



Neptune's new play reimagines Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's last night alive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Halifax, NS – February 20, 2018 – Neptune Theatre's collaboration with Montreal's Black Theatre World culminates in *The Mountaintop*, opening in Fountain Hall February 27.

The show, directed by poet, producer and director **ahdri zhina mandiola** is a reimagining of the final hours in the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before his assassination on April 4, 1968. Following the delivery of his speech now known as "I've Been To The Mountaintop," Dr. King retreats to room 306 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, where he confronts his destiny as a leader of the Civil Rights movement, with the help of Camae, a mysterious hotel maid.

Starring **Letitia Brookes** as Camae and **Tristan D. Lalla** as Dr. King, this production of *The Mountaintop* is a collaborative presentation between Neptune and the Black Theatre Workshop, which premiered the play at the Segal Theatre for the Performing Arts in Montreal in October. The play, written by Katori Hall, initially premiered in London in 2009, winning the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play. It later premiered on Broadway in 2011 starring Angela Bassett and Samuel L. Jackson in his Broadway debut.

"We are incredibly lucky to have this play on our stage," said Jeremy Webb, Artistic Director. "While it is a reimagining of Martin Luther King Jr's final hours alive in the Lorraine Motel, it brings the audience closer to what his thoughts may have been on that night nearly 50 years ago with strong performances from Tristan and Letitia."

"*The Mountaintop* reminds us that the great Dr. King's dreams were and are still a part of our collective, everyday dreaming," said ahdri zhina mandiola, director. "In this time where attempting to right some of the wrongs wrought by past actions – like replacing statues with reconciliation, humanizing our heroes is a necessary part of our public rites."

The Mountaintop begins in Fountain Hall with three preview performances on February 27 – the Pay What You Can performance, February 28 and March 1, before opening Friday, March 2 and runs until Sunday, March 18.

Directed by **ahdri zhina mandiola** and starring Letitia Brookes and Tristan D. Lalla, *The Mountaintop* design team includes **Eo Sharp** as Set and Costume Designer, **David Parreault Ninacs** as Lighting Designer, **Howard Davis** as Video Designer and **Rob Denton** as Composer. The stage management team includes **Heather Lewis** as Stage Manager **Patricia Vinluan** as Apprentice Stage Manager.

The Mountaintop is sponsored by Premiere Suites and Telus.

Tickets can be purchased online at neptunetheatre.com, by phone at 902-429-7070 or toll-free 1-800-565-7345, or in person at the Box Office, 1593 Argyle Street. Find out more about Neptune Theatre on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channel NeptuneHFX.

Now in its 55th Season, Neptune Theatre inspires audiences with great stories. Located at 1593 Argyle Street, Neptune boasts two newly renovated stages: Fountain Hall and the Scotiabank Stage, plus a year-round Theatre School and a province-wide Young Neptune Company Tour.

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