

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE AND PRODUCER BRIAN A. MORELAND PARTNER ON
WORKSHOP OF KEENAN SCOTT II'S *THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN*
CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AT ARENA STAGE

*** Teye Diggs makes directorial debut ***

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater and producer **Brian A. Moreland** have partnered on a two-week intensive workshop of playwright **Keenan Scott II's** *Thoughts of a Colored Man*. Directed by **Teye Diggs**, with choreographer **Jenny Parsinen**, associate director **Shannon Stoeke**, and music and vocals by **Madison McFerrin**, the piece takes a raw and honest look at the limitations, stereotypes and obstacles that the world attempts to place on men of color through their discussions of love, race, education, family, and history.

Featuring Tony Award nominee **Forrest McClendon**, the workshop also includes **Jerome Preston Bates**, **Raymond O. Caldwell**, **William Catanzaro**, **Erica Chamblee**, **Felicia Curry**, **JaBen Early**, **Ricardo Frederick Evans**, **Gary-Kayi Fletcher**, **Christopher Richardson** and **Keith L. Royal Smith**.

This workshop provides an opportunity for *Thoughts of a Colored Man* to grow and progress, and for **Scott** “to be undisturbed in a comfortable environment where I can just be myself and write and create and edit and rewrite and see the piece come together as a whole.”

“Art is always a reflection of our society,” continues **Scott**. “Being at a place like Arena, which does work of that nature, it’s very important for us to get back to that reflection of society, and not shy away from the truth, whether it’s beautiful or ugly.”

Diggs began working with Scott on this piece two years ago, and is making his directorial debut.

“I was so moved by what Keenan had to say, and the imagery and his influences of slam poetry – I had never been a part of something with this kind of language, so it was very inspiring,” says **Diggs**. “That’s part of why I’m trying to let go and let this piece speak for itself.”

For more information and an exclusive first look, visit arenastage.org/about-us/artistic-initiatives/resident-artists/

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commissioning and developing new plays, and impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org

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