

Renaissance City Repertory Theatre presents:



# Redbone Coonhound

by Amy Lee Lavoie & Omari Newton

Sunday, May 18th 2025  
7:00pm

Oakland University's Varner Lab Theatre  
371 Varner Dr.  
Rochester, MI



## THE COMPANY

PLAYWRIGHTS.....Amy Lee Lavoie & Omari Newton

DRAMATURG.....Nya Johnson

DIRECTOR.....David Gram

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....Chris Brannon

JOGGER 1/STILL/MR. JIMMY/ GERALD/

COMRADE BLACKITY BLACK.....Jimmie Comer

JOGGER 3/AISHA/

HARRIET TUBMAN/COMRADE BLACK .....Dede Gibson-Phillips

JEFFREY/DOLLEY/PRODUCER/DAD/ROGER.....Andy Jones

JOGGER 2/ZAC/JORDAN/JAMAL .....Kevin Keller

CAMILLE/JENNIFER/MOM/KAREN.....Kelli Radmacher

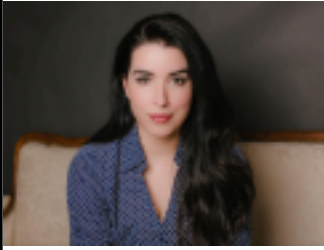
MARISSA/MISS SUE/ALICE.....Chloe Rochefort

MIKE/GLIB/TOM .....Jalen Wilson-Nelem

STAGE DIRECTIONS.....Chris Brannon

REDBONE COONHOUND was commissioned and produced as an Arts Club Theatre Company Commission (Vancouver) and premiered as part of a Rolling World Premiere with the Tarragon Theatre (Toronto) and Imago Theatre (Montreal).

## BIOS



### **Amy Lee Lavoie** (Playwright)

Amy Lee Lavoie is an award-winning playwright and graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Playwriting Program. Her first play, *Rabbit Rabbit*, won several awards and has been produced across Canada and the US. Amy Lee is currently developing an original play, *Women Do Not Go on Strike*, and co-writing projects with her husband and collaborator Omari Newton, including an adaptation of *Titus Andronicus*, an adaptation of Dante's *Inferno*, and a new play for Geordie Theatre's 2024/2025 season.



### **Omari Newton** (Playwright)

Omari Newton is an award-winning actor, writer, director, and head of the Acting Department at the Vancouver Film School. As a writer, his original hip hop theatre piece *Sal Capone* has received critical acclaim and multiple productions, including a recent presentation at Canada's National Arts Centre.



### **Nya Johnson** (Dramaturg)

Nya J. is excited to return to RC Rep's (R)evolutions Festival! She is an award winning creative from Belleville, Michigan. With a Bachelor's in Theatre Arts from The University of Michigan and two years of law school under her belt so far, Nya is ecstatic to use her dramaturgical skills again! Outside of the halls of academia, Nya enjoys reading a good book, learning something new, watching a good movie, and singing karaoke! She hopes you enjoy the reading! @simplynyaj



## **David Gram** (Director)

Originally from Toronto, Canada, David (he/him) is a Detroit-based theatre and opera director, actor, dramaturg, playwright, teacher and published author. His book, *Contemporary Farce on the Global Stage, or Serious Laughter* was published by Routledge in April 2024. David is an Associate Professor of Directing and Acting in the Department of Theatre at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, MI, and has directed and produced over 80 productions across the United States and Canada.



David Gram is the Producing Artistic Director of [Renaissance City Repertory Theatre](#) (RC Rep) and a member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society (SDC).

## **Chris Brannon** (Assistant Director)

Chris Brannon is an upcoming senior at Oakland University with a major in Acting & minor in

Communication! He is very excited to step in as the Assistant Director. His recent credits at Oakland include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Stage Manager) and *Pipeline* (Omari). You can see him in the upcoming children's show *A Year With Frog and Toad*! He would like to extend a huge thank you to David Gram for giving him this opportunity!



### **Jimmie Comer III**

(Jogger 1/Still/Mr.  
Jimmy/Gerlad/Comrade Blackity Black)

Jimmie Comer III makes his Renaissance City Repertory Theatre debut in *Redbone Coonhound*. His theatre credits include ‘*Come Home, Stranger*’, *Intimate Apparel*, *The Tempest*, *Sweat*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Bronco Way*, *Lift Every Voice*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Detroit to Dakar*, *It’s Lit!*, *The Laramie Project*, and *John Jakes’s A Christmas Carol*. Film: *Mercy 2 Far Gone*, *Sweat!*, *Tomorrow*. Voiceover: *Caught Up in the Circle of Life* (All Ears Theatre). He trained at Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit and Western Michigan University, and is represented by Lily’s Talent Agency.



### **Dede Gibson-Phillips**

(Jogger 3/Aisha/Harriet Tubman/Comrade Black)

DeNetria Gibson (she/her) is a Senior B.F.A Acting Major. She was last seen in *Pipeline* as Nya at Oakland University. She is excited to be a part of this process!



### **Andy Jones**

(Jerey/Dolley/Producer/Dad/Roger)

Andy Jones is a stage and screen actor based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has performed with the Penny Seats Theatre (*The Men of Sherwood* and *Sunrise Coven*), the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre (*Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*) and Shakespeare in the Arb (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*). Andy also performs regularly with long-form improv troupes throughout southeast Michigan.



## **Kevin Keller**

(Jogger 2/Zac/Jordan/Jamal)

Kevin is so excited to be working with RC Rep for the first time. Recently Kevin was seen as Francois/Maurice in Open Book Theatre's production of Bernhardt/Hamlet as well as directing their production of Ripcord. He has also been seen onstage with Detroit Rep, The Ringwald, Thumbcoast Theatres, and Nicely. Endless thanks to his friends, family, and all of his muses for all of their endless support.



## **Kelli Rademacher**

(Camille/Jennifer/Mom/Karen)

Kelli works in both film and theatre in a variety of roles. Most recently she directed Arcadia at Enter Stage Right Theatre in Port Huron, MI. She has a BA from Columbia College Chicago where she studied film and acting. She has lived in New York City and the Washington DC area, returning to Michigan in 2021. She also has a career in sales for a Dangerous Goods Shipping Compliance company. Kelli lives in the Island View neighborhood of Detroit with her parents and their German Shepherd. Follow her on Instagram @rrrademacher



### **Chloe Rochefort**

(Marissa/Miss Sue/Alice)

Chloe Rochefort is a recent graduate with a BFA in Musical Theater from the University of the Arts. Recent credits include Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown: The Musical* and Woman with Furs in *Marisol*. She wants to thank everyone involved in the process of putting this performance together. Enjoy the show! Instagram: chloerochefort\_



### **Jalen Wilson-Nelem**

(Mike/Glib/Tom)

Jalen Wilson-Nelem is an Oakland University SMTD graduate and couldn't be more excited to collaborate with his former colleagues through Renaissance City Rep! Along with his on-going work through Im, some recent stage credits for Jalen include 'Death of a Driver' as Kennedy for Theatre Nova, 'The R&J Project' as Chris/Romeo for Break The Chain & Matrix Theatre, and 'Pizza Man' as Eddie in his nal performance at OU. He would like to thank his family and supportive friends for always showing love and showing up for him. Free Palestine.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Chronos & Kairos – August 2025**

Please visit [www.rcrep.org](http://www.rcrep.org) for more info!