



ENCORE STAGE & STUDIO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Encore Stage & Studio presents *Flip the Script – From Nauck to Green Valley: Transforming a Community*

Arlington, VA -- The award-winning children's theatre, Encore Stage & Studio, is honored to present a student-developed, original play, *Flip the Script – From Nauck to Green Valley: Transforming a Community*. This production runs April 28-May 7, 2023 at Theatre On The Run (3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive Arlington, VA 22206).

Encore's *Flip the Script* program works with local student writers to develop original theatre pieces focused on Arlington, Virginia's African American voices and encourage community conversations. Inspired by the Green Valley neighborhood, formerly known as Nauck, this play looks at the history of one of the county's oldest African American communities through the eyes of four fictional characters. The cast is comprised of student performers between ages 9-18 including some residents of the Green Valley neighborhood. This contemporary story explores and celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit that thrives there today.

Encore's successful *Flip the Script* program previously created *The Day Nothing Happened*, an original theatre piece that explores the 1959 integration of Arlington's Stratford Junior High School, the first school to do so in the Commonwealth of Virginia. *The Day Nothing Happened* debuted in Encore's 2019/2020 season and was presented at the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center in February 2020. "Flip the Script was an unforgettable process that educated me about the rich and deep history of Arlington in a way that was unfettered and factual. I am so proud to have been a part of a project that is able to enlighten the audience's perspective through storytelling," says student participant, John M. "This play conveys to the audience vital history through an emotional, true-to-life and artistic lens that can better our society."

Student writers devised our current play after extensive research of local history and touring the neighborhood. They heard directly from community members and local historians including Green Valley native Dr. Alfred O. Taylor, Jr. “I am looking forward to this production expanding on the respect and love neighbor[s] had for their fellow man and how together despite the racism and obstacles they had to overcome, persevered to make meaningful contributions that still exist today,” says Dr. Alfred O. Taylor, Jr. “In addition to a greatly gentrified community, new neighbors can gain an appreciation of what previous residents did to preserve and grow the community they now live in.”

“This original work is exciting and important,” says Madaline Langston, Production Director and Programs Director at Encore Stage & Studio. “We’re honored to share and celebrate the history and voices of Green Valley.” Langston has been with Encore Stage & Studio for over two decades. Madaline is a graduate of the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts Advance Theatre program in Washington DC. Madaline later joined the Shakespeare Theatre Company under the artistic direction of Michael Kahn, followed by two national tours with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ programs for children. As a member of the Screen Actors Guild, American Federation Television Radio Artists, and Actors Equity, Madaline has worked on films, industrials, regional and national commercials. Madaline was a nominee for the Children’s Theatre Foundation of America’s 2021 Corey Medallion Award.

Joining Langston on the creative team are James Carlos Lacey (Assistant Director), Debra Leonard (Costume and Make Up Design and Build), Cleo Potter (Lighting Designer), and Kristen Jepperson (Technical Director).

Performance Dates and Showtimes

Fridays, April 28 and May 5 at 7:30pm

Saturdays, April 29 and May 6 at 11am and 3pm

Sundays, April 30 and May 7 at 3pm

Location: Theatre On The Run (3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive Arlington, VA 22206)

Tickets are \$15 for Adults; \$12 for Children, Students, Military and Seniors. Tickets are available online. Visit www.encorestage.org to learn more.

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This production is supported by the Washington Forrest Foundation and the Nonprofit Wish Catalog of the Arlington Community Foundation. Encore Stage & Studio is honored to be recognized as one of the best local nonprofits by the 2022/2023 Catalogue for Philanthropy of Greater Washington. Encore Stage & Studio's 2022/2023 season is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Arlington Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts. Encore Stage & Studio is committed to promoting inclusion and equitable access to all of its programs. We believe that an artistic community is enhanced through diversity.

For more information visit www.encorestage.org | (703) 548-1154