FORD’S THEATRE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES CAST OF

The Mountaintop
By Katori Hall
Directed by Nicole A. Watson

An imaginative and powerful exploration of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s last night

January 21 to February 13, 2022
Tickets Start at $22

Washington, D.C. – Ford’s Theatre Society announced full casting and the design team for The Mountaintop by Katori Hall. Directed by Nicole A. Watson, the production features KenYatta Rogers (Ford’s Fences, Death of a Salesman) as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Shannon Dorsey (Ford’s A Christmas Carol 2018) as Camae. Performances are January 21 to February 13, 2022. A media performance is scheduled for January 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for The Mountaintop are now on sale and range from $22 to $64. Discounts are available for groups, senior citizens, military personnel and those younger than age 35. The production is recommended for ages 14 and older.

On April 3, 1968, after delivering one of his most memorable speeches, an exhausted Dr. King retires to his room at the Lorraine Motel while a storm rages outside. When a mysterious stranger arrives with some surprising news, King is forced to confront his destiny and his legacy to his people. This engrossing and imaginative telling of Dr. King’s final night paints a humanizing portrait of a man propelled by faith to incite change through action.

“I was a history teacher before I was a theatre director and am intrigued by plays that take some kernel of the historical record and explode it in a new way,” said director Nicole A. Watson. “The exploration of King’s legacy, especially in Ford’s Theatre at this time is
compelling. Hall’s script breaks that space between us and the idea of King as a frozen historical figure, encouraging us to consider King’s humanity and calling in fresh ways; precisely because Hall has asked us to look at King in relation to one person on a very specific night.”

The Ford’s Theatre 2021-2022 season is sponsored by Chevron. The Mountaintop is made possible by Lead Underwriter Lockheed Martin Corporation as well as the following Underwriters: The Home Depot, KPMG LLP, Meta and Siemens Corporation.

COVID-19 Health and Safety

Regardless of age, all patrons with tickets to in-person performances are required to show a government-issued photo ID and proof of full vaccination status (physical copy or digital photograph of vaccination card) or a qualifying negative COVID-19 test upon arrival to their performance for admittance. We are unable to accept CLEAR or other third-party apps. Negative PCR tests must be dated within 48 hours of the performance; negative antigen tests must be dated within 24 hours of the performance. Face coverings are also required for all. Acceptable forms of government-issued photo IDs include driver’s licenses and passports. Ticket holders who do not comply with these policies will not be admitted.

Ford’s Theatre COVID-19 guidance is developed in collaboration with the George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates (GW MFA). As one of the largest physician groups in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, GW MFA is recognized for excellence in clinical care, research and training of future care providers. The advice and expertise of the medical staff at the GW MFA, which is based on data and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has helped Ford’s Theatre Society strengthen its safety procedures to better serve and protect patrons, artists and staff as productions and daytime visits resume. For more information about Ford’s Theatre health and safety protocols, visit www.fords.org/performance-safety.

The Director

Nicole A. Watson is a freelance director and educator with an interest in new play development and plays that deal with the past. Watson started directing in 2008 and works in New York City as well as universities and theatres throughout the United States. She is currently the Associate Artistic Director at the McCarter Theatre Center, after holding the same position at Round House Theatre for two and a half years.

Watson is a member of the New Georges Jam and has worked with New Dramatists, the Lark Play Development Center, the Fire this Time Festival, the New Black Fest, the Women’s Project Theater, The 52nd Street Project, Signature Theater and Working Theater. Credits include Keith Josef Adkins’s The West End, Jocelyn Bioh’s School Girls; or, the African Mean
Girls Play, Eleanor Burgess’s The Niceties, Lucas Hnath’s A Doll’s House Part 2, Lynn Nottage’s Sweat, Robert Schenkkan’s The Great Society, the world premiere of Kevin R. Free’s Night of the Living N-Word (New York Fringe Festival), a workshop of Lenelle Moïses’s Merit (New Black Fest), the world premiere of the opera Approaching Ali, (Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center), the world premiere of Johnna Adams’s World Builders at the Contemporary American Theater Festival, and more. Watson is an alum of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab and the Women’s Project Directors Lab and a member of the SDC.

The Cast

Shannon Dorsey returns to Ford’s to play the role of Camae. Dorsey most recently appeared in the 2018 Ford’s production of A Christmas Carol. Select credits include All the Way at Arena Stage, Two Trains Running at Round House, Synetic’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream at the Kennedy Center (Helen Hayes Award, Ensemble) and Carmen (Helen Hayes nom.), and Skeleton Crew at Studio (Helen Hayes nom.). Dorsey is a company member at Woolly Mammoth where she’s performed in Familiar, An Octoroon (Helen Hayes nom.), Kiss and From the Mouths of Monsters.

KenYatta Rogers returns to Ford’s to play the role of King. Rogers most recently appeared in the Ford’s productions of Fences and Death of a Salesman. His many regional credits include Arena Stage’s King Hedley II, Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom; Round House’s Gem of the Ocean, Father Comes Home from the Wars and Glengarry Glen Ross (Helen Hayes nom.); Signature’s Spunk. Rogers also has appeared in multiple productions with Olney, Woolly Mammoth, Everyman, Folger and others.

The Designers

The Mountaintop production designers include Scenic Designer Milagros Ponce de León (Ford’s Associate Artist; Silent Sky, Into the Woods, Jefferson’s Garden others), Costume Designer Ivania Stack (Ford’s Silent Sky, Jefferson’s Garden), Lighting Designer Alan C. Edwards, Sound Designer Nick Hernandez (Ford’s Fences), Projection Designer Clint Allen (Ford’s Associate Artist; My Lord, What a Night; others), Hair and Make-Up Designer LaShawn Melton and Intimacy Directors Jenny Male and Sierra Young.

The production team also includes Production Stage Manager Brandon Prendergast and Assistant Stage Manager Julia Singer.

Special Performances and Events

-more-
Audio-described performances of *The Mountaintop* are February 1, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. and February 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. A sign-interpreted performance is February 10, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

Beginning January 28, 2022, all performances of *The Mountaintop* will be captioned via the GalaPro App. GalaPro is available from the App Store or Google Play and allows patrons to access captioning on demand through their phone or tablet device. Patrons set their phones to airplane mode and connect to the local GalaPro Wifi network before the performance begins. More information at https://www.fords.org/visit/accessibility/galapro-captioning.

Free First Preview: January 21, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.
Ford's Theatre partners with TodayTix to give out free tickets for the first performance of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. Four-hundred tickets are available via the TodayTix digital lottery, beginning 10:00 a.m. ET on January 14 for the January 21 7:30 p.m. performance of *The Mountaintop*. To enter the digital lottery, patrons must download the TodayTix app (available in Apple App Store or the Google Play Store), open it and select the “Free First Preview” performance for *The Mountaintop*. Winners will be notified by email and push notification between 10:00 a.m. ET and 1:00 p.m. ET on the day of the first preview. Winners must confirm their winning tickets (up to two) in the TodayTix app within one hour of being notified. Visit www.fords.org/free for additional details.

Ford's Theatre Society
One of the most visited sites in the nation’s capital, Ford’s Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford’s Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford’s Theatre is the premier destination in the nation’s capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln’s life and legacy.

Ford’s Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer Frankie Hewitt, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford’s as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of Paul R. Tetreault as Director, critics and the theatre going public have recognized Ford’s for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe, The Heavens Are Hung In Black, Liberty Smith, Necessary Sacrifices, The Widow Lincoln* and *The
Guard, Ford’s Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. In the past decade, the mission of Ford’s Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman Phebe N. Novakovic and through the lens of Lincoln’s leadership and legacy, Ford’s today endeavors to advance Lincoln’s “unfinished work” with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in American life.

For more information on Ford’s Theatre and Ford’s Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

#FordsMountaintop
Ford’s Theatre on Twitter and Instagram: @fordstheatre
Ford’s Theatre on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fordstheatre
FACT SHEET: The Mountaintop  
By Katori Hall; Directed by Nicole A. Watson

On April 3, 1968, after delivering one of his most memorable speeches, an exhausted Dr. King retires to his room at the Lorraine Motel while a storm rages outside. When a mysterious stranger arrives with some surprising news, King is forced to confront his destiny and his legacy to his people.

Dates: January 21 to February 13, 2022  
   Media Performance: January 26, 2022  

Location: Ford’s Theatre is located at 511 10th Street NW, between E and F Streets.

Tickets: $22-$64

Times: Tuesday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (except Jan. 22); Saturday-Sunday at 2:00 p.m. (except January 22). January 23 at 7:30 p.m. February 3 and February 10 at 11:00 a.m.

COVID-19 Safety: Regardless of age, everyone with tickets to in-person performances is required to show a government-issued photo ID and proof of full vaccination status (physical copy or digital photograph of vaccination card) or a qualifying negative COVID-19 test upon arrival to their performance for admittance. Negative PCR tests must be dated within 48 hours of the performance; negative antigen tests must be dated within 24 hours of the performance. Face coverings are also required for all. Acceptable forms of government-issued photo IDs include, but are not limited to, driver’s licenses and passports. Patrons younger than 18 may present a school photo ID. Those under 12 must also be accompanied by an adult who meets the above requirements. Ticket holders who do not comply with these policies will not be admitted. Full information about Ford’s Theatre health and safety protocols are available at www.fords.org/performance-safety.

ACCESSIBILITY: Ford’s Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair accessible seating and restrooms, audio enhancement Braille and large print playbills. Audio-described performances of The Mountaintop are February 1, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. and February 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. A sign-interpreted performance is February 10, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

Beginning January 28, all performances of The Mountaintop will be captioned via the GalaPro App. GalaPro is available from the App Store or Google Play and allows patrons to access captioning on demand through their phone or tablet device. Patrons set their phones to airplane mode and connect to the local GalaPro Wifi network before the performance begins. More information at https://www.fords.org/visit/accessibility/galapro-captioning.

Free First Preview: January 21 at 7:30 p.m.  
Ford’s Theatre partners with TodayTix to give out free tickets for the first performance of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. Four-hundred tickets are available via the TodayTix digital lottery, beginning 10:00 a.m. ET on January 14 for the January 21, 7:30 p.m. performance of The Mountaintop. Visit www.fords.org/free for lottery entry details.

PARKING:  
Paid parking is available at several independent neighborhood garages: the 24-hour QuickPark at the Grand Hyatt (entrance on 10th Street between G and H Streets NW), the Central Parking Garage (entrance on 11th Street between E and F Streets NW), and the One Parking garage below Ford’s Theatre (at 511 10th Street, NW).

METRO:  
Metro Center station (Red, Blue, Orange and Silver Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the Eleventh Street exit. Gallery Pl-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the G Street exit. For further information, call Metro at (202) 637-7000.

Tickets at www.fords.org
Information: (202) 347-4833 -- Toll Free: (888) 616-0270 -- Groups: (202) 638-2367
Ford’s Theatre on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook: @fordstheatre #FordsMountaintop