

Toni Morrison's

The Bluest Eye

Adapted by Lydia Diamond

Cast [In alphabetical order]

Marshel Adams*	FRIEDA, DARLENE
Lorene Chesley*	CLAUDIA
Melissa Coleman-Reed	MRS. BREEDLOVE, WOMAN 2
Chelsea Diggs-Smith	WOMAN 1, MAUREEN PEAL, WHITE GIRL
Abner Genece*	SOAPHEAD CHURCH, DADDY
Kimberly King	MAMA, WOMAN 3
Warner Miller*	CHOLLY
Cashae Monya	PECOLA

Artistic and Production Team

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg	DIRECTOR
Elizabeth Stephens*	STAGE MANAGER
Brian Redfern	SCENIC DESIGNER
Luke Olson	LIGHTING DESIGNER
Emily N. Smith	COSTUME DESIGNER
George Yé	SOUND DESIGNER/FIGHT COACH
Angelica Ynfante	TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & PROPS
Missy Bradstreet	WIG DESIGNER AND MAKE-UP
Lisel Gorell-Getz	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Liliana Silva	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER, SOUND BOARD
Roseann McPhaul & Kate Bower	USHER COORDINATORS
Roseann McPhaul Teresa McGee, Janine Harty, Li Anne Mufson, Josh Hyatt, Rhona Gold, Dani Miester, Wendy Naylor, Lauren Gambaccini	HOUSE MANAGERS
Anne & Bob Rast	STUDENT MATINEE HOUSE MANAGERS
Seabright Studio	GRAPHIC DESIGN
Kristina Micotti	ILLUSTRATOR
Professor T. Ford	COMMUNITY DRAMATURG

Running Time: Approximately 90 minutes, no intermission. Please note that the taking of pictures or the making of recordings of any kind during the performance is prohibited. If you must exit the theater during the performance, we request that you do so as quietly as possible, and please note that you might not be allowed back in. Mo'olelo and MOXIE reserve the right to refuse service to anyone whose behavior poses a danger or distraction to the actors and other audience members.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Bluest Eye is produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing, Woodstock, Illinois.

The Bluest Eye was commissioned and developed through the Steppenwolf for Young Adults and the New Plays Initiative Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago, Illinois by Martha Lavey, Artistic Director and David Hawkanson, Executive Director. *The Bluest Eye* received its world premiere in February 2005.

Artists' Profiles



Marshel Adams

FRIEDA, DARLENE

Marshel Adams' most recent stage credits include *The Revenger's Tragedy* and *Hoover Comes Alive* [La Jolla Playhouse]. Her film work includes *A Running River & A Better Place*. She also served as Associate Producer on *Pas De Restes* which premieres in 2013. Marshel received her Masters from the Graduate Acting Program at UCSD and now splits her time between

Los Angeles and her native Miami. She sends much love to her family for their constant prayers and support!



Lorene Chesley

CLAUDIA

Lorene is thrilled to be back working in San Diego with Mo'olelo and joining forces with MOXIE Theater. She is currently working on her short film *Just Us Two* while in Los Angeles where she currently resides. UCSD MFA 2009, Temple University 2005. Independent Films: *Room for Rent*, *The Imagy Nation*, *Claudia Makes a Difference*. Theater: *Stick Fly* [Mo'olelo], *Danton's Death*

[La Jolla Playhouse], *As You Like It* [La Jolla Playhouse], *Memphis the Musical* [La Jolla Playhouse]. Lorene would like to thank all her family and friends for their continuous support, encouragement and love.



Melissa Coleman-Reed

MRS. BREEDLOVE, WOMAN 2

Stage Credits: *Deconstruction of a Drag Queen*, *The Break-Up Break-Down* [Circle Circle dot dot], *As Much as You Can* [Diversionary Theatre], *U.S. Drag* [ion theatre company], *The Tempest*, *Moby Dick*, and *Medea* [Old Dominion University Theatre]. Costuming Credits: *Holiday Spirits*, *Perfect Wedding*, *California Suite* [Scripps Ranch Theater], *Deconstruction of a Drag Queen*,

Ragnarok, and *The Break-Up Break-Down* [Circle Circle dot dot]. Training: SITI Company, Chekhov Studio International, The Actor's Temple and Old Dominion University. Melissa is a Company-Member of Circle Circle dot dot.



Chelsea Diggs-Smith

WOMAN 1, MAUREEN PEAL, WHITE GIRL

Chelsea is thrilled to be joining the MOXIE and Mo'olelo family! Favorite credits include: *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* and *The Nightingale* [La Jolla Playhouse], *Guys and Dolls* [Lamb's Players Theatre], *The Producers* and *Evita* [Theatre by the Sea], *Amour* and *Taming of the Shrew* [Shenandoah Conservatory]. BFA in Musical Theatre, Shenandoah Conservatory. Many

thanks to Delicia, Seema, this incredible cast, my family and my loving husband Adam. Dedicated to my mom. 1 Corinthians 13:13.



Abner Genece

SOAPHEAD CHURCH, DADDY

NY credits include: *Waiting For Godot*, *Napoli Millionaria*, and *Othello*. Regional credits include: *Johnson Over Jordan* and *For The Love of Freedom*. TV and Film credits include: *Helter Skelter*, *Unrest*, *Zeke and Luther*, *Law & Order: Los Angeles* and *Harry's Law*. In April, Genece produces a staged reading of Lorey Hayes' *Haiti's Children of God*, [San Diego Repertory Theatre] www.sdrep.org, featuring San Diego performers Monique Gaffney and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson. Proceeds will benefit Haitian Disaster Relief. AbnerGenece.com



Kimberly King

MAMA, WOMAN 3

This is Kimberly's first production with MOXIE/Mo'olelo and she is very excited. She has been performing for live audiences for several years. Some of her theater credits include: *Come Back Little Sheba*, *African Medea*, *Harlem Duets*, *Voices*, *Proof*, and *Homeward Bound*, as well as performing *Kimberly is a Black/White Film Photographer*. All thanks be to God and MOXIE/Mo'olelo

for this opportunity.



Warner Miller

CHOLLY

Warner Miller recently appeared in the award winning premiere of *The Convert* Kirk Douglas Theatre, Goodman Theatre and the McCarter Theatre Center, as well as the world premiere of *Pullman Porter Blues* Arena Stage and Seattle Repertory Theatre. Other selected credits include: *Fences* Huntington Theatre Company and *Since Africa* The Old Globe Theater. Film and TV

credits: *American Gangster*, HBO Film's *Wyclef Jean in America*, HBO Film's *Everyday People*, *Law & Order* and *CSI: NY*.



Cashae Monya

PECOLA

Cashae Monya is hysterically excited to be making her debut at MOXIE/Mo'olelo! Recent credits include: *Speakeasy Cabaret: Chicago* [ion theatre company], *Bash* [Lamb's Players Theatre], *Respect: A Musical Journey of Women* [Lyceum Theatre], *The Car Plays* [The La Jolla Playhouse/ Moving Arts], *Jingle Jammers* [Legoland California], *The Little Shop of Horrors* [Cygnet Theatre], *Our Town* [Cygnet Theatre], *Spelling Bee* [North Coast Repertory Theatre] and *Memphis* [La Jolla Playhouse/The 5th Avenue Theatre]. 1 Corinthians 13:13.



Toni Morrison

AUTHOR

Toni Morrison is the Robert F. Goheen Professor Emeritus in the Council of the Humanities at Princeton University. She has degrees from Howard and Cornell universities. She was appointed the Robert F. Goheen Professor at Princeton University, spring 1989, a post she held until 2006. Among the universities where she has held teaching posts are Yale, Bard College and Rutgers. The New York State Board of Regents appointed her to the Albert Schweitzer Chair in the Humanities at the State University of New York at Albany in 1984. In 1988 she was the Obert C. Tanner Lecturer at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and the Jeannette K. Watson Distinguished Professor at Syracuse University. In 1990 she delivered the Clark Lectures at Trinity College, Cambridge, and the Massey Lectures at Harvard University. In 1994 she held the International Cordocet Chair at the Ecole Normale Supérieure and College de France. Eight major novels, *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Tar Baby*, *Beloved*, *Jazz*, *Paradise* and *Love*, have received extensive critical acclaim. She received the National Book Critics Award in 1978 for *Song of Solomon* and the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for *Beloved*. Both novels were chosen as the main selections for the Book of the Month Club in 1977 and 1987, respectively. In 2006, *Beloved* was chosen by the *New York Times* Book Review as the best work of American fiction published in the last quarter century. In 1993, Morrison was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.



Lydia Diamond

PLAYWRIGHT

Lydia Diamond's plays include: *Stick Fly*, '12 Outer Circle Critics Nomination—Best Play [Broadway], '10 Irne Award—Best Play, '10 L.A. Critics Circle Award—Playwriting, '10 L.A. Garland Award—Playwriting, '09 L.A. Weekly Theatre Award—Playwriting, '08 Susan S. Blackburn Finalist, '06 Black Theatre Alliance Award, *Voyeurs de Venus*, '06 Joseph Jefferson Award—Best New Work, '06 BTAA—Best Writing, *The Bluest Eye*, '06 Black Arts Alliance Image Award—Best New Play, '08 American Alliance for Theatre and Education Distinguished Play Award, *The Gift Horse*, '05 Theodore Ward Prize and Kesselring Prize 2nd Place, *Harriet Jacobs*, and *Stage Black*. Theatres include: Arena Stage, Cort Theatre, Broadway, Chicago Dramatists, Company One, Congo Square, Everyman Theatre Company, Freedom Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Hartford Stage, Huntington Theatre Co., Jubilee Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, McCarter Theatre Company, Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, MPAACT, New Victory Theater: Off Broadway, Playmakers Repertory Theatre, Plowshares Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre, TrueColors Theatre Company, and Contemporary American Theatre Festival. Commissions include: Steppenwolf Theatre, 4, McCarter Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Actor's Theatre of Louisville/Victory Gardens Theatre, Humana Festival, Boston University, and The Roundabout. *Stick Fly* and *Harriet Jacobs* published by NU Press, *The Bluest Eye*, *Gift Horse*, *Stage Black*—Dramatic Publishing, *Stick Fly*—Samuel French. Lydia is a graduate of Northwestern University where she majored in Performance Studies. Lydia was an '05/'06 W.E.B. Du Bois Institute non-resident Fellow, a 2007 TCG/NEA Playwright in Residence at Steppenwolf Theatre, an '05/'06

Lydia Diamond [continued]

Huntington Playwright Fellow, a 2012/'13 Radcliffe Institute Fellow, a 2012 Sally B. Goodman McCarter Fellow, a 2012 Sundance Institute Playwright Lab Creative Advisor, is Co-Vice President of Theatre Communication Group's Board of Directors, is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists, has an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Pine Manor College, and is on faculty at Boston University.

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg

DIRECTOR

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg is the founding Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, where she has directed many award winning productions including the 2012 Bravo San Diego Award for *A Raisin in the Sun*. Other San Diego credits include: *The Car Plays: San Diego* La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, New Village Arts, Diversionary, SDSU, Eveoke Dance Theatre and The Playwrights Project. Honors: TCG, New Generations Program: Future Leaders, San Diego Repertory Theatre; San Diego Critics Circle's Des McAnuff New Visions Award and Craig Noel Award; Patte Awards, Women's International Center Living Legacy Award; Van Lier Directing Fellowship, Second Stage Theatre, NY; Drama League's Directors Program, NY; and a Small Business Leader of the Year awarded by Senator Christine Kehoe. Delicia is married to Designer Jerry Sonnenberg and proud mama of August and Zoë.

Elizabeth Stephens

STAGE MANAGER

Elizabeth stage managed *Hoodoo Love*, *How I Got That Story*, *Stick Fly*, *Permanent Collection*, and *Kita y Fernanda* for Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company. She has stage managed locally for The Old Globe Theater, North Coast Repertory Theatre, and La Jolla Playhouse. Ms. Stephens was the Production Stage Manager for the San Diego Symphony for four years. She has also stage managed for Pasadena Playhouse, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, and The Acting Company.

Brian Redfern

SCENIC DESIGNER

Brian Redfern is happy to be making his debut with MOXIE / Mo'olelo. San Diego credits include designs for: The Old Globe / USD, Cygnet Theatre, ion theatre company, Intrepid Shakespeare, Playwrights Project, Compass Theatre Company, Vantage Theatre, Joan Kroc Center, Jaydeekay Films, SDSU, PLNU, Scripps Ranch Theatre and others. Brian has assistant designed for numerous regional productions throughout the United States, as well as in Canada and the UK. To see more of Brian's work, visit www.redfernsenicdesign.com.

George Yé

SOUND DESIGNER / FIGHT COACH

George Yé is an award winning sound designer / composer with nearly 100 credits. Favorites include: *The Glass Menagerie*, *Tragedy of the Commons*, *Fences*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Yellowman*, *Copenhagen*, *Communicating Doors*, and *Arcadia* [Cygnet Theatre]; *Nuevo California*, *Restless Spirits* and *The Goat* [San Diego Repertory Theatre]; *Woman from the Other Side of the World* and *Struggling Truth* [San Diego Asian American Repertory Theatre]; *Never the Sinner* and *Irma Vepp* [Diversionary Theatre]; *A Life in the Theatre* and *Travesties* [North Coast Repertory Theatre].

Emily N. Smith

COSTUME DESIGNER

Emily N. Smith is thrilled to have her designing debut with MOXIE / Mo'olelo. She has also designed *Midsummer Night's Dream* [SDSU], *Eurydice* [UW], and *Two Rooms* [TAMU]. She has also assisted on *Grapes of Wrath* [UW], *Huck Finn* and *Inherit the Wind* [Cleveland Play House]. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her.

Luke Olson

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Luke Olson is excited to be back at MOXIE where he previously lit *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. Other recent work includes *Scrooge in Rouge*, *When Last We Flew*, *Pippin* [Diversionary]; *Crimes of the Heart* [USC]; *Peace Of Courage* [TranscenDANCE]; He has also worked with Malashock Dance, San Diego Dance Theatre, PGK Project, Playwrights Project, Opera Neo, and TranscenDANCE. He has an MFA from San Diego State University.

Angelica Ynfante

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND PROPS

Angelica is a Texas State University graduate with a BFA in theatre. She made her way around the U.S. and Mexico for five years working in Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, New York, Tennessee, Kentucky and Cancun until she made it to California where she is currently the props mistress with San Diego Repertory Theatre, Scripts Ranch, Cygnet Theatre and has worked with MOXIE Theatre as a Props Designer and/or Technical Director for 3 seasons.

Lisel Gorell-Getz

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lisel Gorell-Getz is Director of Education at MOXIE Theatre and a Teaching Artist with The School of MOXIE, The Old Globe and the La Jolla Playhouse. An award-winning actress, Lisel's recent acting credits include: *The Exit Interview*, *Tortilla Curtain*, and *In the Next Room* [San Diego Repertory Theatre], *Dead Man's Cell Phone* and *The Crucible* [MOXIE Theatre], *9 Parts of Desire* [Mo'olelo] as well as shows at La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet, NCRT and Sledgehammer Theatre.

Liliana Silva

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

This is Liliana Silva's first project with MOXIE Theatre. A Stage Manager for SDSU School of Theatre Television and Film, her most recent projects include stage management for Paula Kalustian's production *I Love A Piano* and *Vinegar Tom*. She also works with San Diego Symphony as the Production Assistant for their Summer Pops and Symphony Expose' programs. She's excited to work with MOXIE again on the upcoming production of *Enron*.

Missy Bradstreet

WIG DESIGNER AND MAKE-UP

Missy Bradstreet has previously designed wigs for *Coming Attractions*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Or, Bleeding Kansas*, *Wet or Isabella the Pirate Queen Enters the Horse Latitudes*, *Blubonnet Court*, *Pulp* [MOXIE Theatre] *The Who's Tommy*, *The Three Penny Opera*, *The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea* [San Diego Repertory Theatre] *Learn to be Latina*, *No Exit*, *Yank!* [Diversionary Theatre].