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TONY AWARD-WINNING PLAY, *APPROPRIATE*, GETS INTIMATE PRODUCTION AT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER FEATURING TOP LOCAL TALENT

Kimberly Gilbert, Cody Nickell, and Jamie Smithson star as warring siblings inheriting a dark patrimony

OLNEY, MD — February 19, 2026 — Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' searing comedy *Appropriate* gets an intimate production in Olney Theatre Center's 148-seat **Multiz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab**, directed by the theatre's artistic director, **Jason Loewith**, in an alley configuration with audience on both sides of the action. Several performances are already sold-out for this revival, which begins **previews on March 18, 2026**. Press is invited to request two tickets for the Opening Night performance on **Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 pm (limited availability)** or for the **1:30 pm performance on Sunday, March 22**. Email sstraub@olneytheatre.org with the preferred performance date, number of tickets, and press affiliation to reserve. The show is **scheduled to run through Sunday, April 19**. **Tickets are \$47 - \$101** and are available online at olneytheatre.org/appropriate or via the Box Office at 301-924-3400.

Cody Nickell (*Ink*), **Kimberly Gilbert** (*Angels in America*), and **Jamie Smithson** (Disney's *Frozen*) star as siblings Bo, Toni, and Franz who gather with their partners, spouses, and children at their deceased father's crumbling plantation to arrange the estate sale and auction that will settle old debts and perhaps provide some profit for the future. What they stumble upon there brings to light a more sinister patrimony. In the wickedly funny debates that follow about how to handle the uncovered burden, lies a conversation about whiteness and history that playwright Jacob-Jenkins unfurls so skillfully that its full impact sneaks up on the audience. Also joining the cast are **Dina Thomas** as Bo's wife, Rachael, **Brigid Wallace Harper** as Franz's much younger girlfriend, River, and **Cole Alex Edelstein** as Toni's teenage son, Rhys. Rachael and Bo's children, tween-aged Cassidy and younger brother Ainsley are played on a rotating basis by **Kirsten Cocks** (Cassidy) and **Ruby Spencer** (Cassidy), and **David Snyder** (Ainsley) and **Bennett Johnstone** (Ainsley). Understudies include **Ari Benjamin Post** (Bo and Franz), **Carly Dagilis** (River and Cassidy), **Alison Weisgall** (Toni and Rachael), **Jeremy Allen Crawford** (Rhys), and **Harrison Morford** (Ainsley). The 2024 Broadway production of *Appropriate* won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play.

Joining Loewith's creative team are a group of Olney veterans, including Set Designer **Nadir Bey** (*Red Pitch*), who once again uses the traverse configuration of the black box

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab in an “alley style” with audience seated on both sides. **Regarding the set, Loewith says in his director’s note**, “I knew at Olney Theatre we could provide a thrilling version of this play, which is usually staged in a large proscenium house, by producing it at an intimate scale in the Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab. You’ll soon be just feet away from the best actors in the business, and as an added bonus, you’ll be aware of how your fellow audience members are experiencing the play by looking across the stage.” **Max Doolittle** (*Fiddler on the Roof*) design lights, **Danielle Preston** (*Little Miss Perfect*) is the costume designer, and **Matthew Nielson** (*The Joy That Carries You*) creates the cicada-filled soundscape of the crumbling plantation. **Casey Kaleba** serves as the Intimacy and Fight Choreographer, and **Lisa Nathans** as the Dialect Coach. **Kam Henderson** does double-duty as the dramaturg and assistant director. **Erika L. Placencia** is the Stage Manager, and **Samba Pathak** is the Assistant Stage Manager.

DETAILS

Appropriate

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Directed by Jason Loewith

Previews March 18, 19 & 20 at 7:30 pm

Invited Press opening Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 pm or Sunday, March 22 at 1:30 pm

Email sstraub@olneytheatre.org to reserve

Runs until: Sunday, April 19, 2026, in Olney Theatre Center’s Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Tickets \$47-\$101. Discounts are available for groups, seniors, teachers, active military, first responders, and students. Visit olneytheatre.org/discounts for details.

Purchase via olneytheatre.org/appropriate or 301-924-3400

Performance Times

Regular performances are Wednesday-Saturday at 7:30 pm;

Matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 pm.

Wednesday matinee on March 25 at 1:30 pm

Friday matinees on April 10 and 17 at 1:30 pm.

No Saturday matinee on Saturday, March 21.

See below for special Community Engagement events for *Appropriate*

ACCESSIBILITY

Audio-described performance on Wednesday, April 8, at 7:30 pm

Sign interpreted performance on Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 pm

RELATED EVENTS

Behind the Scenes

Our Universal Theatrical Heritage: the Family Destroyed by Secrets

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 5:00–6:00 pm

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab
\$10 / Free for members

No one writes a family drama better than American playwrights, and *Appropriate* is the latest entry in what the *Washington Post* called, in its 2013 review of the play, as “our universal theatrical heritage: the family destroyed by secrets”. A forceful, contemporary response to a century’s worth of great works, from *All My Sons* to *Fences* to *August: Osage County*, *Appropriate* traverses familiar terrain until it suddenly explodes, turbocharging the characters’ journey to its stunning end. Join us for a Behind-the-Scenes conversation with Artistic Director Jason Loewith (who also directs *Appropriate*) and three veteran DMV actors – **Rick Foucheux**, **Craig Wallace**, and **Erika Rose** – who have tackled some of the American family drama’s most iconic roles. How did those plays pave the way for *Appropriate*?

Post Show Discussion: Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 4:00–4:45 pm
Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab
Free

After the matinee of *Appropriate*, join Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project (MoCoLMP) for a post-show discussion connecting the play’s themes to local history and community action. Featuring speakers Derrick Tabor and Barbara Drazin, the conversation explores how reckoning with the past can inspire meaningful engagement today—and offers concrete ways to get involved in remembrance, dialogue, and justice-focused work right here in Montgomery County.

In The Community

Story Time at the Olney Library

Story reader: Troy Boddy
Sunday, March 22, 2026, 2:00–3:00 pm
Olney Public Library (3500 Olney Laytonsville Rd, Olney, MD 20832)
No RSVP. Just show up!

Beyond the Stage: Genealogy Workshop: Tracing Our Roots

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 4:00–5:00 pm
Cafritz Lobby at Olney Theatre Center
\$10

One of Olney Theatre Center’s community partners, the Sandy Spring Slave Museum, has developed extraordinary genealogy tools in its quest to document the rich heritage of African-American families in Montgomery County. Because *Appropriate* deals in genealogy and legacy, we’re proud to welcome Sandy Spring Slave Museum back to lead a genealogy workshop led by historian and researcher Natalie Thomas. This session offers practical tools and databases to help you become a genealogy detective, connect with your roots, and begin

building your family tree. This hands-on activity pairs beautifully with watching *Appropriate*, a play that delves into family dynamics and generational legacies—making it a fun and meaningful way to engage with the themes of the show.

**Beyond the Stage in the Community:
Explore History, Inheritance & Legacy Together**

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 1:00–2:00 pm
Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park

Join Montgomery Parks for the **Woodlawn Manor House and Enslaved Tour**—an immersive exploration of the complex history of Woodlawn Manor and the lives of the people who lived and labored on its grounds. This guided experience reveals the layered stories of the Palmer family, the grounds and outbuildings of the 19th-century estate, and the broader African American experience in the region, including the lives of enslaved and free Black communities.

**Beyond the Stage in the Community:
Explore Underground Railroad Experience Trail**

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10:00 –11:30 am
Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park

Join Montgomery Parks for a **guided hike along the Underground Railroad Experience Trail**, where participants will gain an immersive look into the experiences of 19th-century freedom seekers—learning about the navigation techniques, courage, and resilience required to elude detection and find food and shelter on the perilous journey toward freedom. The hike covers approximately two miles through scenic woodlands and fields and includes admission to the Woodlawn Museum. [Montgomery Parks](#)

While *Appropriate* is set in Arkansas, the play’s powerful exploration of family legacy, historical wounds, and the stories that shape us resonates strongly with the themes of this trail experience—and offers a local lens to examine America’s troubled history with slavery and freedom. This guided hike, part of a special collaboration between **Montgomery Parks and Olney Theatre Center**, gives audiences an opportunity to connect the ideas raised in the play with real narratives of courage and community in our own region. Whether you’re preparing to see *Appropriate* or reflecting on it after the show, this experience deepens understanding of the histories that inform both the art and the world around us.

ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

Vision

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

History

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center now produces year-round world and American premieres of plays and musicals, and reimaginings of familiar titles; presents the work of leading companies; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors the next generation of theatremakers. For more than 8 decades, Olney Theatre has brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in central Maryland.

Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia de Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, among many, many others. Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non profit organizations and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, and is a driving force behind the region's creative economy.

As of September 2024, Olney Theatre Center employed 50 full time staff, 20 part-time positions, 13 early career apprentices, and more than 400 professional artists. The Theatre intends to continue expanding to better meet the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org.

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