

THE MOUNTAINTOP

BY KATORI HALL
AUGUST 2020



Director's Note



Welcome to *The Mountaintop*! This is the first full-length production produced by Quincy Community Theatre specifically for the “virtual stage.” Thank you for bringing Quincy Community Theatre into your home! We are embarking upon an incredible journey together.

In *The Mountaintop*, Dr. King is asked what is the one thing that all humans have in common, and his response is “We all scared. Scared of each other. Scared of ourselves... Scared of losin’ somethin’ that they’ve known their whole lives. Fear makes us human.”

“Scared of losin’ somethin’ that they’ve known their whole lives.” That’s a powerful thought, and I find it so true. I find that it can be so frightening to be wrong, to try new things, and hardest of all, let go of hard-held beliefs and change my mind. This play is filled with “upsets,” taking ideas we always thought were true and unraveling them. They remind us that life isn’t always what we thought it was, and we will be met with changes and the need to ask questions and, as frightening as it might be, even the need to (gulp) change our minds.

COVID-19 has given the world a jolt and made its inhabitants stop and rethink how it maneuvers. Civil unrest has given us the much-needed reminder that equality is still to be achieved. Rather than waiting for operations to return “as they used to be,” QCT made the decision to explore new methods to provide quality entertainment and education through community participation. We are examining the way we can tell the stories, and we are examining what the stories themselves can be. Change can be scary, but it’s also necessary.

If this is your first experience with Quincy Community Theatre, we hope that it is just the beginning. We commit to provide our participants in the audience, on the stage, and behind the scenes with a place where they can bring their whole selves and will be respected for it. We exist for you. Consider becoming a regular participant.

I hope that this theatrical experience will inspire you to see yourself and the people you encounter differently, to try something new, and that it will encourage you to let go of an old way of thinking in order to embrace what’s in front of you. As Dr. King says, “The time is now.”

Brandon J. Thomsen
Artistic Director

Meet the Cast



John Lumpkin (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) was born and raised in northeast Ohio in the city of Warren. John holds a bachelors in Criminal Justice and a minor in African American Studies, both from the Indiana University. Upon moving to Quincy 2007, John found his love of working with youth through employment with Chaddock. He then transitioned this new found love into working in the Quincy Public School District for the past 10 years. He is currently the SSFL /Dean of Students for the Adams County Regional Safe School, working with alternative students in the Adams County Area. In his free time John enjoys spending time with his family, coaching youth sports, and cheering for his beloved Cleveland Browns. If you were to ask him for one piece of advice he would say, "Keep going... this is not the end. Your story just started."

Marissa Lumpkin (Camae) is a Registered Behavior Technician in the Blessing Physician Services Outpatient Behavioral Health Department and works with children in the Applied Behavior Analysis program. Although raised in Hannibal, Missouri, she has been a resident of Quincy, Illinois since 2006. Marissa holds a bachelors in Human Services from Quincy University and an associates in Psychology from John Wood Community College. She has a profound love for people and has worked in the field of Human Services for 17 years. Marissa loves music, particularly singing. She sings with her praise and worship team at "The Amazing Cathedral of Worship" and in the gospel recording group "New Anointing." In her down time, she enjoys listening to books on audible, writing children's books, cooking, and spending time with family. If you were to ask her for one piece of advice she would say, "Try Love... It never fails."

John and Marissa have been married for 10 years and have four children: Asia, Ronia, Julian, and Jolee

Live Q&A

Following the performance there will be a live Q&A with Brandon, John, and Marissa. You, the audience, can ask the director and cast questions about the show and share what's on your mind.

You can view and participate in the Q&A through our [Facebook page](#) and our [YouTube Channel](#) immediately following the virtual show on Tuesday, August 11 (approximately 9:05 PM).

Special Thanks

Valerie Hernandez
Daniel Conboy
Emily Canter
Ryan McElroy
Lorne Kelley
Jolee Lumpkin
Kenyetta McFall
The Atrium on Third

**“THE BATON MAY HAVE BEEN DROPPED,
BUT ANYONE CAN PICK IT BACK UP.”**

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