

1619: The Journey of a People

Written by Ted Williams III

Directed by Cynthia Wallis



#1619musical
www.1619musical.com

Cast

Katrina	Shannon Stiles
Nathaniel	Marchello Lee
Cheryl	Simbryt Dortch
Mary	Lucy Maura
Benjamin	Ozivell Ecford
Singer	Gerald Crawford
Dancer	Vanessa Henderson

Musicians

Pianist	Jason Jones
Bass	Gerald Crawford
Percussionist	Ozivell Ecford

Crew

Stage Manager	Sheena Freeman
Light Designer	Phoenix Ballantine
Crew Chief	Quentin Taylor
Sound Operator	JaShawn Smith
Projection	Clemente Edwards
Stagehand	Michael Taylor
StageHand	Blake Stiles
Stagehand	Jordan Stiles
Road Manager	Roslyn Williams



Act I The Journey

The Journey

Slave for Life

Roots

Frederick Douglass, 4th of July

The Star Spangled Banner I

Thought We Were Free

Mass Incarceration Aria

Train Ride

Booker T. or W.E.B.

Something For The Pain

Trying

Act II Freedom

Run to the North

The Great Migration

Racial Identity

I'm Not Black

After the Dream

Steal Away

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody

Chains Are Gone

What is 1619:

The Journey of a People?

In 1619, 20 enslaved Africans arrived at Point Comfort, Virginia. The 400-year journey that followed would change a nation and the world. This dynamic and life-changing musical production commemorates the struggles, recognizes the heroes and celebrates the story of America's African sons and daughters.

In 2019, the Illinois Arts Council funded the creation of this production to commemorate the 400-year anniversary of African Americans. 1619: The Journey of a People premiered at Kennedy-King College in Chicago in August of 2019 through February 2020. 1619 enjoyed a successful run that included engagements at Hampton University, Wheaton College, Elmhurst College and multiple sold-out shows at theaters in Chicago. In June and August of 2020, in partnership with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the DuSable Museum, Rev. James Meek's House of Hope and WBEZ, 1619 increased its audience by successfully pushing into the larger digital space. The production was nominated for a 2020 August Wilson Award for Best Writing of a Musical by the Black Theatre Alliance Awards. In 2021, 1619 was performed for the city of Clarksville, Tennessee's inaugural Juneteenth celebration, the city

Cast Bios



Shannon Styles (Katrina) Shannon Stiles is a Chicago native who majored in theater at Columbia College and Second City. She is also a seasoned actress and singer/songwriter with over 20 years of experience in musical theater. She is also no stranger to the 3rd Dimension Performance Group. She has performed in 1619: The Journey of a People, Torn the Musical, the Motown Mystery Dinner Theater and numerous children's productions. She has taught theater and performance for two decades through Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.



Marchello Lee (Nathaniel) Marchello Lee is an accomplished professional dancer who attended Columbia College and Northeastern Illinois University. He has performed with One World Dance Theatre where his fusion of Hip Hop, African, Jazz, and Tango were spotlighted. Marchello's passion and versatility has led him to many lead roles as an actor and dancer. Marchello stars in the movie DREAMS and toured Asia with the hit group Sweetie Motions. Marchello has been with Lincolnshire Academy of Dance for 9 years and continues to inspire youth in the arts.

He would like to thank God for his gifts and talents and looks forward to many other opportunities in his career.

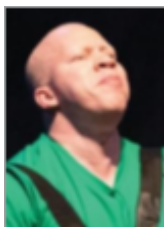


Simbryt Dortch (Cheryl) Simbryt Dortch's experience in the entertainment industry has taken her many places, including Star Search (two-time Teen Vocalist Champion), The Apollo Theater, and in her hometown of Chicago as a two-time WGCI Radio Home Jam winner. As a background singer she has accompanied artists such as Stevie Wonder, Michael McDonald, Seal, Celine Dion, Gladys Knight, Faith Hill, Kenny Loggins, Richard Marx, R. Kelly, and Diana Ross. For over 20 years, her image and voice have been seen and heard through print, film, and television and radio commercial ads for such companies as McDonald's, Disney, Proctor and Gamble, and through her solo and group performances on various projects for the Oprah Winfrey show.

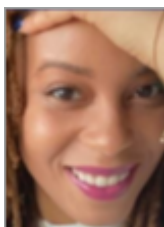


Lucy Maura (Ms. Yates) is an educator in Chicago, IL. She studied psychology at DePaul University and education at National-Louis University. Dancing is a gift she received from God and has been encouraged to use it for several decades. Her 3rd Dimension performances include 1619: The Journey of a People, Torn the Musical, and Torn the Resurrection. Additionally, she has performed for various events and weddings. Lucy is a mother, mother-in-law, and proud grandmother.

Cast Bios Continued...



Ozivell Ecford (Benjamin) Ozivell Ecford is a 20-year veteran Teaching Artist, Behavior Manager, and Performance Artist. His background and expertise is in Music, Theatre, Multimedia Design, Curriculum Development, Professional Development, and working with youth that have special needs. Ozivell worked with Storycatchers Theatre for 17 years as a playwright, actor, director, composer, behavior manager, crisis prevention specialist, instructor, staff trainer, multimedia specialist, and program developer. Ozivell's contributions to Storycatchers Theatre has helped to earn them awards like the President's Committee of Arts and Humanities Youth Award presented by Michelle Obama at the White House.



Vanessa Henderson (Dancer) Vanessa Henderson is a Chicago native and Kentucky State University graduate with a B.A. in Music. Vanessa has previously taught jazz, hip hop and lyrical classes with Dance One studio. Vanessa, a lyric soprano, has toured with the Kentucky State Concert Choir and performed with the Opera Theatre Workshop in Blue Monday, excerpts from Into the Woods and more. Vanessa is currently a dancer with A-Z Entertainment for seven years.



Sheena Freeman (Stage Manager) Sheena has been involved in theater since her senior year in High School, training with Chocolate Chips Theatre Company as Chicago, Chicago City Improv Class and ETA Theater. She has stage managed for Chocolate Chips Theatre Company, Smart Cookie Awards, The Tiger Who Wore White Gloves, Chicago Church of Christ 2006 Scrooge, The Three Wise Men, 70's Christmas, Christmas Gift from God, Sugar Foot Blues and 1619 The Journey of a People.

Creative Team



Ted Williams III (Producer, Playwright, Performer)

Ted Williams III is an actor and author who is a graduate of the University of Chicago, Rutgers University, and is a political science faculty member at Kennedy-King College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. Williams is the former host of WYCC- PBS television's *The Professors* weekly talk show and has provided national commentary for a host of local and national media outlets. He has appeared in commercials for companies including Subway, Cheerios and Empire Carpet. He recently appeared in the films *Human Zoos*, *The Christmas Thief*, and on NBC's *Chicago PD* and Showtime's *The Chi*. Additionally, he is the author of the production *TORN The Musical*, and the book "The Way Out: Christianity, Politics and the Future of the African American Community". Williams is a former candidate for Chicago City Council and proud to be the husband of Roslyn and father to Gabrielle, Amaris and Theo IV.



Cynthia Walls (Director)

Cynthia "Cyndi" has directed two productions with Third Dimension "TORN the Musical" and currently, "1619: The Journey of a People." After graduating from DePaul University, she directed for Kuumba Theatre and Chocolate Chips Theatre Company. Some of the shows she directed included "A Few of My Sisters," "Blue Monday," "The Tiger Who Wore White Gloves," "Shani on the Hill," and "We Live in Bronzeville." Cyndi loves directing faith-based theater. She feels that using her God given talents is her highest form of praise. Some of the faith-based productions she directed include "Cross Roads," "Choices," "Why Have You Forsaken Me," "Did You Hear That" and "Souls of Most Folks." Recently, she has directed and acted with the performance company hardworktellingstories.com.

