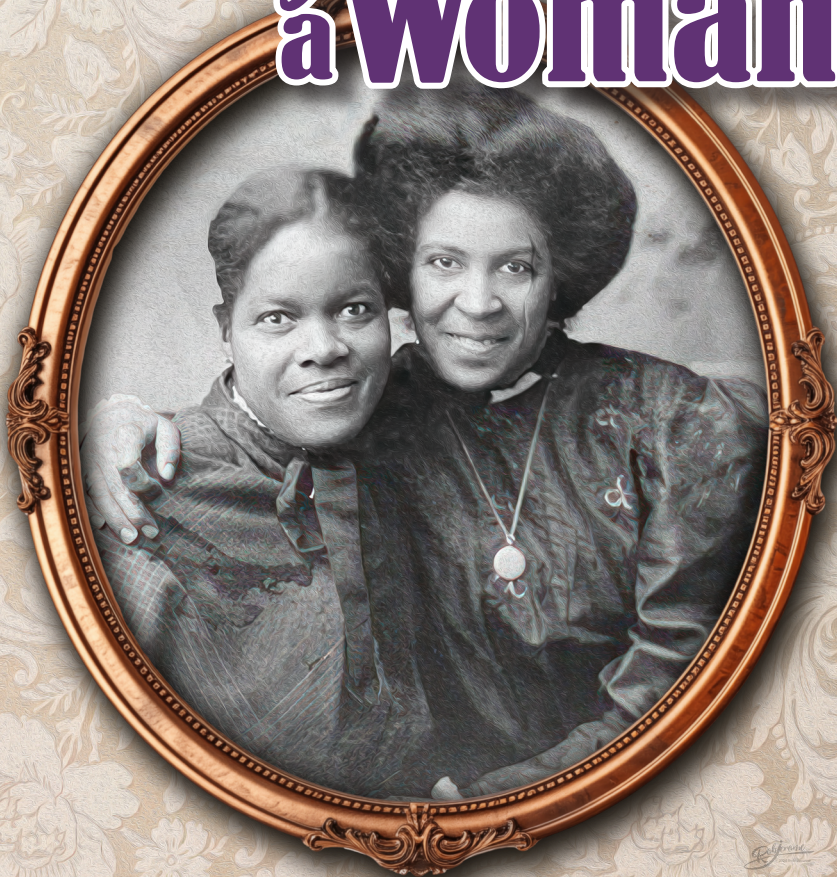


★ IMPACT THEATRE™
ATLANTA co-produced with

ACADEMY
THEATRE

PROUDLY PRESENTS

a Lady & **a Woman**



by **Dr. Shirlene Holmes**

directed by **Brenda Porter**

IMPACT THEATRE™ ATLANTA

DIRECTOR NOTES

This season, Impact theatre celebrates African American women in the 19th Century. And with this play we pleased to Honor **Dr. Shirlene Holmes**.

When I moved back to Atlanta in the early 90's, I was told that a theatre company named **S.A.M.E.** was having auditions for a little play that takes place in the 1800's. The late **Carol Mitchell Leon** was directing. That production of **A Lady and A Woman** with **Sondra "Berry"** was the beginning of my journey with this script and with Shirlene Holmes.

Over the next 30 plus years, Shirlene and I would work on many projects together. She wrote my one-woman, **Pathways**. We worked on a series of her short pieces touching on everything from child abuse to women's conversations in restrooms. She wrote for my class at the **Harriet G. Darnell Multipurpose Senior Facility**. Shirlene helped write **The Shoulders on Which We Stand** at the **Academy Theatre**. During the pandemic, Shirlene wrote several 10-minute pieces on the topic of race relations which **Impact** performed virtually.

Shirlene challenged herself to explore writing in all genres – mystery, docudrama, comedy, choreopoem, musical, film, etc. Name it, she did it.

This past June, Dr. Shirlene Holmes made her heavenly transition. As a playwright and professor, she dedicated her talents to the world of theater and academia. She was never afraid to tackle hard topics or tell the stories of those who needed a voice (and often in a unique manner or with a twist). Her contributions to the world of theater and academia will continue to inspire and shape the artistic landscape for generations to come.

Shirlene's presence (whether in writing or in person) made people stop, listen and think. We hope our production does the same.

The Academy Theatre is supported by generous gifts from foundations, corporations, and individuals. This program is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Major funding for this program is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. The City of Hapeville and the Academy Theatre have entered into a public/private partnership to serve the citizens of Hapeville. The City of Hapeville is the official sponsor of the Academy Theatre's programming in Hapeville.



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PROUDLY PRESENTS

a Lady & **a Woman**

by **Dr. Shirlene Holmes**
directed by **Brenda Porter**

with
Alia Shakira & Tracey Graves

Maya "Alpa" Hodges (Stage Manager)
Juana Harper (Set Designer)
Ladisa Banks (Costume Designer)
Erica French (Lighting Designer)
Robert Drake (Sound Designer)
Dalyla Nicole (Intimacy coach/ dramaturg)

Robert Drake - Academy Artistic Director
Lorenne Fey - Managing Director

Hapeville Performing Arts Center
599 N. Central Avenue, Hapeville

www.impacttheatre.org • 404-474-8332

CAST



Alia Shakira (Biddie) is a proud graduate of Howard University's College of Fine Arts (BFA), the British American Drama Academy's Midsummer in Oxford Conservatory, and Full Sail University (MS). Most recently, Alia appeared at Horizon Theater last summer as Makeda in *The House that will not Stand* at Horizon Theatre. Credits include The Alliance Theatre-GA, New Federal Theatre-NY, Metropolitan Playhouse-NY, TheatreWorks-Tour, and The National Black Theatre Festival. TV/Film Credits include *"The First Lady"*, *"The Color Purple"*, *"The Come Up"*, *"Woke"*, and *"Atlanta"*. Giving all thanks to God for every opportunity, she dedicates this performance to all the lovers and friends. "Though she be but little, she is fierce!" @skinnyblackgirlproductions



Tracey Graves (Miss Flora) Actress, Podcast Host, and Mindfulness Facilitator Tracey Love Graves launched her acting journey in Los Angeles with notable roles in Kevin Hart's comedies *"About Last Night"* and *"The Wedding Ringer."* Recognized for her appearances in TV hits like *"Being Mary Jane"* and *"Hawaii Five-O,"* Tracey's versatility shines through a series of national TV commercials. In her latest venture, she portrayed the poignant role of the mother in the box-office hit *"The Exorcist: Believer,"* adding another layer to her dynamic career.

PRODUCTION BIOS



Brenda Porter (Director/Artistic Director) has a BFA degree in Drama from UGA. Her Impact Theatre Atlanta directing credits include *Bee-Luther-Hatchee*, *Home*, *The Rooting Place Trilogy*, *Hi-De-Hi-De-Ho Cab Calloway*, *I and You*, *Split Second*, *The Immigrant*, *Going to St. Ives*, and *Yellowman* among others. Other directing credits include *Once on This Island*, *Five Guys Names Moe*, *Big River*, and *The Colored Museum*. As an actor she has performed in various stage productions as well on camera. Brenda is honored to serve as a Suzi Bass Awards Board member.

Maya "Alpa" Hodges (Stage Manager) True Colors Theatre: *Good Bad People*, ACT1 Theatre: *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*, Actors Express: 2021-2022 Apprentice Company. Educational: *Steel Magnolias*, *Othello*, *La Ronde*. Film/TV: *Katie*. Education: BA, Performance Theatre, American University. Other: IG @queenofdayouth

Juana Harper (Set Designer) is a visual artist who ventured into the world of set design. Her first set design was exhibited in Impact Theatre Atlanta's production of *A Lady and A Woman*. Since that first set design, she has continued to design and build sets for Impact Theatre. Her designs include *Hi-De-Hi-De-Ho Cab Calloway*, *The Rooting Place*, *Split Second*, *Yellowman*, *Going to St. Ives*, *Grace and Glorie*, *I and You*, as well as others. She is happy to revisit doing the set for this play again after ten years.

Ladisa Banks (Costume Designer) is an interior designer with a fashion background and a BA from New York's Pratt Institute. While in NY, she worked as an assistant designer for several fashion designers, and designed for fashion shows in Europe. Ladisa has worked on many Impact and Academy productions as costumer and props specialist. She has worked on *Going to St. Ives*, *The Rooting Place*, *Things That Hurt* and *I and You*, to name a few. Ladisa has also worked with the Capital City Opera Company on Gianni Schicchi/Buosso's *Ghost* and *Romeo and Juliette*.

Robert Drake (Sound Designer) Robert is excited to again work with the Impact Theatre Atlanta! Robert is the Artistic Director of the Academy Theatre and Improvability Theory. Robert has directed, produced, and designed hundreds of productions and his next shows include Victoria Nation's *'Suicide by Cigarette'*, Aris Theatre's *'Goodnight Delia'*, and *'Tapas'* which he curates every year. Robert urges you to vote in this year's election. Democracy is best protected when it's exercised! Robert Thanks Brenda, the team, the Ducklings, the God Children, and Cathy.

Erica French (Lighting Designer) always enjoys designing for Impact Theatre and Brenda Porter. Her most recent show for Impact was

Real Women Have Curves. She has also worked with Ms. Porter on *Hi-De-Hi-De Ho Cab Calloway*, *I and you*, and *Agnes of God*. She also frequently works with Capitol City Opera and the Academy Theatre. In the past she has worked with many other theatre companies in Atlanta, as well as theatres in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Missouri. Thank YOU for supporting live theatre. We do what we do for you!

Dalyla Nicole (intimacy coach/dramaturg) is ecstatic for this debut project with Impact Theatre. Atlanta born and raised, Dalyla has worked local stages as a vested multidisciplinary theatre maker including Alliance Theatre, Hush Harbor Lab, South Fulton Institute, Out Front Theatre, Synchronicity Theatre, Theatre Emory, 7 Stages Theatre, Working Title Playwrights, Theatre Du Reve, Essential Theatre and Horizon Theatre. More broadly, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Workshop Theatre, Mosaic Theatre, and Pocket VR theatre along with professional ventures in Haiti, Holland, and Australia. Dalyla is also a proud board member of Working Title Playwrights and Atlanta Green Theatre Alliance where she supports our local creative communities and intersectional sustainability practices. Her work always returns to the love of global community, compassionate bridge building, and a good story.

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The Academy Theatre is a nationally recognized professional Theatre where everything you experience will make you think. Founded in 1956 by Frank Wittow, the Academy Theatre is Georgia's longest running integrated professional theatre. Our award-winning reputation for excellence in theater and education has been well earned, with a track record of successful productions, dedicated staff, the development of talent and continued alumni support. The Academy Theatre has been highly regarded for its productions of classic and contemporary plays, as well as its strong educational outreach programs – including a Theatre for Youth Touring Ensemble, Senior Touring Ensemble and numerous play development projects with underserved, at-risk, and special populations. Over two million Georgia school children have been served through the Academy's highly acclaimed, innovative performances. The Academy Theatre is one of the most affordable theatres in the Atlanta market, making it an experience that everyone can enjoy.

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Carol Lynn Boyer

BRIEF HISTORY

In 2012, some friends and I produced Shirlene Holmes' **A LADY AND A WOMAN** at the Southwest Arts Center. At that time, we were not a company but simply a group of artists wanting to tell stories that were not being told.

That play, however, had such a powerful effect on our audience members and artists alike in that it ignited a desire in us to do more. The support of our fans and friends inspired us to provide a permanent space where powerful stories could be told. I mentioned this idea to other friends and even some students - they were all elated at the thought and offered to help in whatever way they could. Those wonderful people became our board and that Fall, **Impact Theatre Atlanta** was born!

Since that time, we have had the opportunity to share stories that have continued to impact lives. In addition, we have offered our audiences a number of community workshops, classes, conversations, and events, which has given us the chance to connect more closely with those who support us and it has encouraged our audiences to open up and share their thoughts, their desires, and their own stories.



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ATLANTA

Let's go on an ACTventure! Intensive Summer Camp June 10 - 15



This summer, Impact Theatre Atlanta is thrilled to offer an exciting opportunity for young adult theatre enthusiasts aged 12-18. Our one-week intensive summer camp, running from June 10th to 15th, is designed to immerse students in the vibrant world of performing arts, whether it's their first time or they are budding stars.

The camp offers an immersive experience in acting, dance, music, and theatrical production.

Under the guidance of our distinguished instructors, students will develop performances they will present at the culmination of the week-long camp.

To request more information about the camp or about auditions, please email:
info@impacttheatreatlanta.org

 **IMPACT** THEATRE
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by **Kelundra Smith**
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Co-Production with Aris Theatre

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IMPACT THEATRE™
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Brenda Porter Artistic Director

www.impacttheatreatlanta.org/donate

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