



AUGUST WILSON'S

# KING HEDLEY II



Good dirt holds  
life and death

TH FR SA > OCT 21 - NOV 5, 2022 | GUNSTON THEATRE TWO



DOMINION STAGE PRESENTS

## AUGUST WILSON'S KING HEDLEY II

August Wilson's *King Hedley II* is presented by arrangement  
with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

### Dominion Stage

2305 S. Walter Reed Dr. Box 15 | Arlington, VA 22206 | [www.DominionStage.org](http://www.DominionStage.org)

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Dominion Stage is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization  
and is a member of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT)  
and Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH).

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

August Wilson has a special place in my heart. His *Piano Lesson* was one of the first shows I ever directed and from there I was hooked. There is a method to his Pittsburgh Cycle — as he lived it he wrote it. It's amazing to see a playwright write about the rawness of your culture. Whether you admit it or not, culture is beautiful, hard, fractured, joyous, tough, conflict-driven, resilient and most of all emotional. Those are all themes that are present in *King Hedley II* and match both the males and females in the story. On one hand you have the struggle of a man to define himself against the odds set by society, to define himself against the odds set by his family, and most of all to define himself against the odds set by himself. On the other hand you have women in a male dominated world fighting to not be forgotten and pushed aside fighting against the same odds. Sounds familiar?

The characters in *King Hedley II* are not much different than anyone else in dealing with the societal and personal impositions on one's life. We all make choices and there are sometimes consequences and/or rewards to those choices. Wilson is very good at showcasing that in his writings and keeping us engaged from beginning to end. We all want to see who we are rooting for WIN, and if they don't win, what's next.

We plant ourselves in "good dirt" and we grow from it. Maybe that is the lesson — to plant yourself in hope, plant yourself in opportunity, plant yourself in "good dirt" and go for the win!

Rikki Howie Lacewell



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



### August Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle

August Wilson is most known for his Pittsburgh Cycle (also known as the Century Cycle), ten plays that document African American experiences, decade-by-decade, across the 20th century. A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, Wilson's plays explore the human condition and complex themes including race relations, racial discrimination, identity, migration, and the systematic and historical exploitation of African Americans. The plays are listed in chronological order below. You'll find that characters from previous shows are echoed and referenced in August Wilson's *King Hedley II*.

**1904: *Gem of the Ocean*** > Citizen Barlow enters the home of the 285-year-old Aunt Ester who guides him on a spiritual journey to the City of Bones.

**1911: *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*** > The themes of racism and discrimination come to the forefront in this play about freed slaves, set in a Pittsburgh boarding house.

**1927: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*** > Ma Rainey's ambitions of recording an album of songs are jeopardized by the ambitions and decisions of her band.

**1936: *The Piano Lesson*** > Brother and sister Boy Willie and Berniece clash over whether or not they should sell an ancient piano that was exchanged for their great grandfather's wife and son in the days of slavery.

**1948: *Seven Guitars*** > Starting with the funeral of Floyd, a blues guitarist and singer who died just as his career was on the verge of taking off, the play tracks the events that lead to his sudden and unnatural death.

**1957: *Fences*** > Troy Maxson, a former star of the Negro baseball leagues, now works as a garbage man. Excluded as a Black man from the major leagues during his prime, Troy's bitterness takes its toll on his relationships with his wife and his son, who now wants his own chance to play ball.

**1969: *Two Trains Running*** > Set in Memphis Lee's coffee shop, a hangout for a host of regulars, this play looks at the Civil rights movement of the 60s and the uncertain future promised to African Americans at the time.

**1977: *Jitney*** > Five tireless drivers of unlicensed taxicabs, jitneys, fight for love, survival and respect as the powers-that-be threaten to close their garage in the name of neighborhood improvement.

**1985: *King Hedley II*** > One of Wilson's darkest plays, an ex-con tries to start afresh by selling refrigerators with the intent of buying a video store. Characters from *Seven Guitars* reappear throughout.

**1997: *Radio Golf*** > Aunt Ester returns in this modern story of city politics and the quest from two monied Pittsburgh men to try and redevelop an area of Pittsburgh.



## PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive Producer	Rebecca J. Harris
Producer	Christine Farrell
Director	Rikki Howie Lacewell
Stage Manager	Sophia Menconi
Assistant Stage Manager	Rikki Howie Lacewell
Fight Choreographer	Stefan Sittig
Intimacy Coach	Rikki Howie Lacewell
Lighting Design	Jeff Auerbach and Kimberly Crago
Sound Design	David Correia and Maurice Crittendon
Set Design	Sammy Jungwirth
Set Painting	Greg Lacewell and Rikki Howie Lacewell
Set Decoration	Rikki Howie Lacewell
Properties	Lakesha Larry
Master Carpenters	Greg Lacewell, Rikki Howie Lacewell
Costume Design	Shawn g. Byers
Hair Design	Shemika Renée
Makeup Design	Shemika Renée
Set Construction, Painting and Load-in	Greg Lacewell, Rikki Howie Lacewell, Christine Farrell, Dave Correia, Brianna Goode, Eleanore Tapscott, Alex Bryce, KJ Jacks, Ben Martz
Board Operators	David Correia, Christine Farrell, Brianna Goode, Rebecca Harris
Playbill Design	Dave Moretti
Photography	Nate Jackson, Kristopher Northrop

## SPECIAL THANKS

Alex Bryce, Maurice Crittendon, Nate Jackson, KJ Jacks and Ben Martz,  
Kristopher Northrup, Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley,  
Eleanore Tapscott, Anne R. Hull, Dr. Kandace Foreman, Dave Moretti,  
NSITE, The Home Depot, The Little Theater of Alexandria,  
The Studio 3700 & Gunston Theatre Two Staff,  
and those whose names were not available when we went to press.

## SETTING THE SCENE

**Pittsburgh, the Hill District, 1985. The backyards of a row of three houses.**

*Peddling stolen refrigerators in the feeble hope of making enough money to open a video store, King Hedley, a man whose self-worth is built on self-delusion, is scraping in the dirt of an urban backyard trying to plant seeds where nothing will grow.*

*Getting, spending, killing and dying in a world where getting is hard and killing is commonplace are threads woven into this 1980's installment in the author's renowned cycle of plays about the black experience in America. Drawing on characters established in Seven Guitars, King Hedley II shows the shadows of the past reaching into the present as King seeks retribution for a lie perpetrated by his mother regarding the identity of his father.*

- Concord Theatricals

## CAST

<i>Elmore</i>	Alonzo Farley
<i>King Hedley II</i>	Mack Leamon
<i>Mister</i>	Denzell Massenburg
<i>Ruby</i>	JoAn Monplaisir
<i>Tonya</i>	Vanessa McNair
<i>Stool Pigeon</i>	Jacqueline E.G. Youm

*KING HEDLEY II* is presented in two acts with one 15-minute intermission.

**This show contains strong language and violence.**

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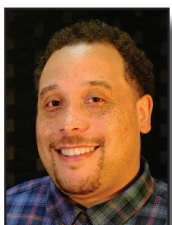
Dominion Stage is supported in part by the Arlington Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts.

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## ABOUT THE CAST



**ALONZO FARLEY** (*Elmore*) is excited to be a part of the *King Hedley II* cast. Thanks to all who have supported me in this endeavor..here I am, on your hands again.



**MACK LEAMON** (*King*) is thrilled to be making his debut at Dominion Stage, working with such a talented group of artists. Recent theater credits include: *Playing Juliet/Casting Othello* (Providence Players of Fairfax); *Radio Golf* (Peace Mountain Theater); *Fences* (LTA); *Detroit '67* (Strand Theater); *Heard it through the Grapevine - Motown Moments Tribute* (The Finest Performance Foundation); *Two Trains Runnin'* (Spotlighters Theatre); *Coming Home, Stick Fly* and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (PCP); *A Raisin in the Sun* (CRT); *The Big A: Scenes from a Vanishing Landscape* (Macomb Theater Company/DC Fringe Festival); and *Before it Hits Home* (L.U. Theater).



**DENZELL MASSENBURG** (*Mister*) is an actor from Upper Marlboro, MD and Towson University alum. He has been a part of the DC & Atlanta Black Theater Festivals, the American Film Institute, and most recently August Wilson's *Fences*, amongst other various productions. In his youth, one of his deepest fears was being in front of crowds, but he has turned that same fear into love for his craft. He believes work ethic and preparation eliminates fear. Always remembering when you know what you're capable of then what is there to fear. In acting and in life, Denzell believes imagination can take you anywhere, but it is the love that will keep you there. His boldness and love as an artist makes him a compelling personality. Denzell believes life is about people, and this profession dives into who people really are. A wise man once said, "The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role as the lover. If I love you, I have to make you conscious of things you don't see...." - James Baldwin.



**VANESSA MCNAIR** (*Tonya*) is a proud wife and mother of two. Her pastimes are science and traveling with her family. Performance credits include the television series "Hush". Vanessa is excited to perform for the first time with Dominion Stage and has enjoyed her experience. Thanks to Rikki and the rest of the cast for their support. She looks forward to her next opportunity to grace the stage



**JOAN MONPLAISIR** (*Ruby*) has appeared in and directed several theatre productions including *Fences*, *West Side Story*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Antigone*, *Kimchee* and *Chitlins*, *An American Daughter*, and *The Laramie Project*. She is honored to be playing in her second August Wilson production this year! JoAn credits her boisterous family for her love of theatrical arts and thanks her loving parents, siblings, niece, and close friends for their support. As a Haitian American and native of Brooklyn, NY, JoAn has been living in Maryland since 2012. She proudly serves the community as a clinical social worker and birth and postpartum doula.



**JACQUELINE E.G. YOUM** (*Stool Pigeon*) is excited to make her Dominion Stage debut with August Wilson's *King Hedley II*. She is a Senegalese American actor, lawyer, and French/English/Spanish/Mediation/Negotiation teacher. She is passionate and insatiable when it comes to the arts. Past acting credits include: Adenikeh in *Nollywood Dreams* (Round House Theatre); Sebastian in *The Tempest* (Grassroots Shakespeare DC); Charlotte Brontë et al in *Die, Mr. Darcy, Die* (Best Medicine Rep); Ellen in *The Actor's Nightmare* (Laurel Mill Playhouse); Medea in *Medea* (JaYo Théâtre); Goneril in *Queen Lear* (TQQ/Zoom Shakespeare), Mephistopheles/Lechery/Duchess in *Doctor Faustus-The Rude Mechanicals*, Nora in *A Doll's House, Part 2* (SSS), King Claudius in *Hamless* (The Rude Mechanicals), Miss Vida Levering in *Votes for Women!: A Play in Three Acts* (Zenith Players & JaYo Théâtre), and Mary Stuart in *Mary Stuart* (Zenith Players). She couldn't pursue her passions without the loving support of her family & friends. You can find some of her virtual productions on Youtube (Cestjackie): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvd4LWK9h1msuj9oeFXHtng> | Instagram: @jy\_artiste "La langue est un théâtre dont les mots sont les acteurs." - Ferdinand Brunetière

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## ABOUT THE TEAM

**SHAWN g. BYERS** (Costume Design) has had various theatrical endeavors around the area including onstage roles, costume design, directing and producing. He earned his degree in theatre and was on the DS board of directors for 4 years.

**DAVID CORREIA** (Sound Design) This is David's third production as Sound Designer for Dominion Stage. Earlier in the year David did the sound design for *Title of Show* and *The Bluest Eye* for Dominion Stage, *Bright Star*, *Prelude to a Kiss* and *The Revolutionists* for the Little Theater of Alexandria (LTA). Previous productions include *The Judicial Murder of Mrs. Surratt*, *Fools* (ACCT), and *The Lion in Winter* (TAP). Previous notable productions include *Hairspray* (2011 WATCH Award for Sound Design in a Musical), *Spamalot* (2014 Watch Nomination for Sound Design in a Musical and LTA's production of *Proof* (2014 WATCH Nomination for Sound Design in a Play)

**MAURICE CRITTENDON** (Sound Design) Recruiting Specialist for NSITE has a love for theater. A lover of music, voiceover work, and stage managing, he is also a member of the Confidence Theatrics Radio Troupe and recently started joining in on National Federation of the Blind's online radio shows. This is his first time doing sound for theater. Thanks to Rikki for giving me the opportunity to find some sick tunes to enhance your enjoyment of *King Hedley II*.

**CHRISTINE FARRELL** (Producer) is proud to be a member of the production team for August Wilson's *King Hedley II*. Favorite past Dominion Stage production team credits include: *Heathers: The Musical*, *Snakebit*, *Bent*, *Urinetown: The Musical* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!* She is happy to be back working behind the scenes and helping audiences experience live theater! #lovenikki

**JK LIGHTING, JEFFREY SCOTT AUERBACH and KIMBERLY CRAGO** (Lighting Design) Jeff and Kimberly want to dedicate this show and its art to their friend, Nicole "Nikki" Summons. Nikki could light up a room. Her smile and personality were bubbly and bright. She moved to New York City to pursue a career in acting on the New York stages. She encouraged her friends to follow their dreams just as she had. Nikki also supported all of her friends by going to see their shows. Nikki was taken from us at the young age of 44. We miss her so much. We love you, Nikki. Please sit back and enjoy this fantastic production of *King Hedley II*. Celebrate Nikki, the cast and the crew of this fantastic production!

**SAMMY JUNGWIRTH** (Scenic Design) Sammy is a 17-year-old theater artist who has worked on over 100 theatrical productions in the Baltimore area. He has been a performer and technical assistant at the children's Playhouse of Maryland for 10 years along with studying technical theater in school, has worked at various theaters including Cockpit in Court Summer theater, Ovations Theater, Bowie Playhouse and more. He is a 2-time Young Performers of America winner for acting, a 3-time Cappie award winner for technical theater, and a 2-time Broadway World Regional Awards Nominee for Best Scenic design. He will be directing the American Premier of *Zelda* later this year. He would like to thank his mentors Diane M. Smith and Jason Randolph for their continued support.

**GREG LACEWELL** (Master Carpenter/Set Painting) was forced to build the set for his wife Rikki. "Happy wife happy life." Hedley should maybe think of that. By day Greg is a Regional Delivery Manager for The Home Depot and by night he's the same. Enjoy the show.

**RIKKI HOWIE LACEWELL** (Director, Assistant Stage Manager, Intimacy Coach, Master Carpenter/Set Painting) is thrilled to be directing at Dominion Stage. Prior Dominion Stage work has been *The Wild Party* (Kate), *Best Little W!House in Texas* (Jewel), *Dreamgirls* (Choreographer), *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (Choreographer). When not on stage Rikki is a Workforce Initiatives Specialist for NSITE/National Industries for the Blind. She is also the owner of Confidence Theatrics which is a theatrical diversity company that works with theater companies to expand their diversity and equality from the boardroom to the greenroom. Rikki is excited to be fully booked coming out of the pandemic. Having just completed directing *Dot* at CBCC Essex and choreographing *The Lightning Thief* at Silhouette Stages, next up is: *Crowns* at 2nd Star Productions (Directing), *The Mountaintop* at GAC (Directing), *Seussical* at BCT (choreographing), *The Color Purple* at SMP (Directing), and *Merrily We Roll Along* at GAC (choreographing). I hope to one day direct all of August Wilson's plays – 5 down, 5 to go. Thank you to family, friends and my close-knit production team for going on this journey with me. This production for me is dedicated to Nikki Summons and Patricia Jackson. Enjoy the show and always plant yourself in fertile ground, surround yourself with those who love and support you, squeeze the ones you love every day, honor your past while working towards your future and always be true to you. #lovenikki

**LAKESHA LARRY** (Properties Design) "Give me my props!" A newcomer to the world of theatrics, Lakesha brings a knack for anticipating the needs of her clients, a talent for the "hunt", and a passion for excellence to the stage. Lakesha currently resides in Northern Virginia and holds a Bachelor's degree in Food and Nutrition with a concentration in Restaurant and Institution Management. When she is not spoiling her mini Schnauzer, Duchess, she spends her spare time decorating and baking for friends, family, and farmer's markets.



## ABOUT THE TEAM

**SOPHIA MENCONI** (Stage Manager) is a Washington, DC based director, stage manager, and theatre educator. She is the Technical Director at Gonzaga College High School, where she teaches stage craft and designs the school shows. **SELECTED STAGE MANAGEMENT CREDITS:** NextStop Theatre Company: *Little Women the Musical*; Cogent Theatre Collective: *Closer*; Silver Spring Stage: *She Kills Monsters*, *Ada and the Engine*, *Intimate Apparel*; Wildwood Summer Theatre: *Theory of Relativity*. **UPCOMING:** *Grave Mistakes* at Hollins University. **EDUCATION:** She is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in New Play Development at Hollins University's Playwright's Lab. She is a proud graduate of Denison University.

**SHEMIKA RENEE** (Hair and Makeup Design) is a costumer, award-nominated and -winning actress (WATCH Award nominee 2015 and First Qtr Winner Enginuity Film Festival 2017), and an award-winning makeup artist (WATCH Awards 2013 and Clifton Film Celebration 2017). She is also the former Head Costumer and Makeup Adjunct Professor at the College of Southern Maryland. After serving in the Air Force for 5-1/2 years, this former officer decided to pursue her dreams of being on stage and film. She has performed on many stages throughout the DMV, to include roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Miracle Worker*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *Fences*, *The Color Purple*, *Seven Guitars*, *August: Osage County*, and *Ragtime*. Her costume, makeup and hair designs have spanned shows from fantasy to period-era productions. She has done background work on "House of Cards", "The Blacklist" and "VEEP". In addition to being an Historical Interpreter at The National Colonial Farm in Accokeek, MD, she also travels to schools throughout Maryland bringing historical figures to life. She recently portrayed Harriet Tubman at The Capitol Building in honor of Harriet Tubman Day, sponsored by Democratic Vice Presidential nominee, Senator Kamala Harris.

**STEFAN SITTIG** (Fight Choreographer) DC: *Falling Water* (Kennedy Center), *Polaroid Stories* (Studio Theatre), *Man of La Mancha* (Washington Savoyards), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (OCT – Helen Hayes Award nomination), *The Wiz* (ATLAS), *That Championship Season*, *Hollywood Pinafore*, *Picnic*, *The Seven-Year Itch*, *Hotel Universe*, *The Sign In Sidney Brustein's Window*, *Luv* (all with TACT), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Workhouse). **REGIONAL:** *Peter Pan*, *Good Night Desdemona Good Morning Juliet*, *Abundance*, *Company*, *1776*. **COMMUNITY:** *Hamlet* (PCP – WATCH nomination), *Omnium Gatherum* (SSS), *The Clean House* (ESP) and for LTA: *Design for Murder*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Moonlight & Magnolias*, *West Side Story* (WATCH Award), and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 25+ years with Society of American Fight Directors, faculty GMU's School of Theater. [www.stefansittig.com](http://www.stefansittig.com)

# COMING DOMINION STAGE | SEASON 73! SOON

## Boston Marriage

WINTER  
2023

## HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

SPRING  
2023

## GUIDE TO THEATERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ACCT -	RCP – Reston Community Players
Aldersgate Church Community Theatre	RTP - Rooftop Players
CFTC - City of Fairfax Theatre Company	SMP – St. Mark's Players
CRT – Castaways Repertory Theatre	SSS - Silver Spring Stage
CSC - Centenary Stage Company	TAP – The Arlington Players
DS – Dominion Stage	TAT – The Alliance Theatre
DTC – Damascus Theatre Company	TFT – Taking Flight Theater
FCT - Fauquier Community Theatre	VTC – Vienna Theater Company
LTA – The Little Theatre of Alexandria	ZS – Zemfira Stage
MCP – McLean Community Players	
PCP - Port City Playhouse	WATCH -
PPF – Providence Players of Fairfax	Washington Area Theatre
PWLT – Prince William Little Theater	Community Honors