

In honor of Black History Month,  
The City Theatre Company proudly presents

**Suzan-Lori Parks**

# **TOPDOG/ UNDERDOG**

## **THE PLAYERS**

**Lincoln**

the topdog.....Richard Rashad Romeo

**Booth**

(aka 3-Card), the underdog.....McArthur Moore

## **TIME/PLACE**

earlier/here

*Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves; and,  
under a just God, cannot long retain it. - Abraham Lincoln*

*You are only yourself when no one's watching. - Suzan-Lori Parks*

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There will be a fifteen minute intermission between acts.  
Each act is about fifty minutes in length.

**Presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service  
440 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10016**

## Special thanks to.

Greater Austin Creative Alliance Austin 360 The Austin Chronicle Austix  
The Austin-American Statesman Mrs. Jennifer Bednorz Now Playing Austin  
Ms. Janice Berkovsky Mr. Greg Brooks Mr. James Tiemann Ms. Karen Loyd  
Austin Live Theatre Mr. Rick Crowley Ms. Mary Ann Crowley Austin on Stage  
Motorblade Postering Service Olden Lighting Costumed Occasions, San Marcos

## 2010 – 2011 Season Tickets.

Annie Zaffrann Teresa Matlock Bill and Karen Warren Marcy Basquez  
Mike and Sue Wood Alexandra Wood Clifford Spinac and Steve Lopez  
Shelley Kurgan Michael Meigs Ed and JoAnn Farrell Ted Huston  
Aletha Huston Megan Henderson Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley  
Michael Murray Sue Tedford and Teddy Flick Mary Anne Crowley  
Dan Eggleston Andy Regimbal Thom and Christina Jeskey Don Owen  
Josh and Sylvia Haley Pam Dozler and Stephen Bayer Laura Luthy  
Susie O'Neal Kim Chen Milton Carr Cliff Avery

## City Theatre Contributors.

Rick Crowley Christine Lemp Dr. & Mrs. Ben Berkovsky Carmina Eaton  
Mary Ann Crowley Jennifer Bednorz Ashley Jorge Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley  
Teresa Matlock Lisa Scheps Erik Virkkala Concordia University Mark Banasau  
Rodney & Donna LeRoy Mary Louise Donohoe Arts on Real Theatre  
George & Linda Knappek Paul Strelzick & Patricia Drew Keith and Debbi Anderson

## 2010 Musical Fund Contributors

Derek Jones Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley Bill and Jane Newchurch  
Kay Taebel Dave Johnson Sue Tedford and Teddy Flick Teresa Matlock  
Rob Fabian Lee Hagan Claire Brooks Washington Mooney Memorial

## SEASON TICKETS ON SALE!!

**\$150 includes two seats to the 2010 – 2011 theatre season.**  
**Ask the box office or concession staff for details.** And join our mailing  
list to get information on auditions, productions and events. Sign up at the  
box office or on the website. Event, party, or rehearsal space is available.

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## Cast and Crew:

**McArthur Moore** is a graduate from Angelo State University and making his fifth appearance at City Theatre having performed in *Hamlet*, *Tartuffe*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and August Wilson's *Fences* in which he received a 2009 Austin B. Iden Payne award nomination. At ASU, he performed in *Pippin*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Laramie Project*. He has also worked with Houston's Main Street Theatre performing in *Suessical*, the *Musical*. Mac is so thrilled to be back on the City Theatre stage.

**Richard Rashad Romeo III** is a graduating senior at Texas State University currently working on his BFA in Acting, his BA in Journalism and his minor in Spanish. He is a 2007 graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and has performed in various productions around Austin such as: Texas State's *Servant of Two Masters* (Ramsey Award for Best Supporting Actor), St. Edwards' *Death And The Kings' Horseman* (Austin Critic's Table Nomination for Best Supporting Actor), Austin Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, The Vestige Group's *New Jersey Book of the Dead* and City Theater's *Fences/ Laramie Project* just to name a few. Much love to all the friends and family that continue to come out and support him.

**Lisa Jordan**, an Oklahoma native, has been involved in theatre for over twenty years. She has her Master of Arts Degree in Theatre from Texas State University and is very excited to return for a third season to direct this Pulitzer Prize-winning play in honor of Black History Month. Other plays she has directed at City Theatre are *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Fences*, which was nominated for the B. Iden Payne Award for Outstanding Drama in 2009. Lisa gives big love to City Theatre for the wonderful opportunity to "see her mind's eye on stage", her extremely talented cast and stage crew for countless hours of dedication and fun and her family for always giving her truth, love and support. Lisa would like to thank everyone for coming to see this show.

**Kristen Bennett** is a drama graduate of St. Edwards University and has been acting in the Austin theatre community for almost seven years. This is her second production for City Theatre having performed in *A Raisin in the Sun* (2010 Iden Payne nomination). She is also an Iden Payne winner for *Wiley and the Hairy Man* - Second Youth Theatre and recently appeared as Joann in Zach Scott Theatre's *Rent*.

**Mikka McCook** is very excited to be working with Lisa, Mac, Richard, Kristen, and Andy again. She has been involved in theatre for over twelve years. She studied theatre at Angelo State University and moved back to Austin in 2008 and immediately began working in the Austin theatre community. From acting to writing to stage managing, she wears a lot of hats. This is her second production with City Theatre and hopes that there will be more to come in the future.

**Further information and reading on the play and production go to:**

seeingblack.com

black-history.blackvoices.com

blacklistproject.com/List/Parks.htm

Origins of Gangsta Rap - epinions.com/content\_3456213124

# THE PLAYWRIGHT

*TopDog/Underdog* is the kind of high-wattage theatre that audiences have come to expect in Austin, and its appeal everywhere is demonstrated by its enormous success. Named one of *TIME Magazine's* "100 Innovators for the Next New Wave," Suzan-Lori Parks grew up in West Texas and is one of the most exciting and acclaimed playwrights in American drama today. She is the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. In 2007, her directing and acting project *365 Plays/365 Days* was produced in over seven hundred theatres worldwide, creating one of the largest grassroots collaborations in theatre history. Her numerous plays include *In the Blood*, *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* and *The America Play*. In 2008, she became the first recipient of the master writer chair at The Public Theater and Tisch School of the Arts working as a visiting arts professor in dramatic writing. Her play, *The Book of Grace* premiered during the 2009-10 season at The Public Theatre with national productions starting in 2011. Holding an honorary doctorate from Brown University, Ms. Parks credits her writing teacher and mentor, James Baldwin, who was one of the first to recognize her writing skills. Mr. Baldwin declares Ms. Parks "an astonishing and beautiful creature who may become one of the most valuable artists of our time."

## Looking for a performance space?

### ***SUMMER ACTS! AUSTIN***

The two-week theatre festival hosting emerging new works, original musicals, theatre on the edge, hard-hitting dramas, comedy shows and much more. Six companies and over thirty-six performances.

**When? July 5 - 17, 2011**

**Call or email for an application and information.**

**A great chance to get your show on stage!**

**And Congratulations to City Theatre!!!**

***Voted "Best Theater Company"***

***Statesman's austin360 A-List 2009 and 2010***

# Production Crew.

Directed by Lisa Jordan

Production Stage Manager – Mikka McCook

Production Design – Andy Berkovsky

Costume Design – Kristen Bennett

Music – Andy Berkovsky

Set Construction and Painting – Javier Silva and Stacey Glazer

House Management – Kate Crowley

Assistant Management – Jeff Hinkle, Clay Avery, Cary Urso

Kelly Engle, Scot Friedman and Dawn Erin

Publicity Design – Rachel McGinnis

And a special thanks to Debbie Karasek, Morris Bennett, Jessica Thompson, Mary Anne Crowley and Texas State University

## Abraham Lincoln and 3 – card monte

In 1999 I was thinking about a play I'd written seven years earlier called *The America Play*. In that play's first act we watch a black man who has fashioned a career for himself: he sits in an arcade impersonating Abraham Lincoln and letting people come and play at shooting him dead – like John Wilkes Booth shot our sixteen president in 1865 at Ford's Theatre. So I was thinking about my old play when another black Lincoln impersonator, unrelated to the first guy, came to mind: a new character for a new play. This time I would just focus on his home life. This new Lincoln impersonator's real name would be Lincoln. He would be a former 3 – card monte hustler. He would live with his brother, a man named Booth.

My interest in 3 – card monte began one day when my husband Paul and I saw some guys doing the shell game. I was fascinated because, while I'd seen the scam before, this time I had someone whispering in my ear, a kind of play – by – play, explaining the ins and outs of the scam. When we got home that day I was sat down and showed how to throw, to lift, to hide and to win.

This is a play about family wounds and healing.

Welcome to the family.

Suzan-Lori Parks



# Welcome to City Theatre!!!

*Thank you for putting a little theatre in your life.*

## *Our Artistic Goal!*

The City Theatre Company exists for Austin directors, designers and actors who have one main goal: the continued excellence in live theatre entertainment and the desire to bring that quality, service and commitment to the central Texas theatrical community.

## *The City Theatre is a class act!*

One of the finest places in Austin for an enjoyable evening of live theatre.

With an intimate proscenium stage and audience for eighty-five, the entertainment venue boasts a beautiful lounge with concessions bar, newly renovated front lobby, rehearsal room, costume dressing room, classroom space and is only minutes from anywhere you need to go in Austin.

Contact us about booking your next theatre, music, or performance event. Classroom, workshop, audition, and rehearsal space is also available.

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A sponsored project of The Greater Austin Creative Alliance, City Theatre is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization with funding from:



The City Theatre gratefully accepts any tax-deductible donation or contribution.

## *How about a City Theatre t-shirt or tote bag?*

Make a \$10 or more donation and get a nifty City Theatre t-shirt or tote bag. A variety of colors and sizes available in the lounge.

*We thank you so much for your support!*

## *City Theatre Production Staff!*

**Director & General Manager** – Andy Berkovsky  
**Production Team Leader** – Clay Avery  
**House Manager** – Kate Crowley  
**Business and Technology** – Walter Pohlmeier  
**Technical Advisor** – Daniel LeFave  
**Costume Design** - Jessi Brill and Bert Flanagan  
**Publicity Design** – Rachel McGinnis  
**Production Assistants** - Jeff Hinkle, Kelly Engle, Cary Urso, Samantha Brewer and Stacey Glazer

## *2010 - 2011 Guest Directors!*

**Jeff Hinkle** – *This Spring of Love, Hair*

**Barry Pineo** – *Steel Magnolias*

**Lisa Jordan** – *Topdog / Underdog*

**Jonathan Urso** – *Of Mice and Men*

**Bridget Farias** – *The Little Dog Laughed*

**Karen Sneed** – *The Imaginary Invalid*

## *What Austin Says!*

“CTC’s first production *Frozen*...excellent.”

“*Parallel Lives*...will have you bent over with laughter.”

“*Crimes of the Heart*...enjoyed this production more than anything else this year.” - **The Austin Chronicle**

“*Glengarry Glen Ross*...notch up another success for CTC!”

“*Alice in Wonderland*...a rollicking musical good time.”

“*Fences*...theatre not to be missed.” - **Austin Live Theatre**

“*Nunsense*...A terrific time! Best show I’ve seen in the Austin theatre scene.” - **Austin On Stage**

“*Agnes of God*...could expound on the greatness of this show, but words simply wouldn’t do it justice.” - **Austin Theatre Examiner**

“**City Theatre**...a treasure to be found within the realm of Austin theatre.” - **Caught In The Act Magazine**

“The most affordable theatre in Austin.” - **Austin Live Theatre**

“City Theatre is adorable.” - **Austin’s Do512**

Best Bets Pick – **The Austin American Statesman**

AC Pick – **The Austin Chronicle** Top Event – **Austin 360**

Featured Event - **Now Playing Austin**

Recommended Event – **Statesman XL**

# 2010-2011 THEATRE SEASON

**The Friends of City Theatre Kick-Off Gala**  
September 25

**The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later**  
September 30 - October 17

**Steel Magnolias**  
November 18 - December 19

**Topdog/Underdog**  
February 17 - March 13

**This Spring of Love**  
A New Musical Comedy based on William Shakespeare's  
**The Two Gentlemen of Verona**  
April 14 - May 8

**Of Mice and Men**  
May 12 - June 5

**The Little Dog Laughed**  
(Austin premier)  
June 9 - July 4

**2011 Summer Acts! Austin Theatre Festival**  
July 7 - 17

**Moliere's The Imaginary Invalid**  
July 21 - August 14

**Hair**  
August 18 - September 11

**Great offer on season tickets still available.**  
A low price of \$150 - includes two seats to each 10-11 season show.  
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