



# NEW VILLAGE ARTS T H E A T R E

## THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL

Written By **Horton Foote**

Directed by **Kristianne Kurner\***

Sponsored by Susan Baer and Bruce Thornburg

Scenic Design  
**Janell Cannon**

Lighting Design  
**Chris Renda\***

Original Music &  
Sound Design  
**Bill Bradbury**

Costume Design  
**Mary Larson**

Stage Manager  
**Kevin Kornburger**

Properties Design  
**Pat Hansen**

Sound Engineer  
**Justin Lang\***

Stage Crew  
**Elijah Howlett**

***Starring (in order of appearance):***

**Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson^:** Carrie Watts

**Walter Murray:** Ludie Watts

**Yolanda Franklin:** Jessie Mae Watts

**Brenon Christofer:** First Ticket Man/Young Man in Houston

**David Macy-Beckwith:** Man in Houston/The Sheriff

**John Tessmer:** Musician in Houston/2<sup>nd</sup> Ticket Man/Roy

**Elijah Howlett:** Marine in Houston

**Alexis Louise Young:** Thelma

**THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL runs 2 hours 45 minutes including two intermissions: one 15 min. and one 10 min.**

**THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL is produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.**

\*MEMBERS OF NVA'S ENSEMBLE

^ MEMBER OF ACTORS EQUITY ASSOCIATION

**NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE • 2787 STATE STREET, CARLSBAD, CA 92008**

**www.NewVillageArts.org • (760) 433-3245**

## THE CAST BIOS ○○○○○○○○

**BRENON CHRISTOFER** (First Ticket Man/Ensemble): NVA: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Don Pedro). Brenon is delighted and humbled to return to New Village Arts and work with the amazing cast and crew of *The Trip to Bountiful*. During his five years in San Diego, Brenon has been involved with numerous student and independent short film projects. To kill time at work, visit Brenon's IMDb page ([www.imdb.me/brenonchristofer](http://www.imdb.me/brenonchristofer)) or check out his voiceover work for LEGO stop motion animation (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ChristoferMatthias>).

**YOLANDA FRANKLIN** (Jessie Mae Watts): NVA: Debut. San Diego Theatre Credits include: Ion Theatre: *Little Flower of East Orange* (Magnolia); OnStage Playhouse: *The Sugar Witch* (Annabelle/The Sugar Witch); Moxie Theatre: *A Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth Younger), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Other Woman/Carlota), *Gibson Girl* (Mother); Cygnet Theatre: *Our Town* (Mrs. Webb); Point Loma Actors: *Steel Magnolias* (Arnelle), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *Glass Menagerie* (Asst to the Director); Common Ground Theatre: *Handel's Messiah-A Soulful Celebration* (Host/Narrator), *Four Queens No Trump*(Jocenia); Ira Aldridge Players: *Prodigal Son* (Evangelist/Singer), *Langston Hughes Staged Readings*, *Nina Simone* (Stage Mgr); CAT Theatre: *Here I Am* (Madeline Usher), *Native Son* (Bigger's Girlfriend), *Rockin' Kids II* (Asst Director), *The Messiah* (Stage Mgr); SD Black Ensemble: *August Wilson Staged Readings*; SD Church Conference/SD Symphony: *The Gospel Messiah* (Host/Narrator 2004-2009); SD Repertory/Fritz Blitz: *Humphrey Nevada*; TV/FILM: InVitro Films: *The Tie that Binds*-Short film (Wife/Angela), Proxy-Web-Series (Psychiatrist); 20th Century Fox: *The Tiger Woods Movie*; Opening Door Productions: *Levels of Anxiety*; Hansen Production Company: *Personals*; Commercials: Toyota Carlsbad, Channel 10 Christmas, Hush Puppies, Honda, Claritan & AOL.

**ELIJAH HOWLETT** (Houston Soldier): NVA: Assistant Stage Manager and Sound Mixer for PLAID TIDINGS.

**DAVID MACY-BECKWITH** (Sheriff/Ensemble): NVA: *As You Like It* (Corin), *Summer and Smoke* (Dr. Buchanan), Playwrights Village: *Beginner's Heaven* (Oliver), and most recently *Much Ado About Nothing* (Antonio). Favorite roles include Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (Temecula Valley Players) and Warnie Lewis in *Shadowlands* (American Coast Theater Company). Thanks to Cindee and Evan for all their support and encouragement.

**WALTER MURRAY** (Ludie Watts): NVA: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Walter has appeared on stage in SD, NY and LA. He was a co-founder of the San Diego Black Ensemble Theater. Thank you, Dr's Stanton, Epston and Levine.

**JOHN TESSMER** (Roy/Ensemble): NVA: Playwrights Village *S.R.O.* He has acted locally with North Coast Rep, Mo'olelo, Diversionary, Intrepid Shakespeare, Lamb's Players, 6th@ Penn/Compass, Poor Players, Carlsbad PlayReaders, SD Shakespeare Society, GrassRoots Greeks, and La Jolla's Riford Readers Theatre, where he is Producing Artistic Director. He has worked regionally with the Laguna Playhouse, Western Stage, Eugene O'Neill Foundation,

Idaho Rep, Cape Cod's Monomoy Theatre, and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (6 seasons). John has degrees from Yale and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has taught acting for the University of Colorado-Boulder and the Old Globe. Journey On, Brothers & Sisters!

**SYLVIA M'LAFI THOMPSON**<sup>^</sup> (Carrie Watts): NVA: Debut. Sylvia was nominated for a San Diego Critics Circle Award for leading actress in her role in Moxie Theatre's production of *A Raison In The Sun*. Some of her numerous theatre credits include *Our Town*, *Fences*, *Boom*, *Intimate Apparel*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Mrs. Witherspoon*, *Flyin' West*, *Christmas Carol*, *Othello* and *Antigone*. "I could not be prouder to have been invited by New Village Arts Theatre to be a part of Horton Foote's most inspiring journey. These performances are all dedicated to my dearest Sandra Ellis Troy".

**ALEXIS LOUISE YOUNG** (Thelma): NVA: Debut. Alexis is elated to be making her New Village Arts debut with such an enchanting piece as *The Trip to Bountiful* and with such a remarkable cast and crew! Professional credits include: *In The Wake* (San Diego REP), *Carmen* and *Turandot* (San Diego Opera, Civic Theater), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (San Diego Musical Theater), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas '09* (The Old Globe), *A Christmas Carol '08* (North Coast Repertory), and *The King & I* (Welk Resort Theatre). More than anything (even Drama), Alexis loves being the daughter of her incredible parents as well as playing big sis to her crazy (awesome) two younger sisters and baby brother.

<sup>^</sup> Member of Actors Equity Association, the union of professional stage actors and stage managers.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

**HORTON FOOTE** (Playwright): Mr. Foote had his first play, *Texas Town*, produced Off-Broadway in 1941. Since then he has had plays produced on Broadway, Off-Broadway, Off-Off-Broadway and at many regional theatres. Plays include *Dividing The Estate*, *The Last of the Thorntons*, *Young Man From Atlanta*, *The Chase*, *The Traveling Lady*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Night Seasons*, *Tomorrow*, *The Habitation of Dragons*, *The Orphan's Home Cycle*, *Roots in a Parched Ground*, *Convicts*, *Lily Dale*, *The Widow Claire*, *Courtship*, *Laura Dennis*, *Vernon Early*, *The Roads to Home*, *The Carpetbagger's Children* and *The Day Emily Married*. He received Academy Awards for his screenplay adaptation of *To Kill A Mockingbird* and his original screenplay, *Tender Mercies*. He received the Pulitzer Prize for his play, *The Young Man From Atlanta*, the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway and the Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award for the Signature Series of his plays. In 1996 he was elected to the Theatre Hall of Fame. In 1998 he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and at the same time received from the Academy the Gold Medal of Drama for the entire body of his work. In 2000 he received the PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award for Drama, New York State Governor's Arts Award and in December of that year he was given the National Medal of Arts Award by President Clinton. In 2006 his play, *The Trip to Bountiful*, won the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Revival and he was given the Drama Desk Lifetime Achievement Award for his body of work. His memoirs, *Farewell* and *Beginnings*, are published by Scribners.

**KRISTIANNE KURNER** (Director): NVA Ensemble Member. Kristianne is the co-founder and Executive Artistic Director of New Village Arts, where she has directed such productions as *Same Time*, *Next Year*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Summer and Smoke*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *Be Aggressive*, *Bulrushes*, *True West*, *Sailor's Song*, *The Waverly Gallery* and *A Lie of the Mind*. She has been seen on the NVA stages many times, most recently as Adriana in *Comedy of Errors*, Essie Miller in *Ah, Wilderness!*, Amanda Blue in *Waving Goodbye* and the title role in *The Heidi Chronicles*. Her work has received numerous awards, including San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and Patte Awards for Theatre Excellence. Education: BFA Theatre, The College of William & Mary; MFA Acting, the Actors Studio/New School.

**BILL BRADBURY** (Original Music and Sound Design): NVA: Original Music, *Of Mice and Men*. Bill Bradbury received his doctorate in music from Cornell University where he was music director for Theatre Cornell. He is a Professor of Music at California State, San Marcos. His work includes compositions for orchestra, chamber ensembles, soloists, and electronic media. His music for *Anza Borrego: Seasons in the Desert* received an Emmy Award for composing and arranging. Bradbury has received grants or commissions from Meet the Composer, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Maryland Arts Council, among others. Thanks to Kristianne and much love to my wife, NVA Ensemble Member Dana Case, and our son Chase.

**JANELL CANNON** (Scenic Design): is the Carlsbad based author and illustrator of *STELLALUNA* and five other books for children. She has painted sets for many NVA productions, including *Hamlet*, *Bulrushes* and *Fool for Love*.

**PAT HANSEN** (Props Design): Pat Hansen served on NVA's first Board of Directors, and gathered props for several NVA productions. She has a theatre degree from SDSU (class of 1954) and was the founding Artistic Director of Carlsbad Playreaders.

**JUSTIN LANG** (Sound Engineer): NVA Ensemble Member. As a sound designer for NVA: *Same Time*, *Next Year*, *THOM PAIN* (based on nothing); as an actor/director for NVA: *Brilliant Mistake*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* (Director), *Comedy of Errors* (Director), *Of Mice and Men*, *As You Like It*. MOXIE THEATRE/DIVERSIONARY: *Poster Boys*; MOXIE THEATRE/INTREPID: *The Crucible*; MOXIE THEATRE: *HickoryDickory*, *Ten Cent Night*, *Eurydice*, *Dog Act*; INTREPID: *Richard II*; POOR PLAYERS: numerous productions including *Romeo & Juliet*, *Measure for Measure* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Justin is the Education and Outreach Director for New Village Arts and he created THE SHAKESPEARE NETWORK: a program for local high school students to further their theatre studies. He is currently teaching "Shakespeare for All" at NVA: an adult acting class focused on the work of Shakespeare. He thanks his friends and family for their constant love and support in these strange times.

**MARY LARSON** (Costume Design): Favorites include For New Village Arts: *Death of a Salesman*; *Summer and Smoke*; *Picasso at Lapin Agile*; *Time Flies*; *Bulrushes*, *Golden Boy*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*; *Waverly Gallery*: For the Old Globe: *Hold Please*, *Lobby Hero*, The LaJolla Playhouse: *A Feast of Fools*; The San Diego Repertory Theatre: *A Hammer*, *a Bell and a Song to Sing*; *Zoot*

*Suit; The Road to Mecca; Hairspray; Doubt; The Blessing of a Broken Heart:* For North Coast Repertory Theatre: *Little Women:* For Ion Theatre: *The Lieutenant of Inishmore,* Mary holds an MFA in Theatre from the University of California, San Diego

**KEVIN KORNBERGER** (Stage Manager): has acted and worked on the production staff of various shows in San Diego including theatrical, musical and dance performances for Talent to aMUSE, Chronos Theatre Group, Liberty Hall Theatre, and DangerHouse Productions, among others. Much gratitude to Kristianne and the folks at NVA for this wonderful experience, the amazing cast and crew for their dedication and talent, and his girlfriend Mina for her love and support.

**CHRIS RENDA** (Light Design): NVA Ensemble Member. As an actor, Chris has worked with NVA: *Same Time, Next Year, Brilliant Mistake, Comedy of Errors;* INTREPID SHAKESPEARE (company member): *King John, Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet* and *Richard the Second;* with INTERMISSION PRODUCTIONS: *Mending Monologues* in San Diego and LA. He trained with the British American Dramatic Academy in Oxford. As a lighting designer for NVA: *Buried Child, The Comedy of Errors, Of Mice and Men, THOM PAIN (based on nothing), Ah, Wilderness!, Death of a Salesman, Sweet Storm, Waving Goodbye.* Other Lighting Design credits include: INTREPID: *An Enemy of the People, Richard II, The Crucible, Romeo and Juliet, Taming of the Shrew* and *King John;* DIVERSIONARY: *The Little Dog Laughed* and *Bent* (Patte Award); ASIAN AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER: *As Much As You Can;* ION THEATRE: *Hurlyburly.*

## FOR THIS PRODUCTION

**Box Office:** Mea Hall

**House Manager:** Rachel White

**Master Carpenter:** Kelly Kissinger

**Set Construction:** Dave Kurner, Justin Lang, Chris Renda, Janell Cannon

**Set Painting:** Janell Cannon, Phyllis Swanson & Shari Roberts

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Elijah Howlett

**Wig Design:** Missy Bradstreet

**Dialect Coach:** Dana Case

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Leora Zalman

**Production Photography:** Daren Scott

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Flippin and Knockout Pizza, MiraCosta College, Mesa College, Jack Missett, Laura & Dave Kurner, Dana Case, Holiday Geiger, Gail Tolleson, Phyllis Swanson, Bonnie & Nick Durben, Daren Scott, Playwrights Project, Bonnie Hall, Snyder Art, Shari L. Roberts and Just Faux You, furniture painting, Marty Burnett.