



CAL STATE EAST BAY

THEATRE & DANCE

AUDITIONS

BLOOD AT THE ROOT

Written by Dominique Morrisseau

Director: Darryl V. Jones

Choreographer: Laura Elaine Ellis

Production Type: Virtual Edited Video

Rehearsals begin September 2020

On Demand Viewing: November 2020 (Dates TBD)

BLOOD AT THE ROOT. A striking new ensemble drama based on the Jena Six; six Black students who were initially charged with attempted murder for a school fight after being provoked with nooses hanging from a tree on campus. This bold new play by Dominique Morisseau (*Ain't Too Proud*, *Sunset Baby*, *Detroit '67*, *Skeleton Crew*) examines the miscarriage of justice, racial double standards, and the crises in relations between men and women of all classes. Moving, lyrical, and bold, *Blood at the Root* probes the complexities of race, individual freedoms, and what justice means when biases have been normalized.

When the central character, a black female student named Raylynn, decides it's time for a change in her high school, she sits under a tree around which only white students regularly gather. In response—as was the case in Jena—nooses are subsequently hung from that tree, causing many black students to erupt in protest. Things come to a head when six black students, including Raylynn's brother, attack a white student and are brought up on trumped-up charges.

HOW WE WILL PRESENT THE PLAY:

Due to the Covid-19 safety restrictions, *BLOOD AT THE ROOT* is going to be done as “Virtual Theatre.” That means it will be a hybrid production where the following options are possible:

- a. some scenes and dances are filmed on a set on a stage
- b. some are recorded in an outdoor location
- c. and others will be done on Zoom.

All three formats will be edited together to create a final Zoom film that will be streamed for On Demand viewing in November.



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HOW TO REGISTER AND AUDITION (Please read carefully):

What classes to register for?

All students who wish to participate as performers must register for all of the courses listed below. Because there is dance in this play, we have added THEA 372 for everyone. (Regarding 381 and 382 you can choose to take only 1)

THEA 350 Theatre Performance (1 unit)

THEA 372 Musical Theatre Rehearsal (1 unit)

THEA 381 Production Support: Stage or THEA 382 Production Support: Costumes

- *All the acting auditions for speaking roles will be conducted virtually.*
- *If you are a CSUEB student, you should go ahead and register for THEA 350 Production Fall 2020. Roles will be assigned after the auditions.*
- *Actors must also attend one of the dance auditions as well.*

1. Please read the script. The link to the script is below. Once you have decided what role(s) you would like to audition for, contact Courtney Flores at courtney.flores@csueastbay.edu no later than **Wednesday, August 19** to sign up for an audition. Courtney will then e-mail you an audition form to fill out along with the audition sides (audition scene/s) for the role/s of your choice. **Sides will be available beginning August 1. You must return the form by Monday, August 24. NOTE: You might be contacted by Professor Jones and asked to read for another role as well.**

2. Make a video of yourself performing the scene. You do not have to memorize, but you should be awfully familiar with the scene when you record it as this is your audition and you want to do your best work. You may need to ask someone in your home to read the scene with you, but they do not have to be on camera. (Further instructions on how to video yourself will be sent out later.)

3. Submit your audition video. There are two options for video submission.

A. The preferred method for everyone who is registered for the course is to submit through Blackboard. In the Course Materials section of Blackboard for this course, an assignment has been created using the GoReact video platform. This platform will allow you to submit the videos directly into the course. Full instructions will be provided.

The submission deadline is Tuesday, August 25 by 6:00 PM.



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(AUDITION INFORMATION CONTINUED)

B. The second method of video submission is to use YouTube. Shoot your video and then create a YouTube link that you will send to both Darryl V. Jones darryl.jones@csueastbay.edu and Laura E. Ellis laura.ellis@csueastbay.edu

The submission deadline is Tuesday, August 25 by 6:00 PM.

Call Backs

Wednesday, August 26, 2020 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM via Zoom

After your initial video is viewed by the director and choreographer, you may be invited to attend the call back. Actors will be paired to read with one another through the Zoom platform. Please keep the time open in case you are requested to attend the call back. You will be notified of a call back by the evening of **Tuesday, August 25.**

Dance Auditions

There is a great deal of hip hop, stomp and step dance in the play. We welcome dancers from the department and the university at large to audition. There are two options for dancers to audition.

Please read the script. Then contact Courtney Flores courtney.flores@csueastbay.edu no later than **Wednesday, August 19** to sign up for an audition. You will then be sent an audition form on which you will specify whether you will attend the in person on campus audition or the in person Zoom dance audition. Be sure to write legibly especially your email address so we can send you the Zoom link if you plan to attend the Zoom audition.

Dance Audition Option 1 - Live In Person Outdoor Dance Call

Tuesday, August 25 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM (We will hold these auditions outside of the University Theatre with social distancing.)

Dance Audition Option 2 - Live In Person Zoom Dance Call

Tuesday, August 25 from 8 PM to 9 PM (For this audition you will be given a Zoom link.)

IT IS IMPERATIVE IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD THAT ALL DEADLINES BE MET.



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SCRIPT: The entire script can be read at the following link.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b9990e96-103b-4c93-af20-9e1ea858818e>

CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS

Raylynn Gender: Female Race: African American Age: 18	Justin Gender: Male Race: African American Age: 18
Toria Gender: Female Race White Age: 18	Colin Gender: Male Race: White Age: 18
Asha Gender: Female Race: White Age: 18	De'Andre Gender: Male Race: African American Age: 18
Principal Miller Gender: Male or Female Age: 30's and above	District Attorney Gender: Male or Female Race: White Age: 30's and above
Ensemble/Dancers (Goal 5 Females) Gender: Female/Non-Binary Race: All races	Ensemble/Dancers (Goal 5 Males) Gender: Male/Non-Binary Race: All Races