



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



BY THE WAY

MEET VERA STARK

BY LYNN NOTTAGE



By the Way, Meet Vera Stark

by Lynn Nottage

Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2011 (Carole Rothman, Artistic Director).
Originally commissioned and developed by South Coast Repertory and Center Stage.

Directed by

Maya “Alpa” Hodges

Costume Design

Jessica Williams

Photographer

Max Wilder

Set Design

Randy Bampfield

Technical Lead

Murray Mann

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OFFENSE**



180 Academy St., Alpharetta, GA 30009
act1theater.org

By the Way, Meet Vera Stark

ACT ONE.1933
ACT TWO.2003, 1973, & 1933

Cast

Vera Stark.....Alicia Darcel
Gloria Mitchell.Hailee Beltzhoover
Lottie McBride/Afua Assata Ejobo.Reese Garcia
Anna Mae Simpkins/Carmen Levy-Green.Jordan Lee Allan
Leroy Barksdale/Herb Forrester.Tyren Duncan
Maximillian Von Oster/Peter Rhys-Davies.Perry McWilliams
Fredrick Slasvick/Brad Donovan.Randy Bampfield

Production Team

Director..... Maya “Alpa” Hodges
Costume Design..... Jessica Williams
Photographer..... Max Wilder
Lighting and Sound Design.....Murray Mann
Set Design..... Randy Bampfield



Welcome to ACT1 Theater!

Our Mission Statement:

ACT1 Theater is an all-volunteer outreach of Alpharetta Presbyterian Church that produces high-quality and entertaining theatrical experiences and drama education. ACT1 Theater welcomes people of all backgrounds to an inclusive, loving, supportive and joyful environment in keeping with Christian values. We encourage growth and development as individuals and fellowship among all participants.

Connect with Us:



(770) 663-8989



act1theater.org



[ACT1theater](https://www.facebook.com/ACT1theater)

[@act1theater_alpharetta](https://www.instagram.com/act1theater_alpharetta)

Directors Note



Maya “Alpa” Hodges is a theatre artist from Baldwin, NY. Maya graduated from American University with a degree in theatre, where she performed and wrote in various productions for the Department of Performing Arts. She began this journey with *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* in November of 2022, and since then has learned many lessons in the refining of black stories on stage. With passion and devotion, she helped build this production with much grace and respect to Lynn Nottage.

She wishes blessings to those who have and will continue to support her.

True Colors: Good Bad People **Actors Express:** 2021-2022 Apprentice Company. **Educational:** *Steel Magnolias, Othello, La Ronde.* **Film/TV:** *Katie.* **Education:** BA, Performance Theatre, American University. **Other:** IG @queenofdayouth



2022 ACT1 Theater Board of Directors

President: Virginia Mann
Treasurer: Arthur Colby • Secretary: Stu Moring

Loren Collins • Christie Lee Fisher
Maya Gardner • Heather Wagner

Artistic Director.....Jessica Williams
Managing Director.....Randy Bampffield



Become a Member Now!

By becoming a member, you will help ACT1 Theater continue to produce quality theater performances and make capital improvements to enhance the audience experience. We remain an all-volunteer program that offers free participation and is open to anyone regardless of race, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or anything else. Please consider supporting ACT1 Theater and the Arts in Alpharetta! In addition to a possible income tax deduction, you will be entitled to the benefits below based on your membership level.

- Crew Level \$20+
 - Quarterly Newsletter
 - Program acknowledgement throughout the season.

- Actor Level \$50+
 - Crew Level plus presale ticket window with reserved seats.

- Director Level \$100+
 - Actor Level plus 25% discount on all full price tickets.

- Producer Level \$250+
 - Director Level plus 2 season tickets for all MainStage shows.

Just want to donate? Set up recurring contributions? *Note: donation will be through Alpharetta Presbyterian Church.*

[Set Up Donation](#)

Cast Bios



Alicia Darcel (Vera Stark): Alicia is thrilled to be making her debut at ACT1 Theater. A new transplant to Atlanta, Alicia is delighted to be back on stage doing what she loves. Her other theater credits include: *By the Apricot Trees*, where she was nominated for Best Actress in an ensemble, *Love and Information*, *Glockenspiel*, and *Chapter II: Erica*, to name a few.



Hailee Beltzhoover (Gloria Mitchell): Hailee is incredibly excited and thankful for the opportunity to bring the dynamic character of Gloria Mitchell to life. She is new to Atlanta but was recently in OnStage Atlanta's *Rock of Ages*. Hailee thanks ACT1 and Maya Hodges for their hard work and dedication. She also thanks her fiancé Dallas for being her rock through it all. Enjoy the show!



Reese Garcia (Lottie McBride/Afua Assata Ejobo): Reese is an improviser and actress. She's originally from NY but has called Atlanta home for over 8 years. She's very excited to return to the theatre with such a talented cast.



Jordan Lee Allan (Anna Mae Simpkins/Carmen Levy-Green): Jordan received a BA in Theatre from California State University Channel Islands. She knew from a young age that all she wanted was to make people laugh. As a child, Jordan would sit on the bathroom counter figuring out what muscles in her face-controlled movement so she could contort her face like Jim Carrey. Her highest form of joy is hearing an audience laugh.



Tyren Duncan (Leroy Barksdale/Herb Forrester): Straight outta Houston Texas, Tyren is a multidisciplinary artist known for his work within Performance and Visual art. Graduating from Texas A&M with a BFA, he secured his first Professional gig with Cincy Shakespeare Company and Produced his first Performance arts show *We Are*. Follow @_xxfacesxx_ for all Performance and Visual Arts curation.



Perry McWilliams (Maximilian Von Oster/ Peter Rhys-Davies): Perry McWilliams is thrilled to work with ACT1 Theater again. Previous roles include Jean Shepherd (*A Christmas Story: The Musical*), Hysterium (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*), Henry Mills (*Laughing Stock*), Mr. Marks (*Intimate Apparel*). Perry would like to thank the Lord for his grace and mercy, and his director Maya for this opportunity.



Randy Bampfield (Fredrick Slasvick/Brad Donovan): Randy is excited to be back in the Black Box Theater at the Alpharetta Arts Center, last seen here as Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Randy recently played Max in the FoCal Center's inaugural adult musical, *The Sound of Music*. His favorite roles include Herbie in *Gypsy*, Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia!* and Callahan in *Legally Blonde*. Thank you for supporting live theater.

Production Team Bios



Maya "Alpa" Hodges (Director): **Actors Express:** 2021-2022 Apprentice Company. *Bootycandy*, *Sunset Baby*. **Educational:** *Steel Magnolias*, *Othello*, *La Ronde*. **Film/TV:** *Katie*. **Education:** BA, Performance Theatre, American University. **Other:** IG @queenofdayouth.



Jessica Williams (Costume Designer): Jessica is an Atlanta based Actor and Costume Designer; she has been performing for 20 years and costuming for 10. She resides with her husband and two daughters in Cumming, GA. Her recent costuming credits include *Almost, Maine* (Subtext Dinner Theatre), *Big the Musical* (ACT1), *Much Ado About Nothing* (ACT1), *Little Women* (The Oak Theater), *The Little Mermaid* (SJBA), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (ACT1).



Max Wilder (Photographer): Max is a professional freelance photographer specializing in outdoor, event, sports, food, & personal photography. His mission is to "share my appreciation for photography and adventure." IG: maxdwilder



Murray Mann (Technical Lead): Murray has been providing technical services for ACT1 for more than 20 years. He has occasionally appeared on stage during that time (including the memorable role of a French man in *Death by Chocolate*) but his real passion is the technical side of theater. He manages, and often runs, the lighting and sound systems for the main stage theater as well as the more portable gear used around town. He has an electrical engineering background but writes software for a living.



Randy Bampfield (Set Design): Randy has taken real world building experience and combined that with lots of Googling to teach himself how to build theater sets. Most recently, he designed the sets of ACT1 Theater's *Harvey* and *The Christmas Story, the Musical*.

Want Your Picture in Our Program?

Upcoming Auditions at ACT1 Theater:



February 27 and March 2, 2023

Audition information available at act1theater.org.

Have Stage Fright?
Volunteer!

The poster for the play 'Silent Sky' has a dark blue, starry night sky background. At the top, the ACT1 Theater logo features a white silhouette of a person with arms raised, next to the text 'ACT1 THEATER'. Below this, 'THE CITY OF ALPHARETTA RECREATION PARKS & CULTURAL SERVICES' is written. To the right, 'PRESENTS' is written above the Innovation Academy logo, which is a stylized orange and red bird. The text 'In Partnership With.' is placed between the city and academy logos. The title 'Silent Sky' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle. Below the title, 'by Lauren Gunderson' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, 'on the stage at' is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. The Innovation Academy logo is repeated in a white box, with 'FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS' written above it. Below the logo, the address '125 Milton Ave, Alpharetta, GA 30009' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the dates 'March 10-26, 2023' and the showtimes 'Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 PM' and 'Sunday Matinees at 2:00 PM' are written in a white, cursive font.



Our Partnership with the City of Alpharetta

ACT1 Theater and the City of Alpharetta formed a partnership in 2017. Working together, we have produced plays and vignettes of William Shakespeare outdoors in Wills Park, a series of songs and scenes for the City's inaugural Summer Concert Series in Brooks Street Park, and plays in the Alpharetta Arts Center intimate Black Box Theater.

We are pleased to continue this partnership during ACT1 Theater's 2022-2023 season and the City of Alpharetta's 2023 Fiscal Year. As a result of this continuing partnership, we are offering these shows.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

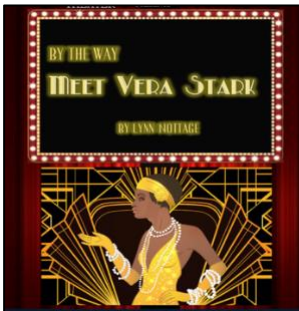
April 14-22, 20223

Fri/Sat at 8 pm

Wills Park, under the pavilion
behind the Alpharetta Community
Center



On a midsummer's night, four young lovers find themselves wrapped in the dream-like arms of an enchanted forest where sprites lurk and fairies rule. While a feuding Fairy King and Queen are at war, their paths are crossed by Bottom, Quince and their friends presenting a play within a play. Chief mischief-maker Puck is on-hand to ensure that the course of true love is anything but smooth, and games of fantasy, love and dreams ensue in Shakespeare's most beguiling comedy.



By the Way, Meet Vera Stark

February 17-26, 2023

Fri/Sat at 8 pm & Sun at 2 PM

City of Alpharetta Arts Center
Black Box Theater

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage's fast-paced, sly satire will take you on a seventy-year journey through Vera's life and the cultural climate that originally shaped her and continues today.



ACT1 Theater is a proud partner and supporter of the North Fulton arts community and the organizations that support our City of Alpharetta.

ACT1 Theater is proud to partner with...



ACT1 Theater is a proud member of:



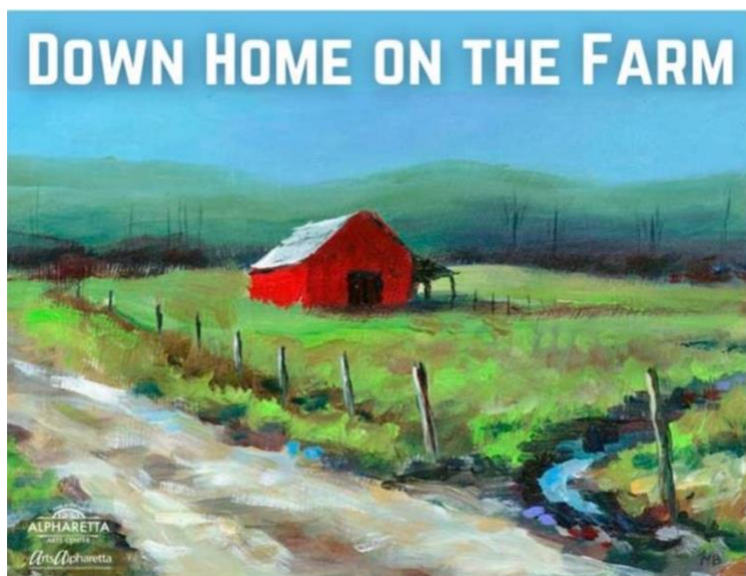
ACT1 Theater appreciates the support of...





Friday, February 24 at 8:00pm
Alpharetta First United Methodist Church
69 N. Main Street, Alpharetta

Let the Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra warm you up on a chilly winter evening with some Spanish spice! Featuring a wide selection of musical small plates (tapas) all with an Iberian flavor, you'll enjoy pieces from the much loved opera Carmen, the thrilling, but tragic, love story between a gypsy and a corporal, to Capriccio Espagnol and Fanfare Ritmico, which will make you want to get up and dance along!



The Alpharetta Arts Center in partnership with Arts Alpharetta invite you to visit the new exhibit on display at the Alpharetta Arts Center Gallery running from Feb 1 – Mar 18.

Living in an urban setting, our lives are a constant hustle and bustle of activity. The landscape of our towns has certainly evolved from a rural setting to modern suburbia.

Free to the public



All are welcome.

Dear ACT1 Patron,

Alpha-Phi Presbyterian Church in downtown Alpharetta is proud to host the ACT1 Theater drama ministry and support the arts in our community.

I invite you to join us for worship at 9:30 or 11 am on Sunday mornings. We are an accepting faith community that strives to meet people where they are, ask honest and challenging questions about God and the world, and grow together as a dynamic and diverse church family.

Check out APC's website, www.alpharettapres.com, to learn more about our family of faith and subscribe to our e-newsletter, "The Good News." Whether through worship, music, APC Dayschool, small groups for all ages, service to neighbors in need, book club, Bible study, or mission trips, there are so many ways to build friendships and grow in faith.

Thanks again for supporting our ACT1 Theater drama ministry and enjoy the show!



Alpha-Phi Presbyterian Church
Sunday Worship: 9:30 & 11:00 am
Infant/Toddler Nursery: 9:15am-12:15pm
Sunday School: 9:30 am

Ollie

Rev. Dr. Oliver Wagner
Senior Pastor

alpharettapres.com



@alpharettapres