

**WHERE  
WE  
STAND**



**OCTOBER  
9<sup>th</sup> 17**



AUSTIN  
ARTS  
CENTER  
AT TRINITY COLLEGE



This run of *Where We Stand* is supported, in part,  
by the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

*Where We Stand* is part of the  
Greater Hartford Arts Council's Theater Week.  
Learn more at [letsgoarts.org/theater-week](http://letsgoarts.org/theater-week).



## **A FEW IMPORTANT NOTES:**

### **Running time: 90 minutes, no intermission**

We strongly encourage you to remain for the duration of the performance.

### **Following the performance**

Please join us for a reception following the performance on Fri, 10/10, and post-show conversations following the performances on 10/9, 10/11 and 10/14-17.

### **In the unlikely event of an emergency**

Please locate an exit closest to your seat. Our ushers will help you.

### **Silence your devices**

Please silence your cell phones or electronic devices and refrain from texting during the performance.

### **Recording or taking photographs are strictly prohibited:**

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recording of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author(s)'s rights and actionable under United States copyright law.

AUSTIN  
ARTS  
CENTER  
AT TRINITY COLLEGE

+

present



**HartBeat  
Ensemble**

# WHERE WE STAND

**By Donetta Lavinia Grays**

**Directed by Vernice Miller**

**Starring Laugh Sanchez**

Stage Supervisor ..... **Kristen Kingsley**  
Production Design ..... **Margo Caddell**  
Production Design ..... **Jeremy Winchester**  
Vocal Coach ..... **Janelle Robinson**  
Technical Director ..... **Mike Lenaghan**  
Publicity/Press ..... **Jacques Lamarre**

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The World Premiere of *Where We Stand* was co-produced in 2020 by WP Theater: Lisa McNulty, Producing Artistic Director Michael Sag, Managing Director and By Baltimore Center Stage: Stephanie Ybarra, Artistic Director Michael Ross, Executive Director

*Where We Stand* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**Laugh Sanchez** (Man/Stranger/Townspeople) is a multifaceted artist, mainly in Theater and Spoken Word. He practices creating, teaching and developing ways to bridge the arts with communities. A graduate from CCSU, Ensemble member of HartBeat Ensemble, and an Educator at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts (HD), he only wants to learn and expand what he has to offer other creative communities.

**Donnetta Lavinia Grays** (Playwright) is the author of Kudzu Calling, Where We Stand (Lucille Lortel, Drama League, AUDELCO and Broadway Black award nominee), Last Night and the Night Before, Warriors Don't Cry, Laid to Rest, and The Review or How to Eat Your Opposition. She is the recipient of The Whiting Award for Drama, Helen Merrill Playwright Award, The National Theater Conference's Stavis Playwright Award, Lilly Award, Todd McNerney National Playwriting Award and the Doric Wilson Independent Playwright Award. Donnetta holds commissions with Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, WP Theater, SC New Play Festival and True Love Productions. For television, she has staffed on Spectrum's Manhunt, FX's Y: The Last Man, served as Executive Story Editor on Joe vs. Carole for Peacock, and is currently co-producer on Seconds for AMC. Broadway acting credits include The Skin of Our Teeth, In The Next Room, or the vibrator play and Well. Off-Broadway: Where We Stand (WP Theater/Baltimore Centerstage), Men on Boats (Playwrights Horizons/Clubbed Thumb) O, Earth (The Foundry Theatre), In the Footprint (The Civilians – as an Associate Artist) and Shipwrecked! An Entertainment (Primary Stages). Film: The Book of Henry, Wild Canaries, The English Teacher and The Wrestler. TV: Recurring roles on New Amsterdam, Happy, Rubicon, Mercy and Law and Order: SVU and guest starring roles on High Maintenance, The Night Of, Blue Bloods, The Blacklist, A Gifted Man, Law & Order, Law & Order: CI and The Sopranos. Ms. Grays proudly hails from Columbia, South Carolina. B.A. College of Charleston. MFA UC Irvine.

**Vernice Miller** (Director) (She/They) is a Jamaican-born, Afro-Caribbean theatre artist rooted in New York City, whose work across borders is guided by an unwavering faith in the arts as a common language of transformation and hope. Most recent; Blood Orange, Et Alia Theater Company, NYC; Mr. Joy, Chester Theatre Company, Chester, MA; Where We Stand, WAM Theatre, Lenox, MA; Other venues; Joe's Pub @ The Public Theatre, NYC; Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC; HartBeat Ensemble, Hartford, CT; Market Theater Laboratory, Johannesburg, South Africa; Ukrainka Dramatic Theatre, L'viv, Ukraine; Glej Theatre, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Warsztaty Teatralne, Opole, Poland; Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland; Skolen Teater, Dans og Musik, Silkeborg, Denmark. Vernice is Producing Director for Keen Teens, the educational arm of the Obie and Drama Desk Award-winning Off-Broadway Keen Company. She is also Co-founder and Artistic Director of A Laboratory for Actor Training Experimental Theatre Company in New York City.

**Margo Caddell** (Production Designer) is a Connecticut-based lighting designer for theater and dance. Her work has appeared at numerous theaters, including ART (Cambridge, MA), Lyric Stage (Boston), Knoebel Dance Theater (Long Beach, CA), and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. As an educator, Margo has been on the faculty at Tufts University, where she taught courses in lighting design and stage management, and at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she lectured in both the BA and MFA theater programs. She's also taught stage management at Connecticut College and conducted workshops at Boston College. Currently, she is the Program Coordinator for the Performing Arts at Trinity College.

**Jeremy Winchester** (Production Designer) is an educator, producer, and multi-modal artist in the performing arts. He is a Professor of Theatre at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, where he also serves as the Director of MOSAIC, the college's public program for open arts and intersectional culture. Prior to joining the faculty at MCLA in 2016, he was the Executive Artistic Director of the nationally renowned Flint Youth Theatre. He is an affiliated artist with Cape Cod-based Pacific Performance Project/east, maintains an artistic practice with a focus on equity and social justice, and served for six years on the Board of Directors of Theatre for Young Audiences USA.

Winchester holds an MFA in Lighting Design from the University of Washington and a BFA in Theatre from the University of Oklahoma. [www.JeremyWinchester.com](http://www.JeremyWinchester.com)

**Janelle Robinson** (Vocal Coach) has enjoyed a professional career on stage as a performer and director, as well as in the classroom. She is a 2014 recipient of The CT Critic's Choice award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical. Her Broadway credits include Cameron Mackintosh and Disney's Mary Poppins in which she originated the role of Mrs. Corry; Trevor Nunn's Oklahoma and Hal Prince's and Susan Stroman's revival of Showboat. 1st National Tours of Thoroughly Modern Millie - Ms. Flannery and Showboat - Queenie. She has worked in numerous regional theaters across the country, including The Bushnell with HSO, sharing the stage with her daughter, Alita Moses. Janelle is a visiting professor in the Theatre department at The Hartt School.

**Kristen L. Kingsley** (Stage Supervisor) is excited to be working with HartBeat Ensemble once again! She is Connecticut-based and has been involved in many aspects of theatre for the last 25 years. She has been trained by several mentors, including Kelly Burr, Tom Simonetti, and Theresa S. Carroll. Recent credits include, Possessing Harriet HartBeat Ensemble, The Importance of Being Earnest, A Staged reading of Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol, The Winter's Tale, The Adventures of Pericles, Henry VIII, The Merchant of Venice with Valley Shakespeare Festival, Bushwhacked & 7 Easy Pieces with Greenwich Theatre Company, Play with Your Food and their 2023 & 2024 seasons of Staged Readings out of Westport, Southport, and Greenwich. Instagram: @kingsleyusa22

**Mike Lenaghan** (Technical Director) is the Director of Production at Austin Arts Center. Mike has spent the last 4 years as Director of Production at TheaterWorks Hartford, his second stint with the theater. Prior to 2022: eight years teaching Set Design and Production at Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, ten seasons as TD/Production Manager at TheaterWorks. Professional credits include Goodspeed Musicals, Juilliard School Production Department, Technical Director with

Downtown Cabaret Theater, The Joyce Theater and four seasons with Westport Playhouse. Broadway production credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Our Town* and *Fortune's Fool*. Off Broadway: *The It Girl*, *Suburb* and *The Summer of '42*.



**HartBeat Ensemble's** mission is to create provocative theater that connects our community beyond traditional barriers of race, gender, class and geography. HartBeat Ensemble is the only institution in Hartford that consistently uses theater to speak powerfully across different generations, races, populations, and interest groups. As an ensemble of artist-activists, we create and present innovative productions based on critical civic issues. HartBeat continues to inspire the next generation of leaders to create change for a better world through its Youth Play Institute. For further information and to support HartBeat Ensemble, log on to [hartbeat-ensemble.org](http://hartbeat-ensemble.org) or text HARTBEAT to 44-321.

HartBeat Ensemble would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following institutions for their support: J. Bissell Foundation, City of Hartford Community Development Block Grant, CT Humanities, Department of Economic and Community Development, CT Office of the Arts, Greater Hartford Arts Council United Arts Campaign, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, National Endowment for the Arts, Non-Profit Support Program, New England Foundation for the Arts, The Robert's Foundation, Travelers.

HartBeat would like to give special thanks to Deborah Goffe, Mike Lenaghan, Margo Caddell, Rebecca Pappas and the faculty of the Theater and Dance Department at Trinity College.

## **HARTBEAT ENSEMBLE STAFF**

Rhoda Cerritelli, Managing Director

Godfrey L. Simmons Jr., Artistic Director

## **HARTBEAT ENSEMBLE MEMBERS**

Jasmin Agosto, Jeanika Browne-Springer, Vanessa R. Butler, Helen T. Clark, Brianna Joy Ford, Ginieris Garcia, Charmagne Glass-Tripp, Brian Jennings, Cin Martinez, Vernice Miller, Wi-Moto Nyoka, Joel Oramas, Jelani Pitcher, Steve Raider-Ginsburg, Julia Rosenblatt, Laugh Sanchez, Godfrey L. Simmons, Jr., Hannah Simms, Marilyn Torres, Debra Walsh, Tonille Watkis, Joann Yarrow, Zulynette.



## **AUSTIN ARTS CENTER STAFF**

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Margo Caddell | Program Coordinator        |
| Deborah Goffe | Executive Director         |
| Mike Lenaghan | Director of Production     |
| James Keller  | Interim Technical Director |

## **BOX OFFICE/FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF**

Hamzah Al- Shammari '27  
Juliana Boris '26  
Lynn Cheng '26 (Lead)  
Aleema Kelly '26  
Kathleen Kelly '26  
Bailey Orban '26  
Carla Schmidt '27  
Violeta Villacorta Apaza '27

## **STAGE TECHNICIANS**

Hamzah Al-Shammari '27  
Miranda Connolly '26  
Nicky Green '29  
Kathleen Kelly '26  
Kayla Walsh McCarter '27  
Amanda Thrul '27

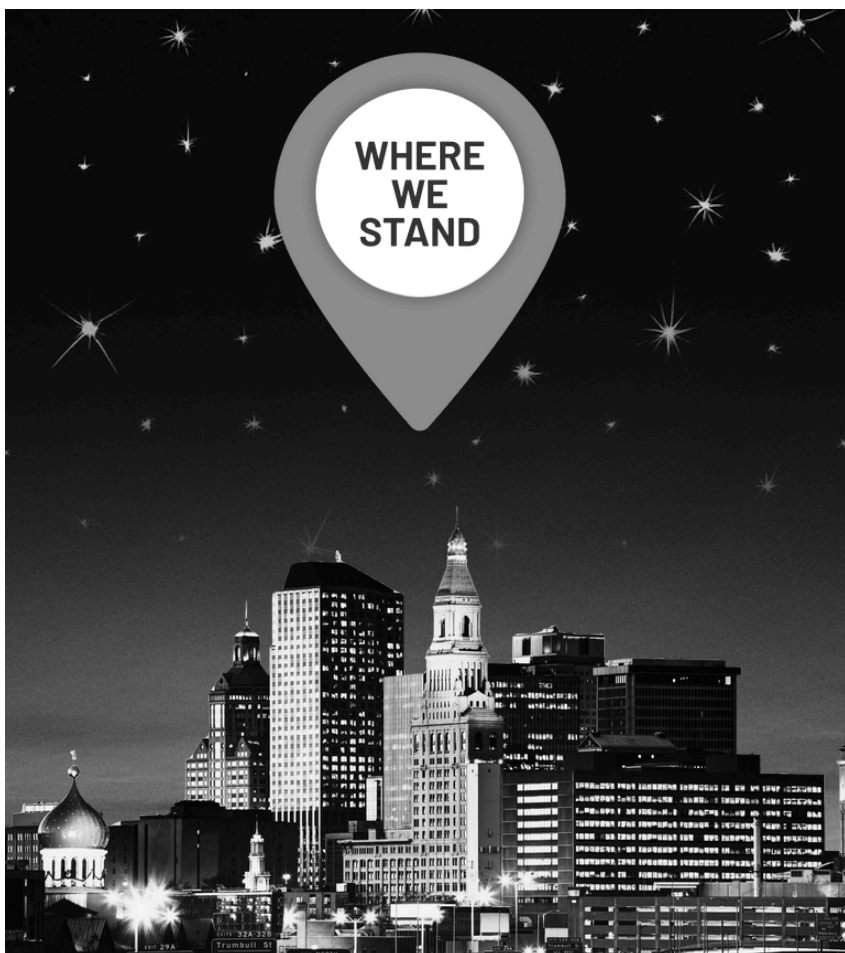
## **COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANTS**

Sophie Aponasenko '27  
Lynn Cheng '26  
Elina Khindova '27  
Olaide Ogunshote '26  
Mia Rodriguez '26

## **OFFICE ASSISTANTS**

Sophie Aponasenko '27  
Juliana Boris '26  
Kathleen Kelly '26  
Olaide Ogunshote '26

A SPECIAL EVENT AMPLIFYING HARTBEAT ENSEMBLE'S  
PRODUCTION OF **WHERE WE STAND**



## **ENCOUNTERS DIALOGUE**

**SATURDAY, OCT 18 (5:00 PM)**

Join us in dialogue at the conclusion of this run of *Where We Stand* with the Encounters Series from UConn's Dodd Human Rights Impact Program. Through this framework, we will dive deeply into the themes of the play through facilitated, small-group dialogues followed by a question-and-answer style conversation.

**GOODWIN THEATER (AAC)**

## **UConn**

**GLADSTEIN FAMILY  
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE**  
DODD IMPACT



# MORE UPCOMING AAC EVENTS

## **Are You Also Divergent, Friend?**

### **An Exhibition by Dennis Delgado**

Mon, Oct 6 - Fri, Dec 5

Thurs, Nov 6 (5:00-7:00pm) — Reception

Widener Gallery

## **Where We Stand — Encounters Dialogue**

Sat, Oct 18 (5:00pm)

Goodwin Theater

## **Women Composers Lecture**

Tues, Oct 21 (12:15pm)

Gruss Recital Hall

## **Brahms Horn Trio (and other Romances):**

### **Marcia Lehninger, Virginia Eskin, Peter Guidi**

Tues, Oct 21 (7:30pm)

Trinity Chapel

## **The Wolves**

### **A Workshop Production**

Play by Sarah Delappe

Directed by Kristen Moriarty

Thurs-Sat, Oct 23-25 (7:30pm); Sat, Oct 25 (2:00pm)

Garmany Hall

## **Book Dances — Open Rehearsal**

### **Justice Dance Performance Project**

Thurs, Oct 30 (12:30-1:30pm)

Trinity Commons — Studio 156

## **Whale Fall**

**by mayfield brooks**

### **Dance Film Screening and Artist Talk**

Wed, Nov 12 (7:00pm)

Cinestudio

## **Choral Evensong — The Chapel Singers**

Wed, Nov 12 (5:15pm)

Chapel

## **The Mix: Meditations on Space**

Directed by Peter Kyle

Thurs-Sat, Nov 20-23 (7:30pm)

Goodwin Theater

Learn more about these events  
and much more by visiting

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AUSTIN ARTS CENTER  
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS AT TRINITY COLLEGE