

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAST ANNOUNCED FOR DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU'S "SKELETON CREW"
AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE**

**DIRECTED BY PATRICIA MCGREGOR, THE CAST FEATURES AMARI CHEATOM, CAROLINE
STEFANIE CLAY, KELLY McCREARY AND D.B. WOODSIDE**

PREVIEWS BEGIN JUNE 5; OPENING NIGHT IS JUNE 13

LOS ANGELES (May 8, 2018) – The Geffen Playhouse today announced the full cast for its Los Angeles Premiere production of *Skeleton Crew*, the third and final installment in Dominique Morisseau's award-winning three-play cycle, *The Detroit Project*. The play features Amari Cheatom (*Roman J. Israel, Esq.*) as Dez, Caroline Stefanie Clay (Broadway's *The Little Foxes*) as Faye, Kelly McCreary (*Grey's Anatomy*) as Shanita and D.B. Woodside (*Lucifer*) as Reggie. Patricia McGregor will direct.

Previews for *Skeleton Crew* begin Tuesday, June 5 in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse with opening night set for Wednesday, June 13. The show closes Sunday, July 8.

Skeleton Crew follows four co-workers—Faye, Dez, Reggie and Shanita—at a Detroit auto factory in 2008. The play highlights the layered relationships and drama of blue-collar workers navigating the instability and uncertainty in their personal lives and at work. Each character's patience and loyalty are tested as the plant's future comes into question and they are forced to make hard choices to ensure their individual survival. Morisseau's masterful command of dialect and dialogue brings depth and authenticity to a story about the very local implications of global change.

Skeleton Crew, the final play in Morisseau's three-play cycle that includes *Detroit '67* and *Paradise Blue*, had its world premiere in 2016 at New York's Atlantic Theater Company. In 2017, McGregor directed Washington D.C.'s Studio Theatre production of *Skeleton Crew*, in which Clay also starred.

SKELETON CREW

Written by **Dominique Morisseau**
Directed by **Patricia McGregor**

Previews: Tuesday, June 5 - Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Opening Night: Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Closing Night: Sunday, July 8, 2018

CAST

Amari Cheatom as Dez

Caroline Stefanie Clay as Faye

Kelly McCreary as Shanita

D.B. Woodside as Reggie

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Designer **Rachel Meyers**

Costume Designer **ESosa**

Lighting Designer **Pablo Santiago**

Sound Designer **Everett Elton Bradman**

Production Stage Manager **Ross Jackson**

Assistant Stage Manager **Jade Cagalawan**

Casting Director **Phyllis Schuringa CSA**

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Dominique Morisseau (Playwright)

Dominique Morisseau is the author of *The Detroit Project (A 3-Play Cycle)* which includes *Skeleton Crew* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Paradise Blue* (Signature Theatre) and *Detroit '67* (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem and National Black Theatre). Additional plays include *Pipeline* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Sunset Baby* (Labyrinth Theater Company), *Blood at the Root* (National Black Theatre) and *Follow Me to Nellie's* (Premiere Stages). She is also the book writer for the new musical *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre). Morisseau is an alumna of the Public Theater Emerging Writers Group, Women's Project Lab and Lark Playwrights Workshop and has developed work at Sundance Lab, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Eugene O'Neil Playwrights Conference. Her work has been commissioned by Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Women's Project Theater, South Coast Repertory, People's Light and Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Penumbra Theatre Company. She most recently served as Co-Producer on the Showtime series *Shameless*. Awards include Spirit of Detroit Award, PoNY Fellowship, Sky-Cooper Prize, TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBFT August Wilson Playwriting Award, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, OBIE Award, Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, and being named to Variety's 2017 Women's Impact Report.

Patricia McGregor (Director)

Patricia McGregor is a director and writer from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Recent credits include *Skeleton Crew* (Studio Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (The Old Globe), *The Parchman Hour* (Guthrie Theater), *Hamlet* (The Public Theater), *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *brownsville song (b-side for tray)* (Lincoln Center Theater) and the world premieres of *Good Grief* (Center Theatre Group), *Stagger Lee* (Dallas Theater Center), *Hurt Village*

(Signature Theatre), *Holding It Down* and *Blood Dazzler* (Harlem Stage) and *The House That Would Not Stand* (Berkeley Rep/Yale Rep). Other credits include director and co-creator of the oratorio *Place* at the Los Angeles Philharmonic and director of *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Spunk*, *Becky Shaw*, *Adoration of the Old Woman*, *Four Electric Ghosts* and *Nothing Personal*. She has directed the 24 Hour Plays on Broadway and staged readings for HBO's writer's Access program. She was a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow at Yale School of Drama where she earned her M.F.A. and served as Artistic Director of the Yale Cabaret.

Amari Cheatom (Dez)

Amari Cheatom is proud to make his Geffen Playhouse debut with Dominique Morisseau's *Skeleton Crew*. His credits include *The Temple Bombing* (Alliance Theatre), *Dutch Masters* (Labyrinth Theater Company), *On the Levee* (Lincoln Center Theater) and *The Book of Grace* (Public Theater). His film credits include *Roman J. Israel, Esq.*, *Detroit* and *Crown Heights*. Cheatom is a graduate of The Juilliard School's Drama Division and the Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble of Atlanta.

Caroline Stefanie Clay (Faye)

Caroline Stefanie Clay is an actress, audiobook reader, playwright and vocal coach. She has appeared on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning productions of *The Little Foxes*, *Doubt* and *The Royal Family* and as consultant to regional training programs around the world. Her film and television credits include *Morning Glory*, *The Heights*, *House of Cards*, *Law & Order* and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. A native Washingtonian, Clay graduated from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. In 2013, she received her MFA in Performance at the University of Maryland. Her solo show, *Let It Flo!*, about the life of radical feminist Florynce Kennedy, will be featured in American Repertory Theater's 2018-2019 season, produced by *Waitress* director Diane Paulus and social justice icon Gloria Steinem. Clay received a 2018 Helen Hayes Award nomination for Best Actress for the role of Faye in Washington D.C.'s Studio Theatre production of *Skeleton Crew*, directed by Patricia McGregor.

Kelly McCreary (Shanita)

Kelly McCreary currently resides at Seattle Grace where she joined the cast of *Grey's Anatomy* at the end of Season 10 as Dr. Maggie Pierce. Before that, McCreary was seen on *Scandal*, *Castle*, *Emily Owens M.D.*, *I Just Want My Pants Back*, *White Collar*, *Rubicon* and *Cyberchase*. Recently, she portrayed Eartha Kitt in the indie film *Life* opposite Dane DeHaan and Robert Pattinson. Her other film credits include *Baby Baby Baby*, *Being Flynn* and *How to Follow Strangers*. Onstage, McCreary has appeared in Broadway's *Passing Strange*, *Perfect Harmony* at Theatre Row, the world premiere of Dominique Morisseau's *Follow Me to Nellie's* at Kean Stage and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Eurydice* with the Williamstown Theatre Festival. She is a graduate of Barnard College and trained at the Chautauqua Theatre Company, British American Drama Academy in London and The Actors Center in New York.

D.B. Woodside (Reggie)

D.B. Woodside is currently seen as the series regular Amenadiel on *Lucifer* on the Fox network. Concurrently, he has been starring as Jeff Malone on the USA Network drama *Suits*. Prior to that, he was a recurring regular on *Parenthood* and played Wayne Palmer on the

critically acclaimed Emmy Award-winning series *24*. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, Woodside made his New York theater debut as Martin Luther King Jr. in the Off-Broadway production of *The Conscientious Objector* at the Harold Clurman Theater.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Monday	No performance
Tuesday – Friday	8:00 p.m.
Saturday	3:00 and 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION

Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse
10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets currently priced at \$25.00 - \$90.00. Available in person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, by phone at 310.208.5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.org. Fees may apply.

Rush tickets for each day's performance are made available to the general public 30 minutes before showtime at the box office. \$35.00 General / \$10.00 Student

The run of *Skeleton Crew* will feature the Geffen's popular Talk Back Tuesdays, giving theater lovers a chance to engage in a deeper conversation about the play and the process.

COLLEGE AUDIENCES

Through a variety of events and other opportunities, the Geffen Playhouse welcomes college students to experience the live storytelling presented on our stages. We are proud of our association with UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television, and open our doors to all college students throughout Los Angeles. More information is available at www.geffenplayhouse.org/college.

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ABOUT GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

Geffen Playhouse has been a hub of the Los Angeles theater scene since opening its doors in 1995. Noted for its intimacy and celebrated for its renowned mix of classic and contemporary plays as well as provocative world premiere productions, the not-for-profit organization continues to present a body of work that garners national recognition. Named in honor of entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, who made the initial donation to the theater, the company was founded by Gilbert Cates and is currently helmed by Executive Director Gil Cates, Jr., Artistic Director Matt Shakman and Board Chair Howard Tenenbaum. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen welcomes an audience of more than 130,000 each year, and maintains extensive education and community engagement programs, designed to involve underserved young people and the community at large in the arts.

www.geffenplayhouse.org

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