

# IMMEDIATE FAMILY



THEATRE MEMPHIS presents "IMMEDIATE FAMILY"  
By PAUL OAKLEY STOVALL • Directed by THOMAS L. KING  
Sponsored by MARJORIE PALAZZOLO  
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### THEATRE MEMPHIS in the NEXT STAGE



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IN THE NEXT STAGE AT THEATRE MEMPHIS

# IMMEDIATE FAMILY

by **PAUL OAKLEY STOVALL**

Directed by **THOMAS L. KING**

Executive Producer **DEBBIE LITCH**

Production Manager/Tech Director <b>MICHAEL COMPTON</b>	Costume Designer <b>AUGUSTA (GOOSE) CAMPBELL</b>
Lighting Designer <b>NICOLE NORTHINGTON</b>	Scenic and Properties Designer <b>JACK NETZEL-YATES</b>
Sound Designer <b>JASON ESCHHOFEN</b>	Assistant Technical Director <b>MAGGIE JACKSON</b>
Assistant Director <b>NIAMBI WEBSTER</b>	Fight Choreographer <b>COURTNEY OLIVER</b>
Rehearsal Assistant <b>SABRINA SAMUELS</b>	Intimacy Coach <b>JOY BROOKE FAIRFIELD</b>
Director of Stage Management and Volunteers <b>ASHLEY J. NICKAS</b>	Costume Shop Manager <b>ASHLEY SELBERG</b>
Assistant Stage Manager <b>ACE COVARRUBIAS</b>	Stage Manager <b>CHRISTINA HENDRICKS</b>

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## CAST

Kristian . . . . .	<b>CHAD LAWRENCE ENGELBERT</b>
Ronnie . . . . .	<b>JHONA GIPSON</b>
Tony . . . . .	<b>JUSTIN RAYNARD HICKS</b>
Nina . . . . .	<b>HIAWARATHA JACKSON</b>
Jesse . . . . .	<b>JARED THOMAS JOHNSON</b>
Evy . . . . .	<b>JESSICA "JAI" JOHNSON</b>

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**Setting:** The Bryant family home in Hyde Park,  
a neighborhood on the south side of Chicago

***A very special thank you to the Cotten Family,  
Playhouse on the Square, University of Memphis, and  
Southwest Tennessee Community College***

Poster/Cover Design by Missy McClendon

Cover Photo by Steve Roberts

Program Layout by Michael Gravois

# WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



**CHAD LAWRENCE ENGELBERT** (Kristian) had his debut on the stage in 2018 as Karl Lindner in the Southwest Tennessee Community College production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. Although a

relative newcomer to the theatre, as a sleight of hand magician, Chad is no stranger to performing for audiences.



**JHONA GIPSON** (Ronnie) currently serves as an Academic Advisor at Southwest TN Community College. She is also a graduate student of the University of Memphis, pursuing an MA in Communication Studies.

In 2018, she was a part of the cast that won the Ostrander's Best Small Ensemble for *5 Women Wearing the Same Dress*.



**CHRISTINA HENDRICKS** (Stage Manager) is happy to be stage managing *Immediate Family*; what a wonderful story to be a part of. Her favorite SM credits include *Altar Boyz*, *Spelling Bee*, *Act of God*, and *Our Town* to name a

few. In 2020, Chris received the Ostrander Behind the Scenes Award. She would like to thank TeKay and her amazing cast and crew for being absolutely A-amazing and making her laugh every single day. I couldn't be more proud. Much love goes out to my mom and besties for their constant love and support.



**JUSTIN RAYNARD HICKS** (Tony) At the age of 15, Justin performed the Isaac Hayes' Oscar-award winning hit "Theme from Shaft" at the 2011 TvOne Trumpet Awards in Atlanta, GA in honor of Richard

Roundtree for his role in the 1971 film "Shaft". Since 2012, Justin has starred in

over 30 regional/community theatre productions including 9 productions at Hattiloo Theatre, *Dreamgirls* at Playhouse on The Square, as well as his Ostrander Award nominated role in *Fences* at Theatre Memphis in 2018. In July 2021, Justin (as JUSTINRAYNARD) released his debut independent album, "Who Do U Think U R?" written by himself and produced by Albren "AlleeoMuzik" Spears. With consistency and hard work, Justin hopes to prove to the world that he is a true triple threat entertainer.



**HIAWARATHA JACKSON** (Nina) is so excited to be back at Theatre Memphis doing *Immediate Family*. She is blessed to be a part of this amazing and talented cast and crew. She was raised and born in Chicago,

Illinois, and moved here about 15 years ago. She is a nominated and award-winning Ostrander actress. She has also been nominated for the Irene Ryan award. Hiawaratha has appeared in local commercials. She is very excited and blessed to have her family and friends that support her, and she can't wait for you to see this production. Love, Nubia Mabone.



**JARED THOMAS JOHNSON** (Jesse) is an award-winning choreographer and director from Memphis, Tennessee. His production of *American Son* won the Ostrander Award for Best Direction and Production last

season. Jared's favorite acting credits include: Playhouse on the Square's *Xanadu* and *Spamalot*; Theatre Memphis productions of *The Wiz*, *West Side Story*, *Curtains*, *Cabaret*, *Crazy for You*, *Chicago*, *Cats*, and *Mamma Mia!*; and *Porgy and Bess* at Hattiloo Theatre. Favorite AD credits: *Guys and Dolls* and *La Cage Aux Folles* at TM. As choreographer at TM: *Spelling Bee*, *The Producers*, *Falsettos*, *Boy from Oz*, and *Altar Boyz*. Jared would like to thank the cast, crew, Josh, his family, and the TM family for making another dream come true.

# WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY (cont.)



**JESSICA "JAI" JOHNSON** (Evy) has been an active member of Memphis' theatre community for 12 years. Some stage credits include *Sweat* and *Disgraced*, both produced at Circuit Playhouse; *Fabulation*, a McCoy Theatre production; *Fences*, *Rasheeda Speaking*, and *The Submission* at Theatre Memphis; *Ruined* (Ostrander Award for Best Supporting Actress) and *Detroit 67* at Hattiloo. Most recently, she was seen in *American Son* (Ostrander Award for Best Leading Actress) at Theatre Memphis and *Mississippi Goddamn* at Circuit Playhouse. She is thankful to TeKay, the crew, and the cast...for they have all become "Immediate Family."  
#churchgirl



**THOMAS "TEKAY" KING** (Director) is Artistic Director, Theatre Manager, and Program Coordinator of Theatre at Southwest Tennessee Community College where he is an Assistant Professor in Communication and Theatre. He is an MFA candidate in directing at the University of Memphis. TeKay was a Guest Artist in residence at Rhodes College in Fall 2018. For Theatre Memphis, he serves on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, the Season Selection Committee, and as a Read to Relate moderator. He has a BA in Journalism and Public Relations and an MA in

Performance Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill. An Ostrander-nominated director (*Ordinary Days* and *5 Women*), he directed *Spooked* for Emerald Theatre Company and *5 Guys Named Moe* for Hattiloo. He was seen in *Porgy and Bess* at Hattiloo and heard in *La Cage* at TM. TeKay performs around the world with the Memphis-based singing group DeltaCappella. Broadway performances include staged concerts of *Children of Eden* and *Pippin* with Stephen Schwartz and the limited run engagement of *Oliver!* for the Irish Rep. Thanks to cast, crew, friends, family and TM!

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



**PAUL OAKLEY STOVALL** is an artist and activist based in Chicago. He recently played George Washington in the first national tour of *Hamilton: An American Musical* by Lin Manuel-Miranda. He also was a co-producer for the 2022 Tony-winning play, *A Strange Loop*. Outside of entertainment, Stovall served as a press advance associate for President Obama and subsequently served as a media logistics coordinator and advance staff lead for First Lady Michelle Obama, representing the Obama administration across the nation and overseas in Sweden, Turkey, Kosovo, South Korea, Canada, Egypt, South Africa, Ghana, Ukraine, Denmark, Chile, and the UK among others.

## Read to Relate

A Theatre Memphis Interactive Play Discussion Group

*Immediate Family* appears in our 2022-23 season as a result of Read to Relate, a program offered by Theatre Memphis that seeks out, reads, analyzes and discusses plays written by and about ALAANA\* and/or differently abled individuals and/or communities. Offered to the public for a nominal fee, an individual can participate in the discussions moderated by local ALAANA and/or differently abled

theatre artists that delve into the literary, social context, and production qualities of the script. Theatre Memphis strives to include one of the selected scripts in a future season. Learn more about this program at:

[www.theatrememphis.org/outreach-and-education/read-to-relate](http://www.theatrememphis.org/outreach-and-education/read-to-relate).

\*ALAANA: African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American