



# SWEAT

by Lynn Nottage

Directed By  
Ryan Welsh

Co-commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American  
Revolutions: The United States History Cycle And Arena Stage  
World premiere produced by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival  
This production of SWEAT was first presented in New York by The  
Public Theater  
(Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Patrick Willingham, Executive  
Director)  
Originally produced on Broadway by Stuart Thompson and Louise  
L. Gund.

SPARTAN STRONG DONATIONS & INFORMATION

## Michigan State University Land Acknowledgement

We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan's twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Costume Design <b>Kessler Jones*</b>	Scenic Design <b>Gabriela Castillo*</b>	Lighting Design <b>Madison Ramsey</b>	Stage Manager <b>Rayna Gold</b>
Props Design <b>Ariana Moreno</b>	Sound Design <b>Lucas Nunn Ryan Welsh</b>	Assistant Stage Managers <b>B. Beethem Hope Still</b>	Dramaturgy <b>Basil Rae</b>
CAST			
Evan – <b>Tyler Marks</b>			
Jason – <b>Ben Corsi</b>			
Chris – <b>Michale Coffey</b>			
Stan – <b>Gabriel Blaze Herdegen</b>			
Oscar – <b>Michael Bolaños</b>			
Tracey – <b>Katherine Clemons*</b>			
Cynthia – <b>Kamryn Sarratt</b>			
Jessie – <b>Shelby Ginsburg</b>			
Brucie – <b>Stefon Funderburke*</b>			
*Denotes Master of Fine Arts Candidate			

## WHEN ENTERING THE THEATRE

During the performance, please turn off cell phones, mobile devices, alarm watches and anything that makes noise. The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means are strictly prohibited.

## RUN TIME

2 hours, 30 minutes including 15 minute intermission

## CONTENT NOTICE

This play includes themes of poverty, addiction, racism, and xenophobia. It contains strong language including race- and gender-based slurs and some sexual references. Physical violence is acted out onstage. A prop handgun will be onstage; it will remain holstered and is a non-functional prop firearm.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In Sweat, Lynn Nottage creates for us a world that is as nuanced in its beauty as it is in its tragedy. It's so masterfully executed that it's little wonder the piece won the Pulitzer in 2017. When we began this process, we had one singular focus; to bring to life, and honor the incredible characters that populate her play. She managed the rare feat of writing characters that feel wholly individual, and yet they represent our neighbors, friends, family; they somehow stand in for all who have been affected by the changes brought on by globalization and the undermining of unions in the American workforce. These characters are us. They tell us a story of community – and what better place to experience the highs and lows of a community than a good dive bar?

In speaking of community, I will say that the community of artists that came together to tell this story for you are among some of the bravest I've met in a long while. In the days that followed the tragic events inflicted upon our community on February 13th, Lynn Nottage sent us a message of solidarity and support; she call artists "Second Responders." We need people to tell our stories, to help us make sense of it all, to remind us that we're not alone. This company of actors, designers, technicians, and production personnel made the choice to continue the work of telling this difficult story in the midst of our own grief. I'm in awe of each of them, and immensely proud of what they've accomplished. And I'm happy that you're here, so you can be a part of it too.

## DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Sweat by Lynn Nottage delves deep into the struggles of blue-collar workers in a deindustrializing city in Pennsylvania. The play centers on a group of factory workers who have spent most of their adult lives working at the same factory, forming a tight-knit community that is suddenly shattered by the announcement of layoffs and anti-union rhetoric.


As the play unfolds, we witness the complex relationships and dynamics between the characters, as they grapple with their fear and frustration over the loss of their jobs, and the subsequent impact on their families and their community. Based on firsthand research and interviews in Reading, Nottage's nuanced and realistic portrayal demonstrates the toll that economic hardship takes on individuals and groups, and the ways in which this can breed fear, resentment, and even violence.

The play's narrative structure, which moves between the present (2008) and the past (2000), allows us to see how the characters' current struggles are shaped by their personal histories and the larger forces of economic and social change. Because over 15 million people lost their jobs due to the Great Recession of 2008, themes of race, class, community, and a failing American Dream continue to resonate in the aftermath.

– Basil Rae (she/her)

## SPECIAL THANKS

Dan Henry Distributing Co., Blue Gill Grill, Michael E. Krueger, Brad, and the staff of The Peanut Barrel East Lansing



PRODUCTION TEAM	
Department of Theatre Chairperson	
Dr. Stephen Di Benedetto	
Department of Theatre	
Production Manager	
Abbie Tykocki	
Director	
Ryan Welsh	
Assistant Director	
Stefon Funderburke	
Dramaturg	
Basil Rae	
Department Technical Director	
DJ Selmeyer	
Production Technical Director	
Marc White	
Scenic Design	
Gabriela Castillo*	
Lighting Designer	
Madison Ramsey	
Sound Design	
Lucas Nunn and Ryan Welsh	
Costume Design	
Kessler Jones*	
Props Design	
Ariana Moreno	
Stage Manager	
Rayna Gold	
Assistant Stage Managers	
B. Beethem and Hope Still	
Fight and Intimacy Captain	
Katherine Clemons*	
Technical Director	
Marc White	
Paint Charge	
Thalia Pearce*	
Master Electrician	
Lilian Meyers*	
Costume Shop Supervisor	
Angie Wendelberger	
Scene Shop Manager	
Levi Galloway	
Head Carpenter	
Marc White	
Lighting Board Op	
Taelor Burrell	
Sound Board Op	
Andrew Brown	
Deck Crew Head	
Zachary Deande	
Costume Crew Head	
Nakayla Morgan	
Make Up Crew Head	
Ava Ballagh	
House Manager	
Joshua Powles	
Publicity	
Abbie Tykocki, Joie Culligan, Ryonn Clute, Kelsey Southwick	
Promotional Photography	
Josh Denver	
Fiscal Officer	
Sara Allison	
Office Operations	
Brian deVries	
Costume Shop	
Kasee Arnett, Mona Jahani, Kessler Jones, Emily Rosolowski, Jade Jaards, Evie Shadoff, Kat Poon, Madison LeMieux	
Scene Shop Employees and Students	
Levi Galloway, Marc White, Thalia Pearce, Gabriela Castillo, Jordan House, B Beethem, Anthony Monteleone, Christophe Straub, Julie Clappitt, Theresa Littleworth, Sydney St Amour, Shirell Clark, Hope Still	
Scenic Painters:	
Scenic Painters: Scene Shop Employees and Students, THR 811 Scenic Painting class: Kasee Arnett, B Beethem, Gabriela Castillo, Bunni Gutierrez, Jordan House, Mona Jahani, Kessler Jones, Lilian Meyers, Ariana Moreno, Melina Rodriguez, Emily Rosolowski, Ray Snively, Lauren Spiegel, Hope Still	
Stage Crew	
THR 111 Students	
Faculty Mentors:	
Stage Management: Tina M. Newhauser	
Costume Design: Karen Kangas-Preston	
Scenic Design: Ranae Selmeyer	
Prop Design: Ranae Selmeyer	
Scenic Art: Ranae Selmeyer	
Sound Design: Lucas Nunn	
Lighting Design: Shannon Schweitzer	
Dramaturgy: Dr. Dan Smith	
Intimacy Direction: Alexis Black	
House Management: Abbie Tykocki	
Publicity: Abbie Tykocki	

CAST & CREW BIOS
+ B BEETHEM (Assistant Stage Manager)
+ MICHAEL BOLAÑOS (Oscar)
+ GABRIELA CASTILLO (Scenic Design)
+ KATHERINE CLEMONS (Tracey/Fight and Intimacy Captain)
+ BEN CORSI (Jason)
+ STEFON FUNDERBURKE (Brucie)
+ SHELBY GINSBURG (Jessie)
+ RAYNA GOLD (Stage Manager)
+ GABRIEL BLAZE HERDEGEN (Stan)
+ KESSLER JONES (Costume Designer)
+ TYLER MARKS (Evan)
+ ARIANA MORENO (Props Artisan)
+ MADDIE RAMSEY (Lighting Designer)
+ KAMRYN SARRATT (Cynthia)
+ HOPE STILL (Assistant Stage Manager)

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Contributions made to the Honor/Memorial Giving Program offers you a way to honor any important occasion, including birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries. It is also a special way to remember those who are no longer with us.

The honoree will receive a beautiful card notifying them of your thoughtful gift. Any contribution of \$50 or more will be listed in our program all season long (July 1 through June 30).

In Honor of Ms. Teriah N. Fleming  
Prof. Kirk A. Domer

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