

Solstice

A New Holiday Adventure

WRITTEN BY
JONATHAN NORTON

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY
JANIELLE KASTNER

DIRECTED BY
VICKIE WASHINGTON

CO-DIRECTED BY
RICHARD T. QUADRI

MUSIC, LYRICS AND
MUSIC DIRECTION BY
CHERISH ROBINSON

06
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2018



#t3solstice

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This playbill is a publication of Theatre Three, Inc. in support of *Solstice: A New Holiday Adventure* (the fourth show in the 2018-19 season) on the Norma Young Arena Stage.

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THEATRE THREE'S 2018 - 2019 SEASON



Solstice: A New Holiday Adventure

Written by Jonathan Norton

With Contributions by Janielle Kastner

Directed by vickie washington

Co-Directed by Richard T. Quadri

Music, Lyrics and Music Direction by Cherish Robinson

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vickie washington

CO-DIRECTOR

Richard T. Quadri

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Cherish Robinson

SCENIC DESIGN

Jeffrey Schmidt

COSTUME DESIGN

Rhonda Gorman

LIGHTING DESIGN

Aaron Johansen

SOUND DESIGN

Michael Boss

ANIMATION DESIGN

Sid Curtis

CHOREOGRAPHY

Danielle Georgiou, PhD.

CAST

STUART

Paul T. Taylor*

PAULETTE

M. Denise Lee*

GREG and LEANDER

Jason R. Villarreal

MISERY, MARIA, NORTHPARK MOM#1, and LOLA

Marti Etheridge

RILEY, KID and MISS NANCY-KEEPER OF THE KEYS

Abby Chapman

ALPHER, CHRISTY, NORTHPARK MOM#2, and THE LEAPING HARE

Nikka Morton

JOHNNIE TAYLOR

Cherish Robinson**

PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGE MANAGER

Monika Zimmermann*

SOUND ENGINEER

Mark Howard

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Emily Ann Probus

Kaylor Winter-Roach

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* indicates members working under Actors' Equity Association contracts in this production.

** indicates a performer enrolled in the AEA membership candidate program.

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Solstice

What it is...

A gift from the mind and heart of Jonathan Norton, Janielle Kastner, and Cherish Robinson.

To coin a phrase, a new holiday adventure!

Take equal parts of fun and funny and frivolity, mix in family and fantasy and frolicking.

Blend well.

Add some Spices.

Lots of Love...Great Music...Happy Hips...

Annnnd Shopping. Lots of Shopping!

Oh! And getting cozy in the woods...verrrry cozy!

Thank you for taking this wild and wacky ride with us through our Solstice night. A night sometimes filled with shadows, uncertainties, and longing. There are some loop-de-loops, a few bumps, and the highs and lows of life. We invite you to climb in and hang on as we travel through the night to the Magic that awaits us when we face our fears and embrace Love!

-vickie washington & Richard T. Quadri



About the Playwrights

Jonathan Norton

Jonathan's artistic homes include Theatre Three, PlayPenn, Pyramid Theatre Company, Black and Latino Playwrights Conference, South Dallas Cultural Center, Bishop Arts Theatre Center, InterAct Theatre Company, Kitchen Dog, Undermain Theatre, African American Rep, and Soul Rep. His play *Mississippi Goddam* was a Finalist for the Harold and Mimi Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award and won the 2016 M. Elizabeth Osborn Award given by the American Theatre Critics Association. Starting January 2019, he begins a two year residency at the Dallas Theater Center made possible by the TACA Bowdon Family Foundation Artist Residency Fund. Upcoming: *Penny Candy*, Dallas Theater Center – June 2019.

Janielle Kastner

Janielle Kastner is a Dallas-based writer and performance deviser. Currently she's devising a play about journalism based on the Dallas Morning News and working on a commission from Dallas Theater Center, where she was an inaugural member of the Dallas Playwrights' Workshop with Will Power. Janielle won a "2016 Mastermind Award" (Dallas Observer) for co-founding *The Tribe*, and was named "Best New Playwright 2016" (Dallas Observer). Her plays include *Sweetpea*, *Heaven's Gates*, *Hell's Flames*, and *Ophelia Underwater*. Additionally, she co-runs Dallas cult classic *Movies That Should be Musicals*. She holds degrees

in Theatre and English from Southern Methodist University. janiellekastner.com.

Artistic Staff Biographies

vickie washington DIRECTOR

vickie washington is a theatre artist who directs, acts, produces, and teaches. She received the Dallas Observer 2015 Best Director recognition for the world premiere production of Jonathan Norton's *Mississippi Goddam*. Additional directing credits include *Passing Strange*, *Sunset Baby*, *Fences*, *Speech and Debate*, *Magnolia*, *The Ballad of Jane Elkins*, *Angela's Mixtape*, *The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated*, *Colored Minstrel Show*, *Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963*, and *Fabulation*. Her performance credits include; *Primer for a Failed Superpower with The TEAM*, a Brooklyn based devised theatre company, *Crowns, for colored girls....*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, ...and *Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi*, *Contribution*, *The Tempest*, *Piano Lesson*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Home*, *Macbeth*, and *From the Mississippi Delta* for which she received Best Actress recognition from the Dallas Critics Forum. Her acting credits extend to the screen with *Random Acts of Flyness* (HBO), *Indie films*, *They Charge for the Sun*, *Swimming in Your Skin Again* (official Sundance selection), and *Steps of Faith*. She is founder and producing director of r . t . w ~ reading the writers, a readers theatre performance organization. Her work as a theatre artist extends to sharing her talent, passion, and knowledge with the students of Dallas' Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts as an instructor and director in

the theatre department. A proud member of Actor's Equity, vickie deeply values the gift of theatre and the powerful ways in which it can be utilized to tell the stories of the African Diaspora. #onandup

Richard T. Quadri CO-DIRECTOR

Richard T. Quadri is a graduate of the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (2010) and served as the 2018-2019 Casting Director for Theatre Three. He most recently directed in this year's *1-Minute Play Festival* with Kitchen Dog Theater. Previous directing credits include *Every November* (Mountain View College), *Chained* (PUP Fest), *Writer's Block* (PUP Fest), *Hell is Underemployed* (Booker T. Washington HSPVA), *Beulah Land* (Bishop Arts Theatre Center), *After the Party* (Mountain View College), *Contribution* (Soul Rep), *Herbert III* (Soul Rep), *Brightside Sociopaths* (UNT), *Women & Wallace* (UNT), and *Beirut* (UNT University Players). Previous assistant directing credits include *Cedar Springs or Big Scary Animals* (Theatre Three), *The Minotaur* (Theatre Three), *Passing Strange* (Theatre Three), *A Christmas Carol* (Dallas Theatre Center), and *Mississippi Goddam* (South Dallas Cultural Center).

Jeffrey Schmidt SCENIC DESIGN

Jeffrey Schmidt is an actor, director, and designer. Favorite directing assignments for Theatre Three include *She Kills Monsters*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, *On the Eve*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, and *Tally's Folly*. He has worked with many other professional theaters in the metroplex including Casa Mañana, Shakespeare Dallas, Trinity Shakespeare, Kitchen Dog Theater, Undermain Theatre, Dallas Children's Theater, Second

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Thought Theatre, Stage West, and WaterTower Theatre, to name a few. He has appeared in numerous TV shows and films, including *Parkland*, *American Crime*, *Queen of the South*, *Crash*, *Friday Night Lights*, and *Distant Vision* with Francis Ford Coppola. In addition to being Theatre Three's new Artistic Director, he is the Executive Artistic Director of The Drama Club. Look for him next spring when he reads for Arts and Letters Live at the DMA.

Rhonda Gorman COSTUME DESIGN

Rhonda is absolutely thrilled to be designing for the first time at Theatre Three. Rhonda holds a MFA from SMU and is an Associate Professor of Drama at Texas Woman's University.

Aaron Johansen LIGHTING DESIGN

Aaron is thrilled to be returning to Theatre Three with *Solstice*! Aaron spent eight years with the Dallas Theater Center starting as the lighting intern in 2007. In 2015 he amicably departed the company as their Lighting Supervisor to pursue a career as a full-time lighting designer. You might have seen his work at Dallas Theater Center, Dallas Children's Theater, Kitchen Dog Theater (Artistic Company Member), Second Thought Theatre (Artistic Associate, Resident Lighting Designer 2014-present), Cry Havoc Theater, and Cara Mía Theatre company. I hope you enjoy the show!

Michael Boss SOUND DESIGN

Michael Boss attended the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts. Michael went on

to accept a scholarship from the Berklee World Scholarship Tour. Michael attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston and graduated in 2008, concentrating in Film Scoring, Composition, and Music Production. After 5 years of performing, touring, and composing in Brooklyn, New York, Michael returned to Dallas in 2012 and has performed, composed, and instructed music for the past 5 years. He is currently pursuing an MFA in Composition at SMU and is the Assistant Director at the Lake Highlands School of Music. Michael is very happy to be back with Theatre Three providing sound design and music production.

Sid Curtis ANIMATION DESIGN

A life-long entertainment industry veteran, Sid began career her as an actress in childhood then began her professional life as a designer (sets, lighting, costumes, & graphics) in high school. She has toured the world as a Lighting Designer/Director/ Master Electrician for acts ranging from Anthrax & Public Enemy to Lou Reed. She was the Art Director for MTV's Times Square Studios for 6 years and currently owns her own design company providing scenic design, graphic design and video production for corporate events. She is delighted to be participating in her original love, theatre, through her work with Theatre Three.

Danielle Georgiou, PhD. CHOREOGRAPHY

Danielle Georgiou is a Dallas-based choreographer and performance artist. In 2011,

she began a performance project, the Danielle Georgiou Dance Group, which is an ensemble-based dance theatre group that produces original dance plays and musicals. Her choreographic work has recently been seen at Kitchen Dog Theater, Undermain Theatre, and Theater Three. Last season, she choreographed *Adding Machine*, directed by Blake Hackler. Her most recent Theatre Three credit was *Once*!

Monika Zimmermann AEA STAGE MANAGER

Monika is delighted to once again be working with Theatre Three. Her recent stage management and assistant stage management credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Last One Night on the Death Trail* starring the *Disappointment Players* and *Solstice: Songs and Stories for the Holidays* at Theatre Three, *Cyrano* at Amphibian Stage Productions, and *Pride and Prejudice* at WaterTower Theatre. Additionally, she has stage managed for Theatre Too at Theatre Three, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, and Musical Theatre Academy. Her favorite shows have been *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Birds*, *Memphis*, *Psycho Beach Party*, and *Parade*. Monika is a proud Actors Equity Association Member. Her favorite Holiday song is "Little Drummer Boy" and she wants to wish everyone a joyful holiday season.

Mark Howard
SOUND ENGINEER
Mark's work as a sound designer/engineer has been



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■ CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

heard in numerous theatres throughout the DFW area. Select sound credits include *Mamma Mia*, *Secret Garden*, *Dogfight*, *The Last Five Years*, the Regional Premieres of *Once*, *Disaster!*, *Hit The Wall*, *Welcome to Arroyo's*, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, and *Big Fish*. In addition to his work as a sound designer/engineer, Mark is also a freelance percussionist in the metropolplex. howardsounddesign@gmail.com

Cast Biographies



Paul T. Taylor

(STUART) Paul played Stuart in *Solstice* (2017) and is very happy to be back for another go! His favorite Theatre Three experiences have been *Assassins*, *Drood!*, *Bat Boy*, *The Hot Mikado*, and *Look What's Happened to Pixie Da Costa!* Other Dallas - FW favorites include *Mr. Burns*, a post-electric play (Stage West), *Urinetown* (Watertower), *Forever Plaid* (Casa Manana), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Contemporary) and *10 out of 12* (Undermain). At Lincoln Center, he was in the Korean Opera *The Last Empress* and starred in *Shear Madness* at The Kennedy Center. His film and television work includes *Sin City*, *Soul Men*, *Super*, *Alternative Math*, *Friday Night Lights* and *Prisonbreak*. Paul also played the cult horror villain "Pinhead" in *Hellraiser: Judgment*, the tenth film in

the long-running franchise. Website: paulttaylor.com



M. Denise Lee

(PAULETTE) Regional: *Solstice: Stories and Songs for the Holidays*, *Once On This Island*, *Avenue Q* – Theatre Three; *Stagger Lee*, *The Wiz*, *Bella* – Dallas Theater Center; *Rasheeda Speaking* – Circle Theatre; *Rock of Ages*, *Once On This Island* – Casa Manana; *Crowns* – Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. Television: *Queen of the South*, *Dallas*, *Memphis Beat*. Founder: Denise Lee OnStage Cabaret Series and Dallas Cabaret Festival. Awards: Sammons Center Cabaret Artist of the Year, Broadway World & Dallas Voice Best Cabaret Performer '16 & '17. Proud mom of Janelle and Traci. www.deniseleeonstage.com



Jason R. Villarreal

(GREG, LEANDER) Jason Robert Villarreal is just gay with holiday cheer to be returning to Theatre Three. Jason graduated with a BFA in performance from The University of Texas at Arlington and has performed in shows across the U.S. and DFW area. Other local credits include Lyric Stage, Theatre Too, L.I.P.

Service. Second Thought, Uptown Players, Casa Mañana, Dallas Children's Theatre and more. Thank you to everyone for supporting Art! To his friends and family, Love you Muncho Muncho Monton! Instagram @jayvill87



Marti Etheridge

(MISERY, MARIA, NORTHPARK MOM#1, and LOLA) Marti Etheridge is excited to be back on this wild *Solstice* ride. Represented by The Mary Collins Agency, you might have seen her on stages all over DFW, on the small screen, or heard one of her many animated voices. Marti is thankful to the *Solstice* team, the team at home (her wildly attractive husband and child), and the Lord above.



Abby Chapman

(RILEY, KID and MISS NANCY-KEEPER OF THE KEYS) Abby's theater credits include Dallas Theater Center (*A Christmas Carol* - Young Scrooge, *Les Miserables* - Young Eponine), Casa Mañana (*The Little Mermaid* - Flounder), Dallas Children's Theater and WaterTower Theater (*CREEP* - Young Mary). Film credits

■ CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

include *Before We Grow Up*, *The Lamp*, *Stephanie*, *Underneath* and *To Whom It May Concern*. Abby is a freshman at Booker T. Washington and attends Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Training Center in New York. She is thrilled to be in her first Theatre Three production and would like to thank Vickie Washington and other members of the *Solstice* production team for giving her this opportunity.



Nikka Morton

(ALPHER, CHRISTY, NORTHPARK MOM#2, and THE LEAPING HARE) Nikka is excited to be returning to

her first love Theatre Three "There's no place like home!" Since her last production here as Mother in the regional premier *Passing Strange*, she has been seen in *BeeHive* at Jubilee Theatre, *Goosebumps* at Dallas Children's Theatre, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at Granbury Operahouse. Nikka is thrilled to be working with this amazing cast and production team and dedicates her performance to her family for their enduring love and unfailing support.



Cherish Robinson

MUSIC, LYRICS and MUSIC DIRECTION/(JOHNNIE TAYLOR) Cherish is thrilled

to be returning as music director, composer, and actress at Theatre Three. She was previously seen in *Cradle Will Rock* at Brick Road Theater (Ella Hammer), *Madagascar* at Casa Mañana (Gloria the Hippo), and *Sister Act* at Irving MainStage (Deloris). Among her credits, BroadwayWorld (Dallas) hailed her as one of DFW's 'Fresh Faces of 2017'. Also, Robinson was recently seen on *The Colbert Show* and Austin City Limits with Elle King—vocally arranging/producing several of her songs reaching number one on the Billboard charts. www.cherishloverobinson.com

■ GLOSSARY

Hydrocodone – A narcotic used for relief of moderate to severe pain. 99% of the worldwide supply in 2007 was consumed in the United States.

Johnnie Taylor – An American recording artist and songwriter who performed in a wide variety of genres, from blues, rhythm and blues, soul and gospel to pop, doo-wop, and disco. Taylor was a DJ for Dallas' KKDA radio station and lived in Dallas from 1980 until his death in May, 2000.

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