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FIRST FLOOR THEATER PRESENTS
THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF

DONJA R. LOVE'S

SUGAR IN OUR WOUNDS

DIRECTED BY MIKAEL BURKE*

OCTOBER 19 – NOVEMBER 23

FEATURING

(in alphabetical order)

Ashley Crowe -- Mattie
Renee Lockett -- Aunt Mama
Grainne Ortlieb -- Isabel
Londen Shannon -- Henry
Michael Turrentine -- James

PRODUCTION

Joy Ahn -- Scenic Design
Eric Watkins -- Lighting Design
Sam Clapp -- Sound Design
Madeleine Byrne -- Costume Design
Ian Maryfield -- Violence and Intimacy Design
Emma Franklin -- Stage Management
Sana Selemon -- Dialect Coach

*Denotes a First Floor Company Member

**This production made possible by
Michael and Mona Heath of The Heath Fund.**



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PRODUCTION TEAM CONTINUED

Caitlin McCarthy*-- Production Management
Cole von Glahn*-- Production Management
Bobby Huggins* -- Technical Direction
Claire Stone* -- Special Effects Design
Amy Couey -- Charge Artist
Lena Aubrey -- Master Electrician
Julia Toney -- Assistant Stage Management
Sola Thompson -- Assistant Director
Catherine Miller* -- Casting
David Rosenberg -- Public Relations

UNDERSTUDIES

Daija Nealy -- Mattie (u/s)
Donovan Session -- James (u/s)
Risha Tenae -- Aunt Mama (u/s)
Amy Carpenter -- Isabel (u/s)
Leon J. Evans -- Henry (u/s)

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CAST & CREW

ASHLEY CROWE (She/Her/Hers - Mattie) is thrilled to be making her First Floor Theater debut. She was last seen performing in *For the Record* at Prop Thtr. Recent productions include *The Veil* (Idle Muse Theatre Company), *truth and reconciliation* (Sideshow Theatre Company). Other Chicago theatre credits include: *fml: how Carson McCullers saved my life* (Loyola University Chicago). Ashley would like to thank her family and friends for the constant love and support. Her performance is dedicated to the memory of Harriet Jacobs, an unsung American hero.

RENEE LOCKETT (She/Her/Hers - Aunt Mama) is excited to be working with First Floor Theater for the first time. She most recently has been seen in Babes with Blades' production of *Women of 4G*. Renee's four-decade theatrical career has allowed her to work at X-BAG, Black Ensemble, Northlight, Prop Theatre, Victory Gardens, Redtwist, ETA, Fleetwood Jourdain, Steppenwolf, Childs Play, Collaboraction, and Court Theatre. She is grateful to be a working actor in this city full of fire performers! Renee is represented by DDO Artists Agency.

GRAINNE ORTLIEB (She/Her/Hers - Isabel) is a recent graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University. She is thrilled to be making her first professional steps with the First Floor Theater. A few of her Theatre School credits include: *A Dybbuk or Between Two Worlds*, *Three Sisters*, *Mr. Burns*, *a Post-Electric Play*, *Call of the Wild*, and *Night of the Iguana* (DePaul University).

LONDEN SHANNON (He/Him/His - Henry) is stoked to be working with with First Floor for the first time and grateful for the opportunity to bring this story to life. He was most recently was seen in *Killing Game* (A Red Orchid), and *Fun Harmless WarMachine* (The New Colony). He's previously has worked with the Goodman Theatre, the Gift Theatre, and Teatro Vista. He's grateful to his family, friends, and God for their guidance and support. Londen is a graduate of the School at Steppenwolf and is proudly represented by Gray Talent Group.

MICHAEL TURRENTINE (He/Him/His - James) is so very excited to be working with First Floor Theater for the first time! Some of Michael's past credits include: *The Total Bent* (Haven Theater), *Frankenstein* and *Pirandello's Henry IV* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company), *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* (Interrobang Theatre Company), *Nine To Five* (Firebrand Theater), *Picnic* (American Theatre Company), *Miss Evers' Boys* (National arts Festival in South Africa), *Cinderella*, *The Merry Widow*, *Die Walkure*, and *Faust* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), and *The Hairy Ape* (Oracle Productions).

CAST & CREW

MIKAEL BURKE (He/Him/His - Director) is a Jeff-nominated director, deviser and educator. A Princess Grace Award winner in Theatre and graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University (MFA Directing), Mikael's most recently worked with Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago Dramatists, Northlight Theatre, About Face Theatre, and First Floor Theater in Chicago, and regionally with Asolo Repertory Theatre, GEVA Theatre Center, and Indiana Repertory Theatre. A former Victory Gardens Theater DII Fellow, he recently served as Northlight Theatre's inaugural Artistic Fellow and also serves as Head of the Directing Concentration of the Summer High School Training Program of the Theatre School at DePaul University, is a faculty member of the Chicago College of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and a core faculty member in the Theatre division of the National High School Institute (Cherubs) at Northwestern University. Recent directing credits include *This Bitter Earth* by Harrison David Rivers; *Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies* by Tarrance Arvelle Chisholm; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare; *Native Son* by Richard Wright, adapted by Nambi E. Kelley.

DONJA R. LOVE (He/Him/His- Playwright) is Black, Queer, HIV+, and surviving. From Philly, he's the recipient of the Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award, the Princess Grace Playwriting Award, the Lark's 2016 Van Lier New Voices Playwriting Fellow, The Playwrights Realm's 2016/2017 Writing Fellow, and the 2011 Philadelphia Adult Grand Slam Poetry Champion. He's had work produced and developed at Manhattan Theatre Club, Atlantic Theater Company, The New Group, The Lark, New York Stage and Film, The Playwrights Realm, and more. He's the co-host of Off Book, a podcast on Black theatre; and he's the co-founder of The Each-Other Project, an organization that helps build community and provide visibility, through art and advocacy for LGBTQ People of Color. Select stage plays include: *The Love*Plays* and *soft*.

JOY AHN (She/Her/Hers - Scenic Design) is a scenic designer and artist in Chicago. Joy returns to First Floor Theater after designing last season's *I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard*. Prior credits include: *Death of Gaia Divine* (Greenhouse Theatre), *Cam Baby* (Chimera Ensemble), *Native Son* and *Eurydice* (DePaul University). Joy is a graduate of the Theatre School at DePaul. For more visit: joyahn.com.

CAST & CREW

ERIC WATKINS (He/Him/His - Lighting Design) returns, having spent the fall making some grand opera in San Francisco, to collaborate with both Mikael Burke and First Floor Theater after last year's acclaimed *Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies*. CHICAGO (selected) *EthiopianAmerica* (Definition Theatre Company); *Machinal* (The Greenhouse Theater Center; Jeff nomination); *In The Blood* (Red Tape Theatre); *A Swell In The Ground* (The Gift Theatre); *The Man Who Was Thursday* (Lifeline Theatre); *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery* (Pegasus Theatre); *Punk* (The New Colony); *Fish Eye* (Dandelion Theatre) *The Safe House* (City Lit Theater Company); *Bomber's Moon* (Williams Street Rep); *Fallen* (Mozawa); *Porcelain* (Prologue Theatre; Jeff nomination); *The Property* (Lyric Unlimited) a commissioned klezmer opera. REGIONAL(selected) *Don Pasquale* (Fort Worth Opera); *Show Boat, Falstaff* (Dallas Opera); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Opera Santa Barbara and Kentucky Opera); *The Rake's Progress* (Merola Opera); *Barber of Seville* (Lithuanian National Opera). Eric received his MFA from Boston University and is a proud member of USA829, the theatrical design union. www.ericwatkins.com.

SAM CLAPP (He/ Him/ His - Sound Design) is a musician and sound artist. Recent projects include the architecture criticism podcast Interstitial; *At The Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* (The Story Theatre); *Killing Game* (A Red Orchid Theatre); *Love and Information* and *The Killer* (Trap Door Theatre); and *The Ruse of Medusa* and *Phoebe in Winter* (Facility Theatre).

MADELEINE BYRNE (She/Her/Hers - Costume Design) is thrilled to be working with First Floor Theater. Recent credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Citadel Theatre) and the US premiere of *Oresteia* in a new adaptation by Robert Icke (The Theatre School at DePaul University). Madeleine also works as an assistant designer, dresser, and as the costume shop assistant at Court Theatre.

IAN MARYFIELD (He/Him/His - Violence and Intimacy Design) is excited to be back at First Floor where he has previously assistant designed *Hooded; Or Being Black for Dummies*. Other Chicago violence and intimacy credits include: *Why Torture is Wrong and the People that Love Them* and *Bus Stop* (Eclipse Theatre); *King Lear* and *Six Degrees of Separation* (Redtwist Theatre); *The 2019 Academy Showcase* (Black Box Acting); *Macbeth* (All-Star Shakespeare Company); and *Sparks Play Festival* (Nomad's Art Collective). He is certified with the Fight Directors of Canada and is apprenticing Rachel Flesher while training with Intimacy Design International. He received his BFA in Acting from Oklahoma City University. Look for him onstage in *Tru: A Musical* at Stage 773. He thanks his mother and brother, Rachel Flesher, Catherine Miller, Mikael Burke and Stewart Talent. To God be the glory.

CAST & CREW

EMMA FRANKLIN (She/Her/Hers - Stage Management) is excited for *Sugar in Our Wounds* to be her first production with First Floor Theater. Other Chicago credits include *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Filament Theater); *The Music Man* (Goodman Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Shakespeare in the Parks Tour (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* (Lookingglass Theater Company). Other regional credits include *The Tempest* (Seattle Children's Theatre Student Season) and *Ever in the Glades* (The Kennedy Center). She is a graduate of the theatre department at Northwestern University.

SANA SELEMON (She/Her/Hers- Dialect Coach) is truly grateful to be a part of this show and to be working with First Floor Theater. She graduated from Ohio University with a BFA in Acting and a minor in Sociolinguistics where her love of voice and speech blossomed. She made her Chicago dialect coach debut with *EthiopianAmerica* (Definition Theatre), *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Noises Off*, and assistant dialect coached *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Tantrum Theatre) and *Pride & Prejudice* (Available Light Theatre). Much love to her family and friends who continue to support her in all she does. www.sanaselemon.com.

JULIA TONEY (They/Them/Theirs - Assistant Stage Management) is thrilled to be involved in *Sugar in Our Wounds*. Julia recently graduated from University of Evansville with a BFA in theatre performance. Julia's play *Incarnation* premiered at Woven Theatre's Loom New Works Festival 2018. This summer Julia acted as stage manager/dramaturgical assistant for Steppenwolf's production-in-residence of Rajiv Joseph's *King James* at New Harmony Project 2019. Most recently, Julia performed their one-woman rock opera *MAUPIN* during Nox Arca's Queer Art Party. They wish to pursue directing, playwriting, and dramaturgy in Chicago.

SOLA THOMPSON (She/Her/Hers - Assistant Director) holds an MFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. She was most recently seen in the BTAA and Jeff Nominated production of *Eclipsed* (Pegasus Theatre).

CAITLIN MCCARTHY (She/Her/Hers - Production Manager) is a multi-disciplinary artist who likes solving problems with her friends. She is lucky to be the Co-Director of Production of First Floor along with Cole von Glahn. Recently Caitlin designed the props and set dressing for *Every Brilliant Thing* and *The Recommendation* (Windy City Playhouse), designed costumes and set textiles for *The Late Wedding* (The Neighborhood Theatre) and served as the costume and production designer for Nire Nah's music video, *Citizens of Atlantis*. She production designed *The Care and Keeping of You*, a short film by Nina Slesinger and Sammy Zeisel. Learn more about Caitlin's work at caitlinmccarthy.net.

CAST & CREW

COLE VON GLAHN (He/Him/His - Production Manager) is a Chicago-based director and producer. He has been producing with First Floor since moving to Chicago in 2015. In that time, he has produced over a dozen company shows and events. He directed FFT's last season closer *I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard*. Additionally, as the Artistic Producer at Raven Theatre, Cole has produced their last three seasons of work. Cole led the collective of artists behind the upcoming narrative fantasy podcast *Leylines*. Outside of theatre, Cole is a board game designer and collaborative storyteller. He holds degrees in Drama and Sociology from Tufts University.

CATHERINE MILLER (They/Them/Theirs - Casting) Select casting credits include: *Hooded, Mike Pence Sex Dream, I'm Gonna Pray for You So Hard, Two Mile Hollow, Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea, Refrigerator* (First Floor Theater); *PYG or the Misedumacation of Dorian Belle, In the Canyon, Dutch Masters, Life on Paper, Living Newspaper Festival 9 + 10* (Jackalope Theatre); *Hoodoo Love, Sundown Yellow Moon* (Raven Theatre), *In the Blood, We are Pussy Riot, All Quiet on the Western Front, Queen of Sock Pairing* (Red Tape Theatre). This year, Catherine was named one of New City's 2019 Players: The Fifty People Who Really Perform for Chicago and was on the Windy City Times' 30 Under 30 list. They hold a BFA in Dramaturgy/Criticism from The Theatre School at DePaul and are a proud company member of Jackalope Theatre.

FFT'S SPECIAL THANKS

Bobby Huggins, Claire Stone, Ian McLaren Photography, David Rosenberg, The Robey, Black Box Theare, DePaul, and Raven Theatre

ABOUT FFT

First Floor Theater stages stories of individuals facing moments of radical change. By combining visceral acting, immersive design, and collaborative dramaturgy, FFT expands these stories to ask urgent social questions.

STAFF

HUTCH PIMENTEL (He/Him/They/Them), ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ANDREW CUTLER (He/Him/His), ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR †
AMANDA FINK (She/Her/Hers), MANAGING DIRECTOR †
COLE VON GLAHN (He/Him/His), CO-DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
CAITLIN MCCARTHY (She/Her/Hers), CO-DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
CATHERINE MILLER (They/Them/Theirs), CASTING DIRECTOR
CLAIRE STONE (She/Her/Hers), COMPANY MANAGER
KATIE FOGGIANO (She/Her/Hers), DIRECTOR OF AUDIENCE SERVICES
GRACIE MEIER (She/Her/They/Them), DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
HANNA KIME (She/Her/Hers), ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF NEW WORKS

COMPANY

AURORA ADACHI-WINTER (She/Her/Hers)
NORA BINGHAM (She/Her/Hers)
SID BRANCA (They/Them/Theirs)
MIKAEL BURKE (He/Him/His)
AMANDA CANTLIN (She/Her/Hers)
ALEXIS CHANEY † (She/Her/Hers)
CAROLINE CHU (She/Her/Hers)
CLAIRE CHRZAN (She/Her/Hers)
KATE CORNELIUS-SCHECTER † (She/Her/Hers)
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JESSE ROTH (She/Her/Hers)
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COMPANY EMERITUS/ON LEAVE

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JULIE LEGHORN (She/Her/Hers)
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