



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
June 10, 2015

MEDIA CONTACT:
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Lorraine Hansberry Theatre Presents *THURGOOD* - An Eye Opening, Humorous and Uplifting Portrait of a True American Hero and Civil Rights Icon - July 9-25th

LHT's Artistic Director Steven Anthony Jones is Thurgood Marshall

(San Francisco, CA) Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (LHT) shines the spotlight on civil rights with the Bay Area Premiere of *THURGOOD* by George Stevens, Jr. from July 9-25, 2015 at the Creativity Theater, 221 Fourth Street (at Howard) in San Francisco, directed by Margo Hall.



**Steven Anthony Jones
is Thurgood Marshall**

THURGOOD is a powerful one-man play first produced on Broadway in April 2008, starring Laurence Fishburne. LHT's production features LHT's Artistic Director Steven Anthony Jones as Thurgood Marshall, one of the defining American characters of the 20th Century and a legendary Civil Rights leader. Thurgood rose from the back alleys of Baltimore and the school of hard knocks to become the first African-American Justice of the United States Supreme Court in October 1967.

The play is set at Howard University, Thurgood's alma mater. Through a fictional lecture, Thurgood reviews the evolution of his life from his early days as a spirited young man and the founder of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to his appointment to the highest court.

Thurgood stood for "justice for all" and was the architect of several court challenges that became the foundation of the civil rights movement. As a civil rights lawyer, he argued and won *Brown v. Board of Education* in front of the Supreme Court in 1954 that led to the end of institutionalized segregation and rewrote human history in America.

LHT remains true to its core mission and is as relevant as ever with this timely production that serves as a reminder of how our civil rights were fought for and won. As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment and the 50th anniversary of Civil Rights Era hallmarks including the passing of the Voting Rights Act in August 1965, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre contends that now is the time to re-inspire citizens with a modern civic lesson through the non-threatening forum of the performing arts.

Performances of *THURGOOD* will be followed by talkbacks between the audience, the artist and community leaders about the impact of desegregation with thought-provoking discussions about civil rights struggles then and now. Invitations to participate in talkback panels include Plaintiff Civil Rights Attorney John Burris, Equal Justice Society, SFPD and BART Police Chiefs, among others.

BOX OFFICE: For information and to purchase tickets online, go to www.LHTSF.org/tickets.html.
Phone: (415) 474-8800. Email: BoxOffice@LHTSF.org. Web: www.LHTSF.org.

- MORE -

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Lorraine Hansberry Theatre
(415) 671-8978, Gina@LHTSF.org

VENUE: Creativity Theater, 221 Fourth Street (at Howard), San Francisco, CA 94103

PERFORMANCE DATES: July 9-25, 2015

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| ☐ Thursday, July 9, 8:00 pm (Preview) | ☐ Saturday, July 18, 2:00 pm |
| ☐ Friday, July 10, 8:00 pm (Opening Night) | ☐ Saturday, July 18, 8:00 pm |
| ☐ Saturday, July 11, 2:00 pm | ☐ Sunday, July 19, 2:00 pm |
| ☐ Saturday, July 11, 8:00 pm | ☐ Thursday, July 23, 8:00 pm |
| ☐ Sunday, July 12, 2:00 pm | ☐ Friday, July 24, 8:00 pm |
| ☐ Thursday, July 16, 8:00 pm | ☐ Saturday, July 25, 2:00 pm |
| ☐ Friday, July 17, 8:00 pm | ☐ Saturday, July 25, 8:00 pm (Closing) |

TICKET PRICES:

- Opening Night (Friday, 7/10) - \$35 for Adults, \$30 for Seniors
- Friday and Saturday Nights - \$30 Adults, \$25 for Seniors & Students
- Thursdays Nights, Saturday/Sunday matinees - \$25 for Adults, \$20 for Seniors & Students
- Group discounts of 10 tickets, or more, are available

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE: Go to <http://LHTSF.org/tickets.html>. Phone: (415) 474-8800. Email: BoxOffice@LHTSF.org. Web: www.LHTSF.org.

ABOUT STEVEN ANTHONY JONES (LHT Artistic Director): Steven Anthony Jones has worked professionally on stage, television and film for over 40 years. Prior to joining Lorraine Hansberry Theatre as Artistic Director in March 2011, he was a core company actor at American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.), where he acted, directed and taught. Among the plays he has been in are: *Sophocles' Elektra*, *a Pity She's a Whore*, *After the War*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Yohen*, *The Three Sisters*, *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge and The Ghost of Christmas Present), *"Master Harold"...and the boys*, *The Misanthrope*, *Threepenny Opera*, *Tartuffe*, *Indian Ink*, *Hecuba*, *Insurrection: Holding History*, *Seven Guitars*, *Othello* (title role), *Antigone*, *Miss Evers' Boys*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Saint Joan*, *King Lear*, *Golden Boy*, and *Feathers*. Other local theater credits include: *Fences* (Marin Theatre Company), *Fuente Ovejuna* and *McTeague* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *As You Like It* (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival); *The Cherry Orchard*, *Every Moment*, and *The Island* (Eureka Theatre); *Sideman* (San Jose Repertory Theatre); and *Division Street* (Oakland Ensemble Theatre). He originated the role of Private James Wilkie in the original production of *A Soldier's Play* at the Negro Ensemble Company in New York. His many film and television credits include two seasons of *Midnight Caller* and a recurring role on the NBC series *Trauma*. Mr. Jones received his early theatre training at Karamu House in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. He is a graduate of Yankton College in South Dakota. Other experience includes the Cleveland Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, and San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, among others.

ABOUT LORRAINE HANSBERRY THEATRE (LHT): Award-winning Lorraine Hansberry Theatre was founded in 1981 with the core mission to promote the performing arts and present plays by America's foremost African-American and multicultural playwrights. LHT provides employment and career-building opportunities for actors, directors, designers, and technicians. In March 2011, veteran stage, film and television actor, Steven Anthony Jones, became Artistic Director after the passing of co-founders Stanley E. Williams, Artistic Director, and Quentin Easter, Executive Director, in 2010.

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Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Administrative Office, 777 Jones Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
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