

Father Comes Home from the Wars

Parts 1, 2 & 3

by Suzan-Lori Parks

directed by Christy Yael-Cox

INTREPID
theatre company



Commission for
Arts and Culture

intrepid: resolutely fearless, bold, audacious, gutsy

DIRECTORS' NOTE

Theatre, in its purest form, creates conversation. Theatre, in its bravest form, creates change.

When we embarked on the journey of *Father Comes Home from the Wars*, we knew that we were going to be moving through some of the darkest time in our country's history. We also knew that its similarities to today's political, social and racial landscape would be disturbingly prevalent. We knew we would have to ask a lot of questions. We knew we would not have all the answers.

What we did not know is that this play would inspire some of the most powerful conversations we've ever had in the rehearsal room because the issues addressed on this stage would show up in nationwide news on an almost daily basis.

This play is challenging because it exposes an era of American history that is difficult to embrace. This play is engaging because it addresses journeys that every American can relate to. This play is hopeful because it teaches us how to be survivors under the worst of circumstances.

This play is all of those things but, most of all, this play is on time. We open this production when we have been publicly exposed as a country whose citizens are confused and afraid of each other, whose appointed leaders are unable to lead a country dedicated to the proposition that everyone is created equal. Suzan-Lori Parks gives us a mirror and challenges us to truly see our world. And then, she asks us to change it.

We invite you to step into conversation with us, to journey with Hero, to go to war and come back again, to find your own path, and ultimately, your own bravery to create the change we are all seeking.



Christy Yael-Cox
Director and Producing Artistic Director



Antonio TJ Johnson
Assistant Director

FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS

(PARTS 1, 2 & 3)

By Suzan-Lori Parks

Part One: A Measure of a Man

Early Spring, 1862, Far West Texas

Part Two: A Battle in the Wilderness

Late Summer, 1862, A Wooded Area in the South

-Intermission-

Part Three: The Union of my Confederate Parts

Fall, 1863, Far West Texas

Part One: The Measure of a Man

The Musician Jim Mooney

The Chorus of Less Than Desirable Slaves:

Leader Leonard Patton

Second Rhys Green

Third Yvonne

Fourth Durwood Murray

The Oldest Old Man Antonio TJ Johnson*

Hero Wreckless Watson

Penny Tamara McMillian

Homer Cortez L. Johnson

Part Two: A Battle in the Wilderness

A Colonel, In the Rebel Army Tom Stephenson

Smith, A Captive Union Soldier Sean Yael-Cox

Hero, The Colonel's Slave Wreckless Watson

Part Three: A Union of My Confederate Parts

The Runaway Slaves Yvonne, Rhys Green and Leonard Patton

Homer Cortez L. Johnson

Penny Tamara McMillian

Odyssey Dog Durwood Murray

Ulysses Wreckless Watson



*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

PRODUCTION TEAM

<i>Director</i>	Christy Yael-Cox
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Antonio TJ Johnson
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Taylor Todd
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Karin Filijian
<i>Sound Design</i>	TJ Fucella
<i>Costume Design</i>	Jeanne Reith
<i>Scenic and Properties Design</i>	Sean Yael-Cox
<i>Fight Directors</i>	George Yé, Rhys Green
<i>Dramaturgy</i>	Tiffany Tang, Kylie Owens
<i>Technical Director</i>	Sean Yael-Cox
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Josie Gerk
<i>Master Carpenter</i>	Matt Scott

SPECIAL THANKS

The Museum of Man
 Christa Reynolds-Vogele
 Julie Ustin
 Samantha Ginn
 Jamie Channell Guzman
 Mr. Green's Coffee Beans
 Virginia, Lamb's Players Theatre
 Marie, The Old Globe
 Buddy the Dog

INTREPID STAFF

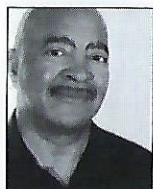
<i>Producing Artistic Director</i>	Christy Yael-Cox
<i>Artistic Director/Director of Operations</i>	Sean Yael-Cox
<i>Associate Director/Director of Communications</i>	Tiffany Tang
<i>Education Program Director</i>	Erin Petersen
<i>House Manager</i>	Mark Harbaugh
<i>Box Office Manager</i>	Betty Matthews
<i>Usher Coordinator</i>	Deborah Pantoni
<i>Interns</i>	Kylie Owens Jasmin Haddad David Marshall Durwood Murray



YVONNE (Third/Runaway) graduated from San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts with honors and continued to San Diego State University; where she graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences, emphasis in Performance. Yvonne has participated in musicals and plays throughout San Diego and Los Angeles County at the Welk, the Lyceum, Cygnet Theatre, North Coast Repertory Theatre, New Village Arts, Moonlight Theatre, Candlelight Pavilion and many more. As a vocalist, Yvonne has appeared on television shows "Duets," "Chasing Destiny" and "Let's Make a Deal." She has sung for popular artists John Legend, Frank Gaston and Kelly Rowland. She has performed in local talent competitions Campus Superstar and Fox's "3 Minutes to Stardom" and at venues such as Petco Park, Martini's Above Fourth, SeaWorld and Legoland. In addition to her love for the performing arts, Yvonne turned her interests to writing poetry, the catalyst for her award-winning show, "Searchin' for the Write," a story that outlines the importance of understanding love. She was honored to share her work at North Coast Repertory Theatre, Diversionary Theatre and the Spreckels Theatre and plans to take it overseas in Spring 2018. Recently, Yvonne has released a soundtrack titled "Love, Yvonne," which will be available on iTunes and all other music streaming outlets October 3rd. To stay updated on Yvonne and all of her projects, be sure to follow her on Instagram: @officialYvonne



RHYS GREEN (Second/Runaway) is co-founder and Artistic Director of the San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre. He earned his BFA in acting from the California Institute of The Arts, after which he joined the creative arts team out of New York University, teaching conflict resolution. He was a teaching artist with the La Jolla Playhouse, North Coast Rep, The Institute for Arts and Education and The San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre. Rhys has toured with Disney, Asian Story Theatre, National Theatre for Children, Fights 'r' Us, La Jolla Playhouse, Travelling Lantern and numerous productions in New York, Los Angeles, Washington D.C. and San Diego. Rhys is an Associate Artist with the Asian Story Theatre and serves on the board of Chronos Theatre and Teatro Mascara Magica. Currently, he teaches theatre at Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach. You can also listen for Rhys when he's playing drums around town with any number of Jazz Cats.



ANTONIO TJ JOHNSON (Oldest Old Man/Assistant Director) I am very happy to be working in a dual capacity on this wonderfully written, historical yet contemporary piece with Christy, Sean and the crew and cast. Suzan-Lori Parks has gifted us a journey that we are experiencing as we speak. The honesty of the piece and the commitment of the characters will stay with you long after the curtains close. Feel free to engage me in discussion on my Facebook page @Vagabondprojects. I dedicate this effort to the spirit of my mentor as an educator and revolutionary TCHIAKO KWAYANA ONWARD.



CORTEZ L. JOHNSON (Homer) is excited to be making his debut performance on the Intrepid stage. From Chicago, Cortez studied Theatre Performance at Southern Illinois University of Carbondale and Columbia College of Chicago. He was last seen as Emmett Till in ion Theatre's production of *The Ballad of Emmett Till*. When not on stage, Cortez is a social media influencer and advocate for sexual assault prevention, performing improvisational shows for colleges and military bases nationally and internationally to raise awareness. Cortez' theatre credits stretch from the Caribbean to Europe to various parts Africa and Asia. Favorite theatre productions include: *Blue Door*, *Honky* (PBS), *Brownsville Song (B-Side for Tray)*, *A Raisin in The Sun*, *Antigone*, *Seven*, *Preemptive* and *The Bombity of Errors*. Cortez thanks his cast and the family of Intrepid supporters for being here... True Dat! @tezmanic



TAMARA MCMILLIAN (Penny) Making her debut with Intrepid, Tamara is elated to join the company in the telling of such a genius and timeless piece by one of her most admired storytellers, Suzan-Lori Parks. Nurtured from a small community in Monroeville, AL, Tamara cultivated a love for storytelling at a very young age. She earned her BFA in Theatre Arts from an historically black college, Alabama State University, where she studiously became a sponge under Dr. Tommie "Tonea" Stewart's direction (*Mississippi Burning*), who is now Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Tamara trained in the Suzuki Technique and in children's theatre with the Berkshire Theatre Group under the direction of Artistic Director Kate Maguire, in Boston, MA. She studied at TSAW with film and television actress Tasha Smith in the Ivanna Chubbuck actor's technique. She has also trained in cold reading and scene study for film and television under the direction of the most inspirational and most informative acting coach, Carey Scott at The Rehearsal Room. Tamara was last seen in *The Ballad of Emmett Till* at ion Theatre Company. Tamara believes in the transformative power of theatre as a social, political, emotional, spiritual and humanistic force vital to the health of any society, and selflessly understands her duty as a voice for the voiceless. She gives special thanks to all who have helped to nurture and inspire her creative talents. Thank you Christy Yael-Cox for this amazing opportunity and thank you to my phenomenal cast and crew partners for such a wonderful and unforgettable experience. FB/tamara.mcmillian



JIM MOONEY (The Musician) is happy to be returning to Intrepid, having previously played guitar and banjo for *Woody Guthrie's American Song*.



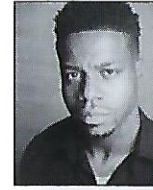
DURWOOD MURRAY (Fourth/Odyssey Dog) Durwood is ecstatic to be returning to Intrepid Theatre Company where previous appearances include *King John*, *Richard II* and *Romeo and Juliet*. He's also appeared in *To Kill a Mockingbird* with New Village Arts Theatre, *Well* with Diversionary Theatre and *The Little Flower of East Orange* with ion Theatre. Durwood would like to thank The Usual Suspects, Wondrus Strange, Jocie and The Corporation for all their love and support.



LEONARD PATTON (Leader/Runaway) has worked as a professional singer, musician, actor and composer in San Diego for many years and has been a familiar face in many Lamb's Players Theatre productions including San Diego's longest running original musical *MIXTAPE*, *Hello Dolly*, *Godspell*, *Boomers*, *Festival of Christmas* and *Pump Boys and Dinettes*. In 2016, Leonard made his Intrepid debut in *Woody Guthrie's American Song*. Leonard holds the first Master's Degree in Jazz Studies from SDSU as a vocalist and is currently working with two-time grammy winning producer, Kamau Kenyatta (Gregory Porter), on a new recording project. On August 8 Leonard, along with his group, broke the Guinness World Record for the most concerts in 24 hours (70) to garner attention for his new nonprofit, Jazz Vocal Workshop. www.jazzvocalworkshop.org



TOM STEPHENSON (Colonel) A 40-year veteran of the stage, Tom trained in Great Britain at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and in Michigan at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. At Intrepid, Tom has appeared in seven productions, notably as Joe Keller in *All My Sons* and Bill in *The Quality of Life*. He is a Resident Artist at Cygnet Theatre Company where he has been seen in 16 productions including five seasons as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. Tom was named Actor of the Year for 2014 by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle.



WREKLESS WATSON (Hero/Ulysses) Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Wreckless has been in the arts since the age of seven. He has performed in short films and theater productions such as *Prince of Egypt*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Out of The Shadows*, *Workplace Drama*, Fat's Waller's *Ain't Misbehavin* and recently hosted the 20th Annual Central Avenue Jazz Festival. Also, following in the steps of his father Wally "Gator" Watson and grandfather Wesley Landers, Wreckless has forged his way into becoming an experienced and diverse artist. Wreckless studied at Fierello H. LaGuardia H.S., Harlem School of The Arts, the Music Advancement Program at The Juilliard School and Fort Valley State University. He has had the opportunity to work with the likes of Kurk Whalum, Kanye West, The Cab Calloway Orchestra, The Long Island Youth Orchestra, Shania Twain, Tito Puente, jazz saxophonist Eddie Baccus Jr., Liquid Blue, gospel artist Joe Pace and a host of others. Most recently, he competed in the Mr. Black San Diego pageant and currently holds the title of Mr. Black San Diego.



SEAN YAEL-COX (Smith) is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Intrepid Theatre Company. In 2015, Intrepid was awarded the Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work by a Small Theatre Company by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle. Directing credits: *King John*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *An Enemy of the People* and *The Winter's Tale*. He is co-creator and director of Intrepid's acclaimed Shakespeare for A New Generation Education Tour. Selected acting credits for Intrepid include *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *the Musical*, *Richard II*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Crucible*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *King John*. Local Theater: San Diego Rep, Lambs Players (Associate Artist), The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet, Moxie, North Coast Rep, Fritz. Regional Theater: Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Nevada Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, PCPA Theaterfest, Los Angeles Rep, Performance Riverside, Sierra Rep.

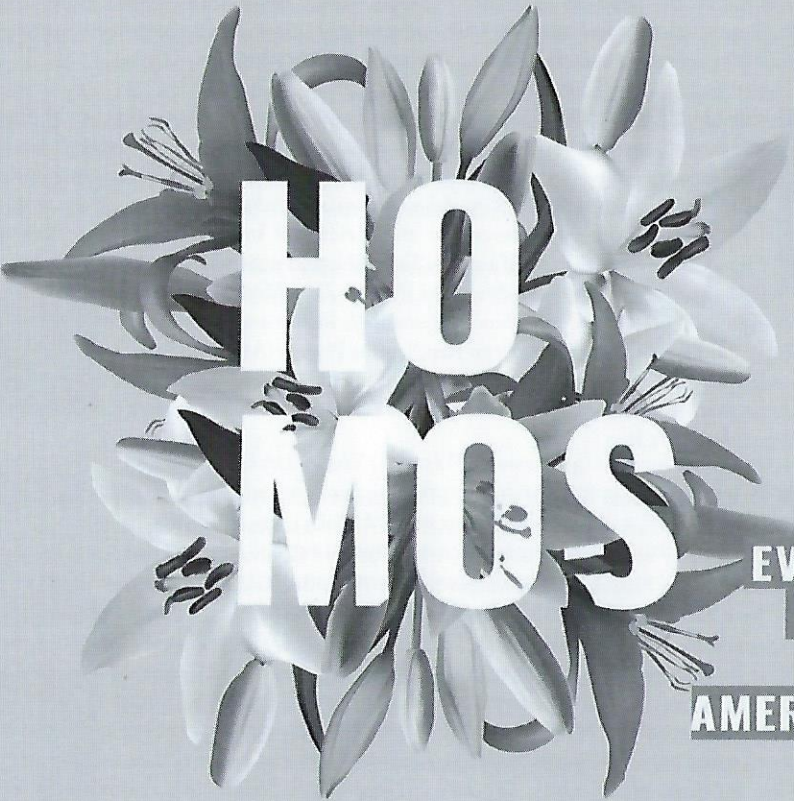
SUZAN-LORI PARKS (Author) Named one of TIME magazine's "100 Innovators for the Next New Wave," in 2002, Suzan-Lori Parks became the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her Broadway hit *Topdog/Underdog*. A MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient, she has also been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She was most recently awarded the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for 2015. *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)* made its world premiere at the Public Theater in New York, followed by a celebrated run at the A.R.T in Cambridge, MA. The play was named a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was awarded the 2015 Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History as well as the 2014 Horton Foote Prize. Parks' work on *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* was honored with the 2012 Tony Award. Her numerous plays include *The Book of Grace*, *In the Blood* (2000 Pulitzer Prize finalist), *Venus* (1996 OBIE Award), *365 Days/365 Plays* and *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, among others. Her novel, *Getting Mother's Body*, is published by Random House. Her first feature-length screenplay, *Girl 6*, was written for Spike Lee and she has also written screenplays for Brad Pitt, Denzel Washington, Jodie Foster and Oprah Winfrey, adapting Zora Neale Hurston's classic novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, which premiered on ABC's "Oprah Winfrey Presents." Parks is currently writing an adaptation of the film *The Harder They Come* for a live stage musical. Suzan-Lori Parks is the Master Writer Chair at the Public Theater, and she also serves as a professor in dramatic writing at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

CHRISTY YAEL-COX (Director) is the co-founder and Producing Artistic Director of Intrepid Theatre Company. In 2015, Intrepid was awarded the Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work by a Small Theatre Company by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle. Intrepid directing credits include *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee (Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding Lead Female,

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Profiles

Outstanding Lead Male, Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Production), *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (with New Village Arts) *ART* by Yasmina Reza, *Perfect Arrangement* by Topher Payne, *End of the Rainbow* by Peter Quilter, *The Quality of Life* by Jane Anderson (Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Dramatic Production), *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller (Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding Dramatic Production and Outstanding Ensemble), *Macbeth*, *Oleanna* by David Mamet, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream the musical*, *An Enemy of the People* adapted by Arthur Miller based on the play by Henrik Ibsen, *Richard II*, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *Romeo and Juliet*, *King John*. Producer of the acclaimed Shakespeare for a New Generation Education Tour and Exiled Voices: The Refugee Art Experience.

KARIN FILIJAN (Lighting Design) MFA: UCSD. Recent: *Perfect Arrangement*, Exiled Voices: The Refugee Art Experience (Intrepid); *The Mystery of Love & Sex* (Diversionary); *Airline Highway*, 'night, *Mother* (ion); *Elephant Man* (Backyard Renaissance); Off-Broadway: *Sea of Souls* (ion); also Moxie; New Village Arts; Cygnet; North Coast Rep; Lamb's Players; 6th@Penn; Moonlight Productions; Renaissance Theatre Co. 2011 Craig Noel Award; 2001 Patte' Award.

TJ FUCELLA (Sound Design) is delighted to return to work with Intrepid Theatre once more. He graduated from Full Sail University with a degree in music production in 2016, and has been active in the San Diego theatre community since 2015. Recent credits include *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Intrepid, New Village Arts), *Perfect Arrangement* (Intrepid), *Shockheaded Peter*, *On The 20th Century*, *Gypsy* (Cygnet), *Miracle On 34th Street* (San Diego Musical Theatre), *Lizard Boy* and *The Boy Who Danced On Air* (Diversionary). Making art is his passion, whether it be theatre, music, film, or any combination. He'd like to thank all of his friends and family who support him, especially his fiancée, Julia.

JEANNE REITH (Costume Designer) returns to design *Father Comes Home from the Wars* for Intrepid. Other productions designed for Intrepid are *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, *Perfect Arrangement*, *ART*, *End of the Rainbow*, *Woody Guthrie's American Song* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. Her 2015 design for Lamb's Players production *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was awarded the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award for Costume Design. Her work has achieved over two dozen theater critic awards for productions in San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. Besides her service and collaborative work at Lamb's, Intrepid, Cygnet and San Diego Repertory Theatre, she currently teaches Fashion History at San Diego Mesa College and Pattern Making at Continuing Education's West City campus.

JOSIE GERK (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be returning to Intrepid after her last assistant stage manager role in *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Intrepid/New Village Arts). Josie stage manages local improv group The Hinges, regularly seen at Finest City Improv and is a proud San Diego native. BA, Theatre: Cal State Fullerton.

TAYLOR TODD (Stage Manager) is so excited to be back with Intrepid! Some of her selected technical credits include her roles of stage manager for *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Intrepid/New Village Arts), *Mystery of Love and Sex* (Diversionary), *ART* (Intrepid), *Gutenberg! The Musical!* (Backyard Renaissance), *Woody Guthrie's American Song* (Intrepid), *The Seagull* (Old Globe/USD MFA), *End of the Rainbow* (Intrepid), *Anton's Shorts*; *Three Brief Comedies by Chekhov* (USD) and assistant stage manager for *Parlour Song* (Backyard Renaissance), *Oliver!* (Cabrillo Stage) and *Anatomy of Gray* (USD). Taylor graduated from the University of San Diego with a degree in Theatre Arts and Performance Studies.

TIFFANY TANG (Dramaturgy) is the Director of Communications for Intrepid Theatre Company, project coordinator for Exiled Voices: The Refugee Art Experience, a local actor (Intrepid, Diversionary, upcoming New Village Arts), author of *Creepy Little Death Poems* and proud alum of Suzan-Lori Parks' alma mater, Mount Holyoke. MFA: Actors Studio Drama School.