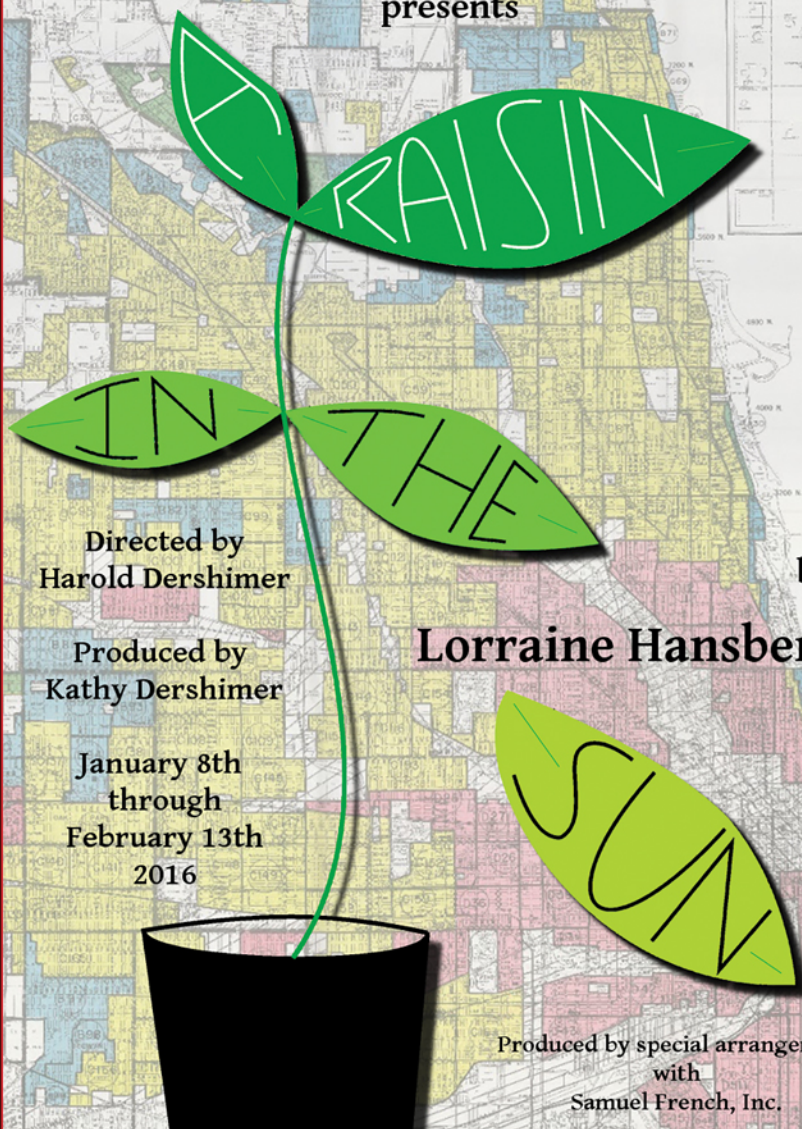


FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players
presents



Directed by
Harold Dershimer

Produced by
Kathy Dershimer

January 8th
through
February 13th
2016

by

Lorraine Hansberry

Produced by special arrangement
with
Samuel French, Inc.

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

by Lorraine Hansberry

Director

Harold Dersheimer

Producer

Kathy Dersheimer

Set Design
Jim Crawford &
Bruce Starrett

Lighting Design
Bruce Starrett

Sound Design
Susan Stangl

Costume Design
Kathy Dersheimer

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Ruth Younger.....	Shannon O'Connor
Travis Younger.....	Isaiah Suber
Walter Lee Younger.....	Damon Rutledge
Beneatha Younger.....	Charlotte Williams
Lena (Mama) Younger.....	Patricia Newman
Joseph Asagai.....	Jean Michels
George Murchison.....	Rashod Davenport
Mrs. Johnson.....	Ruth Featherstone
Karl Lindner.....	Daniel Kruger
Bobo.....	Kowalsky Lucien

Setting

The Younger family's apartment on Chicago's South Side

Time

The 1950s

Part One

Act I Scene I Friday morning

Act I Scene II Saturday morning (the following day)

Act II Scene I Saturday afternoon (the same day)

Part Two

Act II Scene II Friday night (a few weeks later)

Act II Scene III Saturday afternoon (a week later)

Act III Saturday afternoon (an hour later)

There will be a 15-minute intermission between **Part One** and **Part Two**.
Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission, courtesy of Kentwood Players.

Presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

About the Cast



Rashod Davenport (George Murchison) – A Harrisburg, Pennsylvania native, Rashod has been "a character" his entire life. Starting his career as a model, he felt that photos didn't have the same voice or emotion that theater and film do. Now, he is living his dream as an actor. "Laughter and Love are everything. They're the healing power of the world. I try to spread as much of both as I can in life."



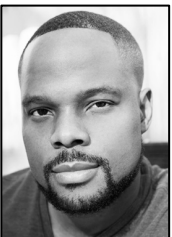
Ruth Featherstone (Mrs. Johnson) – Psalmist Ruth Andrea Featherstone is a native of Pittsburgh, PA, where she's known as being this generation's "Mahalia Jackson." Just recently, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Sacred Music from Elbon Solution College of Ministry. Dr. Ruth has appeared on the "Dr. Bobby Jones Show", Chicago's "Singsation" hosted by Vicki Winans, Sheraton Broadcast "Inspiration Across America", Aaron Spelling's TV show "7th Heaven", "Pittsburgh Gospel Showcase", "Los Angeles 2000 Democratic Convention", "Alama Vision Christian Telethon", and the Gospel Music Channel's "Gospel Dreams". Her stage credits include: *I Have a Dream*, *Precious Lord*, *Freedom Fighters*, *Crossing the Line*, *Mustard Seed*, and *Ragtime*, for which Dr. Ruth was nominated for the Marcom Masques Award 2013 as "Best Supporting Actress" for her role as Sarah's Friend. She is so excited to be on the Westchester Playhouse stage one more time.



Daniel Kruger (Karl Lindner) – is *truly* honored to be a part of this production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. A South Bay local, Daniel has performed in numerous theatres throughout Los Angeles and Orange County including the James Armstrong Theatre, South Bay CLO, Marsee Auditorium, El Segundo Performing Arts Center, Fullerton CLO, Downey CLO, Huntington Beach Theatre Co., and most recently as Nigel Rancour in Kentwood Players production of *Something's Afoot*. Some of his favorite credits include: *The Mousetrap* (Christopher Wren), *Bent* (Greta), *A Funny Thing Happened...* (Hysterium), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Motel), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Sergeant of Police), *Joseph and the Amazing...* (Benjamin). Special thanks to his family, friends, cast and crew for their support.



Kowalsky Lucien (Bobo) – has taken an affinity to the Ancient Greek proverb advising one to "Know Thyself." It often served as a warning, reminding to give no credence to the opinion of the multitude. As such he has always strived for self-growth and the attainment of truth and wisdom. He is grateful to be a part of the Westchester Playhouse's production of the *A Raisin in the Sun*. He attributes his success to God, family, and a continuous search for self-improvement. To all the major contributors to his development, mainly his mother Florence, and his brothers Jean and Ralph, he professes great thanks. "Temet Nosce."



Jean Michels (Joseph Asagai) – is overjoyed to be here with a fine cast of talented individuals. Striving for the possibilities, seeking to express truth, *A Raisin in the Sun* is no better way to do that. I would like to thank my brothers and sister Kowalsky, Ralph and Joelly, the branches of love that support me through time.



Patricia Newman (Lena (Mama) Younger) – is very happy to be back performing with the Kentwood Players. She was previously seen here in *The Miracle Worker*, and her experience was great. You can see some of her other work on the ID Cable Channel, where she starred in “Blood Relatives” and “The Jackson Family”. Patricia is excited to be playing Mama in *A Raisin in the Sun*.



Shannon O'Connor (Ruth Younger) – is extremely excited to be making her west coast premier at the Westchester Theatre. Having recently received her Masters Degree in Television, Radio, and Film from Syracuse University, Shannon hopes to become a television writer and actress in L.A. She has been performing since she was three years old and has always loved having an audience. With recent standup appearances around the city Shannon is delighted to have the chance to flex her dramatic muscles with such a talented cast and production team. This has been a once in a lifetime experience she will not forget.



Damon Rutledge (Walter Lee Younger) – A native of Los Angeles, a veteran of the United States Navy, I left the military to pursue my dream of acting. Over the past few years I have performed in numerous plays and was the winner of the prestigious Irene Ryan Award for my role in the children’s classic *James and the Giant Peach*. This role is a huge honor for me, to follow in the footsteps of the greats like Sidney Poitier, Denzel Washington, and Danny Glover. I am deeply humbled by this opportunity. Thank you, Harold and my cast mates, for an amazing journey.



Isaiah Suber (Travis Younger) – is a talented and gifted young performer that not only acts, but sings and dances as well. Recently, Isaiah performed as part of the cast of Faithful Central Bible Church (FCBC) in *The Lion King*. Also at FCBC, Isaiah appeared as one of the crows in the production of *The Wiz*. An excellent dancer, Isaiah has frequently performed with the dance ministry at Faithful Central. Isaiah is happy to play the role of Travis in *A Raisin in the Sun*, and has also been seen in *Oliver!* and *Greece* at the Westchester Playhouse. Isaiah has booked a national commercial for Blue Bunny ice cream and was selected to be part of boys’ company (without auditioning) at Marina

Del Rey Performing Arts Magnet. Isaiah is active in his church and is 1 of 4 children. The future of entertainment looks very bright for Isaiah Suber.



Charlotte Williams (Beneatha Younger) – is delighted to make her debut with the Kentwood Players. She is a recent graduate of California State University at Fullerton where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Acting. Some of her past credits include portraying Louka in *Arms in the Man* at the Long Beach Playhouse and Miss Willie in *The Curious Savage* with Torrance Theatre Company. She recently became a company member of LA’s Premiere African-American Theatre Company, *Towne Street Theatre*. She is overjoyed to be a part of this cast, and she hopes you enjoy her portrayal of the illustrious Beneatha.

About the Director

Harold Dershimier (Director) – Harold’s previous directorial projects here with the Kentwood Players include the two multiple Marcom Masque award-winning musical productions of *Oliver!* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Past additional directorial projects included *All My Sons*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, and two runs of *Catholic School Girls* all to rave reviews. Harold has also been seen on this stage in *Something’s Afoot*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Mame*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Into the Woods*, *Sordid Lives*, *The Hollow*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Candide*, *Parade*, *A Little Night Music*, *Annie*, *Working*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *The Odd Couple*, as well as in productions with Theatre Palisades, Morgan-Wixson Theatre, and Long Beach Playhouse – all within the past 7 years! He has also been honored as a BRAVO award nominee through the Los Angeles Music Center for his musical work with elementary school children. Harold is thrilled to be working with this incredible cast/staff/crew and this beautifully crafted piece of classic literature. Thanks to my family for the support!

About the Producer

Kathy Dershimier (Producer) –is excited to have the opportunity to work as producer for *A Raisin In the Sun* with her husband, Harold. At Kentwood, she has previously co-produced *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and directed *Orphans*. She is preparing to direct the upcoming *Wait Until Dark*. Kathy is happy to be working with such a talented and dedicated cast and crew, which makes the work more fun! Hope you enjoy the show!

About the Designers

Jim Crawford (Set Design) – Set design and construction are normally a very collaborative effort and this one has been even more so due to Jim's heart attack. He would like to thank all of the Kentwood people who stepped in to design and build the set–Harold, Tony, Ben, Bruce and Doug along with many others who built the Younger's apartment.

Bruce Starrett (Set & Lighting Design) – Bruce’s first lighting design was for Harold on *Fiddler on the Roof* in 2014, and he has been looking forward to working with him again ever since. He is excited to be helping to bring the Younger’s world to life. Recent credits include *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *An Ideal Husband* for Kentwood Players, and *Frogs* and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* with Infinite Jest Theatre Company. Bruce has been a Kentwood member since 2009 and is currently serving as the theater’s Technical Manager. Thanks to Harold and Kathy for the opportunity. Love to D and the H’s. Enjoy the show!

Susan Stangl (Lighting Design) – has directed the SCENIE award-winning *Becky's New Car*, appeared in *I Remember Mama*, *Rain*, *Blood Brothers*, and *Sordid Lives*, and designed sound for over 40 shows at Kentwood Players. She has 90 shows under her belt as a sound designer so hopefully knows what she's doing by now. Thanks to Harold for the invitation to participate in this show and to Alan Goldman for his soulful compositions.

Kathy Dershimier (Costume Design) – has been doing Costume Design at Kentwood for several years. This is her 15th show since 2010, most recently *Something’s Afoot*. Some of her other favorites are *Into the Woods*, *Oliver!*, *Parade*, *Candide*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Doubt*. Kathy enjoys the challenge of helping the actor show his character and expressing the director's vision. Kathy thanks her wonderful husband and children for their support.

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

Like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore--

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over--

like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

Langston Hughes

Production Staff

Stage Manager/Script Supervisor	Jerilynn Kacena
Stage Crew	Nikki Corso, Glen Kacena
Booth Crew	Kira Sherman
Set Decoration Design	Valerie Ruel
Original Graphic Design	Andrew Dershimer
Lobby Design	Andrew Dershimer, Kathy Dershimer
Original Music Compositions	Alan Goldman
Master Builders	Ben Lupejkis, Tony Pereslete
Assistants to the Master Builders	Doug Carlson, Drew Fitzsimmons, Shawn Summerer
Set Painting	Samantha Barrios, Terry Delegeane, Drew Fitzsimmons
.....	Glen Kacena, Daniel Kruger, Kowalsky Lucien Jean Michels
.....	Melodie S. Rivers, Valerie Ruel, Damon Rutledge, Nicole Suber
Properties	Sheldon Cohen, Lori A. Marple-Pereslete
Publicity Photos	Shari Barrett
Audition Assistance	Kira Sherman, Jeanne Spain, Max Helderling Stormes
Hospitality Coordinator	Janet Lee Rodriguez
Box Office.....	April Kacena

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Miriam Amster, Samantha Barrios, Jenny Boone, Doug Carlson, William Carter,
Geanne Clarke, Sheldon Cohen, Jim Crawford, Sheridan Cole Crawford,
Harold Dershimer, Kathy Dershimer, Samuel Goldman, Charlotte Lee Gunter,
Barbara Haberman, Laura Hemmer, Lauren Jarvis, Glen Kacena, Jerilynn Kacena,
Daniel Kruger, Gretchen Luna, Ben Lupejkis, Lori A. Marple-Pereslete,
Virginia Mekkelson, Jean Michels, Melvin Miller, Calia Mintzer-Wolf, Barry Nackos,
Patricia Newman, Shannon O'Connor, Colleen Okida, Fiona Okida, Roy Okida,
Frank J. Olivadoti, Dave Parke, Tony Pereslete, Lee Polak, George Rametta, Valerie Ruel,
Bruce Starrett, Max Stormes, Isaiah Suber, Nicole Suber, Elizabeth Summerer,
Shawn Summerer, Susan Weisbarth

Special Thanks

Theatre Palisades, Mamie Hansberry, Jon Sparks

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During the performance please turn your pagers to silent,
and turn off your cell phones and alarms on your digital watches.
There is no louder sound in a theatre than the rattle of cellophane.
Please unwrap your candy or cough drops before the play begins.

Kentwood Players is a Member of the
LAX COASTAL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

You are invited to meet and greet cast members
after the performance in the Lobby.

For up to date info about Kentwood Players visit our website
www.kentwoodplayers.org

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Special Theatre Parties

If you plan to attend a performance with a group of at least
ten friends, family members, or co-workers,
special group rates apply if you book your tickets in advance.
For more information please call (310) 645-5156.

Reservations are Necessary

Please call (310) 645-5156 between 4:00pm – 7:00pm WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY
Tickets MUST be paid for by cash, check or VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER
at the time reservations are made.

Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Man of La Mancha, a Musical
Book by Dale Wasserman
Music by Mitch Leigh/Lyrics by Joe Darion
March 11 – April 16, 2016
Director: Susan Goldman Weisbarth

Clybourne Park
A Drama by Bruce Norris
May 13 – June 18, 2016
Director: George L. Rametta

Olive and the Bitter Herbs
A Comedy by Charles Busch
July 8 – August 13, 2016
Director: Kirk Larson

Wait Until Dark, a Mystery/Drama
by Frederick Knott
Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher
September 9 – October 15, 2016
Director: Kathy Dershimer

Young Frankenstein, a Musical
Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan
Music and Lyrics by Mel Brooks
November 11 – December 17, 2016
Director: Alison Mattiza

The Imaginary Invalid, a Comedy
by Molière
Translated by Charles Heron Wall
January 13 – February 18, 2017
Director: Susan Stangl

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