

by COLMAN DOMINGO

dot

DIRECTED BY LISA B. THOMPSON



Graphic by
Julia Zipporah

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GROUND
FLOOR
THEATRE

Dot

Written by

Colman Domingo

Directed by

Lisa B. Thompson

<i>Assistant Director/Dramaturg</i>	INDIA WILMOTT
<i>Scenic Design</i>	GARY THORNSBERRY
<i>Lighting Design</i>	AMBER WHATLEY
<i>Costume Design</i>	DESIRÉE HUMPHRIES
<i>Wig Design</i>	SERRET JENSEN
<i>Properties Design</i>	KELSEY MORINGY
<i>Production Stage Manager</i>	CORTNEY DeANGELO
<i>Stage Manager</i>	KELLEE BROADWAY
<i>Intimacy Director</i>	ANDY GRAPKO
<i>Graphic Design</i>	JULIA ZIPPORAH
<i>Photographer</i>	CINDY ELIZABETH
<i>Videographer</i>	JOSE LOZANO/MAGIC SPOON PRODUCTIONS
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<i>Press Representative</i>	NICOLE SHIRO, MOTLEY CREW MEDIA
<i>Box Office Manager</i>	DIANA RAFFERTY

Cast

<i>Dotty</i>	MELODY FULLYLOVE
<i>Shelly</i>	MICHELLE ALEXANDER
<i>Jackie</i>	PATTI A. NEFF-TIVEN
<i>Donnie</i>	JEREMY RASHAD BROWN
<i>Adam</i>	GRAYSON HUNT
<i>Averie</i>	OKTAVEA LATOI
<i>Fidel</i>	JEREMY CANALES

Crew

Carpenters

Gary Thornsberry, Chaz Sanders, Heather Jarmon, Ben Gibson, Allison Kemmerer, Nate Steinke, David Tennal, Sean Ryan, Mike Toner

Master Electrician

Jenn Crump

Directors Note

This is my first director's note. After my life-changing experience working with this amazing cast and dedicated crew at the Ground Floor Theatre, I certainly hope it's not my last. Helming *Dot* has truly been an honor. Colman Domingo's love letter to West Philadelphia's Black families underscores the importance of history and tradition, the expansiveness of kinship and friendship, and the undeniable power of love. Directing *Dot* has been an important part of my own journey as someone who had loved ones that suffered from dementia. Like mine, the Shealy family's struggles are specific, yet universal. I hope that audiences experience the laughter, heart and tenderness in Domingo's story and recognize parts of their own families on stage. Merry Christmas!

Acknowledgements

I want to thank the entire cast and crew for bringing all of their gifts to this production. There would not be a show without them. The Ground Floor Theatre's Co-Artistic Director Lisa Scheps is the first person to invite me to direct a show. This milestone in my nearly 25-year career as a theatre artist would not be possible without her leadership. I'm deeply grateful to my dear friend Colman Domingo for his extraordinary support of this production. Finally, I must thank my son Femi Makinde for allowing me to stay out way past my curfew to work at the theatre. I dedicate this production to my late mother Herberdine L. Thompson, who did everything in her power to make my dreams come true.

Lisa B. Thompson

DOT had its world premiere in the 2015 Humana Festival of New American Plays at ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE.

DOT was produced by the VINEYARD THEATRE, Douglas Aibel, Artistic Director, Sarah Stern, Co-Artistic Director, Jennifer Garvey-Blackwell, Executive Director, New York City, Winter, 2016.

Ground Floor Theatre Staff

Co-Artistic Director----- Patti Neff-Tiven

Co-Artistic Director----- Lisa Scheps

Development Director----- Simone Alexander

Social Media Manager ----- Ben Gibson

Social Media Intern----- Andrea Nuñez

Who's Who

Colman Domingo (he/him) — Playwright

Colman Domingo stars in the Netflix | Higher Ground film *Rustin* as Bayard Rustin slated for 2022. He also stars as Mister in the Warner Brothers | Oprah Winfrey | Steven Spielberg produced *The Color Purple* musical motion picture. A two time Film Independent Spirit, Gotham, SAG, Critics Choice and NAACP award nominee, Colman recently won a Hollywood Critics Association Award for Best Actor in a Limited Series/Anthology and an Imagen Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama for his work in *Euphoria*. Domingo is a Tony®, Sir Lawrence Olivier, Drama Desk, Drama League and NAACP Theatre Award nominated, OBIE and Lucille Lortel Award winning actor, playwright, director and producer. Colman received his Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Ursinus College. He joined the faculty of University of Southern California, School of Dramatic Arts as a Professor of acting, after having served as a Juilliard School Creative Associate and a faculty member of the Yale School of Drama. Colman has starred in some of the most profound films in recent years such as Barry Jenkins' *If Beale Street Could Talk*, Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*, Lee Daniel's *The Butler*, Ava DuVernay's *Selma*, Nate Parker's *Birth of a Nation*, Nia DaCosta's *Candyman* and Janicza Bravo's *Zola*. Domingo stars on AMC's *Fear the Walking Dead* for seven seasons and guest stars on HBO's *Euphoria* as Ali. He recurred on Steven Soderbergh's series *The Knick*. As a writer, his plays and musicals include *Dot* (Samuel French), *Wild with Happy* (Dramatist Play Service) and *A Boy and His Soul* (Oberon Books), the Tony Award nominated Broadway musical *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* and Geffen Playhouse's groundbreaking musical *Light's Out: Nat King Cole*. His plays have been produced by The Public Theater, Vineyard, La Jolla Playhouse, Humana Festival of New American Plays, New York Stage and Film, A.C.T, The Tricycle Theater in London, Brisbane Powerhouse in Australia, among others. Colman is currently writing a new musical for The Young Vic in London/ Concord Music. His production company, Edith Productions, has a first look deal with AMC Studios for which he is developing television, film, theater and animation projects. He is currently shooting Season 4 of his series, *Bottomless Brunch at Colman's* across all AMC platforms and readying his scripted series *West Philly, Baby*, for which he will write, direct and executive produce for ALLBLK/AMC +

Lisa B. Thompson (she/her) — Director

Lisa is a theatre artist and academic whose work explodes stereotypes about Black life in the US, particularly the experiences of the Black middle class. Her publications include *Beyond the Black Lady: Sexuality and the New African American Middle Class*, *Single Black Female*, and *Underground, Monroe*, and *The Mamalogues: Three Plays*. Thompson has received support from institutions such as the American Council of Learned Societies, Hedgebrook, MacDowell, Millay Arts, the National Performance Network, and the W. E. B. DuBois Research Institute at the Hutchins Center. She's also co-host and co-producer of *Black Austin Matters*, a podcast and radio segment on KUT: Austin's NPR station. The San Francisco native is the Bobby and Sherri Patton Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies, and the College of Liberal Arts' Advisor to the Dean for Faculty Mentoring and Support at the University of Texas at Austin. She's also a proud mom.

India Wilmott (she/her) — Assistant Director/Dramaturg

India is an actor, director and teaching artist. She is currently a voice actor/on-camera host for e-learning company, Edgenuity. Her favorite theatre credits include: *Dance Nation* (San Francisco Playhouse), *Bootycandy* (Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience), *Zenith* (San Francisco Playhouse), and *Lucia Berlin: Stories* (Word for Word/Z Space). She has taught at American Conservatory Theater, California Shakespeare Theatre and Ecole Jeannine Manuel in Paris. For the 2020 election India wrote and directed voting PSAs for the Texas Civil Rights Project. India is the 2021 recipient of the B. Iden Payne award for dramaturgy. India is currently working on a play based on her journey to motherhood.

Who's Who (con't)

Melody Fullylove (she/her) — Dotty

Melody has appeared in several theatrical productions in Texas within the past three decades. Live performance is where Melody comes most fully to life and finds that her soul sings most true. She began amateur acting at an early age in plays including *The Bat* (Mary Roberts Rinehart), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee) and *a One-Woman Production, Sister Sonji* (Sonya Sanchez) to name a few. Melody has professionally performed in productions in the Austin Area, including *The Mamalogues* (Lisa B. Thompson), *Marilyn Mom and me* (Luke Yankee), *Travisville* (William Jackson Harper), and *The Face of Emmitt Till* (Mamie Till-Mobley). She also played the role of *Maggie L. Walker* in a Virtual Reality (VR) screenplay and *Refuge: The Triumph of Tulsa*, (Cebo Campbell). Melody feels very fortunate to have acting roles that have granted her opportunities to work in two productions with Lisa B. Thompson and looks forward to performing in more productions within the greater Austin area.

Michelle Alexander (she/her) — Shelly

Michelle is excited to be back at Ground Floor Theatre with a couple of her FAVORITE Lisa's!! This has been such a pleasant experience with an amazing group of people. She is honored and inspired to be part of this journey! She also has been involved in several productions around Austin in a variety of theatres. Most recently seen in *Unexpected Joy* (Lou Newman) with Ground Floor Theatre as well as *Single Black Female (SBF1)* with Ground Floor Theatre, Austin Playhouse's production of *The Battlefields of Clara Barton (Clara 4)*, Zilker Theatre's *All Shook Up* as Sylvia. Also recently seen in *Judy Moody and Bad Treasure Hunt* with Austin Scottish Rite Theatre; Mrs. Fezzivig/Mrs. Cratchit in ZACH Theatre's *Christmas Carol, Mary Poppins, Singin' in the Rain*, and *Notes From the Field* as a variety of characters with ZACH Theatre. Give your mothers, caregivers, and those you love their flowers if they're around and while you have time!

Patti A. Neff-Tiven (she/her) — Jackie

Patti is thrilled to be making her Ground Floor Theatre debut in *Dot*. It has been 10 years since she last performed in a full-length play, and couldn't ask for a better family of artists to ease her back in. When she's not performing (which is most of the time) she keeps herself busy Co-Artistic Directing (with the always amazing Lisa Scheps) at a little place called Ground Floor Theatre. Patti has worked in lots of capacities with lots of theatre companies in Austin for lots of years (25). Patti wants to thank this SPECTACULAR cast for being so vulnerable and open and just stellar, and the powerhouse of women at the top- Lisa Scheps, Cortney, Indii and (bow down) Lisa B. Thompson who have truly guided and nurtured us and made this entire group a real family. So much love and endless gratitude y'all! Also, special thanks to Seth Tiven for providing a soft place for me to land after rehearsals even though I'm missing his birthday to do it. This performance is dedicated to mom and dad.

Jeremy Rashad Brown (he/him) — Donnie

Jeremy is an interdisciplinary creative and entrepreneur based in Austin, TX. His most recent stage role was *Annie Jump and the Library of Heaven (VORTEX)*, which earned him a B. Iden Payne Award win for his portrayal of Dr. Christopher Jump. Jeremy is founder of Brown Boy Productions, which is currently developing a youth mental health and emotional wellness web series, *Reggie Rap's Room*. The series is adapted from Brown's original stage play, *Rap Unzel - A Story of #BlackBoyJoy & His Journey of Self-Care and Hair!*. He currently serves as board president for The VORTEX Repertory, as well as, the creative arts director at Survive2Thrive Foundation. In addition to the theatre arts community, Brown is an active member of the Black Austin, LGBTQ+, spiritual, tech, and film communities. His personal mission is to explore the intersections between these communities and authentically connect them in order to foster a supportive ecosystem. Learn more at: JeremyRashadBrown.com & ReggieRapsRoom.com.

Grayson Hunt (he/they) — Adam

Grayson is newish to both Austin and acting, having arrived to both in 2017. Before the pandemic, Grayson acted in Austin screen and stage productions including Lane Stanley's feature film *Addict Named Hal* and siri gurudev's cyborg play, *The Future of Ismael*. Since then, he has stayed connected to the arts in novel ways: doing virtual table reads and script consulting for productions centering transgender characters and an in-person gender diversity training for the cast and crew of a trans opera. His role in *Dot* is his biggest yet and he is humbled and inspired by the incredible talent of the cast and crew.

Who's Who (con't)

Oktavea LaToi (she/her) — Averie

Oktavea is a writer and performer based in Central Texas. She holds a dual degree in Theatre and Dance with a concentration in Performance, and African and African Diaspora Studies with a focus in critical race, gender, and sexuality studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She has most recently been seen in *Annie Jump and The Library of Heaven* (VORTEX), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Austin Shakespeare), *The Odyssey* (VORTEX) *Good Friday* (New Manifest Theatre Company) *SEVEN* (Trinity Street Players), *black girl love* (GenEnCo/VORTEX), *WHITE* (Permanent Record Productions), *Performance Park* (VORTEX), and *TWENTYEIGHT* (Gale Theatre). She is extremely excited to be collaborating with such a talented team!

Jeremy Canales (he/him) — Fidel

Jeremy is a 23 year-old actor born and raised in Austin, Texas. He is currently in his final year at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing a bachelor's degree in Theatre and Dance, with a minor in arts management. He is very passionate about comedy and improv, and he plans to pursue a career in comedy after he graduates.

Gary Thomsberry (they/them) — Scenic Designer

Gary is an Austin and Lexington based Scenic and Production Designer. They have an MFA from Texas State University. Their recent productions at Ground Floor Theatre include *Unexpected Joy*, *Trans Lives/Trans Voices*, *Single Black Female*, *rain falls special on me*, among others. Other productions in the Austin area include *The Thanksgiving Play* produced by Different Stages at the VORTEX, several productions at Texas State University, and *Amadeus* produced by Penfold Theatre. If you would like to see their past works go to garythomsberry.com. Have a great show! Support the arts and the artists that create them!

Amber Whatley (she/her) — Lighting Designer

Amber's skills include lighting for theater, dance, concert, and lighting for the camera. Her technical strengths are programing and moving light programing. She was born and raised in Montgomery Alabama. She then completed her BFA at Savannah College of Art and Design. She has consulted for several theaters and churches in the Southeast U.S. Her MFA graduate studies in Lighting Design at The University of Texas at Austin led her to the creation of Blackout a workshop and video series in which her objective is to bring lighting design and technology awareness to Black youth and under supported communities. Her research interests include creating accessible lighting knowledge for BIPOC youth and under supported communities, new works, and non-traditional theater design. As a recent graduate and post MFA fellow at The Ohio State University Amber enjoys teaching, freelance designing, and furthering the development of Blackout

Desireé Humphries (she/her) — Costume Designer

Desireé Humphries is an Austin native based in her hometown. She's Texas State University-San Marcos Alumni and has a BFA in Theatre Design/Technology with an emphasis in Costume Design. Her recent credits include *Annie Jump and The Library of Heaven* at The Vortex and *Lonely Planet* at Austin Community College. She believes theatre can inspire people beyond the stage which is why she is passionate about theatre for young audiences, creating theatre that is accessible to all and is motivated to make theatre that is diverse and inclusive. She is very excited to work with local black talent in Austin and is thankful to Ground Floor Theatre for bringing her onboard.

Serret Jensen (she/her) — Wig Designer

Serret is excited to make her debut with Ground Floor Theatre. She has been doing theatrical hair/makeup/sfx for almost 30 years. Originally from Houston, she has worked on productions with TUTS, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, The Society of Performing Arts, Austin Lyric Opera, and several national tours. She has previously been the resident designer for the Alley, Divergence Vocal Theatre, body suspension group C.o.R.E., *Between the Pages*, Jaston William's *I Saw the Lights*, and several other performance art pieces and children's theater projects. Currently, she is ZACH Theatre's resident designer (since 2013) and enjoys taking on individual creative commission projects.

Who's Who (con't)

Kelsey Moringy (she/her) — Props Designer

Kelsey is a born & raised unicorn of Austin, TX. She studied Performance & Production at Texas State University with an emphasis in stage management & directing. Previous Ground Floor Theatre shows Kelsey has worked on include *Next To Normal*, *Fun Home*, *Single Black Female*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *Dex & Abby*, *TRANSom*, *There & Back* and *rain falls special on me*.

Andy Grapko — Intimacy Director (she/her)

Andy is the Resident Intimacy Director for the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Texas at Austin where she is also a member of the acting faculty. Her intimacy work includes training with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (certification pending), Intimacy Directors International, Theatrical Intimacy Education, and Intimacy for Stage and Screen. A director for over 20 years, she is a Stage Directors and Choreographers Society Associate and a member of the Association of Theatre Movement Educators. Her recent intimacy credits include *Murky as Hell*, *Unexpected Joy*, *The Tasters*, *rain falls special on me*, and *A Fistful of Trespassing*. www.andygrapko.com

Julia Zipporah (she/her) – Graphic Artist

Julia Zipporah is in Brooklyn, New York at the moment. Over the past several years she has been diving into the world of design and animation, as well as refining her personal style as a self taught artist. Through film, and various other art forms, she expresses her vision of the world, and how she's come to digest it.

Cortney DeAngelo – Production Stage Manager (she/her)

Cortney DeAngelo, veteran of the Austin Tech Ninja Death Squad, and VORTEX company member, is a mosaic of improvisational tech (*Nothing & Everything* Hideout Theater, *"You Can't Stay Here"* The Institution Theater), stage managing (*Lady MacBeth & Her Pal Megan* Shrewd Productions and World Premiere of *The Mamalogues* VORTEX Theater), props design (*Alabaster* Shrewd Productions and World Premiere of *Màs Cara* VORTEX), and writing/performing (*AMAZON* Frontera Fest). She is excited for her first production with Ground Floor Theatre, and very grateful to her husband & her best friends for listening and keeping her grounded.

Kellee Broadway– Stage Manager (she/her)

Tennessee native Kellee "Broadway" Fuller received a BFA in Musical Theatre Acting from the University of Oxford, Mississippi. Actor, Model, Recording Artist, Choreographer, and Writer, Kellee has kept herself busy on stage/ off stage, and on-screen. Kellee has a long-acting history stretching back to 2004 consisting of more than 30 productions and the Ostrander Award for best musical productions of *The Color Purple*. In 2018, Kellee moved to Texas where she's worked as a Stage Manager for King productions, Production Manager for Brown Boy Production, and was nominated for a B. Iden Payne Award for Choreography choreography. In 2021, she and two local artists started the music media production company and Music Collective Yoso LLC. Kellee is thankful for her community support and looking forward to touring with her music collective this summer.

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 others. info@motleycrewmedia.com



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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.

Special Thanks

Ploeger ASL Interpreting, Dr. Ellie Jarrett Shattles, University of Texas Dept of Theatre & Dance, Seth Tiven, Adrienne Hunter, Liz Barrett, Peter Barlin & 3423 Holdings, Roland's Soul Food and Fish, David Tennall, WA Brenner, Cindy Moringy, Weird City Theatre, Ashley Angell, Haley Shull, The John L. Warfield Center for African & African American Studies, Southside Printing