

★ IMPACT THEATRE™
ATLANTA

co-produced with



PROUDLY PRESENTS

Bee- Luther- Hatchee



by **Thomas Gibbons**

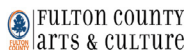
directed by **Brenda Porter**

Director Notes

Bee-luther-hatchee has been defined as (1) a place beyond hell, (2) an absurd or ironic situation. I don't know about you, but I know I have been in situations where I was convinced that I had gone to "hell and beyond". This is the place that Shelita finds herself in our play. But what do you do when you are there? How do you get out of it? Can you get out of it?

In this play so many questions are presented, and before reading Bee-luther-hatchee, I was convinced that I knew the answers, but this play made me look at things from more than one perspective. If it does the same for you, you may be discussing it for a long time.

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 through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Funding for this program is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Also funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. 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

Bee- Luther- Hatchee

by **Thomas Gibbons**

directed by **Brenda Porter**

With

Jeff Hathcoat (Robert/Interviewer) • Phil Mann (Sean)
Dawn Michele (Libby) • Isa J. Miles (Shelita)
Whitney Umstead Sinkule (Anna/Sister Margaret)

Lakesha T. Paul (Stage Manager)
Gabby Stephenson (Set Designer & Scenic Artist)
Ladisa Banks (Costumer)
Erica French (lighting Designer)
Robert Drake (Sound Designer)
Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Dialect Coach)
Christian King (Assistant Stage Manager)

Robert Drake - Academy Artistic Director
Loranne Fey - Managing Director

Academy Theatre
599 N. Central Avenue, Hapeville

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CAST



Jeff Hathcoat (Robert/Interviewer)- After living and performing in NYC for almost a decade, Jeff Hathcoat moved back home to Atlanta in 2018. That year, he made his Atlanta debut at Synchronicity Theatre in Midtown, followed by an appearance at Essential Theatre during the summer of 2019. He is also a co-founder of Untethered Theatre Project that is wrapping up its inaugural year later this Fall! (NYC Theatre: Julius Caesar - Shakespeare in the Park, Cabaret - Secret Theater, All The Presidents Men? - The Public Theater. ATL Theatre - Nell Gwynn - Synchronicity Theatre, Slaying Holofernes - Essential Theatre, The Wickhams (understudy) - Theatrical Outfit).



Phil Mann (Sean) is delighted to debut with Impact Theatre. Phil trained at East15 Acting School, London. International theatre includes London's West End, South Africa's Market Theatre, and three Best of Edinburgh Fringe awards for BattleActs. Atlanta Theatre includes Ulysses, and Importance of Being Earnest (Aris); Glengarry Glen Ross (Merely Players); and, Blithe Spirit (JesterHall). Phil's solo shows include Cyberpunk's Not Dead (Atlanta Fringe), Not Funny Haha (Edinburgh Fringe), and Nothingism (UK Tour). Screen includes The Javone Prince Show (BBC), and Night Bus (feature film). With love to Lindsay.



Dawn Michele (Libby) is a proud graduate of The University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications/Journalism. Originally from Spartanburg, South Carolina is not only a seasoned actress, she's also a professional vocalist. In her spare time, she enjoys working out, reading, adult coloring for relaxation, philanthropy, and spending time with family and friends. "I have faith over all things, and I know that God is not through with me yet! I am learning how to stand still and let God. He knows what I want before I ask for it!"



Isa J. Miles (Shelita) was mostly recently seen as Catherine in New African Grove Theater Company's world premiere production of *The Coping Mechanism*, written by Lori Sinclair Minor. Other stage credits include *A Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth; 2020 Taurean Award nominee for Best Supporting Actress), *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Angel), *Single Black Female* (SBF2), *A Song for Coretta* (Zora, Gwen), and *Two Trains Running* (Risa). An Atlanta native, Isa is a graduate of Benjamin E. Mays High School, Howard University, and Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Whitney Umstead Sinkule (Anna/Sister Margaret) is thrilled to be back on stage in *Bee-luther-hatchee*. Her most recent credits include *Motherhood Out Loud*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Mrs.Bucket), *Les Miserables* (Madame Thenardier), *Side by Side* by Sondheim, *Sordid Lives* (Noleta Nethercott), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tzeitel), *1776* (Martha Jefferson), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Irma Slocum), *The Music Man* (Eulalie McKecknie Shinn), *I Dream* (Seductress/Ensemble). Whitney graduated from The University of the North Carolina School of the Arts. Special thanks to her bookclub, 'Wolfpack', for keeping her reading each month! Shout out to her sister, Kelly!



Brenda Porter (director) began her career as an actor. She has performed on stage as well as on camera. She has had the privilege of directing for several theatres in town and enjoys teaching as well. She is a board member for the SUZI Bass Awards, and is proud to serve as the Artistic Director of Impact Theatre Atlanta.

CREW

LaKeshia T. Paul (Stage Manager) an Atlanta native, has always had a love for the Arts. Her desire to perform was awakened in 2013. In 2016, she wrote, directed and produced an original stage play and found a love for working behind the scenes as well. She became the coordinator of The Acts of Hope Drama Ministry in 2018 and launched Artistic Genius Productions in

2022. She is thankful, honored and looking forward to learning from Brenda Porter while working as Stage Manager on this production.

Gabby Stephenson (Set Designer & Scenic Artist) would like to thank Brenda for introducing her to this beautiful space and inviting her to collaborate! Gabby regularly works at various theaters throughout the southeast as a designer, painter and actor. Most recently she understudied for Alliance Theater in Dream House, painted a mural she designed in the GA Aquarium and completed a design for Essential Theater's Play Festival. Check out more scenic work at gabriellescenicartist.com & @canvasstage. Love always to Isaac & Jet

Ladisa Banks (Costumer) is an interior designer with a fashion background and has 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. Ms. Banks has had the pleasure of working on many Academy Theatre productions, recently with On Golden Pond and Seminar. She has also worked with Capital City Opera and Essential Theatre.

Erica French (lighting designer) always enjoys designing for Impact Theatre and Brenda Porter. Her most recent show for Impact was Hi-De-Hi-De-Ho - The Cab Calloway Story. She has also worked with Ms. Porter on 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!

Robert Drake (Sound Designer) is excited to be back again with Impact Theatre! This play dove tails 'Seminar' which was performed in this space earlier this year! As you watch this show, I hope you'll think about what makes writing compelling, who gets to tell your story, and what role writing plays in our lives. Robert can next be seen engineering the 'Lend Me an Ear' fundraiser at the Shakespeare Tavern and performing at CONJuration with Atlanta Radio Theatre Company. He thanks the Godchildren, Cathy, and people make theatre that makes people think! If there's one item you should read this year, it's

the ballot. Go Vote

Susan Shalhoub Larkin (dialect coach) is a professional actress in Atlanta theatre. She comes from a large "theatrical" family - 9 siblings (4 in show business on some level.) Her father and maternal grandparents were immigrants from Lebanon and Syria. She is a proud first generation Lebanese American. A professional voice and speech coach with over 40 years of experience she does dialect coaching for films in the Atlanta area and narrates audio books. And is one of the original co-founders of The Center For Puppetry Arts.

Christian King (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate at Georgia State University and has earned as AD in Communications and BA in Film & Media Studies, with a minor in Theatre. He would like to thank Brenda Porter and Robert Drake for his first debut as ASM (assistant stage manager) for "Topas." As a returning intern he is excited to work his second show at the theatre. Christian is an actor, scriptwriter, model...and he will take on all contenders in an Ice Cream eating contest.

Wigs

Sonya Wilson

Additional Crew

Rebecca Lovett • Art Moore • Alesha Whitaker

Lobby Artwork

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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. And the Academy Theatre is one of the most affordable theatres in the Atlanta market, making it an experience that everyone can enjoy on any budget.

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Brenda Porter Artistic Director

www.impacttheatreatlanta.org/donate

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