

L A K E W O O D
PLAYHOUSE

Building community through theatre



by Eleanor Burgess
directed by Michelle Matlock

The world premiere of *The Niceties* was co-produced in the 2018-2019 season by the Huntington Theatre Company (Peter DuBois - Artistic Director, Michael Maso - Managing Director), Boston, MA; Manhattan Theatre Club (Lynne Meadow - Artistic Director, Barry Grove - Executive Producer), New York, NY; and McCarter Theatre Center (Emily Mann - Artistic Director/Resident Playwright, Michael S. Rosenberg - Managing Director), Princeton, NJ.

Originally developed at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in July 2017, under the leadership of Ed Herendeen - Producing Director, and Peggy McKowen - Associate Producing Director.

Developed in part at Portland Stage Company, Anita Stewart - Executive & Artistic Director.

The Niceties is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

The Niceties

Cast

Janine Bosko Laurie O'Brien
Zoe Reed Danielle Shope

Creative Team

Director Michelle Matlock
Set Designer Maggie Knott
Lighting Designer Alonna Hall
Sound Designer Brookelyne Peterson
Costume Designer Jane W. Davie
Properties Designer Brittany D. Henderson
Stage Manager Maisha Rice
Assistant Stage Manager Stephanie Huber
Carpenter Luke Amundson
Scenic Artist Ashley Roy

Director's Note

Welcome to our production of *The Niceties* by Eleanor Burgess! And thank you to Lakewood Playhouse for presenting a work that delves deep into the heart of issues that resonate profoundly in our society today.

At its core, *The Niceties* is a powerful examination of the complexities surrounding race, power, privilege, and historical narrative. This play does not offer easy answers, instead, it raises critical, unresolved questions about our world.

One of the most provocative lines in the play comes from Janine: "Everyone is tired of hearing about racism." This line captures a sentiment of fatigue that many may feel, but it also serves as a crucial reminder of why we must continue these conversations. Fatigue can lead to complacency, but it is only through persistent dialogue and reflection that we can hope to achieve understanding and progress.

Racism, deeply embedded in the fabric of our society, cannot be dismantled through silence or avoidance. We must confront it head-on, even when it is uncomfortable or exhausting. True change requires sustained effort and unwavering commitment.

As you watch Janine and Zoe navigate their complex relationship, I encourage you to listen deeply and consider each of their perspectives. Their struggle to understand each other is a mirror that reflects the broader societal challenges we face in bridging divides and fostering real empathy.

Thank you for being here and for being a part of this important conversation. Thank you to our new Producing Artistic Director Joe Walsh, the excellent crew, staff and players. It's been an excellent journey!!

Michelle N. Matlock

Running time - 2 hours including a 15 minute intermission

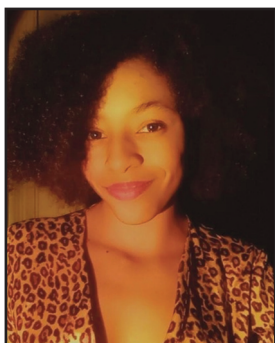
Please ensure that all cell phones are switched off.

The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment is strictly prohibited.



Laurie O'Brien - Janine Bosko

Laurie was most recently seen on the LPH stage as Gingy in *Love, Loss & What I Wore* last spring. She has also appeared at the Olympia Family Theater as the letter Z in the original musical *The Alphabetastics*, and has both acted in and written for OFT's *Tales Told In Ten* playwriting festival. Laurie is a member of two Playback Theatre companies, Brave Practice and The HeartSparkle Players, where she gets to turn audience members' stories into art. She is humbled by the opportunity to give life to such a brilliantly written character as Janine, and knows that participation in *The Niceties* is another step in her own journey of becoming anti-racist.



Danielle Shope - Zoe Reed

Danielle Shope is getting back into theater after a two-year break; her last show being *SpongeBob: The Musical* at Rainey McCullers school of the arts in Columbus, GA. Missing theater since 2022 she decided to audition for her first show at Lakewood Playhouse and was more than happy to have been cast as Marie in *Incorruptible*. She's always loved all aspects of theater. She's been stage manager in shows like *Hush: An Interview With America*, *Six: Teen Edition*, *Laundry And Bourbon*, and more. Light board operator in shows like *Poet And The Rent*, and *An Actor's Nightmare*. Stage crew in *Lockdown*. Part of cast in the shows *Men On Boats*, *Sister Act: The Musical*, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, and more. Danielle would like to thank her family for encouraging her to pursue her dreams from a very young age, her husband for supporting her and helping her practice her lines and everyone she's been able to work with at Lakewood Playhouse.



Michelle Matlock - Director

Michelle Nicole Matlock, a seasoned performing artist, director, teacher, and creative coach founded Circle Up Productions (CUP) in Tacoma, WA. With over 25 years in entertainment, she's known as the first African American to create a main character/clown for Cirque du Soleil's *OVO*, touring for close to 10 years. Michelle secured a 2023 NEA grant to revive her acclaimed solo show, *The Mammy Project*, showcased at Kansas City Fringe Presents. Recent directing credits include *Circus Bella* in San Francisco, CA, and Carolyn Ratteray's solo show in Los Angeles, CA. She's an Adjunct faculty member at Dell'Arte International School for Physical Theater in Blue Lake, CA. Upcoming projects include writing and directing *The Midwinter Revels*, presented by the Puget Sound Revels at The Rialto in Tacoma and directing *The Tacoma Light Trail* including its 2024 New Year's Eve Kick-off event at Tollefson Plaza. Michelle is absolutely thrilled about this first time collaboration with Lakewood Playhouse! More info at CircleUp.fun



Maggie Knott - Set Designer

Maggie Knott is the Artistic Director and co-founder of Tacoma Youth Theatre. She is honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with Michelle Nicole Matlock and be even a small part of the team that brings *The Niceties* to Lakewood Playhouse audiences.



Alonna Hall - Lighting Designer

Alonna Hall is the Lighting Designer for *The Niceties* at Lakewood Playhouse. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Pacific Lutheran University with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance and Design/Technical Theatre. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support throughout her theatrical career.



Brookelyne Peterson - Sound Designer

Brookelyne Peterson just recently moved to Washington from Utah, where she graduated with honors from Utah Tech University with a Bachelor of Science in Theatre. She received several awards from the university, including Student of the Year for 2023. Brookelyne is an actor, director, and sound designer. Some of her roles and projects include Woman 2 in *Almost, Maine* at Tacoma Little Theatre, Emmy Helmer in *A Doll's House Part 2* at Tacoma Little Theatre, Sound Designer for *The Giver* at Lakewood Playhouse, Sound Designer for *The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised]* at Lakewood Playhouse, Macbeth in *Macbeth N.9* at the Tumbleweed Theatre Company, Director of *The Magician's Sister* in Kayenta Center for the Arts New Play Lab, and Director/Sound Designer of *Krapp's Last Tape* in Utah Tech University's Directing Festival. More of her work can be found at brookelynepeterson.com



Jane W. Davie - Costume Designer

Jane W. Davie (she/her) is so happy to return to Lakewood as a production member. Jane is a Puget Sound-based performer and theatre practitioner. Her recent credits are Fiona in *The Giver* (Lakewood Playhouse), Costume Coordinator for *Dance 2024* (PLU), and Ensemble in *Macbeth* (PLU). Jane is a recent graduate from Pacific Lutheran University. She got a BFA in Acting/Directing and a minor in Critical Race Studies. She will continue working in Puget Sound and eventually get her Masters in Theatre Design. Jane thanks the Lakewood staff, *The Niceties* crew and cast, as well as her friends, family, and partner for all their support.



Brittany D. Henderson - Props Designer

Brittany D. Henderson (she/they) is thrilled to continue working at LPH this season after directing *The Giver*. Brittany holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Puget Sound and is the Dean of Student Affairs at Cornish College of the Arts. Brittany has been active in the South Sound theatre community for the last 17 years, in roles onstage and behind the scenes!



Maisha Rice - Stage Manager

Maisha is excited to be stepping into her Stage Manager era. This will be a first for her. She has worked on multiple productions at LPH as the Assistant Stage Manager. Some of those productions include *Love, Loss & What I Wore* and *The Giver*. In the short year that she has been working and volunteering at the Playhouse, the theatre and staff have become family to her. She is excited to continue learning and growing in her new era. She would like to thank Wendy and Stephanie Huber for "soft" launching her into the LPH family. She would also like to thank Joe Walsh for being the welcoming light the theatre needed.



Stephanie Huber - ASM

Stephanie Huber is excited to be joining this wonderful cast and crew of *The Niceties*! She was last seen on stage in the Lakewood Playhouse's *Much Ado About Nothing* but more recently she stage managed *The Seafarer* and *The Giver*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for welcoming her in and she would like to give a big thank you to everyone at the Playhouse.



Luke Amundson - Carpenter

Luke is delighted to continue working with the Lakewood Playhouse. He built sets this season for *The Seafarer*, *The Giver*, *Incorruptible* and *The Niceties*. He is active in educational youth theater with a focus on stage combat. He performed the audiobooks of *Airship Daedalus* books 2, 3, and 4 available on Audible. Previous stage credits include *The Seafarer*, *Tuesdays With Morrie*, *Once In A Lifetime*, *Christmas Carol*, *Macbeth*, *The Three Musketeers* and *A Comedy Of Errors*.



Ashley Roy - Scenic Artist

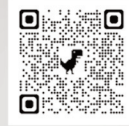
Ashley is grateful to be back at Lakewood Playhouse after last painting *Incorruptible*. She most recently choreographed *Rock Of Ages* and *Evil Dead The Musical* at Tacoma Little Theatre and directed *Heathers The Musical* here at LPH. She is very much enjoying the new challenge of scenic artistry! Thank you for being here and joining us in this conversation.

June 7, 8, 14, 15 at 7:30pm
June 9 and 16 at 2:30pm
Norton Clapp Theatre, Jones Hall,
University of Puget Sound Campus

FAIRVIEW

by Jackie Sibblies Drury

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Theatre Arts



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University of Puget Sound's Department of Theatre Arts is excited to be partnering with Tacoma's empathos theatre company to produce Jackie Sibblies Drury's Pulitzer Prize winning play Fairview. Fairview, a challenging play about contemporary Black experience, will be directed by empathos Artistic Director Chung with a cast and design team drawn from local theatre professionals and students. Fairview inventively presents the dilemmas of race, perception, and representation. [ups.universitytickets.com](https://www.ups.universitytickets.com)

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Front of House Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

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Box Office Associate

Alonna Hall

Box Office and Company Manager

Brookelyne Peterson

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This program is made possible, in part, by a City of Lakewood Lodging Tax Grant



Visit Lakewood

Special Thanks To...

Missy Barnes, Scott Campbell, Roberta Emerson and Matthew MacDermid.
Artwork and program design by Kevin James.

Land Acknowledgement

Lakewood Playhouse acknowledges that the land we gather on today is located where Sastuck village and the traditional home of the Steilacoom Tribe has always been. We take this opportunity to recognize their kinship with the land since time immemorial.

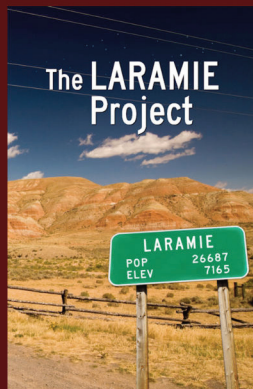


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