



Stand Up!

1963. Birmingham's teens say "Yes!" to a protest... and then a whole lot more!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

eta Creative Arts Presents the World Premiere of Stand Up!

Book: Phyllis Curtwright and Kamesha Khan

Music and Lyrics: Phyllis Curtwright

Opening June 8-June 30, 2019

Chicago-(May 20, 2019)-eta Creative Arts Foundation presents the World Premiere musical "Stand Up!" Braving police brutality, high pressure water hoses, vicious dogs, racist taunts, and jail time, Birmingham school students march to reignite a stalled Civil Rights Movement. As we witness youth standing at the forefront of the Black Lives Matter and the March for Our Lives movements, we invite you to experience the story of the unsung heroes of 1963's Birmingham Children's Crusade. This is a family friendly production for all ages.

"The story of these heroic children deserves to be heard. The hatred and the violence that these children endured demands witness," says playwright Kamesha Khan.

Phyllis Curtwright, playwright and composer, "I want today's young people to see in themselves a mirror of strength, hope and determination as they shape their own lives moving forward."

"Stand Up!" is the second play produced for eta's Live Family Theatre Initiative started in 2018 with "The Tiger Who Wore White Gloves" by Nora Brooks Blakely. Well known Marketing and Public Relations guru, Barbara Kensey (deceased), helped launch this eta initiative in 2017. In recognition of her unwavering support for eta, we dedicated this production to her memory.

"Stand Up!" runs Saturday, June 8 through June 30, 2019 at eta Creative Arts Foundation, 7558 S. South Chicago Ave. Show times are Saturday, 3 pm and 7 pm, and Sundays at 3pm (7pm when booked). General admission is \$35 with reduced rates for seniors, students and groups. To purchase tickets and acquire additional information on Group Sales, call 773-752-3955 or www.etacreativearts.org.

Featuring: **Lisa Palmer**(Joyce), **Katryce Bridges** (Lynette), **Jarrin Comer** (Scotty), **Tristian Arnez** (Curtis), **Fania Bourne**(Ensemble), **Kenya Brathwaite** (Ensemble), **Aaron Sanders** (Ensemble), **Malcom Banks** (Ensemble), and **Kennedy Wilson** (Ensemble). **Jonathan Wilson**, director, **Phyllis Curtwright**, Playwright,

Composer and Sound Designer, **Kamesha Khan**, Playwright, **Destiny Casson**, Choreographer, **Carrie Hardin**, Dialect Coach, **Andrea Brown**, Costumes, **Kemati Porter**, Set Design, **Edward Richardson**, Light Design.



Phyllis Curtwright, Composer/Playwright – began her theatre career with **eta** Creative Arts in 1990 as part of the stage band for a musical production based on the life of Marvin Gaye. Later, two original musicals were penned, the first, “Dr. Watts & the Saints” a semi-biographical story of the golden age of Black gospel and “Stepper’s Ball”, based on a popular dance style of Chicago. She returned to theatre for the 2015 production of “Migration”, receiving the BTAA award for Best Sound Design and later as music director for Nora Brooks Blakely’s musical adaptation of “The Tiger Who Wore White Gloves.”



Kamesha Khan, Playwright- is an award-winning stage director and dramaturg. She is also an associate professor in the Communications, Media Arts and Theatre Program at Chicago State University. Khan previously served as the Education Director at Penumbra Theatre Company. She is grateful to Kemati Porter, Phyllis Curtwright, and **eta** for the opportunity to share this new musical about the Children's Crusade of 1963 with a young audience.

<https://www.etacreativearts.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/StandUp2-1.jpg>

Stand Up! Cast: Malcom Banks, Lisa Palmer, Kennedy Wilson, Fania Bourne, Katryce Bridges, Kenya Bratwithe, Tristian Arnez, Jarrin Comer, Aaron Sanders