

AFFILIATIONS

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley operates under agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

The director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union. The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT Theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA829 of the IATSE. The musicians employed in this production are members of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

In addition, TheatreWorks is a member of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce. TheatreWorks' 52nd Season is presented in cooperation with the City of Mountain View and the City of Palo Alto, Community Services Department, Division of Arts and Sciences.

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley is a proud home company of the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.









UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS







LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We recognize that our offices and theatre facilities sit on the traditional territory and unceded homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

For more info, visit theatreworks.org/landacknowledgement







In Conversation is a series of free community events, serving as a platform to pass the mic and invite artists from around the Bay to be in conversation with the work we are presenting on stage. Come by and join the conversation!

Saturday, March 18 Saturday, March 25

Events begin following the 2pm performance.

Conversations are FREE and open to the public — you do not need a ticket to the performance that day to attend.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

By TIM BOND

Playwright Cheryl West takes us for a walk in famed human rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer's shoes; she bathes us in her music, baptizes us in her wisdom, and heals us with

her hope. Her courageous stories, fiery speeches, and soul stirring music are an inspiration for all of us to stand up for racial justice and equality. When Fannie utters "truth ain't never been the enemy, 'less'n you in the business of worshipping a lie," it eerily sounds like she is speaking to our current moment. In these troubled times, when voting rights and democracy have been under attack by election deniers and insurrectionists fueled by misinformation and lies, the story of Fannie Lou Hamer brings me hope and uplifts my spirit.

When I was born, segregation was still the law across much of this nation. Even so, as a child I remember my mother taking me with her to the voting booth at our local elementary school and showing me how to fill out a ballot. My parents instilled in me the vital importance of voting. I learned that many black people had suffered violence, were arrested, and killed trying to access the right to vote, and that none of us should ever take it for granted.

"TO HOPE IS TO VOTE." This rallying cry highlights how essential voting is to democracy. Ms. Hamer wasn't only fighting for black folks in Mississippi, she was fighting for everyone from every state, from all walks of life, for the soul of this nation. It seems to me that the right to vote and participate in government is not only a civil right, but also a human right.

Because of the unsurpassed bravery of Fannie Lou Hamer and the efforts of hundreds of other black and white civil rights activists during the Freedom Summer in 1964, the Voting Rights Act was finally passed in 1965. Since 2013, though, the Supreme Court has been striking down and neutering key portions of that landmark act. A wave of new laws limiting the freedom to vote is sweeping across the nation. In 2021, the Brennan Center for Justice reported that 19 states passed 34 laws that restricted voting access. In the last year more than 300 new bills that would restrict voting access have been proposed in 47 states. Most of these bills are carefully targeted to diminish the voting power of people of color. As Fannie Lou Hamer and many others have said in their own words: "Nobody's free until everybody's free."

Fannie Lou Hamer's journey from Mississippi sharecropper to human rights activist had a profound impact on voting and Civil Rights. Until recent years I never really understood all that she bravely survived, fought for, and accomplished. She was a powerful force for change, and we owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude for standing up for justice, equality, and our democracy.

Everywhere she went, Fannie invited all who were in her presence to lift their voices and join in singing the music she so loved. We invite you to lift your voice in community with Fannie, the band, and everybody!



"It's one thing I don't want you to say tonight after I finish... I don't want to hear you say, 'Honey I'm behind you.' Well, move! I don't want you back there. Because you could be two hundred miles behind. I want you to say, 'I'm with you.' And we'll go up this freedom road together."



presents



By Cheryl L. West Directed by Tim Bond

Music Director Morgan E. Stevenson
Scenic Design Andrea Bechert
Costume Design Lydia Tanji
Lighting Design Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz
Sound Design Gregory Robinson
Projection Design Miko S. Simmons
Wig Design Lyre Alston
Artist Counselor & Dramaturg Judith Nihei
Stage Manager Randall K. Lum

March 8-April 2, 2023

FANNIE is performed without an intermission.

FANNIE was commissioned by Goodman Theatre and Seattle Rep With additional development by Oregon Shakespeare Festival And the Rolling World Premiere was produced by Goodman Theatre, Seattle Rep, and Asolo Repertory Theatre, 2021.

FANNIE is produced by special arrangement with Kate Bussert, BRET ADAMS, LTD.,448 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036. www.bretadamsltd.net

THE VIDEOTAPING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS A VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW AND ACTIONABLE FEDERAL OFFENSE.

FEATURING



Greta OglesbyFannie I ou Hamer

The Actor and Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

LEADERSHIP PARTNERS

Anonymous Cindi Sears Lynn Szekely

PRODUCER PARTNERS

Dr. Barbara Bessey
Sarah Donaldson
Peggy Woodford Forbes & Harry Bremond
Edward Hunter & Michelle Garcia
Charlotte Jacobs & Roderick Young
Richard & Cathy Lampman
Mark Lewis & Barbara Shapiro
The Marmor Foundation/Drs. Michael & Jane Marmor
Rick Stern & Nancy Ginsburg Stern



SEASON SPONSORS
San Francisco Chronicle



THE BAND

Morgan E. Stevenson Music Director / Keyboards / Harmonica / Vocals Spencer Bean Guitars / Vocals Leonard Maddox Jr. Drums / Vocals

WHO'S WHO

GRETA OGLESBY (Fannie Lou Hamer) is an esteemed veteran of the American theatre, seen at TheatreWorks last season as Aunt Ester in August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*. Selected credits include Ten Thousand Things Theater, Penumbra Theatre, Guthrie Theater, and Children's Theater. She is author of the book *Mama 'n 'Nem, Handprints on My Life* and its companion play, *Handprints*.

MORGAN E. STEVENSON (Music Director / Keyboards / Harmonica / Vocals) is a multi-faceted creative from Chicago. This is her third production of *FANNIE*. Morgan E. holds a Bachelor of Music Education, a Master of Music Education, and spent several years teaching music from the elementary to high school level. Her debut EP "Meeting of the Minds," is a collaborative project featuring notable Chicago-based artists. linktr.ee/MorganEMusicNow

SPENCER BEAN (Guitars / Vocals) Credits include: August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre, Alliance Theatre, The Grammy Awards, *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, *Sesame Street*, various movie soundtracks and jingles. He has toured and recorded on multiple Gold & Platinum recordings, including Gladys Knight & The Pips, Marvin Gaye, and Barry White. spencerbeanmusic.com

LEONARD MADDOX JR. (Drums / Vocals) was born in Chicago, IL, and is the son of Julia and the late Leonard Maddox, Sr. He was the Lead Drummer for the Steppenwolf Theatre Co.'s *The Christians*, and has accompanied renowned artists including Gerald Albright, Kurt Whalum, K-Pop sensation TXT BigHit, Grammy Award-winning Darius Brooks & The Tommies, among others.

CHERYL L. WEST (Playwright) Plays include: *FANNIE: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer, Last Stop on Market Street, Shout Sister Shout, Akeelah and the Bee, Pullman Porter Blues, and Jar the Floor* (optioned for Broadway). Her plays have been seen in England, Off-Broadway, on Broadway (*Play On!*), and in numerous regional theatres around the country. She has written TV and film projects at Disney, Paramount, MTV Films, Showtime, TNT, HBO, CBS and is currently working on commissions for LaJolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Seattle Rep.

TIM BOND (Director) joined TheatreWorks as Artistic Director in July 2020, and directed *Gem of the Ocean* in 2021. Past leadership roles include Syracuse Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Group Theatre, and the University of Washington School of Drama. Over the last 37 years Tim has directed at countless theatres all over the US and abroad.

LONNIE RAFAEL ALCARAZ (Lighting Design) is head of the lighting program at the University of California. Credits include TheatreWorks' *Gem of the Ocean,* Transversal Theater Company, Denver Center, Syracuse Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Portland Center Stage. He is Resident Lighting Designer at South Coast Repertory, Ballet Repertory Theatre, and Great River Shakespeare Festival, where he is also Co-Associate Artistic Director. www.lradesigns.com.

LYRE ALSTON (Wig Design, he/him/she/her) is a costume, wig, hair, and makeup designer and artisan from the San Francisco Bay Area. Credits include California Shakespeare Theater, American Conservatory Theater, New Conservatory Theatre Center of San Francisco, Marin Theatre Co., Chabot Theater, Shotgun Players, Berkeley Playhouse, and Cal State East Bay Theater, among others.

ANDREA BECHERT (Scenic Design) has designed 37 productions with TheatreWorks including *Fun Home, Native Gardens, Crimes of the Heart,* and *Night of the Iguana*. Ms. Bechert designs across the country and her designs were included in the World Design Expo and Prague Quadrennial. She serves as Exam Chair and Member Representative at USA829.

RANDALL K. LUM (Stage Manager) is a Resident Stage Manager at TheatreWorks where recent credits include *In Every Generation*, New Works Festival, *Nan and the Lower Body*, and *Sense and Sensibility*. Other credits: Oregon and San Francisco Shakespeare Festivals, South Coast Repertory, Center Theatre Group, The Old Globe, American Conservatory Theater, California Shakespeare Theater, Berkeley Rep, among others.

JUDITH NIHEI (Artist Counselor & Dramaturg) is a licensed psychotherapist in private practice with roots in the Asian American theatre movement as a theatre director, dramaturg, writer, actor, and administrator. She consults for schools, nonprofits and community-based organizations, facilitating the incorporation of cultural humility and stress-awareness as part of traumainformed services.

GREGORY ROBINSON (Sound Design) has designed a dozen previous productions for TheatreWorks, including *Calligraphy, Proof, Water By the Spoonful* (BATCC Award), and *The Mountaintop*. His creations have been featured in local, regional, and national advertisements, short films, documentaries, corporate video, and theatre. Recent credits include Aurora Theatre Co., Marin Theatre Co., and Syracuse Stage.

MIKO S. SIMMONS (Projection Design) is an international award-winning Multimedia Artist and Projection Designer who has been innovating in the convergence of Film/Animation and Theatrical Production for more than 20 years. Selected credits include Seattle Children's Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Penumbra Theatre, History Theatre, New Dawn Theatre Co., Old Log Theater, and Park Square Theatre, among others.

LYDIA TANJI (Costume Design) recently designed *Gem of the Ocean* for TheatreWorks. Regional credits include American Conservatory Theater *(The Headlands)*, Berkeley Rep, Public Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, Arena Stage, Syracuse Stage, Children's Theatre Co., Guthrie Theater, Dallas Theater Group, Seattle Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Rep, and Mark Taper Forum.

GREW LIST

Production Assistant: Megan Hall

Light Board Operators: Bryan P. Clements, Karyn Morton, Kiana Cook

Follow Spot Operator: **Denni Rebero**Sound Engineer: **Brandie Larkin**Properties Runner: **Janice Gartin**Wardrobe Crew: **Karen Arriola**

COVID Safety Manager: Bryan P. Clements
Production Assistant Cover: Francesca Marsella Jensen

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

TheatreWorks strives to create an environment that is accessible for all members of our community and offers the following services. For info: theatreworks.org/venues/accessibility



LIVE AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Audio Description provides access to the visual elements—action, costumes, settings, gestures, facial expressions, objects and other visually communicative elements of theater.

Fri, March 31 @ 8pm Sat, April 1 @ 8pm Sun, April 2 @ 2pm

OUR PARTNER: Gravity Access Services

OC OPEN CAPTIONING

Open captioning is a text display of words and sounds heard during an event, and is provided for patrons with hearing loss.

Sun, March 26 @ 2pm Sun, March 26 @ 7pm Wed, March 29 @ 2pm

OUR PARTNER: c2 Caption Coalition



ASL INTERPRETATION

The following performance includes American Sign Language interpretation.

Tue, March 21 @ 7:30pm



ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES

Our venues offer assistive listening devices in the lobby prior to every performance.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Our venues offer accessible parking and wheelchair ramps. Wheelchair spaces can be purchased with up to one companion seat.

Live Audio Description by Gravity Access Services is generously supported by the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, and The Kenneth Rainin Foundation.

THEATREWORKS PROGRAMS ARE GOING GREEN!

In an effort to conserve resources and reduce our carbon footprint, our printed playbills have gotten smaller.

Scan the code below to access the digital program, which includes song list, additional show-related content, extended artist bios, and more!



theatreworks.org