



# Ensemble Theatre

*Great Scripts. Cleveland Artists*

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# The Light

by Loy A Webb



**MAY 26 - JUN 11**

**Ensemble Theatre** :: **2022-2023** Season::

Performing Arts Center-Notre Dame College  
4545 College Rd. South Euclid, OH 44121

**216.321.2930**

**[www.ensembletheatre.org](http://www.ensembletheatre.org)**

# A Message from the Artistic Director/Director

Dear Friends,

What a journey the last few years have been. Navigating a pandemic and a move from a space we inhabited for almost a decade. We are so thankful for our new partners at Notre Dame College. We are so excited to become a part of the Performing Arts Family here in South Euclid! Both my mother and I graduated from Regina (now part of the college). How wonderful it is to return to where alot of this journey began for me! My office is in my old highschool, and what an honor to help young artists as they navigate the beginings of a journey I started here so many years ago.

Thank you for joining us for the final production of our first season in our new home at Notre Dame College. As we continue to settle here, we are happy to see so many familiar faces, of supporters who have been with us for many of the years along the way, some since the very first show! We are also happy to discover so many new faces and new members from our now expanded "local" community of supporters in 'the land'! We are part of a rich theatre arts "ensemble" and arts community in Northeast Ohio and are excited for what this next chapter holds!

We are so humbled to be the first theatre in Cleveland to present Loy A Webb's work! I am so thankful to Nicole for brining me this script! It brings to light so many important issues while exploring head on the experience of black women in our society. It addresses the issue of assault from the persepective of a couple struggling throught the complexitiess of its aftermath. It is also a love story. I am so happy to be a part of this opportunity for two Cleveland actors to shine as the powerhouse artists they are! With a fantastic director, intimacy director, and the best stagemanager in the land helping to create a safe space for all this discovery! Another true ensemble of artists. Thank you for continuing to be a part of our Ensemble family! Enjoy the show!

**Celeste Cosentino**  
Executive Artistic Director

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:: **Lucia Colombi**, Founder :: **Celeste Cosentino**, Executive Artistic Director ::  
**Presents The Cleveland Premiere of**

# THE LIGHT

By **Loy A. Webb**

**Director** :: Jeannine Gaskin

**Intimacy Director:** Julia Fisher

**Prod. Stage Manager:** Becca Moseley

**Costume Design** :: Harold Crawford

**Set & Lighting Design** :: Ian Hinz

**Scenic Painting** :: Becca Moseley & Chance Branham

**Sound** :: Becca Moseley & Jeannine Gaskin

## :: **The Cast** ::

**Nicole Sumlin\*** as Genesis

**Ananias J. Dixon\*** as Rashad

(\*Members of Actors Equity Association)

**Setting:** A Hyde Park Condo. Chicago, IL.

**Time:** Oct. 5, 2018

**Run Time:** Approximately 70 minutes.

**There will be NO Intermission**

## **Please Note:**

This production contains **strong language** and **themes**  
and there is **description of sexual assault.**

**“The Light”** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**The Light** was originally developed at **The New Colony** (Andrew Hobgood and  
Evan Linder, Co-Artistic Directors; Stephanie Shum, Managing Director) in  
Chicago, Illinois. The New Colony presented the **world premiere** at **The Den**  
**Theatre** in January 2018, director, Toma Langston. New York Premiere at the  
**MCC Theater** February 10th, 2019 Artistic Directors: Robert LuPone, Bernard  
Telsey, & William Cantler Executive Director: Blake West.

## Who's who in the Cast:



**Nicole Sumlin\*** (Genesis) is an actor, singer, director, writer, producer and arts educator. In 2019, she was awarded Best Actress in a Musical by the Cleveland Critics Circle for her performance as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grille* at Beck Center for the Performing Arts. New York City performances include: *Medusa* (Medusa), *Project Tiresias* (Zu), *How to Be a Winner* (Judge Jill Joyce), and *ReB+VoDkA+Me* (Columbiner). Regional performances include: *Stew* (Lillian), *Life Sucks* (Ella), and *A Civil War Christmas* (Elizabeth Keckley) at Dobama Theatre; *Breakout Session* (or *Frogstore*) (Jessica), *Rastus and Hattie* (Needra), *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Jenny/Bart), and *Lines in the Dust* (Denitra) at Cleveland Public Theatre; *A*

*Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth) at Ensemble Theatre; *Treasure Island* (Long John Silver) at Ohio Shakespeare Festival; *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Brenda), *The Frogs* (Pluto), *The Music Man* (Marian Paroo), *Memphis* (Felicia), and *Sondheim on Sondheim* at Cain Park; *Children of Eden* (Eve/Mama Noah) at French Creek Theatre; *Caroline or Change* (The Washing Machine) at Tantrum Theater; *Minton's Place* (Jennifer/Ensemble) at Cleveland Play House; *Bourbon at the Border* at The Maltz Museum (May); *Songs for the Asking* at Playhouse Square (Vocalist & Co-Creator); and *Violet* (Lula) at Lakeland Civic Theatre. Her cabaret show, *Sing It All*, debuted at The Bop Stop. She and her husband Eugene created *Beauty for Ashes*, a project celebrating several multiple generations of their families, debuted at CPT's Station Hope in 2016 and was remounted at Station Hope 2020. She has also been seen at The Fine Arts Association, Orchard Arts Project, Near West Theatre, Mercury Theatre Company, MOCA-CLE, Nighttown, and Severance Hall. She is a graduate of Wheaton College (IL), and received her vocal training at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music. She is a member of the Actor's Equity Association.



**Ananias J. Dixon\*** (Rashad) is the Lead Production Teaching Artist at Playhouse Square, Co-founder of THE 1% Acting Studio, producer/directing mentor/teaching artist at the Cleveland School of The Arts and has been a member of George Street Playhouse's educational touring company. Theater credits include: *Two Trains Running*, *Sweat* (Pittsburgh Public theatre) *Skeleton Crew*, *Sunset Baby*, *The Effect*, *An Octoroon*, *Kill Move Paradises* (Dobama Theatre); *Detroit 67*, *Julius X* (Karamu House); *The Claxson Family*, *How to End Poverty in 90 min*, *Rastus and Hattie* (Cleveland Public Theater); *Black Angels Over Tuskegee* (Actors Temple); *John Henry* (Cleveland Play House); *The Toilet*

(New federal theatre). TV/film Includes "Law and Order: SVU", "Blue Bloods", "Person of Interest", "Boardwalk Empire", "Upstairs", "NYC 22", Antwone Fisher, Home\_, and Criminal Activity.

**Post Show Talkback:: June 4th**  
with community partner organization  
**The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center**



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Visit our website for more information on our panel and on the vital work of our community partner organization!

**[www.ensembletheatre.org/the-light](http://www.ensembletheatre.org/the-light)**

# About The Playwright



**Loy A. Webb** is a Chicago-born playwright, attorney and theatre journalist. Her plays include *The Light* (MCC Theater 2018/2019, Outer Critics Circle nomination for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play; *The New Colony* 2017/2018, Joseph Jefferson Award) and *His Shadow* (16th Street Theater 2019/2020). She was an inaugural Tutterow Fellow at Chicago Dramatists, and as theatre journalist she is a member of the Association of Women of Journalist-Chicago, a past mentor with the AWJ-Chicago/Goodman Theatre's Cindy Bandle Young Critics Program, and

a contributing theater critic for *Newcity*. Loy holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. She is currently a writer on the AMC television series *NOS4A2*.

## Director's Note

I was very honored to direct this play. I was given the creative space and freedom I needed to be successful. We as a team built trust early, asked difficult & unapologetic questions. I also think we processed constructive feedback really well. Working in a flat hierarchy allowed the artist's to be vulnerable and explore their characters more freely. We all worked with the same goal in mind:  
to tell a beautiful story.

Enjoy the show!  
Jeannine Gaskin, Director

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Notre Dame College Performing Arts Department, Nicole Sumlin, Aaron Elersich, Becca Moseley, Sam Landgraf, The City of South Euclid, The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, The Ebony Bobcat Network, Tom Moore, Martin Cosentino, Ian Hinz, Austin Hinz, August Scarpelli, The Board of Ensemble Theatre, & Kyle Huff.

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Ensemble's critically acclaimed 2013 production of  
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## Meet the Crew :

**Jeannine Gaskin (Director) (she/her)** is excited to be back at Ensemble Theatre! Last Spring, she directed India Burton's short play "Trade Flowers for Salt" for the In Our Own Words - Our Stories Our Voices Series. Her most recent directing credit was "Insurrection: Holding History" by Robert O'Hara at Convergence-Continuum. Other directing credits include "Devised Blues: Uncut & Funky" at Baldwin - Wallace University and co-directed "Until the Flood" by Dael Orlandersmith at Malone University with Craig Joseph & Lynn Nottage's "Intimate Apparel" with Sarah May also at Ensemble Theatre.

**Becca Moseley (Production Stage Manager) (she/her)** is excited to be opening another show at Ensemble's new home, Notre Dame College! In addition to serving as Ensemble's General Manager, she has served as the Resident Production Stage Manager/Assistant stage manager for many Ensemble shows, including both parts of Angels in America, A Raisin in the Sun, The Penelopiad, Intimate Apparel, The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, the Iceman Cometh, Knock Me A Kiss, Anna Christie, Thurgood, Death of a Salesman, and many more. She co-directed Run, Kingsbury, Run and Assistant Directed East of Eden. She was onstage in past seasons at Ensemble as a chorus leader/puppeteer in Around the World in 80 Days, Pea in Jerusalem, the Childlike Empress/company in The Never Ending Story, The Phantom Tollbooth (Princess Rhyme/Ensemble,) and as Daisy Buchanan in The Great Gatsby. Other favorite credits not at Ensemble include Rosalind (As You Like It,) Fabiana Cunningham (The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,) Dorine (Tartuffe,) Maggie (A Chorus Line), and Ophelia (The Horatio Project.) She thanks Ian and Celeste for building and nurturing a theatre that provides a constant supply of great scripts and people to bring them to life, her family for their love and support, and her husband Kyle for always believing in the magic.

**Julia Fisher (Intimacy Director) (she/her)** is an intimacy director, playwright, actor, and director, and her work has been seen in professional theatres throughout Northeast Ohio. She is a Teaching Artist and Curriculum Developer with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, where she is in the final stages of certification, and she has trained with Theatrical Intimacy Education, Movement and Combat Education, Cleveland Play House, and the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. She is the Resident Intimacy Director at Rubber City Theatre, as well as a proud member of the Dramatists Guild of America. [www.juliachristinefisher.com](http://www.juliachristinefisher.com)

**Harold Crawford (Costumes)** started working in the film industry in 1970 at Universal Studios working on tv shows and movies Alias Smith and Jones, The Incredible Hulk, Quincy M.E., and The Hindenburg. In 2005 he moved to Cleveland with his wife. He has worked creating costumes for Karamu House Theatre's The Wiz, Dream Girls, Gods Trombone, and Caroline or Change. He has also worked on Near West Theatre's Sweeney Todd, and for Chagrin Little Theatre's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. This is his first costume design for Ensemble.

**Ian Hinz (Set & Lighting Design) (he/him)** is a graduate of Ohio University. Ian has worked professionally as a producer, award winning director, Light, Set, & Projection designer, director of operations and theater educator for over twenty years in Ohio and New York. He is co-founder of the Ensemble Stage-Wrights' workshop, two-time winner of the Cleveland Critics' Circle Best Director award and served as Artistic Director and Operations Manager for the city of Cleveland Heights' historic Cain Park Amphitheater. He has worked in operations for The Ohio State University Jerome Schottenstein Center and the Cleveland State University Department of Music as a stage production specialist. He has produced off-off-broadway at the Gene Frankel Theater and worked in business development in the tech startup industry in New York City. He is currently the Executive Director for Raise the Roof for the Arts, in charge of program creation and scheduling and major capital renovations to The Historic Sidney Theatre in Sidney, OH.



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