



NEW VILLAGE ARTS
T H E A T R E

THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST

Written By **Beth Henley** Directed by **Daren Scott**

CREATIVE ENSEMBLE:

Scenic Design
Kristianne Kurner
Properties Design
Kristianne Kurner

Lighting Design
Chris Renda
Stage Manager
Elijah Howlett

Sound Design
Robert May
Asst. Stage Manager
Katie Foggiano

Costume Design
Kacia Castelli
Asst. Stage Manager
Sheila O'Neill

ACTING ENSEMBLE:

Samantha Ginn
as Carnelle Scott

Justin Lang
as Delmount Williams

Melissa Coleman-Reed
as Popeye Jackson

Eddie Yaroch
as Mac Sam

Kristin Woodburn
as Elain Rutledge

Lauren King
as Tessy Mahoney

Setting: Brookhaven, Mississippi – Summer mid-1980's

THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST runs 2 ½ hours with one 15-minute intermission

THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST is produced by special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. in New York City, NY

First Preview Performance: May 30, 2014 Opening Night: June 7, 2014

NEW VILLAGE ARTS | 2787 STATE STREET | CARLSBAD VILLAGE
WWW.NEWVILLAGEARTS.ORG | 760.433.3245

○○○○○○○○ **ACTING ENSEMBLE BIOS** ○○○○○○○○

MELISSA COLEMAN-REED (Popeye Jackson) NVA: *60-Minute Shakespeare (2013)*. She is a founding Company Member of San Diego's visionary theater company, Circle Circle dot dot. Locally, she has worked with Circle Circle dot dot, The Old Globe, The La Jolla Playhouse, Moxie, Mo'olelo, Diversionary, ion, InnerMission productions and Scripps Ranch theaters. She has trained with SITI Company, Chekhov Studio International, the Meisner Chekhov Integrated Studio, and Steppenwolf West. She most recently appeared onstage in *The Bluest Eye* (Moxie and Mo'olelo), *The Community Voices Project* (The Old Globe Theater) and *The Car Plays* (The La Jolla Playhouse) and a tour of Spain and New York with Core Theater Ensemble's *The Poe Project*. It has been such a joy to be in the Firecracker Crew! All my Love to all my Loves.

SAMANTHA GINN (Carnelle Scott) NVA: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Much Ado About Nothing, 60 Minute Shakespeare (2013)*. Other favorites include: *Edgar and Annabel/Far Away* (ion theatre), *Scrooge in Rouge* (Diversionary Theatre), *Hickorydickory* (San Diego Critics Circle Award, Outstanding Featured Actress), *Coming Attractions* (Moxie), *The Car Plays* (The La Jolla Playhouse and Sergerstrom Center), *Almost, Maine* (Scripps Ranch), *Dog Sees God* (InnerMission Productions), and *The Warriors Duet* (Circle Circle dot dot). Samantha teaches improv with Kids Act, and is a company member at Circle Circle dot dot. She would like to thank the NVA team, Daren, the cast, her family, her friends, and the leotards for their support. **Samantha Ginn is sponsored by Andie Harvey.**

LAUREN KING (Tessy Mahoney) NVA: *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Previous credits: 2nd & 3rd National Tours of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas; Music Man, Guys & Dolls, Pete 'n' Keely* (Lamb's Players), *Divine Sister* (Diversionary); *A Midsummer Night's Dream: the Musical* (Intrepid Shakespeare), *Stepping Out, Hairspray* (Welk), *Joseph...* (SDMT), *Oklahoma* (Moonlight), *Annie, Hello Dolly* (Starlight). Lauren received her BFA in Musical Theatre from Cal State Fullerton. **Lauren King is sponsored by Scott Sexton and David Lewis.**

JUSTIN LANG (Delmount Williams) NVA (Actor) Boo Radley: *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Leslie: *Seascape*, Dale Harding: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Claudio: *Much Ado About Nothing*, Gary Jamacha: *Brilliant Mistake*, George Milton: *Of Mice and Men*, Orlando: *As You Like It*. NVA (Direction) *Co-Dir. To Kill A Mockingbird, Assist Dir. Wait Until Dark, Comedy of Errors, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), Assist Dir. Ah, Wilderness!* NVA (Sound Design) *Circle Mirror Transformation, Wait Until Dark, Same Time Next Year*, Playwrights Village's *Welcome Home, THOM PAIN (based on nothing)*. NVA (Sound Engineer) *The Trip to Bountiful*. NVA (Playwriting) *60 Minute Shakespeare Adaptations: Midsummer, Macbeth, As You Like It, The*

Tempest. Justin created THE SHAKESPEARE NETWORK for NVA, an award-winning education program for local high school drama students. He is thankful for his family and friends, and grateful to NVA for all of the opportunities. **Justin Lang is sponsored by Sherry Denton.**

KRISTIN WOODBURN (Elain Rutledge) NVA: *Wait Until Dark, Much Ado About Nothing, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. San Diego: *Leading Ladies* (Moonlight Stage Productions). NYC: *Titus Andronicus, Plan Nine from Outer Space, Wars of the Roses* (the 8 play Shakespearean History Cycle), *Edward II, Airport Hilton* (originating the role of Connie), *The Memory of Water, and Twelfth Night*. Regional Credits: *Romeo & Juliet, The Crucible, King Lear, All's Well That Ends Well, Measure for Measure, and Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Film: Lifetime MOW "A Long Way Home" with Meredith Baxter, *Hell on Earth, The Wicked*, and *Angel's Blade*. Kristin holds a BFA from the University of Arizona and received training at The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC. Love to JBW.

EDDIE YAROCH (Mac Sam) NVA: *Circle Mirror Transformation, Wait Until Dark, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, The Seven-Year Itch, Picasso At The Lapin Agile, Golden Boy*; La Jolla Playhouse: *The Car Plays*; Intrepid Shakespeare Company: *Midsummer – The Musical, Hamlet, Richard II, King John, Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth*; ion theatre: *John Ball's In The Heat Of The Night*; Cygnet: *Our Town*; NYC Fringe Festival: *Nobody Dies Forever*; London/Europe (touring): *Idunn & The Golden Apples*. Eddie says, "may the roll of your eternal dice not come up snake eyes".

○○○○○ **CREATIVE ENSEMBLE BIOS** ○○○○○

BETH HENLEY (Playwright) was born May 8, 1952, in Jackson, Mississippi, the daughter of an attorney and an actress. Early on she dreamed of becoming an actress, and to that end she earned a B.F.A. at Southern Methodist University in 1974. While at SMU, she wrote her first play, the one-act *Am I Blue*, which was produced at SMU's Margo Jones Theatre in 1973. In 1976, she moved to Los Angeles to live with actor/director Stephen Tobolowsky, with whom she would later collaborate on the screenplay *True Stories*. After *Crimes of the Heart* won its initial award and was staged in 1979 by the Actors Theatre in Louisville, it debuted on Broadway at the John Golden Theatre November 4, 1981. Henley followed the success of *Crimes of the Heart* with *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, in which a socially outcast woman, Carnell Scott, wishes to improve her standing in her small southern town and decides the best way to do so would be to win the "Miss Firecracker" beauty contest. First produced onstage in Los Angeles in 1980, the play would likewise be adapted into a

Hollywood film with a screenplay by Henley. Other plays by Henley include *The Wake of Jamey Foster*, *The Debutante Ball*, *The Lucky Spot* (1987); and *Abundance* (1989). More recent plays include *Signature*, *Control Freaks*, *L-Play* and *The Jacksonian*.

DAREN SCOTT (Director) NVA: Director: *Sweet Storm*, *Of Mice & Me*; Actor: *Wait Until Dark*, *Brilliant Mistake*, *The Santaland Diaries* ('09, '10 & '11), *Ah, Wilderness!*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Be Aggressive*, *Humble Boy*, *Three Sisters*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *A Lie Of The Mind*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. CYGNET THEATRE: *Love Song*, *The Invention Of Love*, *Biedermann And The Firebugs*, and *Las Meninas*. DIVERSIONARY: *Execution Of Justice* and *A Bright Room Called Day* (co-produced with Backyard Productions). BACKYARD PRODUCTIONS: *Closer*; WOMENS REP: *Stop Kiss*; ELEPHANT PRODUCTIONS: *Fit To Be Tied*; RENAISSANCE THEATRE CO: *Of Mice And Men*; VANTAGE THEATRE: *Frankie And Johnny In The Claire De Lune* (directed by DJ Sullivan). Daren had a recurring role on *Terriers* (F/X), was a regular recurring character on *Fashion House* (Fox) and was a co-star on *The Ex List* (CBS). Thank you to his partner Michael Barnett for all that he does and all the support that he gives. Thank you to his theatre mom DJ Sullivan for everything, always.

KACIA CASTELLI (Costume Design) NVA: *Wait Until Dark* and *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Props). Kacia's work in cosplay and costume design which can be seen online through her Facebook at www.facebook.com/OracleApplesniffer. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and NVA staff for a wonderful experience and is excited to return for future shows.

KATIE FOGGIANO (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior at Concordia University Irvine. This is her first production with NVA and she is very grateful for this experience. Tech Credits from Concordia include; *The Lesson* (Stage Manager), *Catastrophe* (Stage Manager), *As You Like It* (Assist. Costumer), *Til We Have Faces* (Costume Designer), *The Fantasticks* (Assist. Costumer), and *The Importance of Being Ernest* (House Manager). Thanks to all of her family and friends. She hopes you enjoy the show.

ELIJAH HOWLETT (Stage Manager) NVA: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Stage Manager), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Plaid Tidings* (ASM), *Wait Until Dark* (Stage Manager), *SUDS* (Stage Manager), *Seascape* (Stage Manager), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Aide Williams), *The Trip to Bountiful* (Soldier, ASM), *Plaid Tidings* (ASM and Sound Mixer). After this production, Elijah plans on taking a break – which will mark the end of his 10-show streak with NVA!

KRISTIANNE KURNER (Scenic and Properties Design) Kristianne is the co-founder and Executive Artistic Director of New Village Arts, where she has directed such productions as *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Wait Until Dark*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Same Time, Next Year*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Summer and Smoke*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *Be Aggressive*, *Bulrusher*, *True West*, *Sailor's Song*, *The Waverly Gallery* and *A Lie of the Mind*. She has been seen on the NVA stages many times, most recently as Jean Louise Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Adriana in *Comedy of Errors*, Essie Miller in *Ah, Wilderness!*, Amanda Blue in *Waving Goodbye* and the title role in *The Heidi Chronicles*. Her work has received numerous awards, including San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and Patte Awards for Theatre Excellence. Education: BFA Theatre, The College of William & Mary; MFA Acting, the Actors Studio/New School.

ROBERT MAY (Sound Design) NVA: Debut. Robert is a free-lance sound designer whose credits include: for Portland Stage Company – *Halpern and Johnson*; for North Coast Rep - *The Rainmaker*, *The Last Five Years*, *Halpern and Johnson*; Scripps Ranch Theatre – *Deathtrap*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*; Renaissance Theatre – *The Gingerbread Lady*, *Shirley Valentine*; Playwrights Project, and various productions at San Diego Junior Theatre. Robert is also an award-winning director, actor, and the Founder/Artistic Director of *Out on a Limb - New Plays from America's Finest City*, a new-play-development program at Scripps Ranch Theatre.

SHEILA O'NEILL (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working her first show at NVA. She is currently attending college at SUNY Purchase where she studies playwriting, is part of a *Rocky Horror* cast, and recently played Squeaky Fromme in *Assassins*. Sheila would like to thank black holes, without which the universe as we know it could not exist.

CHRIS RENDA (Lighting Design) As an actor, Chris has worked with NVA: *Brilliant Mistake*, *Comedy of Errors*; INTREPID SHAKESPEARE (company member): *King John*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Richard the Second*; with INTERMISSION PRODUCTIONS: *Mending Monologues* in San Diego and LA. He trained with the British American Dramatic Academy in Oxford. As a lighting designer for NVA: *Wait Until Dark*, *SUDS*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Buried Child*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Of Mice and Men*, *THOM PAIN (based on nothing)*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Sweet Storm*, *Waving Goodbye*. Other Lighting Design credits include: INTREPID: *An Enemy of the People*, *Richard II*, *The Crucible*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Taming of the Shrew* and *King John*; DIVERSIONARY: *The Little Dog Laughed and Bent* (Patte Award); ASIAN AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER: *As Much As You Can*; ION THEATRE: *Hurlyburly*.