

Geography, Generations & Gentrification



MUD ROW

By **Dominique Morisseau**

Directed by **Delicia Turner Sonnenberg**

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MUD ROW

BY **DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU**

DIRECTED BY

DELICIA TURNER SONNENBERG

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CAST

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ANDRÉA AGOSTO

RACHEL COGNATA ◆

LEO EBANKS

MARTI GOBEL ◆

JOY YVONNE JONES ◆

RONDRELL McCORMICK ◆

PLACE

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

TIME

1960's AND 2018

SPECIAL THANKS

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Mud Row

Mud Row was originally commissioned and produced by People's Light, Malvern, PA, as part of their New Play Frontiers program. Abigail Adams, Executive Artistic Director, Zak Berkman, Producing Director. "Mud Row" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dominique Morrisseau's work continuously speaks to all of the things I find important in the work I make – an intimate human story told against a broad backdrop. In the case of *Mud Row*, it is an intimate story about family told against the broad backdrop of history: The history of the neighborhood; American history; racial and social change in the 60's and now. With an added bonus for me of sisterhood, feminism, and centering Blackness. *Mud Row* is deeply rooted in community. Where do we come from? How can we break free from the paths determined for us? Although this story is a dramatization, it is rooted in a very real place while resonating in areas locally, as we have seen gentrification, the destruction of legacies, the strategic displacement of folx in need right in our own backyards. And yet, this is just one family's story.

I see so much of myself in all of the characters in this show. I empathize and understand the journeys they take. I have witnessed many of the conflicts discussed first hand. The history hits in a way that makes us want to take a step back and consider on whose legacy we are building. The rich history in this home transcends the stage. It is a reflection of the Black women who've come before me. It is a magnification of those to come after.

Thank you for joining us and please enjoy *Mud Row*.

DT Sonnenberg

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg | DIRECTOR

Behind the SCENES

FIRST REHEARSAL

April 19, 2022



Standing: Alexis Ellis-Alvarez (Asst. Stage Mgr.), Kandace Crystal (Asst. Director) Joy Yvonne Jones (Frances), Rondrell McCormick (Davin), Marti Gobel (Regine), Leo Ebanks (Tyriek), Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (Director) Regan McKay (Costume Designer). Front: Chandra R.M. Anthenill (Stage Manager) Andraé Agosto (Elsie), & Rachel Cagnata (Toshi)



Mud Row's cast preparing to do their first reading of Mud Row at our rehearsal hall.



Melanie Chen Cole & Eric Clark



Lighting Designer Caroline Andrew, sharing color studies.

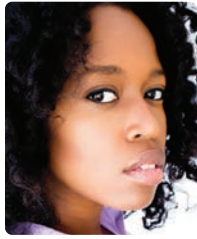


Costume Designer Regan McKay explaining her costume choices to the cast.



Rondrell McCormick, Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, Kian Kline-Chilton and Rob Lutfy

PROFILES



ANDRÉA AGOSTO
(she, they)
Elsie

Andréa Agosto is thrilled to be making their Cygnet Theatre debut! Agosto is an award winning filmmaker (Kansas

City Film Fest) and actor (International Model & Talent Association). They are the artistic fellow at Diversionary Theatre. Their credits include: *A Kind of Weather*, *Bull in a China Shop*, *Cardboard Piano*, *Homos, or Everyone in America* (Diversionary), *Dance Nation* (MOXIE), *The Magic in This Soul* (Blindspot Collective), *Avenue Q* (Ocean Beach Playhouse), *You Can't Take It With You* (Lamb's Players), *Vanya and Sonia* and *Masha and Spike* (FUSION), and *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* (The Coterie). For more information, please visit: www.andreaagosto.com. **Andréa Agosto is sponsored by Artist Advocates Mike & Mimi Murray.**



RACHEL COGNATA ♦
(she, her, hers)
Toshi

Rachel Cognata is thrilled to be making her Cygnet debut. Her recent credits include:

VOICE - *Isolated*

Incidents (Broadway Podcast Network/Rattlestick Playwrights), *Echoes* (Huntington Theatre) STAGE - *Gloria: A Life* (American Repertory Theatre), *Hype Man*, *Greater Good*, and *Really* (Company One Theatre); *Cardboard Piano* (New Repertory Theatre); *The Book Club Play* (Boston Playwrights Theatre). A graduate of both the Boston Arts Academy and Tufts University, Rachel currently resides in Columbus, OH. **Rachel Cognata is sponsored by Artist Advocate Barbara Bolt.**



LEO EBANKS
(he, him, his)
Tyriek

Leo Ebanks is ecstatic to be making his Cygnet debut in *Mud Row*. Recent credits include Adult Ensemble in *Dr*

Seuss: How The Grinch Stole Christmas (Old Globe Theatre). Hud in *Hair* (Old Globe Theatre). TonTon Julian in *Once On This Island* (Moonlight Amphitheater). Benedick in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* (SDSU). Billy in *Carrie, The Musical* (Onstage playhouse), and George in *Spring Awakening* (Grossmont College). Instagram: @itsjust_Leooo. **Leo Ebanks is sponsored by Artist Advocate Patty Gallagher.**



MARTI GOBEL ♦
Regine

Marti Gobel is a nationally recognized actor, director and teaching artist. Upon graduating from UW-Whitewater in 2008 with a degree

in Performance Theatre and Philosophy (with an emphasis in Religious Studies) she went on to have a rich career in theater and television and film. A fierce believer in the power of the theater to change minds and hearts, Ms. Gobel continues to speak publicly about the need for diversity in the arts. Ms. Gobel is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA. She is thrilled to make her Cygnet Theatre debut. **Marti Gobel is sponsored by Artist Advocates Laura Bretton and Drs. Patrick Harrison & Eleanor Lynch.**



JOY YVONNE JONES ♦
(she, her, hers)
Frances

Joy Yvonne Jones is originally from Houston, Texas where she attended The High School for the Performing and

Visual Arts and went on to study at the University of Minnesota in the Guthrie Theatre BFA Actor Training Program. Joy was awarded a San Diego Critic Circle Craig Noel Award for her performance of Saartjie Baartman in *Voyeurs de Venus* at Moxie Theatre. Her most recent credits include Cherise Howard in *Flex* at The Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville and a plethora of Zoom readings during everyone's stay at home. Joy is one of the founding members and President of the San Diego Black Artist Collective and Associate Artist Director at New Village Arts. She is a creative hurricane working on the revolution at the speed of inspiration with her baby boy Leo James on her hip. **Joy Yvonne Jones is sponsored by Artist Advocate Nancy Sprotte.**



RONDRELL MCCORMICK ♦
(he, him, his)
Davin

At Cygnet: Debut. Regional Theatre: *Mark Twain's River of Song* (TheatreWorks); *As You Like It* (San

Francisco Shakespeare Festival); *Between Riverside & Crazy*, *Night of the Living Dead* (San Jose Stage); *Graveyard Shift* (San Francisco Playhouse); *Bella: An American Tall Tale* (Playwrights Horizons/Sundance Lab); *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Center REP); *All's Well That Ends Well* (Shakespeare & Company); *A Christmas Carol* (American Conservatory Theater); *Seven Guitars* (Triad Stage). Training: B.F.A. - NC A&T State University; M.F.A. - American Conservatory Theater.

PROFILES

Rondrell McCormick is sponsored by Artist Advocate Mark Taggart.



DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU
Playwright

Dominique Morisseau is the author of *The Detroit Project* (A 3-Play Cycle), which includes the following plays: *Skeleton Crew*,

Paradise Blue, and *Detroit '67*. Additional plays include: *Pipeline*, *Sunset Baby*, *Blood at the Root* and *Follow Me To Nellie's*. She is also the Tony-nominated book writer on the new Broadway musical *Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of the Temptations*. Dominique is alumna of The Public Theater Emerging Writer's Group, Women's Project Lab and Lark Playwrights Workshop, and has developed work at Sundance Lab, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference. She most recently served as Co-Producer on the Showtime series *Shameless* (3 seasons). Additional awards include: Spirit of Detroit Award, PoNY Fellowship, Sky-Cooper Prize, TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBFT August Wilson Playwriting Award, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, Obie Award (2), Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, Variety's Women of Impact for 2017-18, and a recent MacArthur Genius Grant Fellow.



DELICIA TURNER SONNENBERG •
(she, her, hers)
Director

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg is a founder and the former Artistic Director of Moxie

Theatre, which she helmed for 12 acclaimed seasons. She is currently a Resident Artist at the Old Globe Theatre and a proud member of the board at La Jolla Playhouse. In addition to Cygnet Theatre, Delicia has directed plays for Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana

PROFILES

Festival, The Old Globe Theatre, San Diego REP, La Jolla Playhouse, New Village Arts, Diversionary Theatre among others. Some honors include: San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Awards and Patté Awards. Theatre Communications Group's New Generations Program, Van Lier Fund Fellowship (Second Stage Theatre) and the New York Drama League's Directors Project. **Delicia Turner Sonnenberg is sponsored by Artist Advocate Robin J. Lipman.**

KANDACE CRYSTAL (Assistant Director) Kandace Crystal (she/her/hers) is a multi-hyphenate theatre maker who graduated with a BFA in Acting from Florida State University and is currently focusing on obtaining certification in Intimacy Direction and Choreography while working as the Community Engagement and Partnerships Manager at San Diego Repertory Theatre. During the COVID pandemic, she developed a Podcast/ Oral Documentary with Cloudcast Media entitled *8:46-The Catalyst for Change*, in response to the disproportionate murder of black and brown people at the hands of police. You can find her performing, teaching, and directing around San Diego--most notably in the "Get Ross" commercials.

BRIAN REDFERN (Scenic Designer) ♦ Cygnet Theatre: *Man From Nebraska*. Elsewhere: More than 100 productions for companies including The Old Globe/USD Graduate Theatre Program, San Diego Rep, The Welk Resort Theatre, Moxie Theatre, New Village Arts, Capital Stage, Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Summer Rep Theatre Festival, Sierra Rep, and many others. Brian is based in Chicago and thrilled to be returning "home" to San Diego for *Mud Row*. He is currently assistant professor of theatrical design and technology at North Central College in Naperville, IL and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local USA829. www.brianredferndesign.com

CAROLINE ANDREW (Lighting Designer) ■ Caroline is a full time lighting designer and theatre consultant. They have over 15 years of experience in theatre and live events, as well as opera and dance, and 5 years of lighting and controls design for themed entertainment. They have worked as a designer and associate designer throughout the United States and internationally, including Disneyland, Disney California Adventure, Tokyo DisneySea, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Princess Cruise Lines, BlizzCon, Comic-Con, The Old Globe, Cygnet Theatre, Hawai'i Education of the Arts, Skylight Theatre Company, and numerous others. Caroline obtained their MFA from SDSU in 2018. **Caroline Andrew is sponsored by Artist Advocates Bill & Linda Kolb.**

MELANIE CHEN COLE (Sound Designer) ♦ Melanie Chen Cole (she/her/hers) is thrilled to be designing at Cygnet again. Past Cygnet credits include: *The Great Leap*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *King Hedley II*, *Seven Guitars*, and *The Whale*. Recent regional credits include *Steel Magnolias* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park/Indiana Rep co-production), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *High School Play: A Nostalgia Fest* (Alley Theatre), *The Supreme Leader* (Dallas Theater Center), *Witch* (The Huntington), *Ohio State Murders* (Goodman Theatre), *Noura* (The Old Globe), *At the Old Place* (La Jolla Playhouse). Education: M.F.A. in Theatre and Dance from UC San Diego. melaniesound.com, [@melaniechencole](https://www.instagram.com/melaniechencole) on Instagram. **Melanie Chen Cole is sponsored by Artist Advocates Jay & Julie Sarno.**

REGAN A. MCKAY (Costume Designer) Regan A. McKay is a costume designer who recently completed her M.F.A. at San Diego State University. Past design credits include *Steel Pier*, *Cloud 9*, and *Dog Sees God* at San Diego State University; the Summer Conservatory at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA; and *Sweeney Todd* at Northern Michigan University. She was the inaugural winner of Theatre Communication Group's Willa Kim Costume Design Scholarship in 2019. She is passionate about sustainable theatrical design and environmentally

mindful practices are at the core of her work. For more, please see her website: www.reganamckay.com.

CHANEL MAHONEY (Wig & Makeup Designer) Chanel is excited to be returning to Cygnet Theatre. She is a proud fashion design student of San Diego Mesa College, a licensed cosmetologist, and an experienced hair and makeup artist. Production credits include: *A Doll's House Part 2*, *Fun Home*, *Hand to God* (San Diego Repertory Theatre); *Persuasion*, *Beau Jest*, *Shadowlands*, *Silent Sky*, *Big Fish* (Lamb's Players Theatre). Chanel has also been a makeup artist for San Diego Fashion Week, MODA Fashion Show, and the short films *Grandpa's Fish* and *Desert Rose*. She is grateful to Robby and to the whole Cygnet family for the opportunity. Enjoy the show! **Chanel Mahoney is sponsored by Artist Advocates Drs. Patrick Harrison & Eleanor Lynch.**

TERESA JOVE (Properties Designer) Teresa Jove is deeply grateful and honored to be a part of this production. They had the privilege of working on *Life Sucks*, *La Cage Aux Folles* and *A Christmas Carol* here at Cygnet Theatre. Previously worked with San Diego Repertory Theatre (*33 1/3 House of Dreams*, *Sweat*, *Bad Hombre* *Good Wives* and *The Humans*) and San Diego Musical Theatre (*Bring It On*, *South Pacific* and *Hairspray*). They would like to give special thanks to all her friends and family who have been supporting and encouraging them to pursue their passion.

CHANDRA R.M. ANTENILL (Stage Manager) ♦ (she/her/hers) Other Cygnet credits include *The Last Wife*, *Bad Jews*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *True West*, *Fool for Love*, *Spring Awakening*, *Assassins*, *Company*. Regional: *Trouble in Mind*, *Krapp's Last Tape*, *What You Are*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Globe for All* 2017-2021, *Dr. Seuss's The Lorax*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Camp David*, *The Comedy of Errors* (The Old Globe) *The Garden*, *POP tour 2020*, *Junk: The Golden Age of Debt* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Fun Home*, *Beachtown*, *Roz*

& *Ray*, *Into the Beautiful North*, *Outside Mullingar*, *The Oldest Boy*, *Oedipus El Rey*, *Honky* (San Diego Repertory Theatre), *Pippin* (Diversionary Theatre).

ALEXIS ELLIS-ALVAREZ (Assistant Stage Manager) Alexis Ellis-Alvarez is so excited to be returning to Cygnet, after previously working as a Production Assistant for *Animal Crackers*. San Diego credits include Production Assistant for *Shutter Sisters*, *Ebenezer Scrooge's Big San Diego Christmas Show*, and *El Borracho* (The Old Globe), Stage Manager for *Beehive*, and *Murder for Two* (New Village Arts), Stage Manager for *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* (Scripps Ranch Theatre), and Assistant Stage Manager for *gUnTOPIA* (Roustabouts Theatre Co.). Outside of San Diego credits include various productions with Portland Center Stage, ArtsEmerson, and Huntington Theatre Company. Alexis received her BFA in Stage and Production Management from Emerson College.

McKENNA PERRY (Scenic Design Fellow) McKenna returns to the west coast after seven years in Brooklyn, New York where she has been working with Konduit, Inc. building and drafting sets for fashion shoots, commercial shoots, and high end corporate events throughout the city. She is currently working towards her MFA in Theatrical Design and Technology with an emphasis in scenic and projection design at San Diego State University. McKenna is so excited to be working with Cygnet on this amazing production of *Mud Row* with her fellow production team and wonderful cast and director!



ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org.

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CYGNET SWANS

The Swans are a volunteer group that takes great pride in bringing each new show cast under their wing, providing a delicious home-cooked meal and treats. Many thanks to our swans: **Kate Bower, Diane Carpinelli, Connie Coe, Donna Cooley, Holiday Geiger, Susan Graceman, Yolanda Holcomb, Lori Jedlicka, Jeanne Lansdale, Joan Loomis, Linda & Rick Miles, Deborah Pantoni, Debbie Peck, Dr. Lynne Thrope, Julie Ustin, Barbara Wingate.** If you'd like to volunteer, contact us at volunteer@cygnnettheatre.com.

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LEGACY SOCIETY HIGHLIGHT



Joyce Axelrod

“While making notes to myself about what I wanted in my trust, I thought about people and things that bring me joy. Cygnnet Theatre was on my list. Why not name them in my trust to insure that this wonderful theatre remains vital beyond my lifetime? Individuals do not need to be wealthy, they just need to designate an endowment of any size to an organization they wish to honor. I was happy to designate a gift in my estate to Cygnnet Theatre.”



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Together we raised over \$275,000 to support Cygnnet Theatre's artistic and arts engagement programs. Your generosity makes it possible for us to create bold, thought-provoking theatre and impact our community in new ways.

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to our Lead Event Sponsor Molli Wagner and our Gala Chair Barbara Bolt.

And thank you to all of our Gala Sponsors, Guests, Volunteers and Donors!



Photo: Karli Cadel Photography

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT!

Our Cygneture event series is a fun, informative, and engaging way to enhance your theatre experience during each production. Meet our creative team, get a behind-the-scenes look, and connect with other theatergoers.

MUD ROW CYGNATURE EVENTS

\$10 STUDENT & FACULTY NIGHT May 18 at 7:30pm

On the first preview of every performance, students and faculty enjoy deeply discounted tickets. Visit the box office in person or call 619-337-1525. Bring a high school or college school ID or business card when you pick up your ticket.

DESIGNER SHOWCASE

Go behind the scenes of *Mud Row* with the design team to get a glimpse into the process of creating this exciting production. This is a FREE event. RSVP Required. Please contact the box office at 619-337-1525. Date and time for the *Mud Row* Designer Showcase to be announced.

THEATRE ON TAP May 27 at 7:00pm

Enjoy a pre-show beer event with discounts on craft beer. Mix and mingle with other beer lovers. Must be 21 to partake.

FRIDAY FORUM May 27

Friday Forum gives you an opportunity to chat with the creative team members following the performance on the first Friday after the opening night.

PRE-SHOW STAGE CHATS June 1 & 15 at 7:00pm

Join Associate Artistic Director Rob Lutfy on the patio before the show for a casual chat to learn more about the show.

WINE NIGHT June 2 at 6:30pm

Enjoy a pre-show wine event with discounts on select wine. Mix and mingle with other wine lovers. Must be 21 to partake.

POST-SHOW STAGE CHAT June 8

Join Associate Artistic Director Rob Lutfy after the show for a casual chat to learn more about the show.

ASL PERFORMANCE June 15 at 7:30pm

For patrons who use ASL, a live American Sign Language Interpretation is available during this evening's performance.

MASK UP NIGHT June 16 at 7:30pm

For those more comfortable attending theatre with a fully-masked audience, all patrons at this show will be required to wear a mask. Cygnet Theatre still highly recommends the use of masks at all performances.

Cabaret Style Entertainment

It's good vs. evil as artists perform the numbers from some of your favorite heroes & villains.

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Cygnet Theatre is pleased to provide ASL-Interpretation for select performances! A live American Sign Language Interpretation will take place on the following evenings in SEASON 18:



Mud Row
June 15

Cabaret
August 10

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Sign up for our e-blasts now and don't miss out on special promotions and behind-the-scenes content.



SCAN NOW TO FILL OUT THE QUICK FORM.

CYGNET THEATRE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Cygnet Theatre recognizes and respects that the land on which our theatre sits is the unceded homeland of the Kumeyaay Nation, who have been living time immemorial. As San Diego's first people, the Kumeyaay have faced violent efforts to separate them from their land, culture, and each other. We view acknowledgement as an important first step to build mindfulness and awareness. We find inspiration from this land and thank them for their centuries of stewardship.



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Have fun with Cygnet friends and make new ones, all while supporting the theatre's mission and work. By joining the Cygnet Social Circle, you will have access to special member-only events, like *Lunch with the Artists* and *Theatre Trips to LA*. Cost is \$35 per person annually. Please call Barbara Bolt, Cygnet Social Circle Chair, at 619-889-7121 or e-mail barbarabolt@me.com.



MAKE YOUR OWN IMPACT

by contributing to Cygnet Theatre's annual fund campaign. The fund supports Cygnet's work on stage, our Emerging Artists program, & our Education and Outreach Programs.

To make a contribution call Marinda Peugh, Cygnet Development Director, at 619-574-0059, ext. 121, visit us online at cygnettheatre.org.

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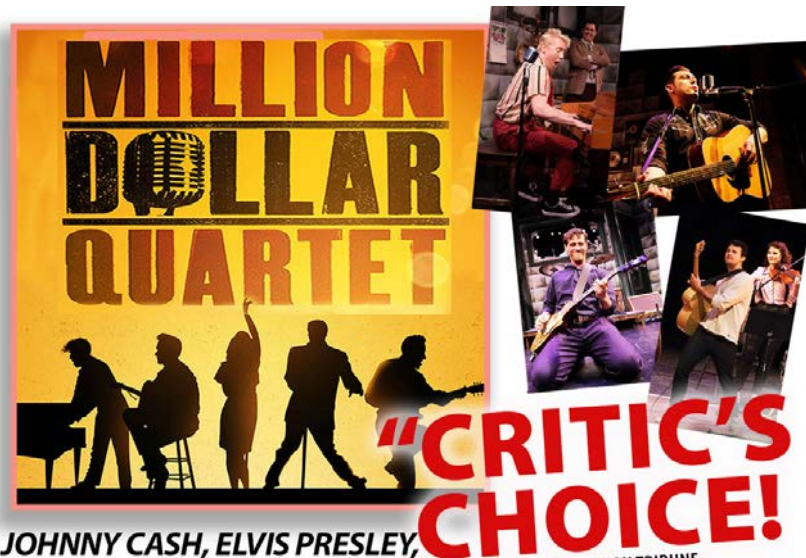
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