

THE COMEUPPANCE

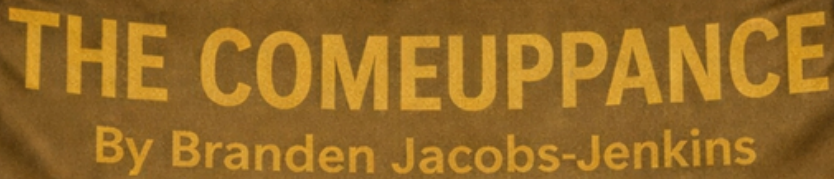
By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins



Headwall Theatre Company

Michelle P. Orosz | Marianne Goodell | Nim Dhillon

PRESENT



THE COMEUPPANCE

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Directed by
Josh Lombard

With
Benjamin Cardona* | **Lanisha Javon Gholston***
Le'Asha Julius | **Tanya Perez*** | **Arisael Rivera***
Nicholas James Reilly*

Director
Josh Lombard

Technical Director
John Orosz

Set Design
Brian Bernhard

Lighting Design
Annie Garrett-Larsen

Sound Design
Max Van

Costume Design
Dan Stafford

Stage Manager
Matthew White

Assistant Director
Nim Dhillon

Special thanks to: Panavid Inc, MCS Studios, TOSOS, The Hoboken Hat Bar, Susan Jane McDonald, Nicholas James Reilly, Brittany Bateman, Yanan Estrada-Ortiz, Latifa Johnson. And thank you to our Big Donors John and Susan Pucci, Marianne and Tim Goodell, Lou and Jeanne Hanover, Paul Davis, Nicole Gut, John Goodell.

You made this all possible!

THE COMEUPPANCE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

World Premiere produced by Signature Theatre, New York City
Paige Evans, Artistic Director / Timothy J. McClimon, Executive Director

*Equity member appearing with permission of Actors' Equity Association without benefit of an Equity contract in this Off-Off Broadway production. Equity approved showcase.

CAST

Ursula.....Le'Asha Julius
Emilio.....Benjamin Cardona*
Caitlin.....Tanya Perez*
Francisco.....Arisael Rivera*
Kristina.....Lanisha Javon Gholston*
Simon.....Nicholas James Reilly*

TIME AND PLACE: "It is fall in the year of our Lord 2022. Somewhere in Prince George's County, Maryland."

The Comeuppance will be performed without an intermission.

Up Next from Headwall Theatre Company



A Thousand Natural Shocks

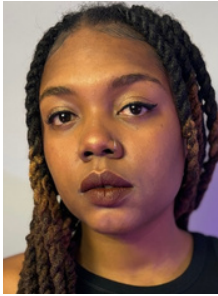
by Jacob Marx Rice

Kennedy is doing okay! Her depression is under control, she's got a stable job, and her wife adores her. But when the couple decides to make a baby, they must navigate the chaos of IVF, the inevitability of pain, and the Tik-Tok teen crashing on their couch.

FALL 2026

St. Anthony's School Class of 2002

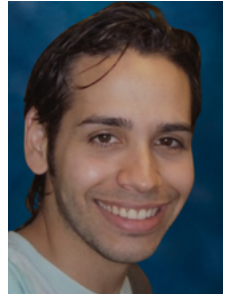
NOW...and THEN



Le'Asha Julius



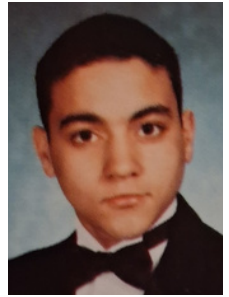
Benjamin Cardona*



Tanya Perez*



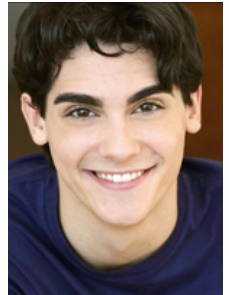
Arisael Rivera*



Lanisha Javon Gholston*



Nicholas James Reilly*



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

Support Us!

Become a Monthly Supporter and help Headwall Theatre Company continue to grow and thrive. Monthly donations provide us with stable, predictable funding for long-term planning.

Just \$5/month (less than a coffee!) helps us keep producing high quality theatre in Queens.



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Jonathan Dauermann, Nicholas James Reilly, Brian Patterson in *The Pillowman*, Spring 2025

Photo by Laura Yost

About Headwall Theatre Company

Our Mission

On a mountain, the headwall is the most challenging part of a climb. At Headwall Theatre, we support theatre-makers as they try a role for the first time with the guidance of experienced mentors, and ascend towards nimble, versatile artistry. From our base camp in Queens, we nurture a community where neighbors step into the theatre, and artists step eagerly into each other's boots.

Our Vision

We envision a thriving and collaborative theatre community in Queens where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together to celebrate shared interests, explore different points of view, and foster a sense of belonging. By creating a world where more people stand in each other's boots and try each other's jobs, we foster empathic understanding and inspire our community to ascend our collective challenges in harmony.

Who's Who Cast & Crew

LE'ASHA JULIUS (Ursula) is an Actor, Writer, Director & Music Artist with a BFA from SUNY Purchase College. Her credits include an appearance on *Tiny Desk* with The Lox, and her recent Off-Broadway debut in the NY Premiere of *Slaughter City* by Naomi Wallace. Currently, Le'Asha spends her days writing a One Act, and is creating new projects in music and film. You can find her on instagram under @Leeocious, or visit her website at www.LeAshaJulius.com

BENJAMIN CARDONA (Emilio) is a New York-based multilingual actor and filmmaker working across theatre, television, and independent film. He appeared in the regional premiere of *The Inheritance* with SpeakEasy Stage in Boston and has participated in readings at New York Theatre Workshop and The Flea Theater. His television work includes a co-star appearance on *The Equalizer*. He trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and holds a theatre degree from the University of Puerto Rico. IG: @b.jammino

TANYA PEREZ (Caitlin) is a Nuyoricana playwright, performer, filmmaker, and teaching artist known for her dark comedies illuminating the human experience. On stage, she has starred in acclaimed productions like *Anna in the Tropics* and *Sonia Flew*, while her screen credits include *Orange Is the New Black*, *Jessica Jones*, and Dan Levy's *Big Mistakes*. A celebrated filmmaker and educator, Tanya is a CUNY Visionary Voices Fellow and proudly serves on the Latinx Theatre Commons Steering Committee. A SAG-AFTRA, AEA, Latinx Playwrights Circle member, and DIEZ cofounder. Forever a clown! IG: @tanyaperezrulez Website: [Tanya Perez | ActorCV](http://TanyaPerez.ActorCV)

ARISAEI RIVERA (Francisco) is a bilingual actor, writer and teaching artist based in the Bronx, New York. He's had the privilege of working with a diverse group of theater companies including Theater in Asylum, Barnstormers Theatre, CSC (Boston), Opera House Arts, Working Theater, and INTAR. Favorite acting credits include Friar Laurence in *Romeo & Juliet*, Stephano/Sebastian in *The Tempest*, Marco Ferrer in *The Nobodies Who Were Everybody* and Mary/Bingley in Kate Hamill's *Pride & Prejudice*. Gracias Familia por tu apoyo y amor! Follow him here: @arisael_riv

LANISHA JAVON GHOLSTON (Kristina), an Army Veteran and actor from Louisville, Kentucky, is currently based in New York City. She has appeared in popular television series including *FBI*, *Manifest*, *POWER*, and *Chicago P.D.*, and performed on stage in The Public Theater's Public Works Off-Broadway production of *As You Like It*. Passionate about storytelling, Lanisha strives to create performances that resonate with diverse audiences and reflect the complexities of the human experience. She gives the Most-High all the praise/glory and sends gratitude/love to her "day ones" for their ongoing love/support. Proverbs 18:16.

NICHOLAS JAMES REILLY (Simon) has a career that has taken him from Off-Broadway (*Spring Awakening*, *To Whom it May Concern*) and regionally (*Angels in America Pt. 1*, *MASK4MASK*) to feature films (*Speech & Debate*, *Face 2 Face*, *WTF!*) and TV (*Gossip Girl*, *Powerbook II: Ghost*). He is a Circle in the Square conservatory graduate and a former student of Playhouse West, Groundlings, and Juilliard. @nicholasjamesreilly

JOSH LOMBARD (Director/Co-Artistic Director, HTC) is an Astoria based director, producer, editor and photographer. Select theater credits: *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh (Headwall Theatre Company,) *#Crazyland* by Andrew Marvel (Headwall Theatre Company,) *Bridal Shower* by Andrew Marvel (Fresh Fruit Festival), *Ink* (Samuel French Festival), *Unleashed* by Emmet McConnell (HB Playwrights Theatre), *Fire* by Rita Marchelya (HB Studios), *Asi Wind: Close Up* by Asi Wind (Wind Production), Co-director: *Concert of the Mind* (Conjuring Arts & Wind Productions); Producer: *1 in 4* (Headwall Theatre Company). Besides theater, he has also worked on numerous films, commercials, and TV projects.

Who's Who Cast & Crew

BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS (Playwright) is a Brooklyn-based playwright, producer and two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist. His plays include *Girls, Everybody* (Signature Theatre), *War* (Yale Rep; Lincoln Center/LCT3), *Gloria* (Vineyard Theatre), *Appropriate* (Obie Award; Signature Theatre), *An Octoroon* (Obie Award; Soho Rep, Theatre for a New Audience), and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater). Most recently he was the showrunner, executive producer, and writer for Hulu/FX's drama series, "*Kindred*," based on Octavia E. Butler's groundbreaking novel. A Premiere Resident playwright at Signature Theatre, his honors include USA Artists, Guggenheim, and MacArthur fellowships, the Windham-Campbell Prize for Drama, and the inaugural Tennessee Williams Award and he currently serves as Vice President of the Dramatists Guild council. He teaches at Yale University.

JOHN OROSZ (Technical Director) serves as Technical Director on all Headwall Productions. Lighting Design - *Absolution, The Other Place, Hunting and Gathering, Echoes of Ireland, Other Desert Cities, #Crazyland, 1 in 4, Funny, The Pillowman*. Sound Design - *Absolution, The Other Place, Hunting and Gathering, Echoes of Ireland, Other Desert Cities*. Video Production - *Echoes of Ireland* (Live Stream), *Separated* (Live Stream), *The Other Place* (Graphics and Projection).

BRIAN BERNHARD (Set Design) is a set designer and theatre artist from Long Island, NY. With backgrounds in performance and mechanical engineering, he focuses heavily on a design's function—both practically, and dramatically. Analyzing the world through Clowning and Queerness, Brian seeks to tackle big questions by discovering the intimate questions at their cores. Recent Credits: *The Pillowman* (Headwall); *A Little Treat* (East Village Basement); *Meat Suit* (Props & Assoc. Set, 2nd Stage). Education: MFA Design for Stage, NYU; BA Theatre Arts & BE Mechanical Engineering, SUNY Stony Brook. See more at: brianbernhard.com

ANNIE GARRETT-LARSEN (Lighting Design; she/her) is a New York based lighting designer for live performance. Recent NYC designs include *Sober Songs* (Theater Row), *The Maenads* (The Tank), *Italian American Reconciliation* (The Flea), *The Trunk* (The Flea), and *Queen, The House That Will Not Stand*, and *Fabulation* (New York University). Her work has also been seen regionally/non-NYC at: Cleveland Play House, Chautauqua Theater Company, Detroit Public Theater, PS21 Chatham, and The Peterborough Players. Annie holds a BA from Bard College and MFA from NYU Tisch. anniegarrett-larsen.com @smileyfaceannie

MAX VAN (Sound Design) is in the pursuit of being a jack-of-all-trades, master of theater. He has worked on productions and concerts, serving various key roles as projection and sound designer. Recent credits include, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Jesa* (The Public Theater), *Roadkills* (Good Apples Collective), *The Word of the Day* (Classic Stage Company), *Zoetrope* (Caborca), *cankersore paradise* (Lenfest Columbia University), *Left On Tenth* (Broadway), *cunnicularii* (Good Apples Collective), and more. In his "free" time, he works as an Associate Production Coordinator for the annual synthetic-biology iGEM Grand Jamboree. For more, find him on his website @maxvan.work

DAN STAFFORD (Costume Design; he/him) is a Visual Director in New York City. Familiar with most art media, Dan has built a career in the field over the past 17 years. Dan has created countless props and installations for Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom, and Bloomingdale's. In 2025, Dan was a Creative Consultant and Prop Master for Headwalls' production of *The Pillowman*. Dan studied Fine Art and Photography, but his true love is clay, where he spends most of his free time on a wheel.

Who's Who Cast & Crew

MATTHEW WHITE (Stage Manager) graduated from Lafayette College with a BFA in Theater. Since graduation, they have performed with Off-Broadway and regional theaters. They have also worked administrative positions, such as internships for Broadway League and Chi Talent Management, as well as production team positions, recently Music Directing at Rodeph Sholom and Kidz Theater. In their free time, they release original music under the artist name, Melody Matthews. They are incredibly excited to return for their second production as Stage Manager with Headwall. -Insta: @matthewsmelody

NIM DHILLON (Assistant Director, Producer) is a born again theatre nerd, having rekindled the spark after moving to New York City in 2018. Nim has been with Headwall Theatre Company since 2019, filling many roles and wearing multiple hats in the years since. Credits include: *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh (Producer); *#Crazyland* by Andrew Marvel (Producer); HTC's *New Voices Workshop Series 2022 & 2023* (Producer); *Separated, an Online Play*, by Luke Gray (Stage Manager, Producer); *Hunting and Gathering* by Brooke Berman (Stage Manager). Nim also sits on the Board of Directors for Headwall. Outside of theatre, when not in the audience or running around behind the scenes, you can find her at the gym.

DÉJÀ ANDERSON-ROSS (Social Media Coordinator) was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago, IL. She has a BA in Theater from Columbia College Chicago and has received her MFA in acting from The Actors Studio Drama School. Her NYC theater acting debut was with Headwall Theater Company's production of *#CrazyLand* as Simone. Her on camera credits include *Chicago Fire*, *Equalizer*, and *FBI: Most Wanted*. She hopes to use her artistic abilities not only in storytelling onstage and on camera but in marketing and advertising. She believes that no matter the format, storytelling is a thread that ties us all together. She's excited to be working on Headwall's marketing team!

MICHELLE OROSZ (Producer/Artistic Director, HTC) holds a BFA in musical theatre/minor in dance (East Carolina University). Directing credits include: *Hunting and Gathering* by Brooke Berman, *Other Desert Cities* by Jon Robin Baitz, *Absolution* by Brian C. Petti, *The Other Place* by Sharr White. Assistant Dir./Producer: *Echoes of Ireland* by Brian C. Petti. Producer: *Separated* by Luke Gray, *#CrazyLand* by Andrew Marvel, *Funny* by Caroline Festa, *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh and *Hyper Bare It* by Lesley Shires. "Woman"/Writer of *1 in 4* by Michelle Orosz and B.J. Boothe. Michelle would like to thank The Comeuppance team for their endless hours of dedication, and her family for all their love.

MARIANNE GOODELL (Producer) is an actor and producer and the Managing Director of Headwall and fully supports our mission to get out of our comfort zone and try a new role. She recently performed in *Be a Good Little Widow* at The Chain Theatre, under the direction of her son George, and in the hilarious farce *POTUS* with City Gate Productions in Queens. She appears in the independent film *Gazer* that premiered at Cannes in 2024.

A Note from the Director

What struck me most when I first read *The Comeuppance* was its exploration of memory—specifically, how differently we might remember the same events. What one person experiences as a defining moment may barely register in someone else's memory — that something which shaped our lives left little or no impression on another person. Those moments can be both humbling and disorienting, forcing us, sometimes, to question the stories we've built about our own lives.

I love how this play captures the way tragedy looks when you're young. Events like Columbine or the attacks on the World Trade Center can feel, in that moment, like the worst the world has ever been. But with age comes a more unsettling realization: this is not new. They begin to understand that what their parents and grandparents lived through was at least as hard, and that every generation before them has faced its own turmoil. The difference is that now they are old enough to see their own lives as part of that continuum.

But honestly, the most compelling thing about *The Comeuppance* is that beneath its unease, there is still a sense of hope. The play asks us to reckon with time, with regret, and with the distance that can grow between people—but it also reminds us that connection is still possible. Even after disappointment, misunderstanding, and loss, we remain capable of reaching for one another. For me, the play ultimately suggests that while we cannot change the past, we can still choose how we show up for each other now, and how we might make the world around us a little more livable, generous, and humane.

- Josh Lombard

Please fill out our brief survey. Your feedback helps us learn, evolve, and create even better experiences for our audiences. We value your thoughts! Thank you.



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Audience Survey



Loved the show? Please leave a review!

[Click here to review](#)