



Perceptions Theatre Presents: The 2nd Annual BIPOC PLAY FESTIVAL!

July 9 to July 10. Doors open at 2pm at
Studio 2226 Inc, 2226 E 71st St, Chicago, IL

Perceptions Theatre's BIPOC Play Festival was created in 2021 to offer local playwrights of color a platform to share their stories. Now, our July 2022 festival offers several diverse, intriguing stories!



Tickets are "pay what you can," at PerceptionsTheatre.org
A special thanks to our sponsors:





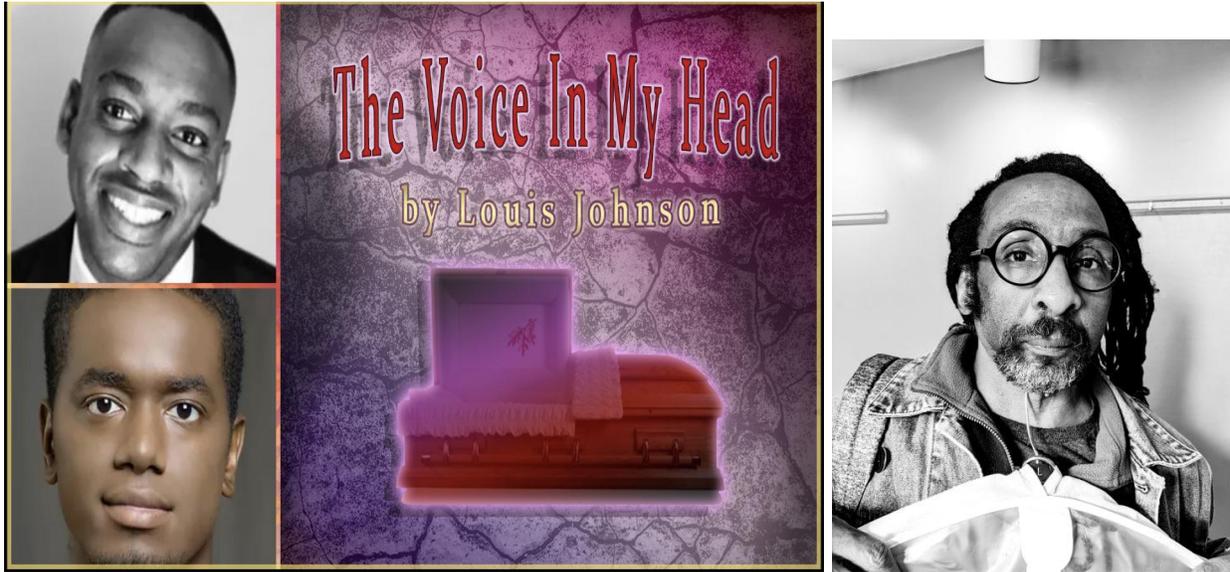
Order of Festival:



Pictured (L to R): Carlo Zenner (he/they) as Marco, Director-Ashley Keys (she/hers) Dina Perez (she/her) as Cassandra, Jo JB Schaffer (he/him/they/them) as Bailey, Just-Us (she/her) as Jesse, Playwright-Carlo Zenner**(for director and cast bios please visit perceptionstheatre.org)**

About Mess: *Mess* by Carlo Zenner follows Marco, 23, a Queer Latinx Chicagoan grappling with the disorienting effects of quarantine and they happen to be a sensitive hopeless romantic, as he navigates the pleasures and pains of casual dating. Marco must learn to advocate for the patience and care that he needs in a relationship, or else, he risks committing to partners who refuse to commit to him, all while trying to find a new job in a pandemic.

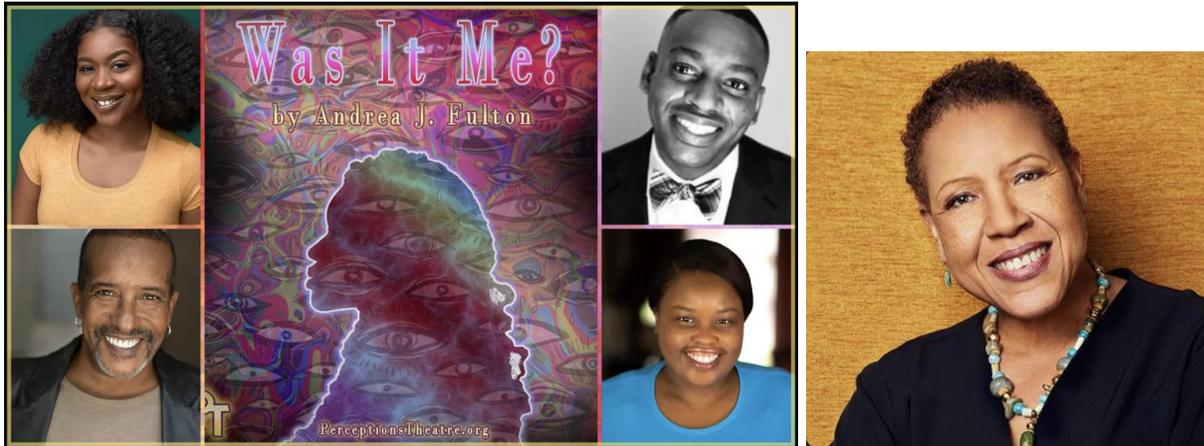
About Playwright: Carlo Zenner is thrilled to be making his playwright's debut at Perceptions Theatre with his play "MESS." Carlo graduated from DePaul University in 2020 and attended Stella Adler's Studio of Acting in 2018. He most recently played Andrew in Pride Arts Center's production of "Southern Baptist Sissies" and was cast in the ensemble for the Kirk Player's "Words of Love." As a playwright, actor, and educator, he is interested in all facets of theater and hopes to continue contributing to Chicago's vibrant theater scene.



Pictured (L to R): Brandon Etheridge (he/him) as Man In Black, Director-Rashaad A. Bond (he/him), Playwright-Louis Johnson(for director and cast bios please visit perceptionstheatre.org)

About *The Voice Inside My Head*: *The Voice Inside My Head* by Louis Johnson, follows “The Man In Black,” a middle-aged Black man recently gunned down by a hostile police officer. The Man in Black recalls his life’s accomplishments, and reflects on the community and national outrage that his murder has caused.

About Playwright: In October '20, Louis was chosen to be one of The Playground Experiment’s “Voices of America” Vol. 5. In March '21, “Makin’ Bond” was featured in the Obsidian Theatre Festival (Virtual) produced by Ghostlight Productions of Detroit, Mi. In April/May '21, “Makin’ Bond” was in the “1Night/6 Plays” Play Festival presented by the 5280 Artist Coop of Aurora, Co. In May/June '21, “Frenemies” premiered in the BIPOC Playwright’s Festival (Virtual) produced by the Perceptions Theatre Co. of Chicago, Ill. In June '21, “The Voice Inside My Head” was included in “8:46: A Fresh Perspective” a collection of monologues by Black Playwrights” published by New World Theatre Publishing. Louis’ play, “Frenemies” was featured in the New Voices New Works Play Festival produced by the Anacostia Theatre Co of Washington, D.C. in April '22. Louis is a proud member of ESPA/Einhorn School of Performing Arts @ Primary Stages Theatre Company. (email: ldelbertj@yahoo.com)(for full bio go to perceptionstheatre.org)



Pictured (L to R): Director-Nia Vines (she/her), Brandon Etheridge (he/him) as Eddie, Donn Carl Harper (he/him) as Gabe, Whitney Pipes (she/her) as Margo, Playwright- Andrea J. Fulton(for director and cast bios please visit perceptionstheatre.org)

About Was It Me?: *Was It Me* by Andrea J. Fulton, follows Margo, 49, as she navigates the after effects of childhood trauma. On the eve of her 50th birthday, a reunion of childhood friends unlocks fragments of uncomfortable memories. What revelations await Margo by the night's end? This excerpt is from the larger play that underscores the significance of embracing mental health wellness in the Black community, lifting the veil of stigma associated with "getting help".

About Playwright: A graduate of Northwestern University, is also a poet, songwriter, producer, investor and community leader. Her work has received six AUDELCO Award nominations and two AUDELCO Awards. She has received an Emerging Playwrights Award, Episcopal Actors Guild Thomas Barbour Playwrights Award, New York Council on Suicide I AM HOPE Award, New York Fund for Eldercare Grant and other honors. Her work has been performed in a wide range of settings from theaters, schools and churches to housing projects, parks and stoops. She is founder of the Anderson & Bert Cade Fulton Foundation, a non-profit arts organization supporting the performing arts aspirations of adults later in life.



Pictured (L to R): Brandon Etheridge (he/him) as Cop 1, Lavell McGee (he/him) as Richard, Kenny Bell (he/him) as Charles, Felisha McNeal (she/her) as Mother, Director-Myesha-Tiara (she/her), Adeera Harris (she/her) as News Reporter, Dina Perez (she/her) as Cop 2, Playwright- Nic Bell (**for director and cast bios please visit perceptionstheatre.org**)

About Kingdom: *Kingdom* by Nic Bell is a short, absurd play filled with anachronisms. It explores the ideas of family, duty, free will, and the inevitability of fate. It aims to challenge what we think we know, by showing us we don't really know anything. Can we make a stand for what's right? Or are we doomed to repeat the sins of our fathers?

About Playwright: Originally from Atlanta, Nic Bell is a writer, actor, and photographer in Chicago. Graduating from CCPA in 2014, he has worked with many theatre companies in the city. He played The Actor in *THE WOMAN IN BLACK* with Wildclaw Theatre and *MUCH* in Robin Hood and Maid Marion with Strawdog Theatre. He's also worked with Haven Theatre, City Lit, and Redtwist Theatre, wrote shows with Gorilla Tango Theatre, and done some voice over work for The Goodman. He also had a small role in *Captain America: Civil War*, and was a cast member in the webseries *Life Of Harold*. He's thrilled to be debuting *KINGDOM* with Perceptions! You can follow him on social media @thisnic



Production Team:

Stage Manager Intern- Adeera Harris

Stage Manager- Jerluane “Jae” Jenkins

Videographer & Cinematographer- Jabari

Khaliq of Khaliq Visuals

Literary Manager- Kenny Bell

Resident Graphic Designer- Antwon Funches

Casting Director- Jamise Wright

Production Manager- Tamarus Harvell

Producing Executive Director- Jerluane “Jae”
Jenkins

Producing Artistic Director- Myesha-Tiara

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on what we are up to at perceptionstheatre.org**

Thank You:



Our 2021-2022 Season has been made possible by donors like you and Crossroads Fund, Illinois Humanities, and Young Leaders Fund-The Chicago Community Trust.

*Illinois Humanities is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assembly [through the Illinois Arts Council Agency], as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations.

Special Thanks to Cassandra Bell, South Chicago Branch Library, Khaliq Visuals, Prop Thtr

What your donations do:

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\$50-\$100: Can help us take care of everything above and our stage reading playwrights, directors and actors pay, mailing supplies, rehearsal space rentals, and costumes for shows

\$100-\$500: Can help us take care of everything above and our full production playwrights, crew and actors pay, legal fees, production space rentals, workshops, classes, teaching artists, props and set designing for shows

\$500 and above: Can help us take care of everything above and self tape and filming equipment, and company members salary