

JEFFREY MANOR

Set in the textured tapestry of the South Side of Chicago, Jeffrey Manor is a testament to the strength and resilience of Black womanhood. The intricate dynamics of generations of Black women bound together by lineage, secrets and tragic outcomes. This play explores generational dysfunction and mental health issues that arise from a lifetime of trauma. Post the Civil Rights Movement Black women have continued tirelessly on a “come up” motif. Some have progressed economically, socially, some have not. Some are mired in addiction, abusive relationships etc. but all are navigating their own challenges. By the time the Black Lives Matter movement has entered the equation the characters experience a directly personal incident with police brutality and systemic racism. This tragic event causes them to no longer suppress their deep-seated emotions.

Personal aspirations, societal expectations, familial duty, vulnerabilities, complexities and generational divide all feed the narrative of Jeffrey Manor. The play is a searing exploration of Black womanhood and the lengths a family will go to preserve their legacy and love for one another.

Premiering at the Apollo Theater Salon Series in April 2025 in collaboration with New Professional Theater

TONYA PINKINS is a Tony Award-winning actor, writer, director, and producer whose illustrious career spans over five decades. Known for her transformative performances on stage and screen, Tonya’s creative vision has also extended behind the scenes, earning her recognition as a powerful storyteller and advocate for social justice. With a rich history in the performing arts, Tonya’s acting credits include Broadway triumphs like *Jelly’s Last Jam*, which earned her a Tony Award, and *Caroline, or Change*, for which she received a Tony nomination. She is currently appearing on BET’s *Sistas* as Ms. Marie. Tonya’s directorial debut film *RED PILL* and her upcoming projects such as *Game Nite* demonstrate her versatility and unflinching commitment to tackling timely, provocative issues. Tonya’s dedication to amplifying underrepresented voices and her passion for stories that challenge societal norms make her an essential figure in the arts community. As she continues to push boundaries and champion the voices of the global majority, your support of her work is not only an investment in the arts but in the necessary conversations that can spark change.



LEATRICE ELLZY is a seasoned arts leader, curator, producer, thinker and fan of disruption. For over two and a half decades she has committed herself to amplifying Black art and culture and the conjurers of the work. She is currently the Sr. Director of Programming at the Apollo Theater where she serves as a primary steward of the Apollo’s artistic vision and helps shape the strategic program direction of one of New York City’s most vital performing arts centers, and one of the world’s most recognized and celebrated artistic brands. Her arts management and curatorial experience developed through work at Woodruff Arts Center and the National Black Arts Festival (NBAF). Prior to joining the Apollo staff, she served as Executive Director of Atlanta’s Hammonds House Museum where she was charged with reimagining the organization for the 21st century with a focus on strategies for institutional sustainability and artistic focus. Leatrice has been active in the field, serving on panels, advisory committees and participating in conversations about the state of the arts nationally, regionally and locally. Her past and present professional affiliations include Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Women of Color in the Arts, the Contemporary African Arts Consortium, C4 Atlanta, Idea Capital, Fulton County Arts Council, City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs Advisory Committee, LANE National Advisory Committee, and the National Performance Network Board of Directors.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT:

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