



Returning to familiar ground, Pittsburgh Playwrights artistic director Mark Clayton Southers will direct August Wilson's Pulitzer-Prize-winning masterpiece *Fences*, running May 2 - 23.

The production will reconfirm Southers Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company as among the foremost interpreters of the work of Pittsburgh's most famous playwright.

Set in the 1950s, *Fences* evokes the early rumblings of the civil rights movement. The central character, Troy Maxson, a middle-aged resident of Pittsburgh's Hill District, is unable to shed the legacy of his failure as a young baseball player. The play follows Troy's struggle to accept the generational changes that allowed his son to succeed in ways Troy never could.

Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company



## Dinah

Written, Composed, and Directed by  
Ernest McCarty



### From the Artistic Director Mark Clayton Southers

Ernest McCarty has been a major driving force in the Pittsburgh arts scene for quite some time. He covers a wide range of artistic expressions: visual artist, musician, composer, actor, sculptor, playwright and more!

He's made a huge impression on me personally and has laid the groundwork that has enabled me to grow as a stage director. I'm really excited that he is allowing the Pittsburgh Playwrights to produce his musical Dinah. If you like what

you see tell a friend, if you love what you see please tell everyone! Sit back and enjoy the performance.

### About Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company

Mark Clayton Southers founded Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company in 2003. We began as the resident company of Garfield's Penn Theater, and moved to a 75-seat space at 542 Penn Avenue in the downtown Cultural District in January 2005. In October 2011 we moved again, into the penthouse at 937 Liberty Avenue. Thanks to the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust for finding this exciting new space for us! This space has an elevator and is wheelchair-accessible.

### The Mission of Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company

Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company is committed to developing and showcasing the works of local playwrights; from accomplished masters like August Wilson and George S. Kaufman to promising new talents. We seek to nurture a racially and culturally diverse community of playwrights, directors, actors and technical specialists to hone their craft and to network creative opportunities. Finally, we support a racially and culturally diverse management staff and board of directors who, together, promote audiences that reflect the rich variety of our Pittsburgh community. Through such sharing of talents, resources, perspectives and experiences we aspire to provide artistic enlightenment that will strengthen our civic community.

### Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company's Board of Directors

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## Production Staff

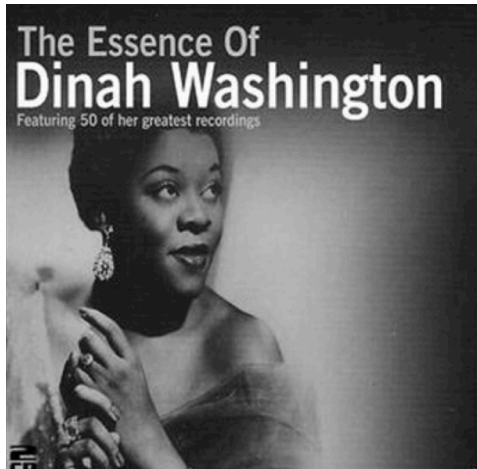
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**Ernest McCarty**  
**Ernest McCarty**  
**Kim El**  
**Ashley Southers**  
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**Madeline Steineck**  
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## Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company Staff

Founder/Artistic Director  
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Resident Sound Designer  
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**Lorill Readie**  
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**Mark Whitehead**  
**Carl Southers III**  
**Marcus Southers**  
**Matthew Southers**  
**Andre Southers**  
**Tene Croom**  
**Steven Doerfler**



I moved to Pittsburgh from New York with my wife in 1993. My passion for writing and performing music moved here with me. I've learned that the life of a musician can be fun, but it's never easy. It's hard work: late night rehearsals, long tours and traveling. In my lifetime, I have played with many well-known jazz artists including Homewood's famous jazz pianist Erroll Garner and singer/songwriter Oscar Brown, Jr. One thing I really enjoy is listening to all the stories that musician share with us. You can learn a lot about people through their stories.

Although I have never performed with the beautiful and legendary Dinah Washington I love her distinctive voice and sultry style. Some people called Dinah "Queen of the Jukebox". She called herself "The Queen of The Blues". To me she's an outstanding jazz artist who sings an interesting story. I hope you like it.

### About Ernest McCarty; Playwright, Composer, Director, Musician

Ernest McCarty (Playwright, Director, Composer/Lyricist) is a native of Chicago who has authored and co-authored more than 27 produced plays and musicals. He has been associated with ETA in Chicago and Quai Theatre in New York City, New Horizon Theater and Kuntu Repertory Theatre. His first production *I Dreamt I Dwelt In Bloomingdales* was presented at the Provincetown Playhouse in New York City in 1970. Other theatrical works produced in New York City include *Dinah! Queen of the Blues*, presented at the Westside Arts Theatre starring Sasha Dalton, *When The Spirit Moves* starring Tony Award-winner Trazana Beverly, *The Exchange* and *The Separate Vacation*. Amongst his plays and musicals produced in Chicago: *Madame Hortense*, the tone poem *A Cosmic Night*, *Recollection Rag*, *Love Spirit!* and *Brazilian Rendezvous*.

Eleven of his plays and musicals have been produced in Pittsburgh, including *The Chelsea Arms*, *Madame Hortense*, *The Exchange*, *A Window To Home*, *Closing Notice*, *The Hex*, *A Cosmic Night*, *Life After Coma*, *Give Us Another Tune*, *The Region (An American Opera)*, *Outrun The Rain*, *Journey of the Spirits* as well as his musical revue *Love Spirit!* His play *Recollection Rag* aired on WQED-TV and his score *The Martin Luther King Suite*, which aired on NBC-TV, received an Emmy.

Ernest's directing credits include *The Chelsea Arms*, *Humbug Man*, *Brazilian Rendezvous*, *A Cosmic Night*, *The Separate Vacation*, *Madame Hortense*, *Recollection Rag*, *The Exchange*, Samm-Art Williams' *Home*, *Life After Coma*, *A Window to Home*, *The Tap Dance Kid*, *Give Us Another Tune*, *The Region*, *Rain and Rivers*, *Outrun The Rain*, Kim El and KL's *The Poet's Corner*, *Deadwood Dick*, Cheryl West's *Jar The Floor* and Ossie Davis' *Purlie Victorious*.

Ernest is a member of The Dramatists Guild. Pittsburgh Magazine named him Prolific Playwright of 1998. His play *Recollection Rag (The Exchange)* received the Hoyt W. Fuller One-Act Play Festival Award and his play *Madame Hortense* received a Joseph Jefferson Award.

Composer, lyricist, arranger, orchestrator, musical director, record producer and musician, Ernest McCarty has written and arranged scores for stage, screen, television, commercials and recordings. All of McCarty's musicals have been produced and performed in theaters in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and Pittsburgh as well as other cities across the country. His impressive career in the music business includes musical director for the legendary blues, folk and gospel singer Odetta, for the Queen of the Disco, Gloria Gaynor, for Janet DuBois of Good Times, for actor, director, singer, composer, musician and screenwriter, Noel Harrison, and for singer, pianist arranger Buddy Greg. As musical director and musician (bassist and pianist), he has performed all over Europe, the United States, Asia, Africa, Australia and South America.

# Dinah

## Time

New York City, New York; 1961

## A musical in Two Acts

*There will be one 15-minute intermission after Act 1  
Restrooms are located on the second floor*

## Cast

Dinah Washington:	Delana Flowers
Brook Benton:	Les Howard
Mama Alice Jones/Dinette:	Stephanie Akers
Dick Night Train Lane:	Leo Beatty
LaRue Mann/Dinette:	Cheryl El-Walker
Robert Hunter and Various Characters:	Ijazneem



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## Dinah Production Bios

**Kim El** (*Stage Manager*) is a Pittsburgh-born playwright, actor and director. Her education includes studying Communications at Duquesne University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The Dramatist Guild and the 2014 Flight Fellowship for Creative Development. In 2013 The New Pittsburgh Courier added Kim to their 50 Women of Excellence roster. Her extensive theatre experience developed from venues such as New Horizon Theater, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, No Name Players, The Shadow Lounge, Bricolage Production Company and The August Wilson Center. She is best known for writing and performing in *Straightening Combs*, her first solo show. Kim is the award recipient for Best Play (2011), Best Director (2008) and Best Supporting Actress (2006) for her work done at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Festival in Black and White. In addition to performing and writing, Kim shares her artistic skills educating and mentoring youth at the Jeron X. Grayson Community Center After School Program in the Hill District.

**Ashley Southers** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Ashley Southers is a Pittsburgh Obama alumna. She plans to attend Point Park University in the fall for screenwriting. She enjoys working as a light technician and soon she would like to work on sound. In Ashley's spare time she enjoys writing plays just like her father Mark Clayton Southers. Ashley has been with Playwrights since the very beginning and can't wait for what the future might bring.

**Madeleine Steineck** (*Lighting Designer*) graduated from Temple University in 2011 with a degree in Theatre: Lighting Design. This will be the sixth show she has designed for Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company as she designed lights for PPTC's productions of *Sold: Renn Woods in Concert*, *Poe's Last Night*, *Book of Ezra*, *A Christmas Star*, and *Ubuntu Holiday*. She also designs lights for various high school and middle school musicals, including *Curtains*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Seussical*, and *Man of La Mancha*. She is the resident lighting designer for Mercyhurst University's Theatre Program, having designed *Urinetown: The Musical*, *The Laramie Project*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Cabaret*, and *The Tempest*. She has designed for Morgantown Dance Studio. She worked as a Master Electrician for Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre (2013) and was the Master Electrician for Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh's Summerfest 2014.

**Matt Dillin** (*Sound Designer*) is a producer/disc jockey/promoter/audio recording engineer who has been involved with music since 1996. He graduated from the Institute of Audio Research - New York City in 1999. Currently he's producing music and pursuing production deals, while simultaneously juggling his many other talents. Inquires - [Mattdillinger@aol.com](mailto:Mattdillinger@aol.com)

## Special Thanks to

Etta Cox  
Joshua Fedorski  
Nick Wright  
Point Park University  
Pittsburgh Playhouse  
Monteze Freeland  
Pianos n' Stuff  
Bricolage Theatre



We at Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company would love to give special thanks to the following for their continued support:



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### The Music Behind Dinah

**Lou Stellute (Tenor and Soprano Sax)** Lou has been playing and recording music for almost 60 years and is a Pittsburgh Jazz Hall of Fame inductee. Currently, he works with RH Factor. He composed the music for 2 independent short films, performed in Jem Finer's "Shortplayer," and also Ben Opie's "Concerto for Orkestra" conducted by Nizan Leibovich.

**Andrew Kirk (Drummer)** People know Andrew for his emotionally expressive style, his sophistication in multiple genres, and his consistent professionalism. He started playing the drums at the age of 12. His style originated in rock bands, and moved into jazz after attending the 1997 Mellon Jazz Festival student clinics where he met his future teacher and mentor, the great Roger Humphries. Andrew spent 12 years moving back and forth from Pittsburgh to Charlottesville, Philadelphia, and Nashville. The highlights of this time include a year in the Caribbean playing jazz on cruise ships and being a featured guest artist with the UVA Jazz Ensemble. Now married and a home owner in the city that made him, Andrew runs his lesson business Drum Set Cadet and freelances in a wide variety of other projects.

**Miles Jackson (Bass Player)** is a bass player who plays with some of the greatest jazz musicians in Pittsburgh. He started playing viola at age 7, and transitioned to bass at age 12, when he entered Rogers Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Middle School under the direction of Dale Hertrick. While attending Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) High School, Miles regularly played throughout Pittsburgh with CAPA ensembles. He was awarded a scholarship from the Roger Humphries scholarship fund, and attended the State University of New York (SUNY) Purchase to study with Todd Coolman. Miles gained international experience playing with a jazz ensemble on a Disney Cruise Line in 2012. He has also experienced the jazz scene in Tucson, AZ. Miles is enthusiastic about playing in DINAH, his first Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company production.



## Dinah Actor Bios



**Delana Flowers**  
(Dinah Washington/  
Ruth Jones)

Delana Flowers is a dynamic vocalist with a unique sound. Her energy and eclecticism fill every space of any room as she sings from her heart and soul to yours. Music and Miss Flowers have been inseparable from the start and this has been evident since her church choir debut at age 2. Like childhood friends that can't bear to part ways she and music have been growing together, playing out the composition that is her life. The oldest of 2 on her mother's side and the middle child on her father's, she's got it honest. As if being the daughter of a musician/preacher weren't enough, her paternal side is full of musicians and singers in addition to a maternal side that has been singing together in churches for years. Delana has graced stages all over this city and in her hometown of Lancaster, Pennsylvania in musicals like Ain't Misbehavin, Queens of the Blues, Black Nativity, The Wiz, Mahalia Jackson: Standing on Holy Ground, Little Shop of Horrors and Chelsea Arms. She has been a featured artist on several recordings and with bands such as the The Grace Band, The Teresa Hawthorne Band, The Terrance Vaughn Band, Top Flight and Taste Flavor to name a few. Since her move to Pittsburgh she has been part of top-notch choirs, worship teams and small ensembles all over the city. At 35, acting and singing are not her only gifts. She is also a prolific writer with an English degree, a spoken word artist, worship leader, and songwriter. This vocalist and thespian, among so many other things, shows no sign of slowing down.



**Stephanie Akers**  
(Mama Alice Jones/  
Dinette)

Stephanie "Stevie" Akers is an actor, vocalist, and director. Stevie is delighted to be returning to the stage this season at Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre. Her most recent performance was in the 2014 world premier production of *Queens of the Blues*, New Horizon Theatre, as "Ma Rainey". Stevie has enjoyed playing varied roles in dramatic, comedic and musical productions. She considers herself blessed to be surrounded by the talented pool of artist, directors, writers, and technical people that the city of Pittsburgh has in its midst. She takes nothing for granted, believing that God has designed and arranged her life according to His purpose. Thanks Mark and Ernie.



**Leo Beatty**  
(Dick Night Train  
Lane)

Leo Beatty is a local artist who has been featured in several of the late Rob Penny's plays as well as a few films. He also enjoys creating at all levels. The Lord is his first love and he is always thankful for the gifts bestowed upon him.



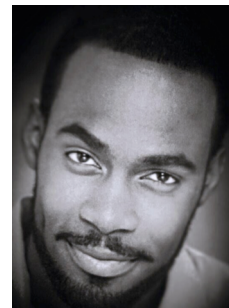
**Cheryl El-Walker**  
(LaRue Mann/  
Dinette)

Cheryl is an award-winning costume designer and makeup artist who is also a veteran stage actor from Pittsburgh. Her creative work in various theatre companies has earned her several Onyx awards from the African American Council for the Arts (AACTA): Best Make-up Artist (2007); *Christmas Is Coming Uptown* (Best Costume for a Musical 2008); New Horizon Theatre, *Freeman* (Best Leading Actress 2008); Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, (Best Costume Design for a Play 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012) and the PPTCO 2012 Legacy Award. In 2013, Cheryl debuted another one of her skills and received PPTCO's Theater Festival in Black And White Award for Best Director. Most recently, Cheryl was seen in "B.U.S. 10 Tour" with Bricolage Production Company. Cheryl is married with a teenage son. She is an alumna of Point Park University.



**Les Howard**  
(Brook Benton)

Les Howard is an accomplished actor. Les began his acting career as a member of the former and prestigious D.C. Black Repertory Company, founded by famous actor Robert Hooks. Les has had many fine performances, here in Pittsburgh, for such theaters as Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Co., New Horizon Theater, Gargaro Productions and the former Kuntu Repertory Theater. Les may be best remembered as "Turnbo" in PPTCO's highly successful production of August Wilson's "Jitney". Les's most recent projects included appearances in New Horizon Theater's "Nothing But The Blues", and PPTCO's "Sold". Les has also appeared in some feature films and once produced and hosted his own local public access television show entitled "The Howard Entertainment Showcase". Les is also known in circles as a local jazz singer whereby, among other local jazz greats, he appeared for many years with the Roger Barbour Jazz Quartet and produced a jazz CD with that band. Les has appeared with other jazz and R&B bands which include Harold Betters and the late Leroy Wolford, among others.



**Ijazneem**  
(Robert Hunter/  
Various Characters)

"I would like to first thank God for the gift of inspiration. I would also like to thank all my fans, family and friends for all of your support; you've been very kind to me!"