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UNEXPECTED STAGE COMPANY
Presents Keith Powell's
Sophisticated New Ones
JUNE 15 – JULY 3
RIVER ROAD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION'S
FIRESIDE ROOM

***Identity, belonging, and antique furniture intersect in this new play by Keith Powell,
directed by Dawn Thomas Reidy***

(BETHESDA, MD) As part of its thirteenth season, **Unexpected Stage Company** presents **Sophisticated New Ones** by **Keith Powell** (*This Is Us, 30 Rock*), directed by **Dawn Thomas Reidy** (*Raisin in the Sun at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company*). The production will run **June 15 to July 3** in the Fireside Room, an intimate 30-seat venue, at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation building, located at 6301 River Road in Bethesda. The production will also be offered virtually.

General admission tickets, priced \$12.50 to \$37.50, are on sale via phone at 301-337-8290, online at unexpectedstage.org/tickets, and at the door subject to availability. A special Pay-What-You-Wish preview performance is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15 at 7:30 p.m. For information, please call 301-337-8290 or visit www.unexpectedstage.org.

Sophisticated New Ones explores the intersection of identity, belonging, and antique furniture, as a family grapples with living within a country they no longer recognize. Having long since given up on love, Avery has made herself content running an antique repair shop with her adult son in Philadelphia. When a charming new man enters the shop and her life, Avery's past, present, and future collide, forcing her to make a decision that will have lasting implications on her family. Set in 2007 during Barack Obama's political rise, the play asks the question: What do we lose in the face of progress?

Playwright **Keith Powell** is an American television actor, writer, director, and web series creator, known for his roles as James “Toofer” Spurlock on *30 Rock* and as Dr. Vance on *This Is Us*, and for creating and starring in the web series *Keith Broke His Leg*, for which he won several Indie Series Awards in 2016.

Powell explains that the play, written in the lead-up to President Obama’s election in 2008, deals with the distinct choice about the future America was, and still is, facing: “Who do we leave behind when we are going forward?”

Director and Unexpected Stage Company board member **Dawn Thomas Reidy** is known to area audiences from Unexpected Stage productions such as *The Few* and *Candy and Dorothy*. Dawn was most recently seen on stage as Ruth Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun* and in *Henry V* at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. Last spring, she directed a reading of *Sophisticated New Ones* at Unexpected Stage.

“I’m looking forward to engaging with the question of how we connect to history – our connection to ‘stuff,’” shares Reidy. “How can an object hold a legacy? A legacy of upward mobility...a legacy of inequity. How one person’s burden can be another’s opportunity for freedom.”

The cast of *Sophisticated New Ones* features **Lisa Hill-Corley** (Creative Cauldron’s *Having Our Say*) as Avery, **DeJeanette Horne** (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company’s *Henry V*) as H, and **Lloyd Ekpe** (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company’s *A Raisin in the Sun*) as Satcher.

In addition to Reidy, the creative team includes **Kristen Jepperson** (set design), **Ian Claar** (lighting design), **Sharlene Clinton** (costumes), and **Matthew Datcher** (sound design).

Sophisticated New Ones

By Keith Powell

June 15 – July 3

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation – Fireside Room

6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD

Show Schedule:

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Ticket purchasers can also choose a virtual attendance option, to watch at their convenience.

General Admission Tickets: \$12.50 - \$37.50

Pay-What-You-Wish preview performance: Wednesday, June 15 at 7:30 p.m.

ASL-interpreted performances: Sunday, June 26 at 2 p.m.; Wednesday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Discounts available for students, seniors, military, first responders and groups.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Saturday, June 25 at 2 p.m. and Friday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m. – Post-show discussions with members of the cast and creative team
- Thursday, June 30 at 7:30 p.m. – Performance benefits the [Innovations Scholarship Fund Association](#) and H.D. Woodson Alumni Association. Half of all ticket sales will be split to support these two organizations. The Innovations Scholarship Fund Association provides scholarships to graduating seniors, alumni, and children of alumni of H.D. Woodson Senior High School in Washington, D.C.

STAYING SAFE

Unexpected Stage Company is requiring patrons, staff, and volunteers to show proof of vaccination in order to attend a performance. Unexpected Stage has reduced the number of seats in the theater, and patrons are strongly encouraged to purchase tickets in advance to ensure seating. The performance space will be regularly sanitized using a u/v filter system. Masks are currently required to be worn. These health and safety procedures are subject to change as circumstances, venue, and governmental guidance shift. For the latest information, visit www.unexpectedstage.org/health-and-safety.

ABOUT UNEXPECTED STAGE COMPANY

Celebrating its thirteenth season in 2022, **Unexpected Stage Company** is a professional regional theater company founded by Christopher Goodrich and Rachel Stroud-Goodrich. The company dedicates itself to honoring the intricacies and intimacies of the complete human experience and, to that end, seeks to unite people, place and storytelling in order to explore interconnection. Past productions include Helen Hayes Award-recommended productions of *The Few*, *Be a Good Little Widow*, *Oblivion*, *Candy and Dorothy*, and *The Lady in the Van*. Other audience and critical favorites include Alex and Olmsted's *Milo the Magnificent*, Deb Margolin's *8 STOPS*, and Kooman and Dimond's *Dani Girl* (three Helen Hayes Award nominations). Visit www.unexpectedstage.org and www.facebook.com/unexpectedstage.

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