



MarymountManhattan

Studio Production Workshop presents



On Strivers Row

CAST

Dolly Van Striven.....	Caturah Brown
Sophie.....	Dana Rand
Tillie Petunia.....	Brittani Nichole Tucker
Cobina Van Striven.....	Taylor Harris-Butler
Mrs. Pace.....	Patrice Bell
Lily.....	Jordan Tyson
Rowena.....	Ashley M. Candelaria
Louise Davis.....	Victoria A. Villier
Beulah.....	Caroline Conceison
Ruby Jackson.....	Jahmorei Snipes
Oscar Van Striven.....	Martin K. Lewis
Professor Hennypest.....	Tristan Land
Chuck.....	Max Realyvasquez
Ed.....	Seth Guerra
Dr. Leon Davis, Parrot.....	Bryce Valle
Joe Smothers.....	Rodolfo Soto

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Timothy Johnson
Production Coordinator.....	Rob Chikar
Production Stage Manager.....	Taylor Garcia
Lighting Designer.....	Chris Steckel
Scenic Coordinator.....	Miguel Urbino
Electrics Supervisor.....	George Gountas
Costume Coordinators.....	Brenda Birkeland, Allyson Steel
Assistant Directors.....	Olivia Von Opel, Macarena Ramos
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Alicia Gaffey, Kaleena Hughes
Crew.....	Meredith Beisel, Felicia Burns,
.....	Andres Colon Parson, Brooklyn Crawford, Peter Despres,
.....	Kayla Juettner, Samantha Langmead, McKenna Poe,
.....	Kaitlin Prudente, Noah Pyzik, Sklenny Senat
Production Photography.....	Susan Cook

SCENES

The action takes place in the Reception Room of the Van Striven home in Harlem.

Act I Scene I A morning in the fall of the 1940's

Scene II 9:15PM, the same day

Act II Scene I A few minutes later

Scene II Later, the same evening

There will be one fifteen minute intermission

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 1935, during The Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated the Works Progress Administration (WPA) which offered employment opportunities to Americans across the nation in a variety of fields, including the theatre. The illustrious Harlem Negro Theater Unit of the WPA's Federal Theater Project (FTP) became legendary for its training and performance opportunities for Blacks, such as its Voodoo Macbeth, set in Haiti and directed by Orson Welles, which opened in Harlem's historic Lafayette Theatre in 1936.

Both Abram Hill and Frederick O'Neal were active participants in the Harlem Negro Theater Unit. When the FTP folded in 1939, these two gentlemen took it upon themselves to co-found the American Negro Theatre (ANT) as a means to continue the mission of the FTP for future Black artists. Their initial home was in the basement of the Harlem branch of the New York Public Library on 135th Street, where in September 1940 they presented Mr. Hill's play *On Strivers Row* as their premiere production.

ANT was governed by Four Goals: to develop a permanent acting company trained in the arts and crafts of the theatre that also reflected the special gifts, talents, and attributes of African Americans; to produce plays that honestly and with integrity interpreted, illuminated, and criticized contemporary black life and the concerns of the black people (and particularly the Harlem community); to maintain an affiliation with, and provide leadership for, other black theatre groups throughout the nation; and to utilize its resources to develop racial pride in the theatre, rather than racial apathy.

"Abe and I must have talked about a theatre group for about six months before we got busy on it. I don't think that either of us thought at that particular time that a group like the American Negro Theatre could come off. (continued)

FROM THE DIRECTOR - continued

"It had been tried before. Abe had worked at it time after time and so had I. We had become discouraged, but we took a whack at it." - Frederick O'Neal

"Among the foremost aims was to destroy the black stereotypes. Contravening the stereotype is the portrayal of individual character, with all the color, variety, dignity, pettiness, virtue and evil, and incredibly complex and contradictory motives that the individual is possessed of - whatever his complexion." - Abram Hill

From the moment it was confirmed that I would be directing Mr. Hill's play, his visionary thinking has daily swirled inside my soul, inspiring and challenging me, throughout my work with this company, to be ever mindful of the historical and social obstacles in which he and Mr. O'Neal tirelessly sought to realize ANT's goals.

When asked in this play what she possesses that makes her worthy, dear Ruby Jackson says that it is "goodness." Ruby conveys goodness through actions of immense generosity. On behalf of our company, I'd like to welcome each one of you to this performance as participants in honor of Abram Hill and Frederick O'Neal, two American giants of generosity.

- Timothy Johnson

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Choreography.....Timothy Johnson
Vocal Arrangement of *When The Saints Go Marching In*.....
.....Timothy Johnson

SPECIAL THANKS

Lovely Billups, Cady Huffman, LaChanze, Melissa Kollwitz, Adrienne Troia, Maira Liriano, A.J. Muhammad, Cielo Flores, Rubini Salva, Marie Gachelin Villier, Brian Sutherland, Mike and Gina Urbino, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Mary M. Johnson, Jim Morgan and the York Theatre Company, Manny Batista, Tony Baccia, Mary Fleischer, Matthew J. Land, Rob Chikar

WHO'S WHO - CAST

Patrice Bell (Mrs. Pace) is a senior in the BA Theatre Arts program with concentrations in Theatre Performance and Writing for the Stage and a minor in Musical Theatre. Previous MMC credits include the TPW productions of *Wonderland* and *O Pioneers!*, as well as the Directing Project *Tumor*.

Caturah Brown (Dolly Van Striven) is a senior in the BFA Acting program. Previous MMC credits include the Directing Project *WASP*, the Playwriting Project *Paranoia 2*, and the Student Theatre at Marymount production of *Ratcatcher*.

Ashley M. Candelaria (Rowena) is a junior in the BFA Acting program. Previous MMC credits include the Directing Project *Pullman Car Hiawatha*.

Caroline Conceison (Beulah) is a sophomore in the BA Theatre Arts program with a concentration in Theatre Performance and a minor in Musical Theatre. Previous MMC credits include the Musical Theatre Association reading of *The Cablecar Nymphomaniac*. Other credits include *The Addams Family* at Stageloft Repertory Theatre and *Anything Goes* at Tantasqua Regional High School.

Seth Guerra (Ed Tucker) is a sophomore in the BFA Acting program.

Taylor Harris-Butler (Cobina) is a junior in the BFA Acting program.

Tristan Land (Professor Hennypest) is a junior in the BFA Acting program. Previous MMC credits include the TPW production of *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*. Other credits include *Next to Normal* and *Spring Awakening* at Theatre On Main in Milwaukee, WI.

Martin K. Lewis (Oscar Van Striven) is a senior in the BFA Acting program. Previous MMC credits include the TPW productions of *Tartuffe* and *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*.

Dana Rand (Sophie) is a senior in the BA Theatre Arts program with a concentration in Theatre Performance and a minor in Social Work.

Max Realyvasquez (Chuck Reynolds) is a junior in the BFA Acting program with a minor in Musical Theatre. Previous MMC credits include the TPW productions of *Dracula, the Musical* and *Tartuffe*, as well as the staged reading of *Marty* in conjunction with the York Theatre. Other credits include *FEAST* at New York Film Academy.

Jahmorei Snipes (Ruby Jackson) is a junior in the BFA Acting program with a minor in Political Science. Previous MMC credits include the Playwriting Project *Mom*.

Rodolfo Soto (Joe Smothers) is a senior transfer from CUNY Queensborough Community College in the BFA Acting program with a minor in Writing for the Stage. Previous MMC credits include the TPW production of *A View From The Bridge*, the Directing Project *Welcome to the Moon*, the Student Theatre at Marymount production of *Ratcatcher*, and the Playwriting Project *Mom*.

WHO'S WHO - CAST (continued)

Brittani Nichole Tucker (Tillie Petunia) is a senior in the BFA Acting program with minors in Music and Business Management.

Jordan Tyson (Lilly Livingston) is a sophomore in the BA Theatre Arts program with a concentration in Theatre Performance and a minor in Musical Theatre. Previous MMC credits include the Playwriting Project *Mom*. Other credits include *Big River the Musical* at Old Castle Theatre Company and *Sweetee the Musical* at The Culture Project.

Bryce Valle (Dr. Leon Davis) is a junior in the BA Theatre Arts program with a concentration in Theatre Performance and a minor in Musical Theatre. Previous MMC credits include the TPW production of *Wonderland*, the January Project *South Pacific*, and the Directing Project *Nine:Ten*. Other credits include *A Chorus Line* at Priscilla Beach Theatre, and *Bring It On: the Musical* and *Carrie: the Musical* at Broadway Workshop.

Victoria A. Villier (Louise Davis) is a junior transfer from Queensborough Community College in the BA Theatre Arts program with concentrations in Theatre Performance and Performance & Digital Media and a minor in Costume Design. Other credits include *Electra*, *columbinus*, and *Metamorphoses* at Queensborough Community College, and *Your War'try Growe* at La MaMa.

WHO'S WHO - PRODUCTION

Brenda Birkeland (Costume Coordinator) Favorite companies worked for include the Santa Fe Opera, Walt Disney World Resort, the Gateway Playhouse, and the Pearl Theater. She is currently studying Accessories Design at FIT and holds a BA in Costume Design and Technical Production from Marymount Manhattan College.

Taylor Garcia (Production Stage Manager) is a senior in the BA Theatre Arts program with a concentration in Producing and Management and a minor in Dance. Previous MMC credits include the TPW productions of *Once Upon A Mattress* (Assistant Stage Manager), *A View From The Bridge* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Dracula the Musical* (Assistant Stage Manager). Other credits include *Discovering Magenta* at the Thespis Festival (Production Assistant) and *Until Death Do Us Part* at the Venus and Adonis Festival (Production Assistant).

Timothy Johnson (Director) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts-Acting at Marymount Manhattan College. He recently served as Assistant Director for the 2016 New York City Center Encores! production of *Cabin In The Sky* starring Tony Award Winner LaChanze, Tony Winner Chuck Cooper, and Tony Nominee Norm Lewis, directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson, himself a Tony Winning Actor and Multiple Award Winning Director. Professor Johnson was also the Assistant Director (continued)

WHO'S WHO - PRODUCTION (continued)

Timothy Johnson (Director, continued) Regina Taylor's Off-Broadway world premiere production of her play *stop.reset.* at the esteemed Signature Theatre Company. As an actor, his performance highlights include the following: An original cast member of the U.S. National Tour of James Kirkwood's play *Legends!* starring Mary Martin and Carol Channing; "*Jazz*" in *Regina* at the Scottish Opera House in Glasgow, Scotland with John Mauceri as conductor, also recording the role for London/Decca Records; on Broadway in *A Chorus Line* in the 1983 record-breaking performance directed by Michael Bennett and in the National Tour (U.S. and Canada). His Off-Broadway credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Lyrics and Lyricists, 92nd Street Y, Zora Neale Hurston, American Place Theatre, Lost In The Stars, York Theatre Company and *Porgy and Bess*, Metropolitan Opera House. He has also performed at leading regional theaters across the U.S. including Actors Theatre of Louisville, Syracuse Stage, Goodspeed Opera House, Mill Mountain Theatre, 5th Avenue Theatre, Birmingham Theatre, and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. His summer stock credits include Kenley Players, Ogunquit Playhouse, Westport Country Playhouse, The Cape Playhouse, Casa Mañana Theatre, and Theater Under The Stars. He was seen in Milan, Italy and at the Melbourne International Arts Festival as "Adonis" in *The Temptation of St. Anthony* written by Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon (founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock) and directed by Robert Wilson.

Chris Steckel (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be doing another show at his alma mater. Past Marymount shows include *columbinus*, *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*, *Footloose*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, and *Wonderland*. Other companies Chris works for include Second Stage, The York Theatre, The Cell Theatre, Oceania Cruises, NJPAC, and AMDA.

Allyson Steele (Costume Coordinator) is a Long Island native, an MMC Alum, and is excited to be a co-wardrobe coordinator for *On Strivers Row*. Recent credits include: *La Fanciulla del West* (Apotheosis Opera/Costume Designer), *Bachelorette* (The Walker Space/Costume and Sound Designer), *Wonderland*, *Once upon a Mattress* (The York Theatre/Wardrobe), *Intermission* (Marymount Manhattan College/Sound Designer), *Stage Door* (Marymount Manhattan College/Costumer Designer). She has previously worked with Educational Theatre of New York, The Pearl Theatre Company, Puppet Kitchen, Theatre for The New City, among others. Allyson holds a BA in Design & Technical Production from Marymount Manhattan College. www.allysonrstele.wix.com/allysonrstele

Miguel Urbino (Scenic Coordinator) is proud to be back as an alum (2016 Design and Technical Production Gold Key Recipient). MMC Credits include: Scenic: 'Tis Pity She's A Whore (TPW), The Light In The Piazza (TPW, Honors Day Selectee); Costume: *Icarus' Mother* (DP), *A Chorus Line* (MTA), *Ivanov* (STAM), *Wasp* (DP); Lighting: *A Kind Of Alaska* (DP). Miguel has also worked with T. Schreiber Studios, Hip to Hip Theatre, 59E59 Theaters, The York Theatre Company, NJSDA, NJYT, and more. To view portfolio, and for more info, visit murbinodeigns.com.



MarymountManhattan

Marymount Manhattan College is an independent undergraduate liberal arts college located on Manhattan's Upper East Side that offers strong programs in the arts and sciences as well as substantial pre-professional preparation. The College's division of Fine & Performing Arts offers BA degrees in Art, Dance and Theatre Arts, and BFA degrees in Acting and in Dance, as well as programs in Musical Theatre and Arts Management. MMC's mission is to educate a socially and economically diverse student body by fostering intellectual achievement and personal growth and by developing an awareness of social, political, cultural and ethical issues. MMC utilizes its distinctive location in one of the most diverse and exciting cities in the world to provide a vibrant campus environment and offer students access to outstanding internships, community service and service-learning experiences, and the many historical and cultural resources of New York City. For information about Marymount Manhattan College, visit our website at www.mmm.edu.

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