

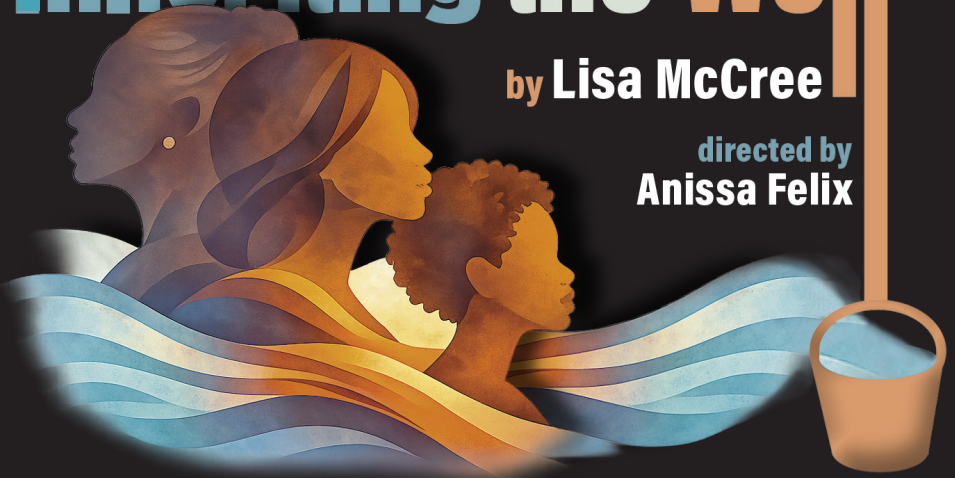
THEATRE ARTISTS WORKSHOP

presents a staged reading of

Inheriting the Well

by **Lisa McCree**

directed by
Anissa Felix



MARCH 5 & 6, 2026

**PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
IN LAFAYETTE HALL**

CT State Housatonic

Director's Note

Inheriting the Well hits me right in the solar plexus. It makes me grateful for my ancestors, but also sad that they couldn't be vulnerable or gentle with me in the way I yearned for. This show is made up of the sayings that the old folks would tell me, ones I wouldn't understand until years later. But by then, they'd already passed away, before I could tell them I finally understood what they meant. And the sorrow that brought.

Inheriting the Well brings me back to when I was sixteen and couldn't understand why the little blonde kids at school never invited me to their sleepovers. Or why it felt like people didn't care when Tamir Rice was shot on that playground. And the rage that stirred.

This play confronts the deep need to be seen. The need to have agency and control over one's autonomy. But it's also really funny. And deeply cultural, and very raw. And I'm so grateful to be able to help tell this story.

Anissa Felix



Setting:

Summer, 1970.

The Henry Taber Mansion on Kempton Street in the aftermath of the racially-charged Kempton Street riots in New Bedford, Massachusetts

SOPHIA..... **Dawn Vanessa Brown**
MAMMA THEE **Kimberly Wilson**
LYLA **Quadasia Collins**
CONKIE **Dandy Barrett**
KIM..... **Lena Whiteside**
Stage Directions/Announcer.....**Jeanette Harris**

Production Stage Manager
Andrea Lynn Green

Assistant Stage Manager
Emilie Roberts

Production Technician
Syd Young

WHO'S WHO



DANDY BARRETT (*Conkie*) Regional and community theatre roles have included *Golda's Balcony* (Golda), *On Golden Pond* (Ethel Thayer), *August: Osage County* (Violet), *A Little Night Music* (Desiree and Countess Charlotte), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Aurora/Spider Woman), *The Robber Bridegroom* (Salome), *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser), *Deathtrap* (Helga Tendorp) and many others spanning 40 years. She also has done film, most notably in *Acrimony* (a Tyler Perry film), *Mara* (a SAG feature), and *Chris Hanson Crime Stories*, as well as voiceovers for Victoria's Secret, Dos Equis beer, Florida orange juice, EST estrogen replacement, among others, and was the on-air announcer for *Day & Date*, a CBS daily television news magazine. She is a full acting member of the Theatre Artists Workshop.



DAWN VANESSA BROWN* (*Sophia*) has performed professionally in regional New York and Connecticut theaters. She has taught Creative Drama in the Westchester NY school system and worked with the Ridgefield (CT) Independent Film Festival. Member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA and Theatre Artists Workshop. It is Dawn's hope and avocation that art can be a bridge to a more inclusive and peaceful world. www.dawnvanessabrown.com



QUADASIA COLLINS (*Lyla*) Quadasia Collins is a performer residing in Bridgeport, CT. Throughout high school, she studied theater at Regional Center for the Arts in Trumbull, CT. In May 2025, she graduated from CT State Housatonic with her Associate of Arts in Theater. Quadasia's talent and skills are expanding continuously due to her dedication to her artistry. Some of her recent credits include *Times Flies* by David Ives (May), *Silver Trane* by Lisa McCree (Sila), and *Iphigenia in Tauris* by Euripides (Iphigenia). Quadasia is thankful for her family and friends who always support her growth and accomplishments!



JEANETTE HARRIS (*Stage Directions/Announcer*) a.k.a "Momma J," uses her gifts and talents of music, storytelling, poetry, comedy and drama to bring smiles and inspiration to audiences of all ages, often with her "family" of puppets, affectionately called "Juppets." She was awarded the Negro Ensemble Company's Playwright of the Year 2006 Award for her one-act play titled, *Friends Through Thick and Thin* and is a member of the National Association of Black Storytellers, (NABS). She has been on the stage at the former Playhouse on the Green, The Little Theater in Newtown, CT, Housa-

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tonic Community College, at the Easton library with Kit Briner and continues to encourage others through a weekly on-demand radio broadcast titled, "An Encouraging Word" which can be heard online at Radio1400am.org. Jeanette also serves as a Licensed Lay Minister with the Evangelical Lutheran Church and appreciates the opportunity to be a part of this production.



LENA WHITESIDE (*Kim*) is delighted to make her Theatre Artists Workshop debut in *Inheriting the Well*. She has been performing onstage for eight years, with favorite credits including Clara in *The Nutcracker* (Little Theatre of Manchester), Quinn Rivers in the original musical *Game On!*, Katalin Hunyak in *Chicago* (Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts), and a Bird Girl in *Seussical* (West Hartford Community Theatre). Offstage, Lena is a theater and dance student at Central Connecticut State University, where she continues to develop her craft and passion for performance.



KIMBERLY WILSON (*Mama Thee*) pursued theater while in high school, studying and performing at the Minneapolis Children's Theatre. She also was a founding member of Mixed Blood Theatre. Kimberly studied Fine Arts at Howard University in Washington, D.C. After college she performed in national TV commercials, stage and touring productions notably *Aint Misbehavin*, *For Colored Girls*, *Glory Road*, *A Civil War Christmas*, and *Ragtime The Musical*. In 2016, Kimberly Wilson's *A Journey Musical One-Woman Show* was awarded the Best Playwright Award at the Atlanta Black Theatre Festival. A former Theatre Artists Workshop member, Kimberly is honored to appear in Lisa McCree's *Inheriting the Well*.

LISA MCCREE (*Playwright*) is an award-winning playwright whose works have been produced or developed by Harlem Theater Company, The Atlantic Theater, Access Theater, The Henry Street Settlement's Women of Color Festival, and the National Black Theatre Festival. Her plays include *Faces in My Fist*, *The Horn of Salvation and Indignation* (directed by Bill Cobbs), *And My Name Ain't Peaches*, and *The Miserable Matter of Slavery*. She has received commissions from The Medicine Show, Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam, and others, and her published works include *And My Name Ain't Peaches*. Lisa is the founder of The Writer's Clique, through which she has self-produced over a dozen plays throughout Harlem. Honors include the Humanitarian Award (Allentown, PA), NYU's 1-2 Idea into Action Playwriting Competition, and recognition from Frank Silvera's Writers' Workshop. She is an alumna of Housatonic Community College and former artist-in-residence at The Genesis Guild.

WHO'S WHO

ANISSA FELIX (*Director*) is a current Directing Fellow at the Westport Country Playhouse, where she has assistant directed, *Theatre People*, *A Sherlock Carol*, and *Paris*. This season, she will be assisting the production of *Primary Trust*. Anissa has also performed in several TV shows as well as Broadway shows including *Motown the Musical*, *Sunset Boulevard* starring Glenn Close, and *Donna Summer the Musical*. Her most recent work can be seen in Netflix's *Survival of the Thickest*.

ANDREA LYNN GREEN* (*Production Stage Manager*) is a theatre artist whose work includes Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional stages, as well as television and film. Though not her usual role, she has occasionally stage managed for Theatre Artists Workshop's Plays in Progress series, and is honored to serve in this capacity as TAW launches its New Visions, New Voices initiative with Lisa McCree's powerful new play, *Inheriting the Well*.

EMILIE ROBERTS* (*Assistant Stage Manager/Production Assistant*) Emilie Roberts has stage managed benefits for the Theatre Artists Workshop and the Westport Country Playhouse, as well as a world premiere opera *The Penitents*, by Thomas Pasatieri at the Aspen Music Festival. As an actor/singer Emilie starred in five original musicals in NYC. Regionally, she played leading roles in *The Respectful Prostitute*, *She Loves Me*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Oklahoma!* and others, and appeared in dozens of musical revues, and in 8 musicals at Summer Theatre of New Canaan. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Emilie performed major roles in *The Magic Flute*, *La Juive*, and *Pagliacci*. She is an accomplished choral singer and has recorded with Naxos and Columbia. Emilie is Adjunct Professor of Music and Theatre at the University of Bridgeport. She's a member of AEA, and NATS, and a Board member and past president of the Theatre Artists Workshop.

SYD YOUNG (*Production Technician*) is thrilled to be back with Theatre Artists Workshop for its production of *Inheriting the Well!* She most recently worked on TAW's 2025 Fall Festival of New Yorks. After making her theater production debut last year with *And Then There Were None*, Syd continues to explore her lifelong passion for the arts and "behind-the-scenes" action. Her creative background includes work as a Videographer/Photographer, Graphic Designer, and Video Editor. She is delighted to contribute once again to the production team.



* This Actor or stage manager appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Theatre Artists Workshop would like to express its gratitude to the following individuals and organizations.

Geoffrey Sheehan and
CT State Community
College at Housatonic



Westport Country
Playhouse for its ongoing
partnership and support

The *New Visions, New Voices* initiative was established through an anonymous \$10,000 grant to amplify underrepresented and undiscovered voices and to expand diversity in storytelling and Theatre Artists Workshop membership. TAW welcomes the generosity and will use it to broaden opportunities for new perspectives in theater. Funds raised from this event will help replenish and grow the *New Visions, New Voices* initiative.



If you're an actor, writer or director and would like to learn about membership opportunities at the Theatre Artists Workshop, visit TAWorkshop.org for more information.

New Visions, New Voices Committee Members

Dawn Vanessa Brown (*chairperson*)

Andrea Lynn Green Susan Jacobson

Miriam Kulick Joy Lenters Lisa McCree

NVNV-TAW Board Liaison
Randy Schein

Program Design
Dan Remmes

And all the hard-working members and volunteers
who helped to make this production possible.

THEATRE ARTISTS WORKSHOP

also wishes to express its gratitude to the Performers' Unions:



through THEATRE AUTHORITY, INC. for their cooperation in
permitting professional Artists to appear in this fundraising production.



THEATRE ARTISTS WORKSHOP

Celebrating
43
Years

Proceeds from this production benefit the **New Visions, New Voices** initiative of **THEATRE ARTISTS WORKSHOP OF WESTPORT, INC.** a non-profit theatre arts organization celebrating its **43rd YEAR** as a workshop for professional **actors, writers** and **directors** to experiment and develop new work.

Plays developed at The Workshop have gone to **BROADWAY, OFF-BROADWAY, REGIONAL** and **INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS.**

The Workshop was founded in 1983 by Keir Dullea and his wife, the late Susie Fuller. Its **membership legacy** includes Phoebe Brand, Morton Da Costa, Theodore Bikel, Sandy Dennis, Christopher Durang, June Havoc, Lucille Lortel, Shirley Knight, Ring Lardner, Jr., James Noble, Frank Piazza, Brett Somers and Carole Schweid, among many more storied personalities.

Thank you for helping to support this legacy.

TAWorkshop.org

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