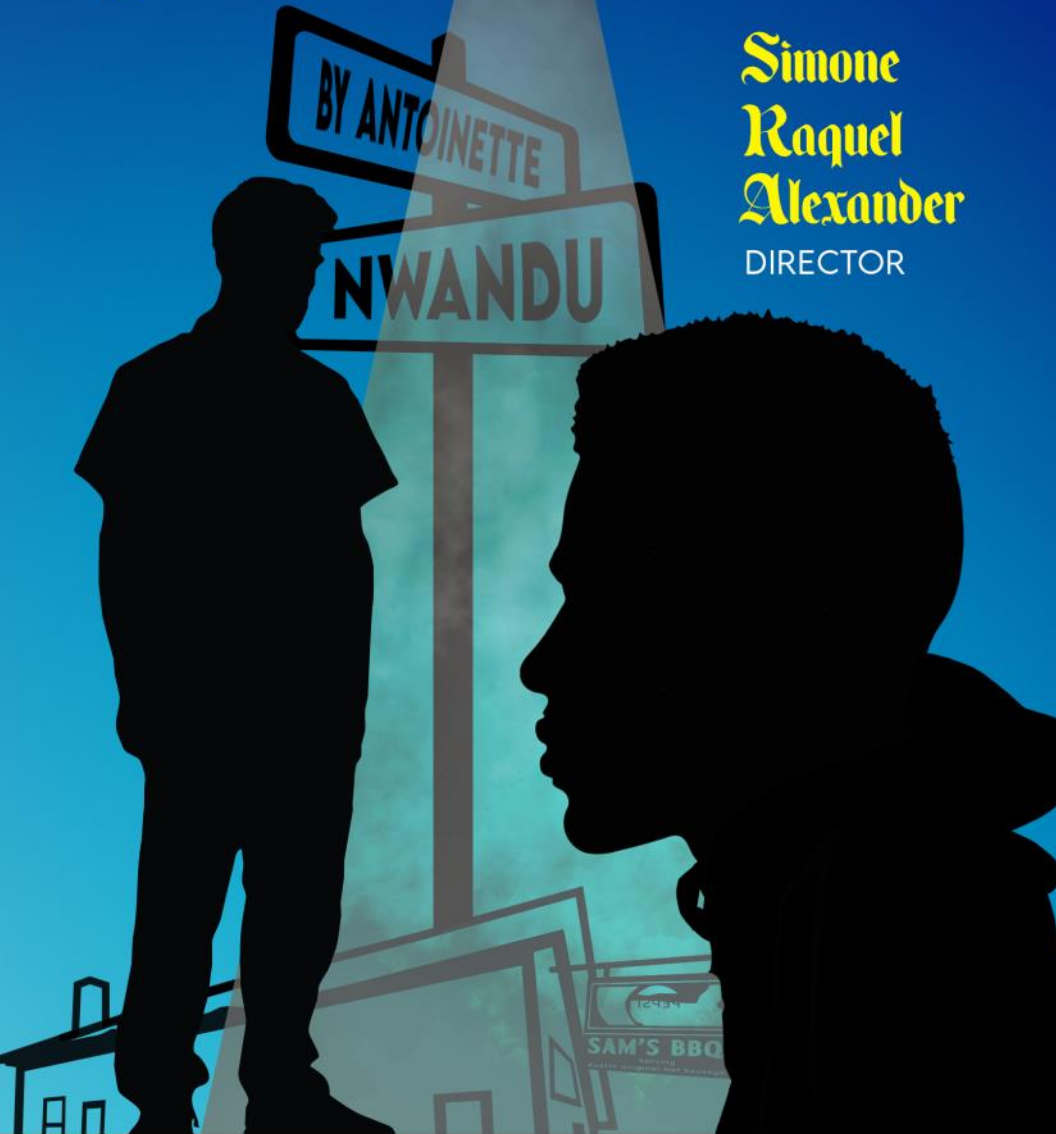


GROUND FLOOR THEATRE  
PRESENTS

# Pass Over

Simone  
Raquel  
Alexander

DIRECTOR



Ground Floor Theatre Presents

# Pass Over

By

**Antoinette Nwandu**

Directed by **SIMONE RAQUEL ALEXANDER**

*Fight Choreographer* ..... **JEFFERY Da'SHADE JOHNSON**  
*Intimacy Director* ..... **ANDY GRAPKO**  
*Scenic Design*..... **FRED DEMPS**  
*Lighting Design* ..... **J MWAKI**  
*Costume Design*..... **DESIREE HUMPHRIES**  
*Sound Design* ..... **JOHANN SOLO**  
*Stage Dressing & Properties Design* ..... **LIZ TYSON**  
*Production Stage Manager* ..... **VAL JOHNSON**  
*Stage Manager* ..... **ANDERSON, F.**  
*Technical Director* ..... **FRED DEMPS**  
*Graphic Design* ..... **ERICA MORENO**  
*Box Office Manager* ..... **DIANA RAFFERTY**  
*Photographer*..... **STEVE ROGERS**  
*Press Representative* ..... **MOTLEY CREW MEDIA/NICOLE SHIRO**  
*Social Media Marketing*..... **ANDREA NUÑEZ**  
*EDI Consultant* ..... **NICOLE BELL**

## CAST

Moses ..... **SIBONELO SHEZI**  
Kitch ..... **ADONIS ANDERSON**  
Mister/Osifer ..... **NATHAN JERKINS**

## **BUILDING / PAINTING / ELECTRICS CREW**

**FRED DEMPS, ZAC CROFFORD, KHALIA SACKO, GAVIN KENTER,  
OLLIE SOFIELD, CB FELLER, EMILY HEATH**

The world premiere of **PASS OVER** was produced and presented at  
Steppenwolf theatre Company, Chicago, IL;  
Anna D. Shapiro, Artistic Director and David Schmitz, Managing Director

Produced by Lincoln Center Theater; New York City, 2018

Developed by Cherry Lane Mentor Project, Angelina Fiordellisi, Founding  
Artistic Director

## Directors' Note

*"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept." -Angela Davis*

This play for me is about the endurance, hope, and joy of Black people and how our society prohibits unabashed freedom for all. This is a cautionary tale and a calling card for activism. We all play a part in making this world the kind of world that all folks can thrive in. We need to avoid getting swept away by fear and people that do not look like us. I hope you leave the theatre feeling activated to change the things you cannot accept.

—Simone Raquel Alexander

## Content Advisory:

*Pass Over* contains explicit and racially charged language, depictions of racial violence and police brutality, gun violence, and strong emotional content that may be distressing to some.

Ground Floor Theatre has signed a pledge with GunNeutral.org that for every gun appearing in our productions a donation will be made to an anti gun violence organization. We have made a contribution to Moms

**Ground Floor Theatre** fosters an environment for creative thinkers and artists to produce works focusing on underrepresented communities, lifting voices that need to be heard to people who need to hear them.

*We believe in theatre for everyone!*

For more information please visit [groundfloortheatre.org](http://groundfloortheatre.org)

### GFT BOARD

**Jo Ivester**, Chair  
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### GFT STAFF

**Lisa Scheps**, Founder & Co-Artistic Director  
**Patti Neff-Tiven**, Co-Artistic Director  
**Simone Alexander**, Development Director  
**Andrea Nuñez**, Social Media Manager  
**Megan Thornton**, Director of New Works

# WHO'S WHO



**SIBONELO SHEZI** — **Moses** (he/him) is an actor born in Houston, Texas but grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sibonelo graduated from Concordia University with a major in English Literature. He also minored in theatre; appearing in plays *Goodnight Desdemona* as Othello and Tybalt, and Hornsby in *A Kind of Alaska*. He has always been interested in Theatre since high school, making skits with his friends, etc. Sibonelo played soccer at Concordia as well and currently works as a youth soccer coach on the weekends. He tries to play with friends whenever he can.



**ADONIS ANDERSON** — **Kitch** (he/him) is a trained actor under Atlantic Acting School In New York City. His on-stage credits include: *George*, *Intimate Apparel*, Aaron Davis Theatre, based in Harlem, New York. He is also a writer, using pen names Donovan Cartridge and Donny Carrier. His book: *The Evolving Heart (A Collection of Works)* can currently be found on Amazon. And by the end of 2024, or early 2025, his other books: *Let's be the last ones the speak*, and *Cloudless in Hell: Stages of a Future Life* (subject to change), will also be in his discography. He enjoys playing basketball when life permits him the

time.



**NATHAN JERKINS**—**Mister/Osifer** (he/him) is happy to be back at Ground Floor Theatre! Nathan is a co-founder and Co-Artistic Director of Penfold Theatre Company. Acting credits include *Always a Boy* (Ground Floor Theatre); *Art, Box, Vincent, Much Ado About Nothing, Now Then Again, Romeo & Juliet, A Minister's Wife, Servant to Two Masters, Going With Jenny, Three Days of Rain, A Miracle on 34 th Street Classic Radiocast, etc.* (Penfold); *The Duchess of Malfi, Tate's Lear, Rose Rage, Taming of the Shrew* (Hidden Room Theatre); *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch* (ZACH Theatre); and other productions with Austin

Shakespeare, Doctuh Mistuh Productions, The Scottish Rite Children's Theatre, City Theatre, and others. Nathan has received several acting awards and nominations. He is also an award-winning director and has written plays produced at Penfold, Scriptworks' FronteraFest, and internationally.



**SIMONE RAQUEL ALEXANDER**—**Director** (she/her) is a freelance artist, arts administrator, and arts advocate working in the nonprofit field and theatre community. She serves as Producing Artistic Director and Founder of New Manifest Theatre Company, where she has brought together an ensemble of interdisciplinary artists. Simone works with Ground Floor Theatre and The Contemporary Austin museum; and volunteers through service on the Mama Sana Vibrant Women board, University of Texas UTeach Fine Arts Advisory Council, Austin Community Colleges AAS Drama in Tech Theatre Advisory

Committee, and the ATX Theatre Advisory Board. Simone is grateful for family and the Austin arts community for their continued support and inspiration. Thank you always to my loves and guiding lights, Nehemiah and Nolan. Follow Simone's creative work at [simoneraquelalexander.blog](http://simoneraquelalexander.blog) and [newmanifest.org](http://newmanifest.org)

# WHO'S WHO (CON'T)

**ANTOINETTE NWANDU—Playwright** is a New York-based writer for stage & screen. In the summer of 2017, weeks after Trump's election, Nwandu's play *Pass Over* had its World Premiere at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. A filmed version of that Jeff Award-winning Steppenwolf production—directed by Spike Lee— premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and at SXSW, and is currently streaming on Amazon Prime. In 2018, *Pass Over* made its New York debut at LCT3/Lincoln, complete with a new ending. Nwandu has said that if the 2017 ending hits the audience like a sledgehammer, then the 2018 ending is more of a shiv. In 2021, *Pass Over* ushered in the re-opening of Broadway after the pandemic closure. For this version of the play, Nwandu changed the ending again, this time reversing the lead character's ultimate fate. Nwandu commented that, "after the pandemic, and especially the murder of George Floyd, the idea of sitting through rehearsal after rehearsal of my play the way it ended filled me with dread. I changed the play for myself, first, and then for my audience. We don't need to see anymore dead & dying Black men."

Additional plays include *Breach*: a manifesto on race in America through the eyes of a Black girl recovering from self-hate (2018 Victory Gardens World Premiere); *Flat Sam* (Douglas Turner Ward prize); and *Vanna White Has Got to Die!* (Fire This Time Festival).

Antoinette is a MacDowell Fellow, a Dramatists Guild Fellow, an Ars Nova Play Group alum, and a Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference Literary Fellow. Honors include a Lilly Award (2020); a Lucille Lortel Award (2019); the Whiting Award (2018); the Samuel French Next Step Award (2018); the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award (2017); the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award (2008); and spots on the 2016 and 2017 Kilroys lists. Her work has been supported by the Sundance Theater Lab, Space on Ryder Farm, Ignition Fest, the Cherry Lane Mentor Project, the Kennedy Center, Page73, PlayPenn, Southern Rep, The Flea, Naked Angels, Fire This Time and The Movement Theater Company. Antoinette has a bachelor's degree in English, magna cum laude, from Harvard College; an MSc from The University of Edinburgh; and an MFA from NYU Tisch. Antoinette also writes & produces for film + tv.

**JEFFERY Da'SHADE JOHNSON—Fight Choreographer** is a SAG-AFTRA actor, poet, martial artist, emcee, filmmaker & award-winning fight choreographer. He won the 2017 B. Iden Payne Award for Outstanding Actor in a Drama for his role as Mason Dixon in *Underground*.

**ANDY GRAPKO—Intimacy Director** (she/her) is a certified Intimacy Coordinator with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, a SAG-AFTRA accredited program. She is also the Resident Intimacy Director for the Department of Theatre and Dance at UT Austin, where she teaches in the Acting program. Her recent intimacy credits include *A Funny Little Thing Called Love* and *Bright Star* (Georgetown Palace Theatre), *Jack and Aiden* and *Always a Boy* (Ground Floor Theatre), *Romeo y Juliet* and *Ride the Cyclone* (UT, Austin), *The Queen of Spades* (Butler Opera Center), *Pipeline* (Alchemy Theatre), *Metamorphoses* (University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley), *The Pearl Fishers* (Austin Opera), *Big Love* (Texas State), and films *American Baby*, and *Angel*, and the CW's *Walker* (season 4). [www.andygrapko.com](http://www.andygrapko.com)

# WHO'S WHO (CON'T)

**FRED DEMPS—Scenic Design/Technical Director** (he/him) is a recent graduate from ACC and is starting at St. Edwards in the fall for his Bachelor's.

**J MWAKI—Lighting Design** (they/them) is a lighting designer and master electrician. While taking a break from pursuing a bachelors in Computer Science, they found themselves in a part time job at a community arts center which eventually led to an apprenticeship with the head of lighting there. Since then, they've worked in 5 major cities working on exciting projects and events such as plays, conventions, concerts, festivals, and more! In the past, they have enjoyed working with lighting design students at Stanford University, Case Western University and Baldwin Wallace University. J now lives in Austin, TX with a full time job at a production company. They still find time to freelance for local theaters to satisfy their undying love for the community.

**DESIREE HUMPHRIES—Costume Design** (she/her) is an Austin native costume designer whose recent credits include *Hearts Like Fists* (ACC) and *Black Feminist Guide To The Body* (The VORTEX). Aside from being a local designer, she works at the University of Texas at Austin as the costume stock supervisor and costume production manager. She is happy to be working with GFT and is proud to be a part of the Black artistic community and thanks Simone for asking her to help tell this story.

**JOHANN SOLO (JOHANN MAHLER) —Sound Design** (he/him) is an Austin Tx based actor, sound designer/engineer, and music producer. He has designed and composed for the past 6 years and recently finished music composition and sound design for *Clyde's* and *Native Gardens*. He is also the founder of the Austin based music group YOSO Collective. Along with producing and performing their own music and shows, YOSO aims to support artists in their vision.

**LIZ TYSON—Prop and Set Dressing Design** (she/her) is a props designer, graphic designer, and set dresser from Austin, TX. She has proudly designed the props on Ground Floor Theatre's productions of: *Jack & Aiden*, *Always A Boy*, and *Clyde's*. She also works with The Filigree Theatre and Austin Shakespeare Company. She is excited to continue her work at GFT on *Pass Over*.

**VAL JOHNSON—Production Stage Manager** (she/her) has been an integral part of Austin theater since 2018, currently serving as a dedicated board member for Salvage Vanguard Theater. With a fervent passion for stage managing, Val has left her mark on numerous productions, including *Twenty-Eight*, *Bright Mother*, *Warrior Goddess King*, and *Box*. Additionally, she has contributed her talents as Assistant Director for *I See You, You're Seen*. Beyond the stage, Val finds joy in spending time with her beloved companions, Eddie the dog and Pepper the cat. She is thrilled to be involved in this production, which celebrates the rich tradition of black storytelling.

**ANDERSON, F.—Stage Manager** (they/them) is an intuitive, multidisciplinary artist with a specialty in acting. Recent productions include *The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body* (VORTEX Rep.) and *...but you could've held my hand* (UT Dept. of Theatre Arts and Dance). They are excited to be working at Ground Floor Theatre for the first time with old friends.

# WHO'S WHO (CON'T)

**ERICA MORENO—Graphics Design** (she/her) is an Austin Creative with over 20 years of experience in poster art and graphic design. She continues to expand her creative curiosities with painting, fine art photography, and performance art. Music is tied to everything she does as an artist. She has a strong passion for her creative work and draws inspiration from her family, traveling, nature and history. "Design is an opportunity to solve a problem with a creative solution. It's a puzzle and I get to arrange the pieces. For me, it's attention to detail and a strong concept. Design can attract attention, make you think, and reveal something new each time you look at it."

**NICOLE K. BELL/FULL HUMANITY CONSULTING—EDI Consultant** (she/her) is a strategic planning, learning and development professional that has over 20 years of creating training programs that focus on leadership, and equity while creating inclusive, authentic, and liberating learning connections. She is a certified mediator, success coach, and a graduate of both Leadership Women-Leadership Pipeline (2016) and the Essential Class of Leadership Austin (2018). Nicole is a Courageous Conversations about Race Affiliate Practitioner. In March 2023, she was awarded as the People's Choice Equity Champion of Change recipient from DivInc. In her spare time, she enjoys being a die hard volleyball mom, comedy shows, movies, and eating ice cream with her daughters, Avery, 25, and Zoie, 13

**MOTLEY CREW MEDIA—Press Representative** Founded in 2006 by Amy S. Layton, Motley Crew Media is a full-service boutique marketing and public relations firm with a focused expertise in arts and entertainment. Made up of senior-level experienced PR and marketing specialists, the "Crew" helps clients bring their brand to life in the field through passion and commitment, alongside a keen ability to transform concept and vision into precisely executed reality. Sampling of clients include: aGLIFF, Austin Playhouse, Austin Shakespeare, Broadway Across America, Ground Floor Theatre, Hobby Center, Holland Taylor, Impact Arts, Jaston Williams, LTWA, LTZA, Penfold Theatre Company, Tapestry, Texas Performing Arts, The Lost Gonzo Band, and ZACH Theatre among many

## GFT 2024 SEASON

### **February 15– March 2, 2024**

**Always A Boy** by Jo Ivester & Jeremy

Ivester

Directed by Lisa Scheps

### **May 16–June 1, 2024**

**Clyde's** by Lynn Nottage

Directed by Lacey Cannon Gonzales & Carl Gonzales

### **August 15–31, 2024**

**Passover** by Antoinette Nwandu

Directed by Simone Alexander

### **December 5 –21, 2024**

**Falsettos** by William Finn & James Lapine

Directed by Trace Turner

Musical Director Trey Shonkwiler

For more info

[groundfloortheatre.org/2024season](http://groundfloortheatre.org/2024season)

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

We would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

We would also like to acknowledge that East Austin has also been historically home to segregated and under resourced Mexican and Black communities.

As guests, we pay respect to these peoples, past, present, and future, here in their homeland.

Thank You To Our Production Sponsors

Carolee Biddle  
Diana & Michael Rafferty  
John & Susan Theiss

Thank You To Our Community Partner



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP  
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*PASS OVER?*

We need your help to fund this show. If you'd like to support this production, click the QR code or Venmo (@GroundFloor) or Pay Pal (lisa@groundfloortheatre.org). Any amount helps.



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