

PRESENTED BY

INDIANAPOLIS
BLACK THEATER
COMPANY

A resident company within The District Theatre



Written by LYDIA R. DIAMOND • Directed by BEN ROSE

TONI STONE

SEPT. 19th - OCT. 6th

THE DISTRICT THEATRE

627 Massachusetts Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204



Bio

Ben Rose is an award winning **writer, actor, director and producer**. He appeared most recently as Cutler in Ma Rainey's Black Bottom. His feature length documentary, **Haughville USA** is currently in post-production to be completed in Fall 2024. Rose is also an Indianapolis Arts Council **Creative Renewal Fellow** and his screenplay **Lion of Judah** was an official selection in the 2017 **Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards**. Rose holds a degree in photography from the Arts Institute and attended Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.

Director's Notes

It's a great honor to be able to bring a story like Toni Stone to life for any community, but especially one where the actual history was made. In 2008 I was getting a degree in photography from the Arts Institute of Indianapolis and found myself sneaking into Bush Stadium to get what I hoped would be iconic photos for a class project. As a kid I had been to see the Indianapolis Indians play and could still stack the image in my mind of pristine grass and a manicured field right next to the current one of trees growing in the infield and a dilapidated stadium. As a child I had no idea there was a Negro League that played there, and if you told me years later I'd be producing and directing a production about the first woman to play in those leagues at that very stadium I would have been in disbelief. As Founding Artistic Director of the Indianapolis Black Theater Company I take inspiration from Toni Stone's trailblazing spirit as we endeavor to uplift Black Narratives and share stories that show our strength and resilience as well as our vulnerabilities. There is much more to come from IBTC as we innovate in this merging world of mediums and yet with each step forward we are reminded that it is our ability to feel and connect with those around us that truly makes us human.

- Ben Rose



Cast Bios



PsyWrn Simone (Si-ren Si-mōn) (*Toni Stone*) is a Performing Artist, Arts Advocate & Educator from Indianapolis, IN. She is a Founding Member of the

Indianapolis Black Theater Company and is an AEA member. Additionally, she is the Associate Artistic Director for the Asante Art Institute of Indianapolis and a Board Member for the Inspire Music Collective. Recent theatre credits: Phoenix Theatre Cultural Center, Fonseca Theatre Company, Cardinal Stage, Ankh Productions, and Indiana Repertory Theatre. Shout out to everyone who's supported her journey!



Sean Blake (Alberga) (*Alberga/Rufus*) a native of Chicago and has been residing in Indianapolis since Winter of 2019. Sean is very excited to be a

part of this wonderful production. Broadway/ National credits: Hal Prince's Showboat. Regional credits: The Goodman Theatre, Seattle Rep, The Kennedy Center, The Court Theatre, The Long Wharf Theatre, The Roundabout, and Pittsburgh Public Theatre to name a few. Television credits include Empire, Chicago PD, and Mixtape. Film credits: The Christmas Pitch and Just Visiting. Sean is a proud member Actors Equity Association and SAG. Enjoy!



Jamaal McCray (Woody) (*Owner #2/ Heckler #2/ Father O'Keefe*) is a Native Theater Artist of Pangea. In the field he has done it all except cultivate mediocrity,

pander for political ends, and censor creative exploration for social sentimentality. His favorite things to do are Performing, Directing, Writing, and collaborating with others who respect and love the craft. He is honored to represent Ankh Productions and the Indianapolis Black Theater Company. INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK- @ ankhproductions | ankhproductions.org



Trent K. Hawthorne-Richards, (*King Tut/Owner #3/Heckler #3/Boy*) also known professionally as TKHR, is a multi-hyphenate creator and entrepreneur

from Indianapolis, Indiana. He has a list of credits that extend over 20 productions in film, theater and new media. Hawthorne-Richards has received training from such places as Second City: Chicago, Jim Dougherty's Actors Academy, and Indianapolis Black Theater Company, getting his start with the now-closed Indy Apollo Theatre through Demarco Plays & Ivy League Productions.



Xavier Jones (Spec) (*Gabby/Owner #1/Heckler #1*) is honored to be involved in a production with such important history. Toni Stone has introduced

him to a world of characters and information that he's sure will open the door for more great stories. His desire is to portray roles of importance and continue to inspire others. As a reminder, he's grateful for his mama and sister for everything. Love you.



Austin "Hook" Hookfin (*Jimmy/Sydney/Junior*) is excited to be a part of this historic production! Hook is a proud graduate of North Central High

School in Indianapolis. Hook is an Encore award winner and Broadway World Indianapolis award nominee. Favorite roles of Hook's would be Tom Collins in Civic Theatre's production of "RENT", LeRoy in Betty Rage Productions' "The Bad Seed" as well as O.K. in Cultured Urban Winery's production of "Platanos Y Collard Greens".

**D'yshe Mansfield**

(*Millie/Drunk Willie*) is an Indianapolis based multi-hyphenate singer-songwriter, actress, and Director. As a graduate of

New York City's American Musical and Dramatic Academy and a current Theatre, Television, and Film student at Indiana University Indianapolis, Mansfield continues to leave her mark on the world of theater one show at a time. Her recent works include David Lamb's "Platanos y Collard Greens", Gabrielle Patterson's "Your Love Will Be Judged", and Naptown African American Theatre Collective's "Detroit 67" in which she was nominated for Best Director by Broadway World.

**Reno Moore** (*Stretch/*

Mother/Heckler #5) is beyond thrilled to join this cast in their production of "Toni Stone". Reno is an AMDA graduate and a local

theater veteran doing shows with Beef & Board as well as Footlite musicals. Please enjoy this stellar and relevant tale of Toni Stone. Play Ball! Insta: @Thech1pskylark

**Eric Washington** (*Elzie/*

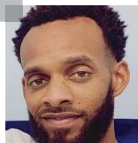
Heckler #4/ Owner #4/ Supervisor) is a writer, director, playwright, and actor from Indianapolis IN. He was born and

raised in Haughville, and takes pride in his accomplishments.

**Temara Payton**

(*Understudy*), affectionately known as "T" is an accomplished actor, host, and on-air personality hailing from the dynamic

city of Indianapolis, IN. A proud holder of a BA in Theatre from Ball State University, Temara's passion for the performing arts shines through her diverse range of credits. Her impressive portfolio spans short films, feature films, national commercial ads, print campaigns, and network television appearances.

**Joshua Bruton**

(*Understudy*) is an actor from Indianapolis, IN and has always had a passion for the art of entertainment.

Joshua began his career

with The Asante Children's Theatre at the age of 9. His consistent ability to captivate his audience through the lens or the stage is unmatched. Find him on Instagram: Young_moosey_317

Equity Actors & IBTC Company Members**IBTC Company Members**

Crew Information:

- **Chandra Lynch** - Stage Manager
- **Kelli Thomas** - Assistant Stage Manager
- **Tim Dick** - Lighting Designer
- **Robert Moore** - Costume Designer
- **Richard Trotman** - Sound Designer
- **Teresa Reynolds** - Gallery Curator
- **David Orr** - Set Designer/Builder
- **Brandon McLean** - Cover Art
- **Blake Lamirand** - Sound Designer

IBTC Leadership



Stephen Farris
Board President



Ben Rose
*Founding Artistic
Director*



Richard Trotman
Board Treasurer



Demel Bolden
*Communications
Director*

IBTC would like to thank



CICF
CENTRAL INDIANA
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The
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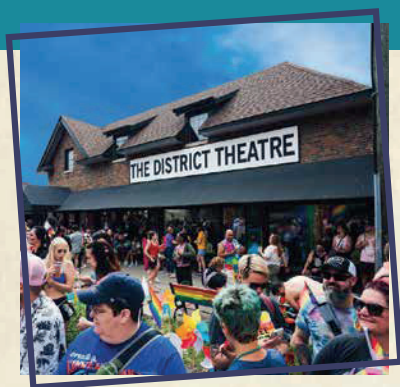
• Patrick Jessee

• Robert Herzog

• Brian Payne

• Andrew Nguyen

• Joe Chapelle



DAY or NIGHT

The District Theatre has a show for Everyone!

Family

The Halloween Tree by Ray Bradbury

The story of a group of trick-or-treating children who learn about the origins and influences of Halloween when one of their friends is spirited away by mysterious forces.

Musical Parody

SHREK - IndyDrag Theatre

Once upon a time, in a faraway swamp, there lived a drag ogre named Shrek. Shrek embarks on a quest to sing, dance, and save Princess Fiona from the highest room of the tallest tower.

Holiday Show

This flashy, family friendly romp will get you in the spirit with hilarious original music, elaborate costumes, and enough singing and dancing to make any Scrooge smile.

Halloween

Hosted by the Mistress of the Night
21+ • "Shots" included

Stand Up Comedy

Monthly showcase of the very best national touring comics and Indy's local comedy scene. The real treat is coming to a live show and experiencing it for yourself.

Dance

Indianapolis Ballet

New Works delivers an unforgettable unique, up-close and personal audience experience in the intimacy of The District Theatre.

Sport - A Baseball Legend

"Toni Stone" The first female professional baseball player.
by Lydia R. Dimond
Indianapolis Black Theater Company inaugural production.

**TO PURCHASE
TICKETS SCAN
CODE or go to**

indydistricttheatre.org



**THE
DISTRICT
THEATRE**



INDIANAPOLIS
Formerly Theatre on the Square
627 Massachusetts Ave
317.391.6937

INDIANAPOLIS BLACK THEATER COMPANY



MISSION

The primary mission of the Indianapolis Black Theater Company is to produce contemporary narratives of Black Americans and their experiences. The IBTC also seeks to foster growth and assist in the support and advancement of Black professionals in the arts and entertainment industry. The IBTC is also committed to collaborating with Black cultural arts and entertainment organizations for the purpose of shared resources and collective upliftment.

INDIANAPOLIS BLACK THEATER COMPANY

Presents



AMERICAN BLACK PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

The American Black Playwriting Competition is hosted by the **Indianapolis Black Theater Company** and designed to attract the best contemporary unproduced work from writers nationwide. **Submissions must be specifically focused on the Black American Experience, past present or future.** The winning submission will receive a cash prize and be produced in the upcoming 2025 season of the Indianapolis Black Theater Company.

Grand Prize:

\$7500

+ 1 year
development contract

Runner up:

\$2500

Indiana Favorite:

\$1500



Scan QR Code to enter competition

Submissions open October 2024