



FACT SHEET

The Joy That Carries You

By **Awa Sal Secka and Dani Stoller**
Directed by **Jason Loewith and Kevin McAllister**

CAST	
Ezekiel	Bru Ajueyitsi
Beau	James J. Johnson
Alaia	Billie Krishawn
Ma	Lolita Marie
Nancy	Susan Rome
Martin	Michael Rusotto
Shiri	Dani Stoller

CREATIVE TEAM	
Director	Jason Loewith and Kevin McAllister
Scenic Designer	Misha Kachman
Costume Designer	Danielle Preston
Lighting Designer	Alberto Segarra
Sound Designer	Matthew Nielson
Production Stage Manager	Karen Currie
Assistant Stage Managers	Katie Davis, Sara Gehl, Eli Flannery Bendel-Simso

The actors and stage manager of this production are members of Actors' Equity Association.

Previews: May 11 - 13

Official Gala Opening: Saturday, May 14 at 7:45 pm

Invited Press Opening: Sunday, May 15, at 1:45 pm

Runs until June 12, 2022

Regular performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 7:45 pm; matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1:45 pm; and a Wednesday matinee at 1:45 pm on May 18. There is no Saturday matinee on May 14.

Audio described performance on **Wednesday, May 25 at 7:45 pm**

Sign interpreted performance on **Thursday, June 2 at 7:45 pm**

Vaccination Policy

Masks and proof of COVID vaccination are required to attend all performances in the Mulitz Gudelsky Theatre Lab only. Exceptions may be made for those who are not vaccinated, such as children under 5 (although per our content guidance, *The Joy That Carries You* is not appropriate for young children), people with certain medical conditions preventing vaccination, or those with closely held religious beliefs. These patrons must provide proof of a timely negative Covid-19 PCR test taken within 48 hours or a rapid antigen test taken within six hours of showtime. Feel free to email info@olneytheatre.org or visit OlneyTheatre.org/vax for more information.

Special Events:

Opening Night Conversation

With co-directors Jason Loewith and Kevin McAllister, and playwright Dani Stoller

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 5:00 pm

free for members/\$10 general public

Prior to opening night, co-directors Jason Loewith and Kevin McAllister sit down with one of the playwrights, Dani Stoller, to talk about the process of creating their new play.

Black-Jewish Relations: History, Controversy, and Allyship

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 4:00 pm

Free with RSVP

The Joy that Carries You examines the radical (and not so radical) differences in privilege and experiences of its two queer protagonists, an African-American woman named Alaia and an Ashkenazi Jewish-American woman named Shiri. The fault-lines in their relationship echo fault-lines in contemporary Black-Jewish community relations, which demand investigation in the wake of our country's racial reckoning and its rising anti-Semitism. Join expert panelists Meredith R. Weisel, Regional Director, Anti Defamation League, James Stove, Director of Montgomery County Human Rights Commission and others as they consider how the longstanding allyship between Blacks and Jews has been tested in recent American history.

Spoken Word Workshop with Simply Sherri

in the Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab Lobby

Saturday, June 4th 2022 at 4:30 pm

Free with RSVP

Simply Sherri is well known for her love and erotic writing, but is unafraid to examine the totality of a black woman's life, poetically illuminating subjects such as depression, misogyny and abuse, and surviving the political climate. Knowing how important it is to connect and share with young people, she has conducted workshops for DC Scores. She has also volunteered with DewMore Baltimore, becoming a "poetry auntie" to many.

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 (OTC) now produces year-round world and American premieres of plays and musicals, and reimaginations 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, OTC 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 d'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 Picataway-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 2021, Olney Theatre Center employed 40 full time staff, 20 part-time positions, 26 early career apprentices and players, 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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