



*presents*

# THURGOOD

*by* **George Stevens, Jr.**

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**APRIL 26 – MAY 19, 2024**

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*Directed by* **Philip Kershaw**

**Starring**

K.P. Powell\*

**Production Stage Manager** Lindsey A. Moss\*

**Scenic Design** Julie K. Ross

**Lighting & Projection Design** CJ Barnwell

**Costume Design** Casey Watkins

**Props Artist** Sylvia J. Pierce

**Sound Design** Bailey I. Gafeney

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**First performed at Westport Country Playhouse and subsequently on Broadway**

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## Director's Notes

What drew me to this play was the opportunity to showcase a different side of an icon. History has a tendency to flatten real people into short and digestible factoids. Thurgood, like many other titans of history, was a three dimensional man. Full of humor, wit, contradictions and flaws like everyone else. We are aiming to showcase the ordinary man within the extraordinary leader, because all of us are capable of breaking down barriers in our lives and facilitating change.

In crafting this experience, my sincerest hope is that the audience leaves with a better understanding of Justice Marshall and the story of our country at large. History has a way of echoing forward, and there are many parts of this story that speak to what we are going through today. As we approach seventy years since the landmark Brown vs. the Board of Education decision, many things have changed for the better, but we still have further to go.

I'm incredibly proud of the work this amazing team of artists put together to close out another spectacular NC Stage season! It's been an honor to share time and space with all of them, and all of you, our beloved audience! Thank you for all of the love and support. Enjoy the show!

– *Philip Kershaw, Director of THURGOOD*

# THURGOOD Production Bios



## **K.P. Powell\* (*Thurgood Marshall*)**

K.P. (he/him) is excited to make his debut at NC Stage with this powerful piece. He is a St. Louis-born actor, writer, director, and stand-up comedian currently residing in Atlanta, Georgia. K.P. received his undergraduate degree in Exercise Science at St. Louis University before earning his MFA at the University of Houston. Regional acting credits include the American Shakespeare Center, Peterborough Players, Colorado Shakes, Cincinnati Playhouse, Hippodrome, Alliance Theater, Elm Shakespeare Company, American Stage, Theatre at Monmouth, St. Louis Black Rep, Shakespeare Festival Saint Louis, Houston Shakespeare Festival and the Folger Theatre. Some favorite roles include Hotspur, Benedick, Moses in *Pass Over*, George in *Our Town*, Willoughby in *Sense and Sensibility*, and Clown in *The 39 Steps*.



## **Philip Kershaw (*Director*)**

Philip is a multi-disciplinary artist who graduated from the University of Houston MFA Acting program after earning his undergraduate degrees at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is incredibly honored to be back at North Carolina Stage Company after appearing in *Be Here Now* last season, and *A Case for the Existence of God* and *Witch* earlier this season. He has worked on regional productions for Peterborough Players, ZACH Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars, Rec Room Arts, Lean Ensemble Theater, the Houston Shakespeare Festival, A.D. Players, Adventure Theatre MTC, The Wheel Theatre Company, Unity Theatre, Dirt Dogs Theatre Co., The Ensemble Theatre, Penobscot Theatre Company, and Round House Theatre. For more information, please visit [www.philipkershaw.com](http://www.philipkershaw.com)!

## THURGOOD Production Bios

**Lindsey A. Moss\* (*Production Stage Manager*)** is beyond thrilled to be back at NC Stage and to be part of this important production. Previous credits include *Hairspray*, *Les Miserables*, *The Last Five Years*, and *Miss Saigon* (among many others) at Flat Rock Playhouse; *Vrooommm!* at Triad Stage; and *Twelve Dates of Christmas-2017 & 2018*, *Lifespan of a Fact*, *The Roommate*, and *Be Here Now* at North Carolina Stage Company. Many thanks to K.P., Philip, and the entire NC Stage team for inviting me back and a BIG thank you to YOU for supporting live theatre.

**Julie K. Ross (*Scenic Design*)** is a Florida State University grad that is based out of Asheville, NC. When she's not chasing her toddler, Jacob, around, Julie continues to paint and design in every capacity she can find. Julie is thrilled to be working with the NC Stage team again. Past NC Stage productions include: *Incident at our Lady of Perpetual Help*, *Jeeves Takwes a Bow*, and *Vanya Sonia Masha and Spike*. When she's not designing and painting sets for the theater, she stays busy painting amusement parks, commercial murals, signage and residential faux finishes. You've probably seen her work at Dollywood (Wildwood Grove) or outside signage at Bass Pro Shops across the country. Most recently she painted the new Big Bear Mountain that opened last spring at Dollywood. You can see more examples of her work at [www.juliekross.com](http://www.juliekross.com). Julie would like to give her eternal thanks to her awesome husband Jess and her young assistant-in-training Jacob, without them life would be dull.

**CJ Barnwell [he/him] (*Lighting and Projections Design*)** With an impressive portfolio that includes collaborations with North Carolina Theatre, Theatre Raleigh, Flat Rock Playhouse, West Virginia Public Theatre, TheatreSquared, Orlando Shakespeare Company, and of course NC Stage, CJ designs lighting and visual media for theatre and live events throughout the US, His lighting designs range from productions like *Color Purple*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Ring of Fire*, *Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike*, and *West Side Story* to new and exploratory works like *Boulevard of Bold Dreams*, *Brave New World*, *Grounded*, and *Curvy Widow*. His work also includes projection designs for *The Mountaintop*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *The Tempest*, and *August Wilson's How I Learned What I Learned*. With a passion for storytelling and a keen eye for detail, CJ continues to elevate theatrical experiences for audiences nationwide. Discover more about CJ and his upcoming projects at [www.CJLights.com](http://www.CJLights.com) or follow him on Instagram at @cj\_Lights.

**Casey Watkins (*Costume Design*)** A native of Wilmington, NC, Casey Watkins received her BA from NC State University and her MFA in Costume Design from Southern Illinois University. She has worked, designed and taught at various places such as North Carolina Theatre, Porthouse Theatre, Monomoy Theatre, McLeod Summer Playhouse, Valdosta State University, and Texas A&M University Commerce. Her academic work concentrates on the intersection of clothing, culture, and performance, decolonizing theatre practices and pedagogy, and interdisciplinary collaboration. She is currently an assistant professor at UNC Asheville.

## THURGOOD Production Bios

**Sylvia J. Pierce (*Props Artist*)** Sylvia is a life-long theatre enthusiast playing one of Ole King Cole's fiddlers at age 4. She pursued technical theatre in grad school, deciding she'd rather be a techie than a conceptual designer. Starting out professionally in Cambridge, MA in 1978, she worked her way South, through New York City, Atlanta and all over the US and abroad for the next two decades. Along the way she built and managed shows for theatre and broadcast television events, joined IATSE Local #4, built lots of sets, owned two companies, went on the road, and finally moved slightly north to Asheville. Finding that the mountains felt like home, she finally gave up her nomadic lifestyle and settled down. Now, she works and builds for local theatre companies and is enjoying this phase of her career.

**Bailey I. Gafeney (*Sound Design*)** Bailey Gafeney is an Atlanta based sound designer and audio mixer, and is excited to be back designing for the third time in Asheville. Her previous sound design credits include *Fela! The Musical* (Lambert Smith Media, Atlanta, Georgia), *The Agitators* at (freeFall Theatre Company, St. Petersburg, FL), and *The Revolutionists* (Immediate Theatre Company on the NC stage), and *Witch* (NCSC). Special thanks to her mother Sheila for watching Babette!

**George Stevens, Jr. (*Playwright*)** George Stevens, Jr.'s interest in Thurgood Marshall began with a miniseries he wrote and directed, *Separate But Equal*, the story of the Brown vs. Board of Education school desegregation case on which Marshall was the lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. *Thurgood* is his first play. Stevens is the founder of the American Film Institute and a writer, director, and producer. Motion pictures: *The Thin Red Line*; *George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey*; *John F. Kennedy: Years of Lightning, Day of Drums*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Television: *Separate But Equal* (Sidney Poitier, Burt Lancaster), *The Murder of Mary Phagan* (Jack Lemmon, Peter Gallagher, Kevin Spacey), *The Kennedy Center Honors* (1978 – 2007), *The American Film Institute Life Achievement Awards* (1973 – 1998), *America's Millennium, D-Day to Berlin*. Alfred A. Knopf recently published his book, *Conversations With the Great Moviemakers of Hollywood's Golden Age*. Awards include eight awards from the Writers Guild of America, two George Foster Peabody Awards, and two Emmys.

**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

## PRODUCTION CREW

**Production Manager** Carrie Day

**Head Carpenter** Aaron Shiver

**Lead Electrician** CJ Barnwell

**Assistant Lighting and Projections** Taylor Jeffries

**Build Assist** Rafael Hernandez

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