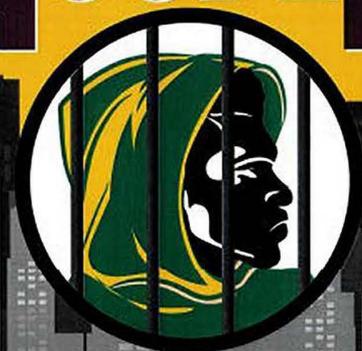


2023-2024 SEASON

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS SERIES

HOODED



OR BEING BLACK FOR DUMMIES

BY
Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm

DIRECTED BY
Lester Mayers

Nov. 17-19, 30 • Dec. 1-3

McKenna Theatre



WWW.NEWPALTZ.EDU/THEATRE



Produced by Being Hooded For Dummies in partnership with Community Theatre at New Paltz State University. www.communitytheatre.org
If you have any accessibility questions or requests, please email access@communitytheatre.org or call (845) 255-3000. All ticket fees, including \$10.00, are for the benefit of the theatre.

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

HOODED DAY

RECORDED TIMELINE

FEBRUARY 26, 2012

George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch captain in Sanford, Florida, calls 911 to report "a suspicious person" in the neighborhood. He is instructed not to get out of his SUV or approach the person. Zimmerman disregards the instructions. Moments later, neighbors report hearing gunfire. Zimmerman acknowledges that he shot Martin, claiming it was in self-defense. In a police report, Officer Timothy Smith writes that Zimmerman was bleeding from the nose and back of the head.

FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Martin's father, Tracy Martin, files a missing person's report, telling authorities that his son hasn't returned from going to the store the previous evening. Police show Martin a picture taken from the crime scene, and he confirms the dead teenager is Trayvon.

MARCH 12, 2012

Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee says that Zimmerman has not been charged because there are no grounds to disprove his version of the events.

MARCH 13, 2012

Sanford Police Department's homicide detective Christopher Serino recommends Zimmerman be charged with manslaughter. Zimmerman "failed to identify himself" as a concerned citizen or neighborhood watch member on two occasions that night. Serino reports that he thought Zimmerman's head injuries were "marginally consistent with a life-threatening episode, as described by him, during which neither a deadly weapon nor deadly force were deployed by Trayvon Martin."

MARCH 14, 2012

The case is turned over to Florida State Attorney Norm Wolfinger.

MARCH 15, 2012

In a letter to the Orlando Sentinel, Robert Zimmerman, George Zimmerman's father, writes that his son has been unfairly portrayed as a racist, and that he is Hispanic and grew up in a multiracial family.

MARCH 16, 2012

Authorities release seven 911 calls from the night of the shooting. In one of the 911 recordings, Zimmerman, against the advice of the 911 dispatcher, follows Martin. In one of the recordings, a voice screams, "Help, help!" in the background, followed by the sound of a gunshot.

MARCH 19, 2012

The Justice Department and the FBI announce that they have launched an investigation into Martin's death.

MARCH 20, 2012

A lawyer for the Martin family, Benjamin Crump, holds a news conference, telling reporters that Trayvon was on the phone with his 16-year-old girlfriend at the time of the shooting. The girl, who wishes to remain anonymous, says she heard someone ask Martin what he was doing and heard Martin ask why the person was following him, according to Crump. The girl then got the impression that there was an altercation in which the earpiece fell out of Martin's ear and the connection went dead.

MARCH 22, 2012

A petition on Change.org calling for the arrest of Zimmerman, created by the parents of Martin, surpasses 1.3 million people.

MARCH 22, 2012

Sanford Police Chief Lee announces he is stepping down "temporarily" as head of the department, which has been criticized for its handling of the fatal shooting.

MARCH 22, 2012

Florida Gov. Rick Scott announces he is appointing Angela Corey of the 4th Judicial Circuit as state attorney in the investigation, replacing Wolfinger, state attorney for Florida's 18th District, which includes Sanford, Florida.

MARCH 23, 2012

President Barack Obama speaks out publicly for the first time on the growing controversy over the shooting of Martin, saying that the incident requires national "soul-searching."

MARCH 26, 2012

Exactly one month after Trayvon Martin's death, rallies take place in cities across the country, including Sanford, Florida, where the City Commission holds a town hall meeting on the incident and its aftermath. Martin's parents speak at the meeting.

APRIL 2, 2012

FBI agents interview Martin's girlfriend, who was on the phone with him shortly before the fatal confrontation.

APRIL 11, 2012

Zimmerman is charged with second-degree murder.

APRIL 20, 2012

Zimmerman's bond hearing is held. Judge Lester sets Zimmerman's bond at \$150,000. During the hearing, Zimmerman apologizes to the family of Martin for the loss of their son.

APRIL 23, 2012

Zimmerman is released on bail at 12:05 a.m. Later in the day, Zimmerman enters a written not-guilty plea and waives his right to appear at his arraignment.

MAY 8, 2012

Judge Lester accepts Zimmerman's written plea of not guilty.

JUNE 1, 2012

Judge Lester revokes Zimmerman's bond and orders him to surrender within 48 hours after the prosecution argues that Zimmerman and his wife, Shellee Zimmerman, misrepresented their finances when Zimmerman's bond was originally set in April.

JUNE 3, 2012

Zimmerman surrenders to authorities and is taken into custody.

JUNE 12, 2012

Zimmerman's wife is arrested and charged with perjury.

JUNE 20, 2012

Sanford Police Chief Lee is officially fired.

JULY 6, 2012

Zimmerman is re-released from jail after posting the required 10% of the \$1 million bond.

JULY 13, 2012

Zimmerman's legal team files a motion requesting Judge Lester step down from the case. The motion claims Zimmerman cannot get a fair trial because Lester used "gratuitous, disparaging" language in the previous week's bail order.

AUGUST 9, 2012

A photo of Martin's body and Zimmerman's school records are mistakenly released by prosecutors. Special Prosecutor Corey's office issues a statement asking reporters to "please disregard and do not use the information contained in the initial email. It was inadvertently attached."

AUGUST 13, 2012

Zimmerman appeals Judge Lester's refusal to recuse himself.

AUGUST 29, 2012

A Florida appeals court grants Zimmerman's request for a new judge, saying Judge Lester's remarks in a bail order put Zimmerman in reasonable fear of a fair trial.

AUGUST 30, 2012

Judge Debra Nelson is assigned to replace Judge Lester in the Zimmerman case.

DECEMBER 7, 2012

Zimmerman sues NBC Universal for allegedly editing the 911 call he placed on the night of the tragic event. He states in the lawsuit that NBC unfairly made it appear that "Zimmerman was a racist, and that he was racially profiling Trayvon Martin."

FEBRUARY 9, 2013

The Justice for Trayvon Martin Foundation hosts a "Day of Remembrance Community Peace Walk and Forum" in Miami. It takes place four days after what would have been Martin's birthday.

APRIL 5, 2013

Martin's parents settle a wrongful death claim against the homeowners' association of the Florida subdivision where their son was killed.

APRIL 30, 2013

Zimmerman waives his right to a "stand your ground" pretrial immunity hearing. Zimmerman's attorneys decided they would instead try this as a self-defense case. If there had been a pretrial immunity hearing, a judge would have ruled whether Zimmerman's actions were protected under the "stand your ground" law. If the judge had ruled in favor of Zimmerman, it would have meant that no criminal or civil trial could proceed.

MAY 28, 2013

Judge Nelson rules on several motions brought by the defense. Nelson rules that Martin's familiarity with guns, his marijuana use, and fights he may have been in cannot be brought up in Zimmerman's trial. She also denies a request to take the jury to the crime scene. Nelson rules that jurors will remain anonymous and will be referred to by numbers only.

JUNE 20, 2013

An all-female jury is selected.

JUNE 24, 2013

The trial begins with opening statements.

JULY 13, 2013

The six-woman jury finds Zimmerman not guilty. They had three choices: find Zimmerman guilty of second-degree murder; find him guilty of the lesser charge of manslaughter; or find him not guilty. The jurors deliberated for more than 16 hours total.

AUGUST 28, 2013

Shellee Zimmerman pleads guilty to a misdemeanor charge of perjury. Prosecutors say she lied during an April 2012 bond hearing for her husband when she told a judge that the family was indigent.

2014

The Trayvon Martin Foundation, a social justice organization, is established on the campus of Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Florida.

FEBRUARY 24, 2015

The U.S. Justice Department announces that no federal civil rights charges will be brought against Zimmerman.

DECEMBER 4, 2019

Zimmerman files a \$100 million lawsuit against Martin's parents and others. The chief allegation in the lawsuit is that the attorney helped to swap out a reluctant witness, Brittany Diamond Eugene, for her half-sister, Rachel Jeantel, and helped prepare her to deliver false testimony. The suit accuses Trayvon's parents, prosecutors, and state authorities of going along with the alleged ruse.

JANUARY 28, 2022

The \$100 million lawsuit against Martin's parents and others filed by Zimmerman is dismissed with prejudice in Florida's Second Judicial Circuit Court, Leon County.

Director & Dramaturge Notes

This raw take on Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies, sits heavily on the graveyard America has become in correlation to the current epidemic of gun violence and repeated historical racial traumas and shines a lot on the deep need for Justice for so many unarmed Black Americans killed by gun violence. Most importantly, it forces us to examine how we've become so immune to the visibility of Black bodies subjected to torture frozen in time via images spread across social media and the news. While vital in bringing awareness to the world, these images also harm those living this life. It creates a nation of fear and keeps many Black Americans in a state of mourning. So, it was necessary to lean into Black joy, which is world joy. More so, it was essential to implant the practice of reclaiming history by reimagining and embodying painful circumstances and then reshaping them to end with love rather than tears of sorrow.

Throughout the process, we engaged in ongoing deep conversations, created community care methods, and held space for the bodies we edged in the tombstone of this piece. The movement, staging, and directorial choices journeyed throughout this process stemmed from a quote from James Baldwin's novel, *Fire Next Time*;

"If we - and now I mean the relatively conscious whites and the relatively conscious blacks, who must, like lovers, insist in our duty now, we may be able, handful that we are, to end the racial nightmare, and achieve our country, and change the history of the world. If we do not now dare everything, the fulfilment of that prophecy, re-created from the Bible in song by a slave, is upon us: God gave Noah the rainbow sign. Not more water, the first next time!"

Despite America's howl of urgency and anger, my only goal with this piece is to embrace the shared and individualized pain and enable the sight for actionized hope. This goal could only be achieved with the help of this cast and crew, whom I often refer to as a community, who are some of the most brilliant groups of artists I have ever enjoyed working with

Hooded, Or Being Black For Dummies

By Tarrance Arvelle Chisholm

Originally produced by Mosaic Theatre Company of DC, Ari Roth, Artistic Director; Serge Seiden, Managing Director; Jennifer Nelson, Resident Director

Director
Lester Mayers

Scenic Designer
Vicki Davis

Production Manager
Catherine Doherty

Costume Designers
Charlotte Palmer- Lane &
Lili Rutsky

Lighting Designers
Travis McHale & Abby
Rose

Dramaturg
Lester Mayers

Sound Designers
Travis Mchale & LeeAnn
Epstein

Production Stage Manager
Christopher Etienne

Special Thanks To...

Patricia Fitzpatrick, Lisa Harding and Brittany Proia in the Theatre Arts Department

Samantha Jane Williams: Improv Teaching Artist

“To the Costumes and Stage Management team for holding us together through so many transitions” – from Lester

Cast

Tru	Kaydin Mark
Marquis	Ryan Padmore
Hunter	William Reymann
Prairie	Thea Silverstein
Clementine	Keelin Naylor
Meadow	Emily Glass
Debra	Alina Estep
Borzoi	Khiara Richards
Fielder	Lennon Lotardo
Apollo	Benedeth Uduba
Dionysus	Connor Gray
Headmaster	Benjamin Giordano
Concerned	Seamus Greene
Citizen	
New Kid	Jabea Kisob
U/S Debra	Olivia Hovis
U/S Tru/ Marquis U/S	Jabea Kisob
Clementine/ Meadow	Eileen Bronk

Parker Theatre is situated on the ancestral lands of the Esopus, Munsee and Lenape People.

Crew

Assistant Set Designer

Michelle Edwards

Assistant Stage Managers

Rachel Buchanon

Production Assistant

Sara McAuliffe

Hair and Makeup Supervisor

Lexi Roman

Hair and Makeup Assitant

Olivia Riddle

Wardrobe Supervisor

Hannah Goldberg

Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor

Olivia Riddle

Assistant Costume Designers

Noah Cruz Hernandez, Elisa
Rosario

Lead Carpenters

Emma Cunningham, Rob
Ward

Carpentry, Paint, and Props

Luiza Braga, Rachel
Buchanan, Eileen Bronk,
Kiersten DeLorey,
Derek Ellison, Christopher
Etienne, Malachi Faulk,
Maureen Fenlon, Ashley
Hoffmann

Costume Technicians

Shaniah X Alexander,
Kaimipono Au, Elizabeth
Baldwin, Joseph Basile-Faicco,
Claire Ducey, Hailee Elias,
Hannah Goldberg, Athena
Holman, Olivia Hutchinson,
Hope Lantz-Gefroh, Tierney
O'Brien, Arianna Robinson, Lily
Rutski, Khalil Coates, Abbe
Schulties, Thea Silverstein,
Lorelei Velez

Draper/Cutter

Hannah Goldberg

Stitcher

Abbe Schulties

Hair and Makeup Crew

Alexia Roman, Ashley
Hoffmann, and Stephanie
Schiano

Dressers

Lia Cardone, Kiersten DeLorey,
Devorah Strangways, Simon
Woods

Carpentry, Paint, and Props Cont.

Tes Maxwell, Kristen McQuaid,
Allen Potter, Olivia Riddle, Jake
Rizzo-Harrell, Sebastian
Rodriguez, Sky Rolnick, Noah
Speek, Devorah Strangways

Crew

Costume Director

Kaitlyn Kociela Taylor

Scenic Charge

Natasha D'Amico

Paint and Prop Crew

Joñi Honeywell, Luiza Braga,
and Heather Kuhn

Production Audio

LeeAnn
Epstein

Sound Board Operator

Oz
Fen Wang

Backstage Sound Crew

Veronica Thiel, Horatio
McLaughlin, Liam Gorelin,
Kyra Saffron

Sound Load in Crew

Ethan
Jones, Keelin Naylor, Jake
Rizzo-Harrell, Elisa Rosario,
Oz Fen Wang

Projection Design

Max Rosenfeld

Lead Video Designer

Max
Rosenfeld

Video Designer

Michelle Edwards

Video Operator

Simone Fowlin

Assistant Lighting Designer

Maya Battistella

Lightboard Operator

Amelia Murray

Lighting Programmer

Maya Battistella

Head Electrician

James Wright

Electricians

Graham Anderson, Maya
Battistella, Sophia Bonardi, Kiana
Borden, Luiza Braga, Michael
Colantuoni, Jess Romanowski

Backstage Crew

Liam Gorelin, Kiera Lynch,
Horatio McLaughlin, Kyra Saffron,
Veronica Thiel

Front of House

Emily Rivas, Kristen McQuaid,
Sebastian Rodriquez, Ryen Weston

Box Office Assistants

Ryan D'Alessandro, Kenneth
Greenberg, Samantha Feldherr,
Amanda Beckman, Sofia Melendez

House Manager

Ellie Brown

Program Creators

Samantha Feldherr

Music Performance/ Composition Credits to:

Keturah Jordan (Vocals) - Lift Every Voice and Sing (Black National Anthem) Instagram @ Keturahism

Jennifer Poroye (Composition/Vocals) - Care For Me, Interlude
Instagram @poroyethepoet

Nick Castagnozzi (Composition) - Dance of the Scarred Warrior
Youtube @ slicerknight

Quon J.
Matthieu Carvin
Brandon Bera

**"Hooded, Or Being Black For Dummies" is presented in arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com**

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