

## WHO WE ARE

*Hibernian Hall is your home  
for multicultural arts  
in the ♥ of Boston!*

**Hibernian Hall** is a **cultural destination** that contributes to our mission of neighborhood revitalization in **Lower Roxbury**, offering arts and cultural programming available as a flexible space for **stage productions, artists' showcases, film screenings, and cultural celebrations.**

The ballroom is available for community presentations in music, dance, theater, film/video, and spoken-word performance art. Hibernian Hall is an excellent venue for non-profit events open to the public!

## ABOUT MPDC

At **Madison Park Development Corporation**, we are building healthy communities.

**MPDC** is a leading developer of **affordable housing** and one of the largest community development corporations in Massachusetts. We take a multi-dimensional approach to community development by offering **impactful programming for youth development, health and community wellness, public safety, resident leadership, civic engagement, and arts & culture.**

**Our mission** today remains true to our history—to **foster a vibrant, healthy Roxbury** neighborhood that **supports the well-being and advancement of the community.**

## CONTACT US

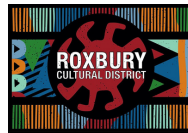


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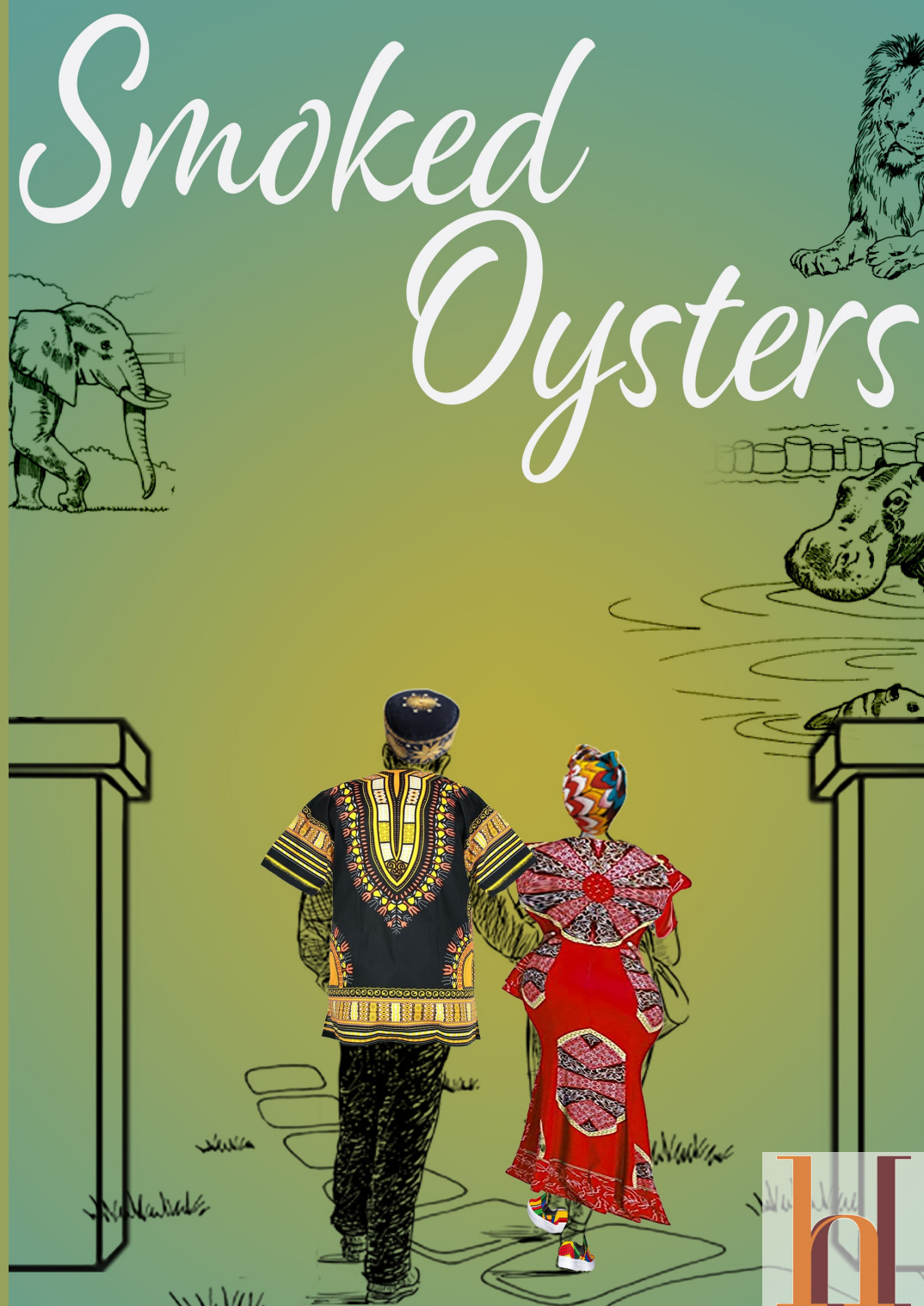
**Hibernian Hall**  
184 Dudley Street  
Roxbury, MA 02119  
617.849.6324



madison-park.org



#ItsHappeningAtHibernian



Written By: Mary M. McCullough  
Directed By: Dawn M. Simmons

**September 17 – 26, 2021**



# Playwright's Note

Several years ago, I heard, in my head, a husband and wife bickering. The wife was trying to entice her husband to go out, but he refused to leave the house no matter what she said. I wrote down what they were saying, which turned into five pages of dialogue. I didn't have time to work out the puzzle presented to me, the playwright, so I filed the pages away. But the voices of that family, living in their single-family home somewhere in Roxbury, near the zoo, got louder. They insisted that I listen to them. I took the five pages into the Playlab of TC2 Theatre of Cambridge, where with the support of a dramaturge, an artistic director, and other playwrights, I allowed Ulysses, Arnetta, and Bernard to tell their stories. Those first five pages were the genesis of *Smoked Oysters*.

Mary McCullough  
Playwright

## About the Playwright



**Mary McCullough** (*she, hers*) is the 2021-2022 Playwright-in-Residence at Hibernian Hall, Roxbury, MA, and a co-founder of The Streetfeet Women, a performing and writing company. Streetfeet has toured McCullough's play, *Twilight Time*, nationally and internationally. McCullough's other plays have been produced by ACT-Roxbury, Our Place Theater, Weston Public Schools, and TC Squared Theatre of Cambridge, MA. McCullough's plays have been read in TC Squared New Works Festival, Roxbury Film Festival Daily Reads, Vermont New Works Festival, Slam-Boston, and the former Theater Cooperative of Somerville, MA New Works Festival. Dramatic works by McCullough can be accessed on the TC Squared's Volume Up series website. An excerpt of her play, *Ballahoo* in the Hair Kitchen, is also available for listening on the Boston Podcast Players' website, Season I. McCullough's play, *A Fine and Dangerous Country*, was a semifinalist in the 2020 Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Theater Conference. McCullough's other creative works have been featured in literary journals, newspapers, the International Center for Women Playwrights, and The Streetfeet Women's publications. McCullough is an alumna of Company One Theater's Playlab Unit and is developing new work in the TC2 PlayLab. She is a member of the International Center for Women Playwrights and the Dramatists Guild. McCullough has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theater from Goddard College and a Master of Arts in Writing Degree from Northeastern University.

# Performances

Thursday, September 16, 7:30 pm (Preview)

Friday, September 17, 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 18, 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 19, 5:30 pm

Friday, September 24, 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 25, 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 26, 5:30 pm

*\*SMOKED OYSTERS was developed in the TC2 Theatre of Cambridge PlayLab and produced by TC2, Greater Eggleston High School, 2020.\**

## Special Thanks to...

The Friends of Hibernian Hall  
Shani Rea Collymore, Esq.  
Hibernian Hall Advisory Committee  
Sharan Holas, Ethnica Catering  
Olawumi Akinwumi  
Boston Cultural Council  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Massachusetts Convention Center Authority

# Staff for Smoked Oysters



**ASAD HARDWICK** (*Co-Producer & Technical Director*) Boston-born Roxbury raised, Asad, is a creative who has devoted his career to working behind the scenes of productions and performing arts. Being exposed to movie production, playwrights, and the music industry, Asad has made a living providing audio, lighting, and production management support across the country and internationally. Asad has provided audio-visual technical support to the performing arts and events at Hibernian Hall since 2005. He then joined Madison Park Development Corporation in 2017 as Technical Manager.



**KAY MATHEW** (*MPDC Resource Development Manager*) is responsible for fundraising at Hibernian Hall and has worked with the Hibernian Hall team to ensure funding that supported the production of *Smoked Oysters*.



**KELLY RANSOM** (*MPDC Director of Communications & Public Affairs, she/her*) has an eclectic background in communications, event production, and government affairs. Her professional experience includes 18 years of event production, marketing, public relations, and communications.

# The Cast

*In order of appearance*

Home of Ulysses and Arnetta  
Present Time

ULYSSES WILLIAMS.....PAUL BENFORD-BRUCE  
ARNETTA WILLIAMS.....DAYENNE CB WALTERS  
BERNARD WILLIAMS.....ZAIR SILVA

PLEASE NOTE: THIS PLAY WILL RUN FOR 90 MINUTES.  
THERE IS NO INTERMISSION.

## The Crew

Kiara Escalera, Costume & Props Designer

Aidan Guilderson, Lighting Designer

Asad Hardwick, Audio/Visual Technician

Nikolai Alexander, Camera Operator 1

Tewodrose Woldemariam, Camera Operator 2



# Who's Who In The Cast



**PAUL BENFORD-BRUCE** (*Ulysses*) is delighted and honored to appear in a full run of this wonderful play finally. He did the first reading for Ulysses and performed as the character in a three-night preview at The Greater Eggleston High School. Other credits include Chebutykin in Three Sisters, the teacher in The Visit 2007 and reprisal in 2017, Boston in Patience Boston, The Uncle in The Convert (2016 Eliot Norton Award), Eddie in Duck and Cover, Cheswick in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Crooks in Of Mice and Men, Chuck in Things I Never Told My Daughter, Reuben in Hidden in This Picture, and Midge in I'm Not Rappaport. He also enjoyed working with Alan Alda as the character David Bradley on one of his featured scientific programs, Brains on Trial, a PBS production.



**DAYENNE CB WALTERS** (*Arnetta*) recently finished producing and acting in the online production of Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night (Mary Tyrone) and narration in Legacy of Love (WGBH/Celestial Productions). Past roles include Tituba/Rebecca Nurse/Francis Nurse/and Mercy Week in The Crucible (Central Square Theater/Bedlam and Connelly Theatre, NYC), directing, and the role Lady in Yellow in for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf (Praxis Stage/Boston), The Doctor, Exit the King (Actors' Shakespeare Project, Boston), Beryl Ruth, in With Glittering Eyes (Hibernian Hall, Roxbury), Vivian Bearing in Wit, (MMAS, Mansfield, nominated for an EMACT, Best Actor, Female), and Oshun, in Gift of an Orange (Tennessee Williams Festival, Provincetown and New Orleans).



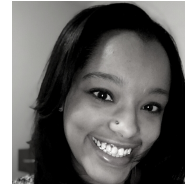
**ZAIR SILVA** (*Bernard*) is a Boston-based actor. He studied theater at Manhattanville College. He is looking forward to playing the role of Bernard.

## About the Director



**DAWN M. SIMMONS** (*Director*) is thrilled to be back at Hibernian Hall. Recent credits include The Nora Theater/Front Porch Arts Collective/Hangar Theatre, (Queens Girl In The World), New Repertory Theatre, ([key-ing]), The Nora Theater/WAM Theatre, (Pipeline), Lyric Stage Company, (The Wiz, Warrior Class and Saturday Night Sunday Morning), Hibernian Hall, (With Glittering Eyes) Actors' Shakespeare Project (Macbeth), The Front Porch Arts Collective/Greater Boston Stage Company (The Three Musketeers), Greater Boston Stage Company (The Irish and How They Got That Way), SpeakEasy Stage Company (Just Cause (The Boston Project)), Men On Boats), Bad Habit Productions (The Real Inspector Hound), Boston Public Works (Hard and Fast: A Love Story), New Exhibition Room (Smile), Fresh Ink Theatre (The Embryos), Dawn is also the Artistic Director of The Front Porch Arts Collective Online: [www.frontporcharts.org](http://www.frontporcharts.org)

# Crew for Smoked Oysters



**CIERA-SADE WADE** (*Stage Manager*) is an actor, director, dramaturg, dancer, singer, and writer in Boston. She is thrilled to be back at Hibernian Hall, making her debut as a stage manager! She graduated from Boston University with a BFA in Acting. Ciera-Sadé's acting credits include For Colored Girls (Praxis Stage Company); The Weird (Off the Grid Theatre Company); Top Eye Open (Madison Park Development Corporation @ Hibernian Hall); The Love of the Nightingale (Open Theatre Project); & Mary Shelley\* (Nora Theatre Company), At the Line\* (reading @ Boston Playwrights Theatre). Dramaturgical credits include Splendor, FUFU & Oreos (Company One Theatre); Saturday Night/Sunday Morning (Lyric Stage Company); Little Women (The Longwood Players); A Long Day's Journey Into Night (Fort Point Theatre). Directorial credits: Stick Fly (Madison Park Development Corporation @HibernianHall).



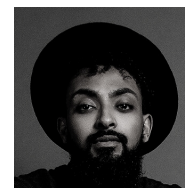
**KIARA ESCALERA** (*Costume & Props Designer*) is the Creative Director and Founder for K. Escalera. Overseeing visual and fashion merchandising for Aldo, Express, Victoria's Secret, and Target, Kiara expanded her expertise by providing creative services to theatrical productions. She will be going into her fourth year of being a Fashion Stylist and a Costume Designer. Favorite previous works include ENCORE! Collection Costume Coordinator & Head of Makeup (Chamber Theatre Company); Stick Fly Costume Designer (Hibernian Hall); What to Send Up When it Goes Down Wardrobe Supervisor (American Repertory Theatre) Choir Boy Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor (SpeakEasy Stage Co.).



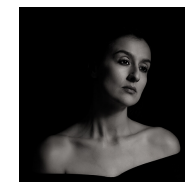
**AIDAN GUILDERSON** (*Lighting Designer*) Smoked Oysters is the first professional show he has ever worked on and he is so thrilled to be lighting it. Aidan graduated Highschool in June of 2020. He is studying at Massasoit Community College and hopes to transfer to another school and study Music Education. It has been such a privilege to work on this show with this amazing cast and creative team. This process has taught him so much, and he hopes to work with these amazing people again.



**NIKOLAI ALEXANDER** (*Camera Operator 1*) is a Boston-based award-winning photographer and videographer. His portfolio ranges from portraits and landscapes to commercial photography and headshots. He has worked with various artists and theaters, such as Hovey Players and the American Repertory Theater. Nikolai takes pride in calling himself an artist, and it shows in his ability to tell stories through his photography. You can see more of Nikolai's work at: [www.fpointhall.com](http://www.fpointhall.com).



**TEWODROSE WOLDEMARIAM** (*Camera Operator 2*) is the owner of Slim T Artwork LLC. His company offers photography, cinematography, and graphic design services. Tewodrose first started to pursue his passion four years ago. He loves what he does, and he loves how there are always new things to learn in this industry. You can see more of Tewodrose's work at [linktr.ee/SlimTartwork](http://linktr.ee/SlimTartwork).



**HARIS LEFTERI** (*Co-Producer & Set Designer*) is an award-winning theater & film director, acting coach, and playwright. She is thrilled to be the Artistic Director of Hibernian Hall. Haris graduated from Boston College with a BFA in Theater Arts & Political Science. She has directed over 25 plays and short films and has coached over 75 actors in the field. Some recent credits include Well (Hovey Players); Wilderness (The Players' Ring); Jesus Hopped The 'A' Train (Hovey Players); Fake New (Stanford Calderwood Pavilion-BCA); Roboteacher (Boston Playwrights' Theater); I'd Rather Be Lucky Than Good - A Musical (Winthrop School of Performing Arts); Thirsty (The Rockwell); Food For The Dead (Boston College Robsham Stage). Through her work, Haris' goal is to focus on art as an educational tool.