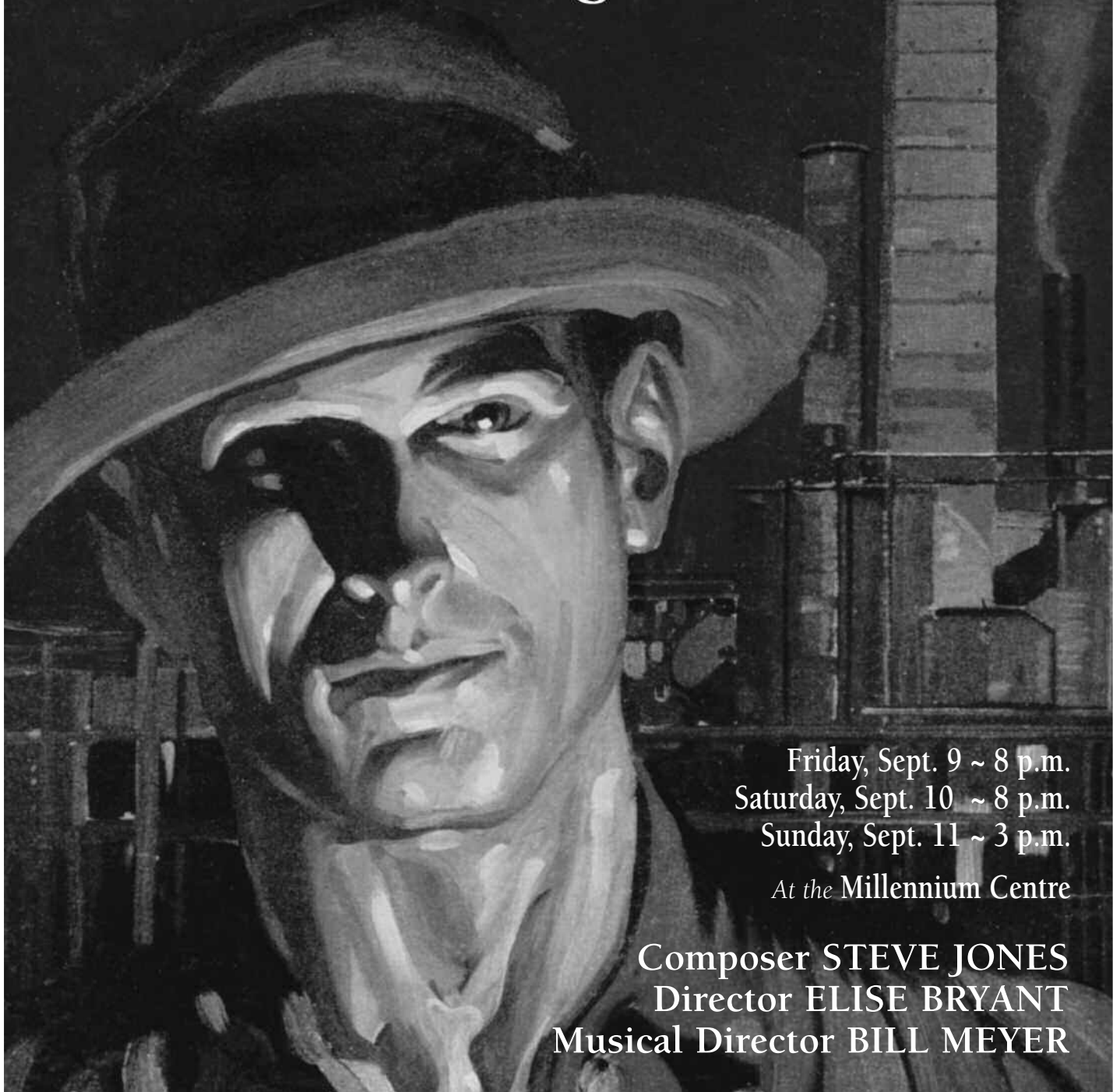


Back by Popular Demand: A Jazz~Blues Opera

FORGOTTEN

*The Murder at the
Ford Rouge Plant*



Friday, Sept. 9 ~ 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 10 ~ 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 11 ~ 3 p.m.

At the Millennium Centre

Composer STEVE JONES

Director ELISE BRYANT

Musical Director BILL MEYER

The Story Behind
FORGOTTEN

Welcome to the return engagement of *Forgotten: The Murder at the Ford Rouge Plant*. This jazz/blues opera premiered at the Marygrove College Theatre in March, 2004 and is back in the Detroit area by popular demand following performance of all or parts of the show in Minneapolis, Chicago, and New York.

Forgotten is based on the life of the Rev. Lewis Bradford, a Methodist minister who arrived with his wife, Ella, in Detroit in the 1930s and who worked at the Howard Street Mission on the west side of downtown. As part of his work with unemployed and homeless people, Bradford began a radio show on station WXYZ, "The Forgotten Man's Hour," which would become a counterpoint to Fr. Charles Coughlin, the notorious "radio priest" who broadcast anti-Semitic and pro-fascist propaganda on WJR.

When the family needed funds for medical care for their daughter, little Ella, Bradford went to work at the Ford Motor Co. River Rouge plant in nearby Dearborn. There he tried to help workers by urging Henry Ford to treat his employees fairly. Just a few years earlier, five workers had been killed while approaching the Rouge plant to seek jobs and health care in what became known as the Ford Hunger March. Bradford unsuccessfully sought to interest Ford in a meeting with Muriel Lester, a visiting socialist/pacifist from Britain, hoping such a meeting would lead to a softening of Ford's attitudes. Shortly afterwards, in November 1937, Bradford was found unconscious in a remote part of the Rouge plant. He died three days later. A funeral was held at Detroit's Central United Methodist Church, where Bradford and his family had regularly worshiped.

Bradford's widow left Detroit after receiving threats, but Bradford's story continued to be remembered by his family. In 2001, his great-nephew by marriage, Steve Jones, came to Detroit to research his relative's death. A sympathetic Wayne County clerk helped him find the autopsy report, and the Wayne County Assistant Medical Examiner, after reading it, wrote that Bradford's death could not have been accidental, but probably should have been labeled a homicide.

Jones, an award-winning composer who lives in Maryland, composed *Forgotten* in tribute to his great-uncle and to the workers who fought side by side with him for justice in the 1930s. Today, as American workers face new challenges, the story of how labor and people of faith can work together for justice is a lesson that should never be forgotten.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BRADFORD FAMILY



WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Lewis and Ella Bradford, and the Ford River Rouge plant.

The Michigan Labor History Society and The Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark Inc. Present

A Jazz/Blues Opera
FORGOTTEN

The Murder at the Ford Rouge Plant

A Benefit for the Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9 ▼ SATURDAY, SEPT. 10 ▼ SUNDAY, SEPT. 11, 2005

Millennium Centre Theater, Southfield, Michigan

Composer.....Steve Jones
Director.....Elise Bryant
Music Director.....Bill Meyer

CAST

In order of appearance

Nurse Attendant.....Denise Dotson
Ella Bradford.....Christine Chila
Little Ella.....Katie Nelson
Henry Ford.....Larry Schrock*
Lewis Bradford.....Henry Nelson
Foreman.....Alan Canning
Allen Johnson.....Mitch McMurren
Joe Cantor.....Jamie Crawford
Rosie Johnson.....Lynn Marie Smith
Frank Jackson.....Sam Kirkland
Father Coughlin.....Davis Gloff
Harry Bennett.....Mike Carluccio
Clara Ford.....Jan Sage

WORKERS CHORUS

Melvin Beasley, Julie Beutel,
Christine Chila, Jamie Crawford,
Denise Dotson, Melanie Garcia,
Suzan Gouine, Kae Halonen,
Ola Hemphill, Stephen Jones,
Kiesha Key, Sam Kirkland,
Mitch McMurren, Susan Newell,
Gordon Patton, Samuel Richardson,
Lisha Sly, Lynn Marie Smith,
Maurice "Skip" Turner

Mission Quartet

Christine Chila, Mitch McMurren,
Henry Nelson, Lynn Marie Smith

Hour of Power Quartet

Alan Canning, Suzan Gouine,
Stephen Jones, Susan Newell

FORD HUNGER MARCH

Alan Canning (Joe York), Kae Halonen
(Joe York's mother), Stephen Jones
(Joe DiBlasio), Susan Newell (Joe
DiBlasio's wife), Samuel Richardson
(Curtis Williams), Sam Kirkland
(Curtis Williams' father),
Gordon Patton (Coleman Leny),
Jamie Crawford (Joe Bussell)

DANCERS

Melanie Garcia, Jillian Richardson

MUSICIANS

Bill Meyer.....Keyboards, Director
Hubert Crawford.....Bass
Charles Stuart.....Percussion
*Members, Detroit Federation of
Musicians, Local 5, AFM*



Stuart, Meyer and Crawford



*Lynn Marie Smith and
Mitchell Q. McMurren*

PHOTO: SHAWN D. ELLIS

PRODUCTION STAFF

Steve Jones.....Writer/Composer
Elise Bryant.....Director
Bill Meyer.....Music Director
Lisa Canada.....Producer
Dave Elsil.....Producer
Ron Burns.....Set Designer
Reuben Garza.....Lighting Designer
Elaine Hendricks Smith*.....
Production Stage Manager
Sandra Glover*.....Production
Stage Manager

Anne Drake.....Assistant
Stage Manager
Sister Brenda Moon...House Manager
John Woodland.....Costume Designer
Celeste Smith.....Assistant
Costume Designer
Dave Balman.....Sound Designer

**Designated actor and production stage man-
agers appear through the courtesy of Actors
Equity Association, the Union of Professional
Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

FORGOTTEN

Act I: Detroit & Dearborn, Michigan, 1930s

OvertureForgotten band: Bill Meyer, Hubert Crawford, Charles Stuart
 Keep the Wheels Rolling OnAllen Johnson with Henry Ford and entire cast
 You're Gone Again/How Can I ExplainElla and Lewis Bradford
 We Can Start AgainLewis
 The Forgotten Man's HourAllen & Rosie, Ella & Lewis, Joe Cantor,
 Frank Jackson
 The Hour of Power/Cleanse OurselvesFr. Coughlin &
 Hour of Power radio choir/Lewis and troupe
 I Invented Auto LoveHenry Ford
 The Ford Hunger MarchRosie and workers' chorus
 You'll Be Like My SonFord and Harry Bennett
 I Got a Job/I Know the FearLewis and Bennett
 When You OrganizeLewis and the troupe
 Bradford You Are Dreamin'Allen
 It's About TimeLewis, Ella, Rosie
 A New BeautyLewis
 Sit Down (Maurice Sugar)Rosie and workers' chorus
 I'm Here for YouLewis and Ella
 Radio, Guns and MoneyCoughlin, Bennett, Ford



INTERMISSION

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW



Steve Jones (composer) is a jazz musician and composer in Maryland, where he can often be found sharing music at union events with his brother Peter and others. He is a member of AFM Local 161-710.

His grandfather was Ella Bradford's cousin.



Elise Bryant (director) was raised in Detroit, the daughter of Albert Bryant, a UAW Local 600 member who worked over 30 years at the Rouge. She spent almost 20 years working with labor theater in Detroit and Ann Arbor; her many plays in-



Bill Meyer (music director) composes and arranges for TV and radio and has been keyboardist for *Guys and Dolls*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Mama Mia* and other Broadway shows. He is music director for Mo-

town's Martha Reeves. His social activism is reflected in his productions of the *Detroit Tribute to Paul Robeson* and *Barbara Dane Returns*. He is a member of AFM Local 5. He performs regularly at Bert's jazz club near Detroit's Eastern Market.

Michael Carluccio (Harry Bennett) is a vocalist who has opened for Al Martino, Bobby Vin-



ton and The Gaylords and who has performed at the Fisher and Fox Theaters. His first album, *Teach Me Tonight*, was recorded with the Eddie DeSantis Orchestra. A war veteran, he has helped raise \$40,000 for the World War II memorial fund through performances for UAW, Daimler-Chrysler, and Delta Dental events.



Christine Morand Chila (Ella Bradford) has performed for studio and road gigs, jazz combos, show bands, and dinner theaters. Venues include a Walt Disney cruise ship,



Act II: Detroit & Dearborn, Michigan May-December, 1937

Shake Hands with the Devil	Clara Ford
Cleanse Ourselves (reprise)	Coughlin and Hour of Power radio choir/Lewis and troupe
We Speak Louder than Machines	Rosie and workers' chorus
The Stakes Are High	Ford, Bennett, Coughlin
Battle of the Overpass	Allen and the troupe
I Got a Bad, Bad Feeling	Ella
I Cannot Be Silent	Lewis
Let's Take a Walk	Bennett
Bradford I Have Got a Job For You	Foreman
We Will All Forget	Hospital attendant, Ella, Bennett
I'm Here for You (reprise)	Ella
Monologue	Little Ella
We Remember You	Rosie and Allen, workers chorus, Ella, Little Ella

Epilogue

After receiving threats, Ella Bradford and her children left Detroit, never to return. Sixty-five years later, there are grandchildren and

great-grandchildren and others who know Lewis' story and keep it alive. Lewis Bradford is not forgotten.

In 1941 after years of struggle, the United Auto Workers was on the verge of winning a contract at the Ford Motor Co. Ford declared he would shut down all the plants worldwide before he would sign with the union. Clara Ford threatened to divorce Henry if he didn't come to an agreement with the union, and soon after, he signed the most far-reaching contract in the auto industry up to that time. Today UAW Local 600 at the Rouge plant is a strong militant union with a fighting tradition.

Meadowbrook Music Festival, Masonic Temple, and Detroit and Flint jazz festivals. Credits include *Anything Goes* and *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding*. Her favorite role is "Mom," raising three kids with her friend, favorite drummer and husband Joe.



Davis Gloff (Fr. Coughlin) has been a performer, announcer, lecturer, teacher, pianist, clinician, composer and music commentator for over 35 years. A graduate of Wayne State, he has

sung and acted in opera, oratorio, concert, and recitals throughout the U.S. and has performed with the Michigan Opera Theatre, DSO, and other orchestras. He is a member of the Piccolo Opera Co. and is an announcer on ClassicalMusicAmerica.com

Mitchell Q. McMurren (Allen Johnson), a



debut in the independent film drama *An Apology to the Dead*. When not acting he works for Total Health Care.



Henry Nelson (Lewis Bradford) performs with The Players in Detroit. He was in the Detroit Actors Guild production of *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding* and was an understudy in the Meadowbrook Theatre

production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Honored to play the role of Lewis in this production, he

graduate of MSU in theater/social science, returns in the role as Allen in this production of *Forgotten*. He has performed in *Side Show* with the Birmingham Village players and made his movie

is proud to be associated with such a dedicated and talented cast and crew. He dedicates this performance to the memory of Lewis Bradford and to all people who have spent their lives helping others.



Katie Nelson (Little Ella), a fourth-grader, is already a veteran of the stage. She debuted at the age of three as a flower girl in the Pontiac production of *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding*, and is delighted to return

with her friends in *Forgotten*. She plays piano and sings with her school choir; this summer she participated in the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts drama program. She thanks her mother, father, and brother, Jack, for their love and support, and her music teacher, Mrs. Morgan and piano teacher, Mrs. Anger, for their instruction and encouragement.

Continued on next page

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW



Jan Sage (Clara Ford) finds herself in love with Michigan after three years of living, singing and teaching in Flint, a big change from nearly a lifetime of acting, singing and teaching in Florida.

She has directed and choreographed more than 50 productions, most recently for the University of Michigan, including Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, *How to Succeed in Business...*, and *A Man of No Importance*. She has sung everything from opera to barbershop and is proud to be a part of such a talented ensemble presenting *Forgotten's* powerful story.



Larry Schrock (Henry Ford) is a member of Actors Equity and has appeared at Meadowbrook Theatre, Jewish Ensemble Theatre, and Plowshares Theater Co. He has sung with

the DSO chorus, Farmington Community Chorus, and the Detroit Lutheran Singers. He has represented Ford at several auto show each season since his retirement after 30 years in Ford product engineering, which makes his Henry Ford character particularly interesting to him. He lives in Farmington Hills with his wife Betsey and two teenage sons. His two older children have given him three grandchildren.



Lynn Marie Smith (Rosie Johnson) is a singer-songwriter whose debut album with Infinity recording artist Natures Divine reached number five on the *Billboard* charts. A labor activist, she

has performed at Greenfield Village, Laborfest, the Labor Legacy Landmark dedication, and at many picketlines and rallies. She is an organizer for the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel. Her new CD of labor parodies is now on sale.

Workers Chorus & Supporting Troupe:

Melvin Beasley (tenor) is a native of Detroit,



and joins the cast of *Forgotten* for a second time. Married with one daughter, he enjoys acting and has performed in *The Crucible* and *La Cage aux Folles*. He spends spare time weightlifting and works for the federal government.



Julie Beutel (soprano) is a native of Detroit. A singer and guitarist she has traveled in Europe and Central America, living and working with Witness for Peace in Nicaragua during the war for almost two years. A mother, activist, and Detroit teacher, she sings at coffee houses, concerts, fundraiser, funerals, weddings, and private parties. She has sung in nursing homes, schools, jails, subway stations in Europe, soup kitchens, bars, churches, trains, and so many anti-war marches she has lost count. She especially loves the chance to sing what she passionately feels is the truth.

Alan Canning (foreman), a resident of Ferndale, is owner and creative director of A2Creative, a video pre/post commercial production facility. His acting credits include Dr. Henry



Jekyll/Hyde in the Starlight Theatre production of *Jekyll & Hyde (The Musical)* this past summer, as Percy Blakeney in the Oakland Theatre Guild production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and as Bill Sykes in *Oliver!* As a percussionist, he has performed in productions of the Detroit Actors Guild, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre and other theater groups.



Jamie Crawford (tenor) of Taylor, Mich. has been involved in theater most of his life. Roles as Snoopy in *Charlie Brown* and RP McMurphy in *Cuckoo's Nest* eventually led

him to join the cast of *Workers Lives/ Work-*

ers Stories in 1985. He is also a singer-songwriter who has recorded two albums. He works at Ford's Rawsonville plant in Ypsilanti and is a member of UAW Local 898. He is married with four children (two of his own) and is a proud grandpa (Hi, Gwen!).



Denise Dotson (alto) lives the fine and performing arts. She is an actress, artist, jazz vocalist, and children's storyteller. She was a member of the 2004 cast of *Forgotten* and is pleased to be involved with such a wonderful production again. She thanks her family and friends for their support and she honors the memory of her father, who worked at the Rouge, of her mother, as well as all of her ancestors who left the right legacy for her life.

Melanie Garcia (soprano) holds a B.S. in dance from Wayne State, where she performed with the WSU dance company from 1998-2001. She has appeared at Detroit's Music Hall, Bonstelle Theatre, Community Arts Theatre, and on On Stage! performances for Detroit Public Schools children. Since graduation, she has performed in *Joseph and the Amazing Technical Color Dreamcoat*.



Suzan Gouine (soprano) lives in Hamtramck. She is an alumna of Second City Detroit mainstage, where she helped write and perform *Less Talk, Motown*; *Woodward to Your Mother*, and *Ten*. She holds a B.F.A. in acting from Wayne State, where some of her credits include *Cabaret*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Godspell*, *Little Women* and *Crimes of the Heart*. She is also a member of several improv troupes including *Tiger Ride*, *The Franchise*, *The Lab*, *The Neutrino Project*, and *Ax's in Albuquerque*. She thanks Pete for his love and encouragement and Elaine for rides to rehearsal. This is for Michael.





Kae Halonen (alto) grew up in a Finnish-American working-class family that emphasized the importance of singing, theater, and social consciousness. A singer, violinist, and mandolin player, she frequently joins husband Sam Stark singing a variety of people's music in various settings. She has worked with education programs for industrial workers for more than 15 years.



Ola Hemphill (tenor) is a retired Detroit math teacher who performs as a jazz vocalist and pianist. She has sung with jazz pianists Charles Boles, Teddy Harris Jr., Bill Meyer and others. She

performed with her all-female band in the 1980s and as a keyboardist for her brother's gospel hit play, *Perilous Times*, in the 1990s. In 1992, she interacted vocally with Betty Carter at the Pontchartrain Hotel, and in 1997 performed monthly with the Charles Boles Quartet at Baker's Keyboard Lounge. She was featured in the March 1999 issue of *Jazz Quarterly*. This summer, she sang with *Motown Sings Gospel*. She will record her first CD of original music, *It's About the Message*, this fall.



Stephen Jones (bass) is a poet and songwriter who teaches English and journalism at Detroit's Chadsey High School. He has sung at Laborfest and the Concert of Colors and Detroit-

area coffee houses, and appeared in a Southfield production of *The Fantasticks*. A CD of his labor songs, *One More Day*, was issued in 2000 as a fundraiser for the Detroit Council of Newspaper Unions. He is a member of the Detroit Federation of Musicians and a former member of the Newspaper Guild of Detroit.



Kiesha Key (soprano) is a 25-year-old actress from St. Clair Shores. She studied drama at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Detroit and theater at the University of Detroit Mer-

cy. She loves to perform on stage and dance. Although she is currently working full time at SBC Inc., where she is a member of the Communications Workers of America, she aspires toward a full-time acting career.



Samuel Kirkland (bass) is chairman of UAW Local 653 in Pontiac and has worked in the UAW National Organizing and Public Relations and Publications Dept. He has written

extensively for union publications including *Solidarity* and has edited three local-union papers. He graduated cum laude from the National Labor College and is coordinator and developer of the Black Men In Unions Academy. He sings with the Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church choir.



Susan Newell (soprano) is a native of Indiana, who has made Detroit her home for 30 years. Since 1979, she has lent her voice in support of labor and other progressive causes, first in Finland

Station, a Detroit-based folk group, and more recently in One by One, which performed an eclectic mix of folk, blues, reggae, and pop.



Gordon Patton (bass) is a member of the Black Men in Unions Players and has appeared in the stage productions of *Stress in the Workplace* and *Last Day in a Non-Union Shop*. He sings

with the Paul Robeson Chorale at Fellowship Chapel, and he performed as John Newton singing *Amazing Grace* at the church's Watch Night Kwanzaa production. He recently served as second vice-president, district committee person, and civil-rights chair of UAW Local 3000 at Auto Alliance in Flat Rock.



Jillian Richardson (dancer) began her training at a studio in her hometown of Livonia, Mich. With 15 years experience, she has trained under Carol Cotter, Slavka

Jelinkova, Christina Kammuler, and Sergey Rayevskiy. In 1993 she was accepted into the Creative and Performing Arts School in Michigan under Mary Murphy, and has studied under Danielle Clifford and Wen Wei in Vancouver, B.C. Credits include featured roles in *Nutcracker* and as a soloist dancer for the River Community Church. She is also a dance instructor.



Samuel Richardson (tenor) is earning his B.F.A. in acting at Wayne State. He has done improvisation at Second City and Planet Ant, and has performed in several local productions including

To Kill A Mockingbird, *Last Seat on the Train*, *The Underpants*, *The Dream Tunnel*, *Forever Christmas*, and *Bat Boy*. He plays the Playboy in the movie *Hot Turkey*.



Lisha M. Sly (alto) is a native Detroiter whose vocal talents can be heard in the chorus sponsored by UNITE!Here. She has been a business manager of UNITE!Here Local 124-129 since

1999 and serves on the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO. She is a trustee of the Laundry Workers trust fund and a member of Hope Community Church. She co-founded Detroit's "Ring in the New Year with a Bell, not a Bang!" campaign.



Maurice "Skip" Turner (bass) has performed in several theatrical productions including *When You Strike Flint*, *Workin' for a Livin'*, and *The Grievance Trilogy*, and has written

and directed *The Terrible Three*, *Last Day in a Non-Union Shop*, *Overtime in a Time of Layoffs*, and his latest work, *Just Between You and Me*. He has been road manager for the Spyder Turner show and was a producer with his brothers on the 2000 production of the hit CD, *Spyder Turner*. He is coordinator of Black Men in Unions, the Michigan Summer School for Women Workers, the Winter Leadership Institute, and the Unity Conference at the University of Michigan.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Ron Burns (set/lighting designer) works regularly with Plowshares Theatre, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre, and Ballet International of Indianapolis. He has designed over 200 productions in more than 30 years of working in this field.

Lisa Canada (producer) has worked in the labor movement for many years, first for HERE and then for the United Food and Commercial Workers. She currently is political director for the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO. A resident of Ferndale, she is married to labor attorney David Radtke and has two children.

Anne Drake (assistant stage manager) has performed with Workers Lives/Workers Stories and was in the cast of *Workin' for a Livin'*. She wrote song parodies for UAW organizing drives and strikes, and is retired as an electrician from Ford. She is a member of UAW Local 898 where she continues as editor of the Local's publication, *Raw Facts*, as well as the UAW Region 1A *Retirees News*.

David Elsila (producer) is a coordinator of the Michigan Labor Legacy Project. His ca-

reer in labor journalism has included editing the *Michigan Teacher*, *American Teacher*, and *Solidarity*. He is a member of UAW Local 1981 and a retiree from TNG Local 22. A resident of Grosse Pointe Park, he is married to Katie Elsila and has three children and one grandchild.

Sandra Glover (production stage manager) worked most recently with Plowshares Theatre Company's *Crowns*. Other venues include Detroit Repertory Theatre, Buku Productions, Marygrove Dance Theatre, and the Detroit Festival of the Arts. She was costumer for Mosaic Youth Theatre's summer hit, *Now That I Can Dance*. She thanks the *Forgotten* cast for a warm welcome as she takes over Elaine Smith's role as stage manager.

Sister Brenda R. Moon (house manager) is a percussionist with Ubaka Hill and Drum Song Orchestra and is president of "Power Surge Posse." She is former assistant director in the AFL-CIO Education Dept. and now works as a national AFL-CIO field rep. A former staff member at the National Labor College, she "traded places" with Elise

Bryant who moved to that position from Detroit. She is a member of UAW Local 22 and TNG/CWA Local 35.

Elaine (Hendricks) Smith (production stage manager) is a member of Actors Equity. This is Elaine's second time stage-managing *Forgotten*, much to her delight. She currently hails from Eastpointe Mich., where she lives with her husband and daughter. She is the outreach director for Matrix Theatre Company in southwest Detroit and is currently stage managing *Altar Boyz* for the City Theatre.

John Woodland (costumer) is a professor of costume design at Wayne State University, and has also taught at the University of Michigan, St. Lawrence University, and the University of Michigan. He earned his B.A. at Otterbein College and his M.F.A. at the University of Michigan. He has worked in costume design at the Hilberry, Purple Rose, and Boars Head theaters, and is a guest artist for the University of Michigan in dance. One of his most recent costuming assignments was the Hilberry production of *Antony and Cleopatra*.

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Frederick Douglass

We applaud
Lynn Marie
Smith, Organizer,
AFT Michigan, and
the entire cast of
Forgotten.



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