



For Immediate Release  
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**LOCAL THEATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES**  
**the WORLD PREMIERE of**  
***Flame Broiled. or the ugly play***  
**a searing satire on race and identity in contemporary American society**

**Flame Broiled. or the ugly play**

WORLD PREMIERE

Written and directed by Rodney Hicks

Oct. 24-Nov. 17, 2019

Carsen Theater, Dairy Arts Center | Boulder

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2019**—Local Theater Company announces their fall world premiere: *Flame Broiled. or the ugly play*, written and directed by Rodney Hicks (original Broadway cast, *RENT*). Recently awarded the Colorado Theatre Guild’s Henry Award for Best New Play (*Paper Cut*, fall 2018), Local returns to the Dairy Arts Center in Boulder with *Flame Broiled. or the ugly play*, a searing satire that examines race and identity in contemporary American society. Four actors portray 30+ characters through a series of 15 vignettes in this world premiere production that asks, “how do our biases—acknowledged or implicit—obscure our ability to see other people?”

This play marks Hicks’ Colorado debut as playwright. Hicks was most recently seen in Mundy’s production of *Paint Your Wagon*. Previously, Hicks could be seen on the Broadway stage in a variety of productions, including the 2000 revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Come From Away*. Following a diagnosis of spasmodic dysphonia, a disease affecting the larynx, in 2017, Hicks temporarily retired from performing and turned to playwriting. Artistic Director Pasha Rudnick said, “When Hicks lost his literal voice as a performer, he discovered it as a playwright. We are pleased to be the first to present this compelling new play that addresses issues of bias, prejudice and how we all must acknowledge our part in a vicious cycle that prevents us from connecting with others.”

In conjunction with the production, Local will host two post-show panels immediately following Sunday matinees (Nov 3, 3:30pm; Nov 10, 3:30pm) featuring authorities on race, bias, and privilege. The first panel will include members of the law enforcement and legal communities participating in a discussion about implicit bias. The second, co-hosted with Boulder Bookstore as part of the LocalREADS book club program, will address topics explored in Robin Diangelo’s book, *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*.

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## PRODUCTION DETAILS

### *Flame Broiled. or the ugly play*

Written and directed by Rodney Hicks

WORLD PREMIERE

### DATES/TIMES:

**Run:** Oct. 24-Nov. 17

**Preview Performances:** Oct. 24-26, 7pm

**Opening Performance:** Oct. 27, 2pm

**Performances:** Wednesday, Oct. 30-Sun, Nov. 17. Performances run Wednesday - Sunday. Wed-Sat performances: 7:30pm; Sunday performances: 2pm)

**CAST:** Ilasiea Gray, Emma Messenger, Saxton Walker, Gary Norman

**TICKET COST:** \$20-45

**WEBSITE:** [localtheaterco.org/flamebroiled](http://localtheaterco.org/flamebroiled)

**LOCATION:** Carsen Theater, Dairy Arts Center | Boulder, 2590 Walnut St, Boulder, CO 80302

**TICKETS:** [localtheaterco.org](http://localtheaterco.org) or Dairy Arts box office: [dairyarts.org](http://dairyarts.org), 303.440.7826

**RUNNING TIME:** 80-minutes, no intermission

### SHOW DESCRIPTION:

This searing satire examines race and identity in contemporary American society. Four actors portray more than 30 characters through a series of fifteen vignettes, a series of often-comedic snapshots that employ farcical stereotypes in order to shock, provoke, and ultimately highlight the corrosiveness of prejudice. When the characters finally cross the finish line, what's revealed is the common denominator of humanity: a desire to know, to understand, to connect.

### RODNEY HICKS' BIO

As an actor, original Broadway and Off-Broadway cast of the Landmark musical *RENT*, choreographed by Marlies Yearby and directed by Michael Greif. Closing Broadway cast as Benjamin Coffin III (*RENT: Live on Broadway DVD*). Original Broadway cast recording; original Broadway cast of *The Scottsboro Boys* as Clarence Norris. Received the 2012 Outstanding Leading Actor Barrymore Award for his portrayal of Haywood Patterson for The Philadelphia Theatre Company. Both productions choreographed & directed by Susan Stroman. Original cast recording. Original Broadway revival cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2000) as Peter. Directed by Gayle Edwards. Choreographed by Anthony Van Laast. Original Broadway cast of the international hit musical *Come From Away* as Bob & Others. 2016 Outstanding Supporting Actor Helen Hayes Award nominee at Ford's Theatre. 2015 Outstanding Supporting Actor Gypsy Lee Award nominee at Seattle Repertory Theatre. All productions choreographed by Kelly Devine. Directed by Christopher Ashley. Original Broadway cast recording. Upcoming Film: DB in *The Mighty Oak*; A host of TV actor credits.

As a playwright, Rodney has written two other plays. *JUST PRESS SAVE* (2017 Semi-finalist Eugene O'Neill Playwriting Conference) and *\*YESTERDAY-TODAY* (2018 Semi-finalist Eugene O'Neill Playwriting Conference). *\*new title*. For more info - [www.rodneyhicks.net](http://www.rodneyhicks.net)

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**About Local Theater Company**

Local Theater Company (Local) is a nonprofit Equity theater company that discovers, develops, and produces new American plays. Local engages audiences through innovative performances that spark camaraderie, learning, contemplation, and provide a resourceful environment for theater artists to take creative risks and develop their work. Local believes theater is a local experience. When you enter an audience, a new community is created where, for that brief span of time, everyone is a local. Learn more at [localtheaterco.org](http://localtheaterco.org).

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