



:: Lucia Colombi, Founder :: Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director ::

Clybourne Park

by Bruce Norris



SEP 23 - OCT 9

Ensemble Theatre :: **2022-2023** Season::
Performing Arts Center-Notre Dame College
4545 College Rd. South Euclid, OH 44121

216.321.2930

www.ensembletheatrecle.org

A Message from the Artistic Director/Director

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I am so glad that we are finally able to meet again in person! What a challenging last few years it has been! So much has happened with the pandemic and the added challenge of moving the theatre after almost a decade.

We are still continuing to navigate this pandemic and the continued effects on all of our lives. While our industry is still one of the hardest hit, there is so much gratitude to be shared for so many people, from all walks of life and professions, who have stepped up and shown such strength and resilience during this unique time in our history! We have all lost so much, and are still collectively grieving.

Lost loved ones, connections, livelihoods, careers. We are all still collectively recovering from a global shutdown. The theatre has always been a place of solace for me but also a place for discovery and community. SO much has changed in the past few years, and so much continues to change, but story telling will always be essential. I am continually thankful that Ensemble has "survived" and in some ways thrived now that we have found a new and supportive partner with Notre Dame College! I am honored to have stepped into the "role" of their Director of Theatre Studies, returning to a building (my office is in the old Regina building) where the "theatrical" journey started for both me and my mother as budding young high school students. A place where I will now teach theatre to a new generation of students. Things have come full circle in so many ways.

I am thankful for our continued supporters who have helped us through donations when our doors were shuttered and who continue to do so! We are thankful for the public and private support for the arts and culture industry during this unprecedented and challenging time!!

What a better piece to return to live theatre with than 'Clybourne Park'. Inspired by one of my all time favorite plays, 'A Raisin in the Sun', this piece, like our acclaimed 2019 production, requires a real 'ensemble' of actors. It has been an absolute pleasure working with this group of people and friends. I have now found admiration for everyone who continues to be brave and step out in front of an audience to share a bit of their humanity and create a platform for community conversation, especially now. This show will definitely inspire many!

Welcome back! Welcome to our new location! Enjoy the show!

Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director

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:: Lucia Colombi, Founder :: Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director ::
Presents

Clybourne Park

By **Bruce Norris**

Director :: Celeste Cosentino **Set/Light/Projection Design** :: Ian Hinz
Costume Design :: Jill Kenderes

Production Stage Manager/Props/Scenic Painting :: Becca Moseley

ASL Coach/Consultant:: Larry Nehring

Scenic Carpenters :: August Scarpelli & Sam Landgraf

Sound :: Becca Moseley & Celeste Cosentino

Sound Engineer(s) :: Aaron Elersich & Ian Hinz

:: The Cast ::

Brian Pedaci as Russ/Dan :: **Mary Werntz** as Bev/Kathy

Jailyn Sherell Harris as Francine/Lena

Christian Achkar as Jim/Tom/Kenneth :: **Nnamdi Okpala** as Albert/Kevin

Dan Zalevsky as Karl/Steve :: **Hannah Storch** as Betsy/Lindsey

Please Note:

This production contains **very strong language and themes**
and deals with the topic of suicide and PTSD.

:: **Act One:** 48 min :: **10 min. Intermission** :: **Act Two:** 50 min ::

Time/Place:

Act One:

September 1959.

Interior of a modest three bedroom bungalow. 406 Clybourne Street.

Act Two:

The same house. 2009.

CLYBOURNE PARK was produced on Broadway by **Jujamcyn Theaters**
at **The Walter Kerr Theatre, 2012.**

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the **World Premiere**
of **CLYBOURNE PARK Off-Broadway** in **2010.**

"**CLYBOURNE PARK** is presented by special arrangement with Broadway
Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.
(www.dramatists.com)"

Who's who in the Cast:



Brian Pedaci (Russ/Dan) (he/him) is pleased to help Ensemble inaugurate this new chapter in their distinguished history. Recent appearances include 'The Taming of the Shrew' (Baptista) and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Theseus) at Ohio Shakespeare Festival; 'The Weir' (Jim) at None Too Fragile; 'The Legend of Georgia McBride' (Eddie), 'King Lear' (Albany) and 'Glengarry Glen Ross' (Moss) at Beck Center for the Arts; "Art" (Marc) at Blank Canvas Theater.



Mary Werntz (Bev/Kathy) (she/her) 'Clybourne Park' is Mary's first production with Ensemble Theatre. Locally, she has appeared with Rubber City Theatre and None Too Fragile. Additional credits include Aquila Theatre's Off-Broadway production of 'Macbeth', Baltimore Shakespeare Festival: 'Scapin!' and 'The Comedy of Errors', Synetic Theater: 'Antony and Cleopatra', 'Macbeth, Dracula', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', and 'Carmen' at The Kennedy Center. MFA in Classical Acting from Shakespeare Theatre Company.



Jailyn Sherell Harris (Francine/Lena) (she/her) is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and a graduate of Bowling Green State University, where she received her BAC in theatre, with a minor in dance. As a performer, she has had the opportunity to perform on film and in theaters across Northeast Ohio and beyond with credits from Talespinner Children's Theatre, Cassidy Theatre, Karamu House, Lakeland Civic Theatre, the Players Guild Theatre and the A.R.T. in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She enjoys working on and developing new works. Recently she appeared in a workshop production of the new musical "On the Line" at Rubber City Theatre, and in the world

premiere of 'Bluesman: Never Get out of These Blues Alive'. She also performed in the world premiere of HEARTBREAKERS IN HELL by Joey Contreras and Benjamin Halstead. Ms. Harris has had the opportunity to serve as a director and choreographer for a few schools around northeast Ohio. Directing credits include a staged reading of the new musical WISHFUL THINKING by Jamie Maletz and a virtual production of RAGTIME with M.A.D. Factory Theatre. She has also served as a teaching artist with Dancing Classrooms of Northeast Ohio and the Center for Inspired Learning. Jailyn has a strong dance background and extensive experience in Jazz, Hip Hop and Musical Theatre. She is an inaugural member of MadJax Dance Company. Jailyn has choreographed for theaters and organizations across the Northeast Ohio area and beyond, including the Sitar Arts Center in Washington, DC.



Christian Achkar (Jim/Tom/Kenneth) (he/him) attended Bowling Green State University on the Eva Marie Saint Scholarship for "Exceptional Talent in Acting" and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Film. In 2016 the OCTA Regional awarded Christian with an "Excellence in Acting" for his performance as Versati in "The Underpants". He is currently represented by the Talent Group and was most recently featured as a principal role for Ohio Tourism. He was last seen on stage as Ray, at Rubber City Theater's World Premiere of "Love in Reserve" and as Johnathan in "The Play that Goes Wrong" at Weatherlane Playhouse. "Clybourne Park" is Christian's first production with Ensemble Theater and he is thrilled to be working with the company.



Nnamdi Okpala (Albert/Kevin) (he/him) is overjoyed to work with such talented people and to make his return to Ensemble working on 'Clybourne Park'! He was last seen as George Murchison in Ensemble's critically acclaimed production of 'A Raisin in the Sun'. Nnamdi recently received his B.A. in Theatre Arts at Cleveland State University, where he played Paris in 'Romeo and Juliet' and the Narrator in 'She Kills Monsters'. He worked on the CWRU/CPH digital production of 'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot' and is currently a teaching artist for CPH. He is grateful for his family, educators and everyone involved in making theatre possible. IG @whynnamdi."

Who's who in the Cast (continued):



Dan Zalevsky (Karl/Steve) (he/him) is thrilled to be making his Ensemble Theatre debut in 'Clybourne Park'. Dan has a BA in Theatre from the University of Northern Colorado. New York credits: Vital Theatre's 'The Tempest' (Trinculo), Emerging Artists Theatre's 'The Gay Naked Play' (Dan), founding member/writer/performer with the award-winning sketch comedy group, Fearsome (Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre and the People's Improv Theatre, NYC). Cleveland theatre credits: Mercury Theatre's 'Clue' (Professor Plum) as well as their reading of *Lost in Yonkers* (Uncle Louie), Heights Youth Theatre's alumni production of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' (Boris). Dan would like to thank his networking powerhouse of

a wife, Claudia for always supporting and encouraging him through all for the twists and turns, his hugely talented children, Liam and Claire for their love, energy and inspiration and of course Hank. Everyone loves Hank.

Hannah Storch (Betsy/Lindsey) (she/her) is happy to return to Ensemble Theatre. A Cleveland based actor, she graduated from Kent State University with a major in Theatre and a minor in English. She has toured the country with the National Theatre for Children out of Minneapolis, MN and Bright Star Theatre out of Asheville, NC. Since returning to Cleveland, she has had the pleasure to work with many theatres including Cleveland Public Theatre, Convergence Continuum, Beck Center for the Arts and Cleveland Shakespeare Festival. Up next, she will be reprising her role as Joy in Ohio Shakespeare Festival's Roger and Hammerstein's 'Cinderella' this winter. Thank you to her family and her Chickens for their love and to you for supporting live, local theatre. Enjoy!



About this Play:

Clybourne Park is a 2010 play by Bruce Norris written as a spin-off to Lorraine Hansberry's play **A Raisin in the Sun** (1959). It portrays fictional events set during and after the Hansberry play, and is loosely based on historical events that took place in the city of Chicago. It premiered in February 2010 at **Playwrights Horizons** in New York. The play received its UK premiere at the Royal Court Theatre in London in a production directed by Dominic Cooke. The play received its Chicago premiere at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in a production directed by Steppenwolf ensemble member Amy Morton. As described by The Washington Post, the play "applies a modern twist to the issues of race and housing and aspirations for a better life. **Clybourne Park** was awarded the 2011 **Pulitzer Prize for Drama** and the 2012 **Tony Award for Best Play**.

Historical context:

Lorraine Hansberry's parents bought a house in the white neighborhood known as the Washington Park Subdivision, which gave rise to a legal case (Hansberry v. Lee, 311 U.S. 32 [1940]) The Hansberry family home, a red brick three-floor at 6140 S. Rhodes, which they bought in 1937, is up for landmark status before the Chicago City Council's Committee on Historical Landmarks Preservation.

Please Note:

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Ensemble has suspended pre and post show talks backs that were originally planned to surround this production.

We believe that community conversation is an essential component to the work we do and a reason why we choose the scripts that we do! We encourage our audience members to create continued conversations about the very important issues addressed in this production.

Reach out to local civic organizations that guide champion the work of community development and also create community conversation and connections around the needs of residents.

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Ensemble's critically acclaimed 2013 production of
The Iceman Cometh

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These levels indicate giving (2020 through 2022) as of August 2022.

Please note there may be names omitted as we attempt to keep as up to date a list as possible.

Please let us know if you do not see a name that should be listed.

Email celeste@ensemble-theatre.org or call 216-321-2930

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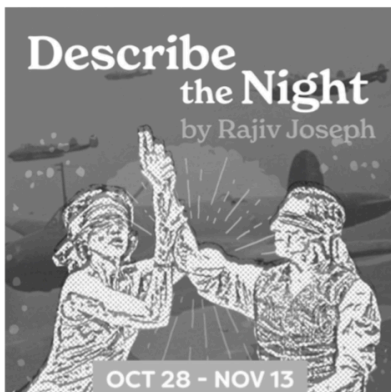
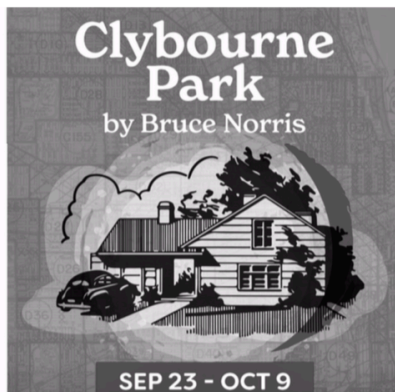
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Meet the Crew :

Celeste Cosentino (Director, Executive Artistic Director)(she/her) has served in some "role" for Ensemble Theatre since she could walk and has worked in one capacity or another for local Cleveland theater's her entire life, spending many formative years "in the house" while her mother, Lucia Colombi, was interim artistic director for Karamu in the early to mid 80's, the same years her mother spent founding Ensemble Theatre. She has worked with worked with The Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Clague Play House, Cain Park, Bang & Clatter, Willoughby Fine Arts and others. She is a graduate of the Ohio University School of Theatre and returned to Cleveland in 2008, after living and working in New York City. Some of her favorite acting credits are Marena in 'Anna in the Tropics', Alice in 'Closer', Desdemona in 'Othello', and Kayleen in 'Gruesome Playgound Injuries'. Favorite directing credits include 'The Gospel According to James', 'Death of a Salesman', 'Lower Ninth', 'Animals out of Paper', 'Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo', 'The North Pool and most recently both parts of Tony Kushner's epic 'Angels in America'. Celeste also spent some time in the corporate/business management world and worked for the Cleveland Museum of Art in their groundbreaking ARTLENS technology gallery for almost a decade. She recently accepted the 'role' of Director of Theatre Studies for Notre Dame College, where Ensemble has new residency, and where both her and her mother started their journey's many years ago on the Regina stage. Celeste is the daughter of Ensemble Founder, Lucia Colombi and has returned home to support her mother's mission by providing a fresh perspective as the next Artistic Director. She was raised by Ensemble Theatre and has a special dedication to its continuation for many years to come.

Becca Moseley (Production Stage Manager, General Manager) (she/her) is excited to be opening a show at Ensemble's new home, Notre Dame College! In addition to serving as Ensemble's General Manager, she has served as the Resident Production Stage Manager/Assistant stage manager for many Ensemble shows, including both parts of 'Angels in America', 'A Raisin in the Sun', 'The Penelopiad', 'Intimate Apparel', 'The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail', 'Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo', 'The Iceman Cometh', 'Knock Me A Kiss', 'Anna Christie', 'Thurgood', 'Death of a Salesman', and many more. She co-directed *Run*, 'Kingsbury, Run' and Assistant Directed 'East of Eden'. She was onstage in past seasons at Ensemble as a chorus leader/puppeteer in 'Around the World in 80 Days', Pea in 'Jerusalem', the Childlike Empress/company in 'The Never Ending Story', 'The Phantom Tollbooth' (Princess Rhyme/Ensemble,) and as Daisy Buchanan in 'The Great Gatsby'. Other favorite credits not at Ensemble include Rosalind (As You Like It,) Fabiana Cunningham (The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,) Dorine (Tartuffe,) Maggie (A Chorus Line), and Ophelia (The Horatio Project.) She thanks Ian and Celeste for building and nurturing a theatre that provides a constant supply of great scripts and people to bring them to life, her family for their love and support, and her husband Kyle for always believing in the magic.

Jill Janos (Costume Design) (she/her) is happy to return to Ensemble Theatre after previously designing 'Intimate Apparel' and 'Kindertransport'. She has been performing on stages in Northeast Ohio for seventeen years and is grateful for that journey leading to the costuming world. Her work has been seen at theatres around the area including Blank Canvas Theatre, Broadview Heights Spotlights, French Creek Theatre and Clague Playhouse. Thank you to Joe, Anthony and Samantha.

Ian Hinz (Projection/Set/Lighting Design) (he/him) is a graduate of Ohio University. Ian has worked professionally as a producer, award winning director, Light, Set, & Projection designer, director of operations and theater educator for over sixteen years in Ohio and New York. He is co-founder of the Ensemble Stage-Wrights' workshop, two-time winner of the Cleveland Critics' Circle Best Director award and served as Artistic Director and Operations Manager for the city of Cleveland Heights' historic Cain Park Amphitheater. He has worked in operations for The Ohio State University Jerome Schottenstein Center and the Cleveland State University Department of Music as a stage production specialist. He has produced off-off-broadway at the Gene Frankel Theater and worked in business development in the tech startup industry in New York City. He is currently the Executive Director for Raise the Roof for the Arts, in charge of program creation and scheduling and major capital renovations to The Historic Sidney Theatre in Sidney, OH.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Notre Dame College, Aaron Elersich, Becca Moseley, Sam Landgraf, The City of South Euclid, The Ebony Bobcat Network, Tom Moore, Martin Cosentino, Ian Hinz, Austin Hinz, The Board of Ensemble Theatre, Christian Achkar, & Kyle Huff.

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