

# BALTIMORE

play by *Kirsten Greenidge*

directed by *Godfrey Simmons*

assistant directed by *Sydney Yu '25*



*“When you see me, what do you see?”*

**THURS-SAT, NOV 21-23 (7:30 PM)**  
**SAT, NOV 23 (2:00 PM)**  
**GOODWIN THEATER**



AUSTIN  
ARTS  
CENTER  
AT TRINITY COLLEGE

The Department of Theater and Dance  
*presents*

# BALTIMORE

*play by* **Kirsten Greenidge**

*directed by*  
**Godfrey Simmons**

*assistant directed by*  
**Sydney Yu '25**

*Choreography by*  
**Allie Mikalatos '26**

*Scenic Design by*  
**Lynn Porter**

*Costume Design by*  
**Vilinda McGregor**

*Lighting Design by*  
**Laura Gisondi**

*Sound Design by*  
**Ritz Ubides**

*Projection Design by*  
**Christopher Cooper**

*produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc (www.playscripts.com)*

## BALTIMORE CAST

<b>Mya K. White '25</b> .....	Shelby
<b>Justin White '28</b> .....	Dean Hernandez
<b>Lily Mellitz '26</b> .....	Grace
<b>Aila Farrell '28</b> .....	Fiona
<b>James Maciel '25</b> .....	Bryant
<b>Brayden Esler '27</b> .....	Carson
<b>Mari Mendoza '26</b> .....	Rachel
<b>Cassidy Willie-Lawes '24</b> .....	Leigh
<b>Jensine Wagner '25</b> .....	Alyssa

*Baltimore will run for approximately  
90 minutes with no intermission.*

*We invite you to join us for an opening night  
reception on Thursday, November 21.*

**Please be advised that this performance  
includes instances of strong language,  
racial conflict, and offensive imagery.**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Kirsten Greenidge's 2016 play *Baltimore* revolves around a racist incident perpetrated in a first-year dorm at a northeast college. It's important to remember the time in which this was written and when the play is set. In the Fall of 2016, President Barack Obama was still in the White House trying to get the Senate to confirm Merrick Garland for the Supreme Court. Britain had decided to leave the European Union. Russia was playing havoc with our electoral system. We were all still reeling from the Pulse Club shooting in Orlando. And despite the miracles of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Chicago Cubs winning world championships, hope and change curdled into fear and loathing with alarming speed.

It's important to remember how quickly things can seemingly turn when we engage in the conversations we need to have. We know that an alarming number of conversations happened among people all over the world who have somehow found themselves supporting authoritarian governments, morally challenged leaders and unwise (please note the understatement here) wars. And yet those conversations are decades, even centuries old. The arc of the moral universe might be long, but it won't bend toward justice without us engaged in the same conversations.

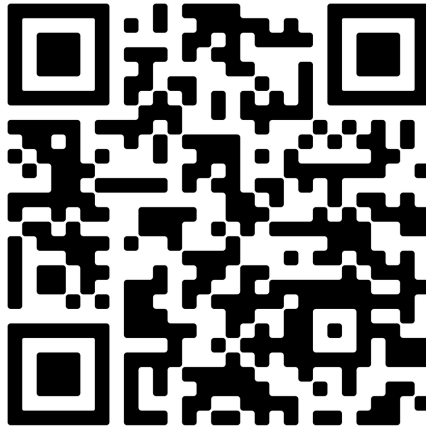
I think Greenidge is holding us accountable in asking, demanding us to breathe in the conflicts, the joy, the confusions, the emotional arias of this play. The students in this play have demonstrated so much courage in embodying the message of this play for the Trinity community specifically and Hartford generally. Every day they say things on that stage (or hear things) that repulse them, trigger them, inspire them, or define them. Each of these things take enormous psychic and spiritual energy to hold and unleash in a theatre full of their peers, their elders, and strangers. Together, well ... it's a lot of things.

I invite you to experience this show through the lens of gratitude, active listening, joy, and, most of all, fearlessness. I believe that is the least we can do to honor the work of the cast and crew of *Baltimore*.

Breathe deeply,  
*Godfrey L. Simmons, Jr.*

# BALTIMORE IN CONTEXT

Sydney Yu, *Baltimore*'s Assistant Director, has curated a page on our AAC website to offer you important contextual information for the play. We invite you to visit the page to read more about historical and cultural events and people referenced in *Baltimore* and to reflect on the play's relevance for our campus community.



[qrco.de/baltimorecontext](https://qrco.de/baltimorecontext)

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Rhoda Cerretelli and Jeanika Brown-Springer for their generous offering of time and constant collaboration.

Many thanks to the generous technical theater professionals who brought their time and expertise to bear in translating the scenic vision into the world of *Baltimore* over the last several weeks: Jim Keller, Rick Bonyun, John Holder, Steve Larson, Jeff Lund, Steve Mountzoures, Chloe Trotta-Smith.

# **MORE BALTIMORE PRODUCTION TEAM MEMBERS**

Stage Management by  
**Jenna Brustad**

Assistant Stage Management by  
**Adara Rosenberg**

Intimacy/Fight Coordination by  
**Amelia Boyce Munson**

Production Manager  
**Laura Gisondi**

Guest Technical Director  
**Jim Keller**

Guest Scenic Builders  
**Rick Bonyun, John Holder, Steve Larson, Jeff Lund,  
Steve Mountzoures, Chloe Trotta-Smith**

Stage Right Deck Crew  
**Amanda Thrul '27, Sydney Young '26**

Stage Left Deck Crew  
**Catherine Wallace**

Sound Board/Projections Operator  
**Wadana Kakhanel '27**

Light Board Operator  
**Kayla Walsh McCarter '27**

Wardrobe Crew  
**Elina Khindova  
Olaide Ogunshote  
Bella Chirkis  
Lynn Cheng**

# BIOGRAPHIES

**Jenna Brustad '25 (Stage Manager)** is a senior double majoring in Physics and Mathematics, from Mound, Minnesota. She has been involved with productions at Trinity since her freshmen year, including acting in *Hamlet* (Polonius) and has been backstage for *Cinderella*, *Machinal*, and *A Food Odyssey*. At Trinity, she is the president of the Society of Physics Students and president of the JELLO community service club. Jenna would like to thank the cast, production team, her friends and family, and all the wonderful stage techs at AAC!

**Christopher Cooper '24 (Projection Design)** is proud to be working with the Trinity College Theater and Dance Department for the first time as a Projection Designer. He has worked with the Trinity College Theater and Dance Department as an actor in *Bright Star* (2020), *Pillow Man* (2021), and multiple other shows. He graduated from Trinity College in 2023 as a Studio Arts Major and was also an Artist In-Residency with the College during the 2023-2024 academic year. Cooper currently works in the Office of Communications and Marketing as a Summit Fellow in Graphic Design.

**Brayden Esler '27 (Carson)** is a sophomore, double majoring in Theater & Dance and Psychology. Some of his past performances include *Cinderella* (Jean-Michel) at Trinity this past spring and *RENT* (Mark Cohen) this past winter at the Shoreline Theater Academy. Brayden is also a member of The Pipes a cappella group on campus. He would like to thank his friends and family for all of their support, and the cast and crew for the amazing experience.

**Aila Farrell '28 (Fiona)**, from Orono, Maine, is a freshman double majoring in Theater & Dance, and Neuroscience. This is her first production at Trinity. Aila is also a member of the Trinitones a cappella group. She can't wait to be involved in more shows here at Trinity!

**Laura Gisoni (Lighting Designer)** is thrilled to put her academic and professional background of theatrical lighting design and technology to use to collaborate with fellow artists and create this production of *Baltimore*. She earned her BA Theatre Arts from Illinois Wesleyan University and her MFA Lighting Design from



Illinois State University. She has served as the Austin Arts Center's Production Manager since October of 2023. More information about previous work can be found at [lauragisondi.com](http://lauragisondi.com).

**James Maciel '25 (Bryant)** from New Haven, CT, is a Political Science major and Music minor. This is his first Trinity production. James appeared as Linus in his middle school production, *Charlie Brown Musical*. On campus, he is a Quest Leader, President and section leader of the Chapel Singers, co-Music Director of the Accidentals, student organist and varsity track and field runner. James hopes that you all enjoy the show, and that honest, meaningful discussions can arise from this play!

**Vilinda McGregor (Costume Designer)** is a fashion/costume Designer and actor who studied fashion design at FIT in NY and the International Fine Arts College in Miami, Florida. Vilinda is currently a freelance Fashion Designer, Makeup Artist and facilitates costume design for Hartford area theater groups and individuals. Most recently, Vilinda served as Costume Designer for the stage play *Toni Stone* at the Playhouse On Park. She is a 2021 graduate of the University of Hartford HARTT school's BFA Actor Training Curriculum and is actively pursuing an alternate career in Acting. Vilinda resides in Hartford with her 13 year old son, Yeshaiiah and their 3 cats, Lulu, Cooper and Dumpling. One of Vilinda's core, motivating beliefs is that we all have a responsibility to share and serve with whatever gifts and talents God has blessed us with. 1 Peter 4:10

**Lily Mellitz '26 (Grace)**, from Xi'an, China, and Guilford, CT, is a Theater and Dance major with a minor in Classics. Her past Trinity performances include *Cinderella* and *JOY*. On campus, she's a Big/Little Sis mentor, Social Relations Chair for Musical Theater Club, President of Students for Accessibility, Executive Editor for the Trinity Tripod, and a Student Recruitment Ambassador. *Baltimore* marks her play debut, and she's thrilled to bring Grace to life. Lily thanks God, her parents, her twin sister Jade, her Trinity community, her *Baltimore* family, and everyone she forced to run lines with her.

**Mari Mendoza '26 (Rachel)** from New York, NY is a junior majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Community Action. Their previous experience includes (Ana) Untold and Undocumented, at the Youth Player Institute of HartBeat

Ensemble. On campus, she is the Co-Social Media Specialist of La Voz Latina, co-captain of Trinity Club Ultimate Frisbee, a Chapel Acolyte, and a co-founding member of the Women of Color+ Coalition. This is Mari's first experience in a Trinity Theater production. Mari hopes to use their voice to uplift other marginalized creators in the arts.

**Allie Mikalatos '25 (Choreographer)** is a dancer and choreographer from Portland, Oregon. She toured with State Street Ballet for two seasons, was an original cast member of Selah Dance Collective's *Rite of Spring*, and collaborated with Christina McCarthy as a dancer/puppeteer in *The Magic Flute*. Allie has presented choreography at the Vancouver School of the Arts, State Street Ballet, and in numerous festivals. Most recently, she choreographed scenes in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, directed by Michelle Ong Hendrick.

**Lynne Porter (Set Designer)** is Chair of the Theatre Program at Fairfield University. She is also an Affiliated Artist with the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, where her designs include *Witch*, *Dracula*, *Doubt*, and *Emma*. She also designs in NYC with Guerrilla Shakespeare Project, where her designs for *The Tragedy of King Arthur by W. Shakespeare* and *Pericles* and PERICLES earned New York Innovative Theatre Award nominations. She has designed numerous productions with Gamut Theatre/Harrisburg Shakespeare, where she recently collaborated on the design of their new theatre facility. Lynne is the author of *Unmasking Theatre Design*, which examines the creative process that underpins the design process.

**Adara Rosenberg '25 (Assistant Stage Manager)** (she/they) is a senior double majoring in environmental science and theater with a minor in Japanese. She performed in *Futurity* and the 2023 Trinity La MaMa showcase. They enjoy being both on stage as an actor and singer and behind the scenes as a stage technician, stage manager, writer, etc. This is the largest production she has ever stage managed and had a great time learning and growing with the cast, crew, and design team to bring this show to you!

**Godfrey L. Simmons, Jr. (Director)** is the Artistic Director of HartBeat Ensemble, Hartford's Public Theatre, and a Visiting Lecturer in Theatre at Trinity College. He is also co-founder of Civic Ensemble, a community-based theatre company in Ithaca, NY. At HartBeat he has appeared in *My Children! My Africa!* and

Possessing Harriet. For Civic, he appeared in *My Children! My Africa!*, *Fast Blood*, and his adaptation of Mike Daisey's *The Trump Card*. Godfrey taught for several years at Cornell University, where he produced and directed Eugene O'Neill's *All God's Chillun Got Wings* and *The Next Storm* in collaboration with Civic Ensemble. Godfrey was a Producing Artist in charge of New Artist Development for Off-Broadway's Epic Theatre Ensemble, appearing in *A More Perfect Union*, *Widowers' Houses* (which Godfrey co-adapted with Ron Russell), and *Measure for Measure*, among other plays. At Epic, he also co-wrote and starred in a documentary play about the election of President Barack Obama, *Dispatches From (A)mended America*. Godfrey is a 2012 TCG/Fox Fellow, a participant in the TCG SPARK Leadership Program, and a lifetime member of Ensemble Studio Theatre. He has also taught at Marymount Manhattan College, Binghamton University, UCONN Hartford, and John Jay College. Additional New York theatre credits include *The Old Settler* (Primary Stages), *Betty's Summer Vacation* (Playwrights Horizons), *Free Market* (Working Theater), *Leader of the People* (New Georges), and *microcrisis* (Ensemble Studio Theater).

**Ritz Ubides (Sound Designer)** is a Trinity alumna who served as Production Supervisor for the Austin Arts Center for many years. Now, alongside her freelance work in sound design and technical direction, Ritz has launched her Connecticut-based pet service, Love at FURst Flight.

**Jensine Wagner '25 (Alyssa)** is a senior majoring in Computer Science. Her previous roles at Trinity include *Cinderella* (Charlotte) and *A Food Odyssey* (Telemachus). Beyond Trinity, her standout roles have been *Shrek* (Dragon) and *Into the Woods* (Little Red). Jensine is a member of the Quirks a cappella group and serves as Vice President of the Chapel Singers at Trinity. She's thrilled to be part of this production and sends a special thanks to the cast, crew, and everyone supporting the show. She also wants to shout out to her mom, who has been there for every performance of hers since she was little!

**Mya K. White '25 (Shelby)**, from Houston, Texas, is a Philosophy major with a double minor in Hispanic Studies and Music. Her previous experience at Trinity includes (Puppeteer) *God Hung Himself When He Made You* (The Root), *Tu Colo Cah Jele Lohlu Luh*. On campus, she is the co-captain of the cheer

team, coordinator of the Big Sister Little Sister program, Coordinator of the Flag Project, a Senior Admissions Associate, a Black History Month Committee member, a Women's Herstory Month Committee member, and the student coordinator for Samba Fest. A special thanks to the cast, production team, and all those who helped her memorize her lines!

**Justin White '28 (Dean Hernandez)**, from Milton, Massachusetts, is a freshman planning on majoring in Biochemistry. This is his first theater experience at Trinity. On campus, He is a first-year representative for the Men of Color Alliance and the Trinity Chemical Society, a member of the Gospel Choir, and will be inducted into the Tri-Beta Honor Society in the spring. He wants to give a big shoutout to my family, friends, castmates, and director Godfrey Simmons for all of their support throughout this process.

**Cassidy Willie-Lawes '24 (Leigh)**, is a recent graduate of Trinity's Theater and Dance department. Her previous acting experience involves being an alum of the Trinity/LaMaMa Performing Arts Program in the fall 2022 cohort. Last year, she acted in *Machinal* (Telephone Girl) and was the assistant costume designer for *Cinderella*. Special shoutout to Godfrey who is probably the only person who can get her to do a departmental production as an alumna!

**Sydney (Jiani) Yu '25 (Assistant Director)**, from Beijing, China, is a senior double majoring in Theater & Dance, and Music. Her previous experience at Trinity includes *Cinderella* (Ella), *Futurity* (Chorus Leader/Head of Society), *Hamlet* (Laertes), *A Food Odyssey* (Emily/Soldier 2). On campus, she is the co-music director for Quirks a cappella, sectional leader for Chapel Singers, program ambassador for Trinity/LaMaMa, and student library assistant at Watkinson. This is Sydney's first experience in directing departmental production. Special shoutout to the cast, production team, and her friends!



# UPCOMING AAC EVENTS

## MUSIC ENSEMBLES WEEK

### Lessons Concert

Tues, December 3 (Common Hour)  
Gruss Music Hall

### Jazz Concert

Tues, December 3 (7:30pm)  
Goodwin Theater, AAC

### Samba & Steel Concert

Wed, December 4 (7:30pm)  
Goodwin Theater, AAC

### Chamber Ensemble Concert

Thurs, December 5 (Common Hour)  
Gruss Music Hall

## BODIES BECOMING: THREE EVENINGS OF CHOREOGRAPHIC RESEARCH—BRANDON COULOTE



*Featuring Marcus Rodriguez*

Thurs, December 5 (7:30pm)

Performance Lab, Trinity Commons



## LAST NIGHT

Mon, December 9 (5:30pm)  
Performance Lab, Trinity Commons

## TRINITY/LAMAMA SHOWCASE

Tues, December 10 (4:30pm & 7:30pm)  
Performance Lab, Trinity Commons

## **DEPARTMENT OF THEATER AND DANCE**

### **FACULTY AND STAFF**

Rachna Agrawal	Instructor
Margo Caddell	Program Coordinator
Brandon Couloute	Instructor
Mellissa Graig	Visiting Lecturer
Deborah Goffe	Artist-in-Residence
Michelle Ong-Hendrick	Visiting Lecturer
Teri Incampo	Visiting Assistant Professor
Barbara Karger	Associate Professor
Peter Kyle	Associate Professor and Department Chair
Lisa Matias	Instructor
Rebecca Pappas	Assistant Professor
Mitchell Polin	Associate Dean for Curriculum, Professor
Godfrey Simmons, Jr.	Visiting Lecturer
Elliot Wallace	Dance Musician

### **AUSTIN ARTS CENTER STAFF**

Margo Caddell	Program Coordinator
Evan Field	Design Associate
Laura Gisondi	Production Manager
Deborah Goffe	Executive Director

### **STAGE TECHNICIANS**

Hamzah Al-shammari '27  
Jenna Brustad '25  
Miranda Connolly '27  
Christian Espinosa '25  
Alex Ivan Goiris Ayala '26  
Bridget Kahan '25  
Wadana Kakakhel '27  
Kathleen Kelly '26  
Kayla Walsh McCarter '27  
Ulises Rachid Criach '26  
Liu Restrepo Sanabria '27  
Adara Rosenberg '25  
Carla Schmidt '27  
Amanda Thrul '27  
Catherine Wallace '25

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

Oshinee Bandara '27  
Aisha Carothers '25  
Lynn Cheng '26  
Felix Goldmann '25  
Aleema Kelly '26  
Eugenia Montero  
Chaves '25  
Bailey Orban '26  
Kennedy Simeon '25  
Violeta Villacorta  
Apaza '27

### **COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANTS**

Sophie Aponasenko '27  
Lynn Cheng '26  
Elina Khindova '27  
Olaide Ogunshote '26  
Mia Rodriguez '26  
Carla Schmidt '27  
Nicky Vega '25

### **OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Sydney Yu '25

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