

# THE CITY THEATRE COMPANY

is thrilled in presenting

Lorraine Hansberry's

## A RAISIN

## IN THE SUN

The Cast.

Ruth Younger – Kristen Bennett

Travis Younger – Tre Whitney

Walter Lee Younger – McArthur Moore

Beneatha Younger – Jessica Bacon

Lena Younger – Michelle Alexander

Joseph Asagai – Jerred Tettey

George Murchison – Brandon Balque

Karl Lindner – Gabriel Smith

Bobo – Ben Woods

Time: Sometime between World War II and the present.

Place: Chicago's Southside.

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What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore – And then run? Does it sink like rotten meat  
Or crust and sugar over – like a syrupy sweet?  
Maybe it just sags like a heavy load. Or *does it explode?* - Langston Hughes

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**There will be a ten minute intermission between acts.  
Each act is approximately one hour and fifteen minutes**

## Special thanks to.

Austin Circle of Theatres Austin 360 The Austin Chronicle Mr. Greg Brooks  
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## 2009 - 2010 Season Tickets.

Lee Hagan Teresa Matlock Mary Ann Crowley Michael Meigs  
Robert Blanchette Aletha Huston Sue Tedford and Ted Flick  
Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley Susan Fegley Mike and Sue Wood  
JoAnn and Ed Farrell Milton and Barbara Carr Susan Fegley  
Bert Flanagan Annie Zaffrann Stanley Seaton Alexandra R. Wood  
Bill and Karen Warren Claire Brooks Sean Carr Steven Weinberg  
Patricia Drew and Paul Strelzick Carol Anne Thomas Cliff Avery  
Clifford and Bobbe Walker Christina Jeskey and Thom Brooks

## Additional Contributors.

Mr. Rick Crowley Mrs. Christine Lemp Dr. & Mrs. Ben Berkovsky  
Mrs. Carmina Eaton Ms. Mary Ann Crowley Ms. Jennifer Bednorz Ashley Jorge  
Mr. Jonathan Wooley Ms. Teresa Matlock Ms. Lisa Scheps Erik Virkkala  
Concordia University Rodney & Donna LeRoy Mary Louise Donohoe  
George & Linda Knapek Paul Strelzick & Patricia Drew Arts on Real Theatre  
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## The cast and crew:

**Ben Woods** is a graduate of Southwestern University where he majored in Communication Studies with a minor in Sociology. At Southwestern, he performed in several productions including *Love's Labours Lost* and *The Colored Museum* in which he tackled many roles. Most recently he has dabbled in film, working on Charva, charvathemovie.com. He would like to thank his parent's for always believing in him and supporting his hobbies as well as his brothers who inspire him every day to live his dream through living theirs.

**Gabriel Smith** is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and has been performing in Austin for the past four years. Here at City Theatre, he has been seen in *The Heidi Chronicles*, *The Shape of Things*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *The Laramie Project*, to name a few. He says he is proud to be a part of such a powerful play and to share the stage with such wonderful actors!

**Herman Whitney, III** is a gifted and talented student who starred in his first play at the tender age of three. Tre is a professional actor and his accomplishments and performances have been with various national and regionally named product companies and film directors. Tre's parents are Herman and Raquel Whitney, and he has one sister, Aria. He enjoys science, acting, reading, singing, modeling, dancing, hunting, fishing, video gaming, sports, riding his bike, playing with the family dog, Chico, and friends. The rest is to be determined for this young man who is showing great promise all around. Tre is represented by Acclaim Talent Agency.

**McArthur Moore** is a recent graduate from Angelo State University and making his fourth appearance at City Theatre having performed in *Hamlet*, *Tartuffe* and August Wilson's *Fences* in which he received a 2009 Austin B. Iden Payne award nomination. At ASU, he performed in *Pippin*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Laramie Project*. He has also worked with Houston's Main Street Theatre performing in *Suessical, the Musical*. Mac is thrilled to be back on the City Theatre stage.

**Michelle Alexander** is a recent graduate of Abilene Christian University with a B.F.A in Musical Theatre. Her work there include Berenice Sadie Brown in *The Member of the Wedding*, Tituba in *The Crucible* and Nehebkhia in *Aida*. She is an original member of the Idaho Summer Repertory Theatre Company where she played roles such as Sylvia in *All Shook Up*, and The Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical the Musical*. While in New York, she has participated in Manhattan and Brooklyn's *One Hour 2 Live*, and *13 Fat Girls and a Dead Cat* and hopes to teach theatre arts to people of all ages in the future. She would love to thank God for his many blessings everyday and her family for their love and support for her and the arts.

**Brandon Balque** is a senior Criminal Justice major at St. Edwards University. After graduation, he plans to attend law school. He has done numerous shows including *Death and the King's Horseman*, *Our Town* and *Godspell*. He is thrilled with the experience of working on this production for the first time.

**Jarred Tettey** is making his City Theatre debut. He was previously seen as Ferdinand in the Baron's Men's production of *The Tempest* last spring and this past fall participated in a staged reading of the new work *Slashes of Light* for Texas State University's Black and Latino Playwright's conference. Jarred will be graduating from the B.F.A Acting program at Texas State in May.

**Kristen Bennett** is a drama graduate of St. Edwards University and has been acting in the Austin theatre community for almost seven years. This is her second production of *Raisin* having performed the role of Beneatha at St. Edwards earning an Iden Payne nomination. This past year, she was an Iden Payne winner for *Wiley and the Hairy Man* for Second Youth Theatre. She is excited to be back at City Theatre performing the role of Ruth.

**Jessica Bacon** attended Lamar University studying communication and for the last year, has been performing children's theater with the Project Interact Program at the Zach Scott Theatre. Most recently, she has performed as the Dinosaur in Different Stages' *The Skin of our Teeth*. This is her first show at City Theatre and is super-excited to be working with a great company and cast.

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# Production Crew.

Directed by Lisa Jordan  
Stage Manager/Assistant Director – Mikka McCook  
Set and Light Design – Andy Berkovsky  
Scenery Construction – Michael Pratt and Andy Berkovsky  
Costumes – Jessi Brill and Jason Frey  
Make Up and Hair – Valerie Frazee  
Light and Sound Operator – Andy Berkovsky  
House Management – Kate Crowley  
Assistant Management –  
Jeff Hinkle, Clay Avery, Walter Pohlmeier  
Publicity Design – Rachel McGinnis and Joey Solis

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## A few words on *A Raisin in the Sun*

When it was first produced in 1959, *Raisin* was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and hailed as a watershed in American drama. Not only was it a pioneering work by an African-American playwright – Lorraine Hansberry's play was also a radically new representation of black life, one that was resolutely authentic, fiercely unsentimental, and unflinching in its vision of what happens to people whose dreams are constantly deferred.

Hansberry drew from an incident in her own childhood that profoundly affected her family's life. In defiance of real estate contracts of that era that barred blacks from certain neighborhoods, her father moved his family to an all-white area. Mobs gathered outside the new home, and 8-year-old Lorraine was almost struck by a brick hurled through a window. The family was finally evicted but Carl Hansberry and NAACP lawyers fought the state court decision all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, ultimately winning a landmark decision prohibiting restrictive housing. Hansberry would later write "it will help a lot of people understand that we have among our downtrodden ranks people who are the very essence of human dignity. That is what – after all the laughter and the tears – the play is supposed to say."

In her portrait of an embattled Chicago Family, Hansberry anticipated issues that range from generational clashes to the civil rights and women's movements. She also posed the essential questions – about identity, justice, and moral responsibility – at the heart of these great struggles. The result is a work that captivated audiences from every walk of life and has become a classic of American drama.

2009-2010 THEATRE SEASON

**Rabbit Hole** by David Lindsay-Abares  
Kick-Off Show **September 16 – October 4**

**Hamlet** by William Shakespeare  
**October 22 – November 15**

**Laughter on the 23rd Floor** by Neil Simon  
**November 19 – December 20**

**A Raisin in the Sun** by Lorraine Hansberry  
**February 25 – March 21**

**How the Other Half Loves** by Alan Ayckbourn  
**March 25 – April 18**

**The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told** by Paul Rudnick  
**June 10 – July 4**

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