

University  
of Washington  
School  
of Drama

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BY

THE

WAY,

MEET  
VERA  
STARK

BY LYNN NOTTAGE / DIRECTED BY TIM BOND

# BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK

OCT 27 - NOV 5, 2017  
MEANY STUDIO THEATRE

written by **LYNN NOTTAGE**

directed by **TIM BOND**<sup>†</sup>

<i>Scenic Design</i> Shawn Ketchum Johnson	<i>Lighting Design</i> Ranleigh Starling*	<i>Prop Master</i> Andrea Bush <sup>°</sup>	<i>Video Design</i> Kwame Braun <sup>†</sup>	<i>Stage Manager</i> Beau Castillo
<i>Costume Design</i> Jordan Fell*	<i>Sound Design</i> Bob Leigh	<i>Sound Engineer</i> Avril Martinez <sup>°</sup>	<i>Cinematographer</i> Haley Watson	<i>Technical Director</i> Alex Danilchik <sup>°</sup>

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<i>Dialect Coach</i> Bridget Connors <sup>†</sup>	<i>Lighting Design Assistant</i> Chun Yen Huang*	<i>Microphone Technician</i> Amanda Bell	<i>Wigs &amp; Facial Hair</i> Joyce Degenfelder
<i>Screen Acting Coach</i> Mark Jenkins <sup>†</sup>	<i>Light Board Operator</i> Jenna McElroy	<i>Student Electricians</i> Trevor Cushman* Chun Yen Huang*	<i>Costume Crew Manager</i> Lindsey Halfhill*
<i>Singing Consultant</i> Scott Hafso <sup>†</sup>	<i>Follow Spot</i> Ricky Spaulding	<i>Running Crew</i> Kyler Cantrell Hyun Chong <sup>††</sup> Kirby McDermott <sup>††</sup> Patrick McDermott <sup>††</sup>	<i>Costume Staff Assistant</i> Chanté Harman*
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i> Brittany Thomas	<i>Sound Board Operator</i> Samantha Journey <sup>††</sup>	<i>Scenic Staff Assistants</i> M. Adair MacCormack* Emily Allen*	<i>Costume Crew</i> Luis Ciccia <sup>††</sup> Ashley Jenkins Michelle Lin Christie Zhao
<i>House Manager</i> Kali Greenberg	<i>Video Sound Recordist</i> Kevin Middleton		

\* Member of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Design  
†School of Drama Faculty member

†† Member of Bachelor of Arts in Drama program  
°School of Drama staff member

*Special Thanks:* Addie Barron, Cathy Madden, Nancy Seward, Hollywood Bob, Seattle Repertory Theatre, ACT, and Seattle Opera.

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## CAST

<i>Vera Stark</i> .....	Porscha Shaw *
<i>Gloria Mitchell</i> .....	Tamsen Glaser*
<i>Lottie McBride/Carmen Levy-Green</i> .....	Bria Henderson*
<i>Ana Mae Simkins/Afua Assata Ejoba</i> .....	Tricia Castañeda-Gonzales*
<i>Leroy Barksdale/Herb Forrester</i> .....	André G. Brown*
<i>Mr. Slasvick/Brad Donovan</i> .....	Adrian Tafesh*
<i>Maximillian Von Oster/Peter Rhys-Davies</i> ....	Phillip Ray Guevara*

\* Member of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Acting

## BAND

<i>Piano</i> .....	John Engerman
<i>Bass</i> .....	David Pascal
<i>Drums</i> .....	Chris Monroe

Setting:  
Hollywood

Time:  
ACT I - 1933  
ACT II - 1933, 1973, 2003

The play runs about 2 hours and 10 minutes with one 15-minute intermission.

*By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York. Originally produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York City.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Tim Bond has a long association with Lynn Nottage and her work. He has directed three separate productions of Nottage's *Intimate Apparel* for four different theatres (The Guthrie, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Cleveland Playhouse, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival), and a production of her *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* at Indiana Repertory Theatre. When Tim was the Lorraine Hansberry Professor of Theatre at the University of Wisconsin, he produced a colloquium titled *Unfolding Plays by African-American Women* with Nottage and playwright/novelist Kia Corthron. Local audiences may also remember Tim as one of the driving forces behind Seattle's Group Theatre, for which he directed over 20 productions, serving as Artistic Director from 1991-1996. Tim also served long stints in artistic leadership at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Syracuse Stage, before returning to Seattle last fall to join our faculty. Tim succeeds Professor Valerie Curtis-Newton in his new role as Head of the Professional Actor Training Program. Professor Curtis-Newton, who has helmed both the Acting and Directing MFAs for a decade, will continue to lead the Professional Director Training Program (MFA in Directing).

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## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Lynn Nottage is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and a screenwriter. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. *Sweat* (Pulitzer Prize, Obie Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Tony Nomination, Drama Desk Nomination) moved to Broadway after a sold out run at The Public Theater. It premiered and was commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival American Revolutions History Cycle/Arena Stage. Her other plays include *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Lilly Award, Drama Desk Nomination), *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award), *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play), *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE Award), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy, Las Meninas, Mud, River, Stone, Por'knockers, and POOF!*. In addition, she is working with composer Ricky Ian Gordon on adapting her play *Intimate Apparel* into an opera (commissioned by The Met/LCT). She is a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama. She is an Associate Professor in the Theatre Department at Columbia School of the Arts.

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It has been a real joy and an exhilarating challenge to mount a production of *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* this fall. It's a play that demands an enormous amount of research and cross disciplinary collaboration, and it has stretched our actors', designers', and production staff's muscles in tremendous ways.

Getting to know *Vera Stark* has been incredibly rewarding for me, having worked on a number of Lynn's other plays. Her deft use of so many different film and theatre styles to tap into African-American women's experience of racism and misogyny in Hollywood has really deepened my appreciation for her incredible range. She is that rare writer who is able to take these rigorously researched historical topics and pop them out of history and into personalities that we can relate to, and it's such a gift to get to work with her words.

Our second and third year MFA Professional Actor Training Program students have had delicious opportunities to explore a number of period comedic acting styles, work on a short film, record a radio play, sing, and pose for still photographs. They've done all of this as well as delve into history, themes, and issues critical to their future success at navigating the professional acting world on stage, in voice overs, or the big screen. It's been one heck of a ride! - Tim Bond

## 2017-2018 SEASON

### LOVE + POWER

#### **BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK**

BY LYNN NOTTAGE  
DIRECTED BY TIM BOND  
OCT. 27 - NOV. 5

#### **MONSTROSITY**

BY LUCY THURBER  
DIRECTED BY SAMIE SPRING  
DETZER  
DEC. 1 - 10

#### **TROJAN WOMEN: A LOVE STORY**

BY CHARLES L. MEE  
DIRECTED BY CODY HOLLIDAY  
HAEFER  
JAN. 19 - 28

#### **12 OPHELIAS**

#### **(A PLAY WITH BROKEN SONGS)**

BY CARIDAD SVICH  
DIRECTED BY AMANDA FRIOU  
FEB. 16 - 25

#### **ANGELS IN AMERICA PART II: PERESTROIKA**

BY TONY KUSHNER  
DIRECTED BY MARK VALDEZ  
APR. 27 - MAY 6

#### **GOLDIE, MAX AND MILK**

BY KAREN HARTMAN  
DIRECTED BY ALLISON NARVER  
MAY 25 - JUN. 3

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## CONTACT US

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## AUDIENCE SURVEY

Let us know what you thought! Take our brief survey at: <http://bit.ly/uw-vera-stark>



The University of Washington School of Drama develops innovative and courageous artists and scholars poised to be the creative leaders of tomorrow. Our dynamic, award-winning faculty is dedicated to enabling each student to reach their full potential and our alumni are advancing the artistic conversation through innovative and diverse work across the globe.

We offer MFA degrees in acting, design, and directing, a four-year undergraduate liberal arts education in Drama or Musical Theatre, and a PhD in theatre history and criticism.

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*Executive Director*, Todd London

### FACULTY

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Deborah Trout  
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*Affiliate Professor*

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Catherine Madden

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We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who have made a financial contribution to the School of Drama in the past year (Jul. 1, 2016 – Oct. 25, 2017). Your gifts make a genuine impact in the lives of our students, and in turn, within the greater theatre community. Full list of donors at: [drama.uw.edu/about/donors](http://drama.uw.edu/about/donors)

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