wren Bradshaw, Julia Hurley, Mary Margaret Watkins
Performance Stage Manager.....	Max Krembs
Dramaturg .....	Michell Nicole Miller
Department Chair .....	Tom Bloom
Department Technical Director .....	Steve Warner
Assistant Technical Director .....	Mark Molchany
Scenic Charge .....	Hilary Landowski
Scene Shop Foreman .....	Chris Rybitski
Carpenters.....	Ashlye Allison, Anderson Grainger, Louis Lukaczyk, John Mennell, Caroline Secrest, Ruth Walston, Students of Drama 2210
Painters .....	Jess Burnam, Jackson Casady, Evelina Dubrowsky, Mariana Gonzalez, Sophie Peeters, Susan Xie
Prop Master, Prop Shop and Storage Manager .....	Sam Flippo
Assistant Costume Designer.....	Kaitlin Sikes
Assistants to the Designer .....	Mfon-Abasi Obong, Haley Tynes
Costume Technology Faculty Advisor.....	Marcy Linton
Costume Shop Manager.....	Dorothy Smith
Costume Shop Assistants .....	Jacqueline Ford, Jessica Utz
Stitchers .....	Students of Drama 2310
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Haley Tynes
Wardrobe Crew.....	Sri Devi McCabe, Anh Oh, Terrance Thomas
Assistant Lighting Designer .....	Steven Spera
Master Electrician .....	Fabian Garcia
Assistant Master Electrician .....	Matthew Jefferson Ishee
Electricians .....	Chelsea Dickens, Students of Drama 2130
Light Board Operator .....	Steven Johnson
Sound Engineer .....	Max Krembs
Sound Board Operator.....	Rebecca Zeledon
Production Assistant .....	Micah Watson
Run Crew .....	Ava Chen, Tim Lewis, Ana Solis Van Hoorde
Business Manager .....	James Scales
Assistant Business Manager.....	Judy McPeak
Drama Administrative Staff.....	Barbara Koonin, Theresa Lamb
U.Va. Arts Box Office Manager.....	Andrew Burnett
Box Office Staff .....	Jon Belka, Brady Blouin, Phil Digiacommo, Sophie Kaemmerle, David McKillop, Kristina McCloskey, Sally Nobinger, Katherine Ripley, Milika Robbins
House Manager.....	Phil Digiacommo
Publicity Manager.....	Jacqueline Ford
Publicity Assistant.....	Tim Lewis
Administrative Assistant .....	Lynne Cates
Production Coordinator.....	Caitlin McLeod

*The Flames Can Baptize*  
*Notes from the Dramaturg*

*“For the arsonists and those that get burned...”*  
—Marcus Gardley

On June 8th, 1996, President Bill Clinton called for an end to the “depraved” acts of domestic terrorism against black churches in the Southeast. Throughout the mid-nineties, there were over 300 church burnings from Richmond, Virginia down to the Mississippi Delta. It was suspected that these arsons were racially motivated, but many government officials were skeptical about the reality of this racial terror in the South. Despite Clinton’s address, the federal government did not intervene in the investigation of these occurrences.

In *Every Tongue Confess*, poet-playwright Marcus Gardley reimagines the mysterious story of these events and places us in Boligee, Alabama— a small town where several black churches were burned to the ground. Gardley uses the emphatic rhythm of devotional gospel and the tragic-humor of delta blues to explore the meta-physical world of this community. Here, fire is the impetus for healing and destruction. Here, the flames of a burning sanctuary, the fiery shadows of “strange fruit” are all subject to a supernatural realism. Here, the audience is meant to act as a witness. *We are meant to react*—to engage with the atmosphere.

In a recent interview, Gardley says, “My writing is like my ministry. We have so many traumas and need so much healing in our communities. I want my work to be part of the healing process.” With a lyrical grace and grotesque cadence, this production demonstrates how the power of faith and the spoken word can conjure the presence of God to find redemption, to speak truth, to smolder the fire in our bellies, and mend our broken hearts. Despite the horror of these arsons, *Every Tongue Confess* aims to unearth the profound question: How has our shared history as citizens in this country affected our capacity to love?

— Michell Nicole Miller

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to the students of Drama 2430

Special thanks to Arena Stage, WDC,  
and Costume Designer for the 2010 production of  
*Every Tongue Confess*, Ilona Somogyi, for the design  
of Mother Sister's white robe, red stole and the "red threads".

Special thanks to Lynne Cates, Dr. Kimberly Chandler,  
Marianne Kubik, Kathy Matthew, Peggy McKowen, Laura Tappan,  
William Vlasis, Ivy Corner Garden Center

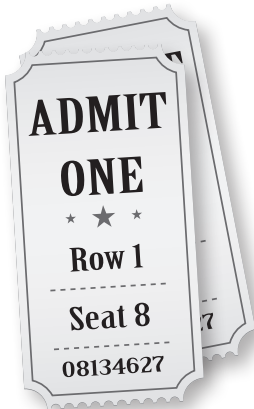


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## *Upcoming Shows*



*The Rimers of Eldritch*  
November 13 -15 and  
November 19 – 22 at 8pm  
Ruth Caplin Theatre

*Fall Experimental Dance Concert*  
November 20 – 22 at 7:30pm  
Culbreth Theatre



# The Kennedy Center

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*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ 47*, part of the *Rubenstein Arts Access Program*, is generously funded by  
**David and Alice Rubenstein.**

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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 national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.



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