

Alabama Story

by Kenneth
Jones

SEPT. 29 - OCT. 15, 2023

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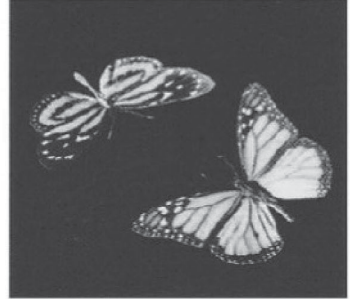
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AND JOHN & BEVERLY JOHNSON
present

Alabama by Kenneth Jones Story

SEPT. 29 - OCT. 15, 2023



ABET is sponsored in part by the City of Jacksonville and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville through the Cultural Service Grant Program.

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THE CAST

Josh Waller	Thomas Franklin
Simone Aden-Reid	Emily Wheelock Reed
Bill Ratliff	Senator E.W. Higgins
Christopher Watson	Garth Williams & others
Chris Randolph	Joshua Moore
Mary Elizabeth Schubert	Lily Whitfield

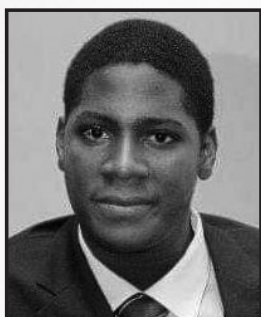
THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Directed by	Lindsay Curry
Stage Manager	Christian Cabrera
Lighting design by	Ben Sparenberg
Sound Design	Lindsay Curry
Costumes	Simone Aden-Reid & Lee Hamby
Light & Sound board operator	Katie Cress
Set Design	Lindsay Curry
Set Painting	CK Painting
Scenic Painter	Aisha McBurnie
Set Construction	Tom Barr, Brian Johnson, Baron Tetzlaff, George Kruer
Props	Simone Aden-Reid & Lee Hamby
House Manager	Susan Roche & Holly Gutshall
Volunteer Coordinator	Maureen Johnson
Social Media	Heather & Daniel Starling
Production Manager	Lee Hamby
Production Photography	Jon Scherf
Publicity Photography & Graphic Design	Jon Scherf

ABOUT THE CAST



SIMONE ADEN-REID (Emily Reed) is a Jacksonville native who graduated with a BFA in Theatre from Florida State University and studied with acting teacher, Stephen Wanhg at NYU. Simone recently retired from Duval County Public Schools after teaching for the last 30 years at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. Favorite roles in local theatre productions include "Sister Aloysius" in *Doubt*, "Ms. Thorn" in *Ruthless*, "Maggie" in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, "Dotty Otley" in *Noises Off*, "A Lady of Letters" from *Alan Bennett's Talking Heads*, and "Sonia" in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. This is Simone's first ABET production!



Jacksonville native **CHRIS RANDOLPH** (Josua Moore) has been involved in creating art for the better part of two decades. A trained Classical and Jazz vocalist, he has performed on local, regional, and national stages in challenging roles. He has performed in lead roles *Die Zauberflöte*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *The Mikdao*, and has given concerts and have been tapped to perform world premier works by new composers. A graduate of Douglas Anderson, he studied in the studios of Hanford Joiner, of Florida State College and Krzysztof Biernacki of the University of North Florida. He is the 2007 winner of the Grady-Rayam Prize, which provided opportunities to work with world-class artists. More recently, Chris has been involved with production teams for numerous local productions.



After several years, **JOSH WALLER** (Thomas Franklin) couldn't be happier to be returning to the ABET stage in this beautiful and timely show. He is remembered by ABET audiences for his performances in *Merrily We Roll Along* (Charley Kringas), *Floyd Collins* (Floyd Collins), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Chip Tolentino), and *Ordinary Days* (Jason). A longtime local performer, Josh has graced almost every stage in town and has had the good fortune to be spoiled with many memorable experiences. Just a few of his favorites include Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten!* (Theatre Jax), Marvin in *Falsettos* (5 & Dime), Bobby in *Company* (5 & Dime), Bruce Bechdel in *Fun Home* (Limelight Theatre), Burrs in *The Wild Party* (Players by the Sea), Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* (Theatre Jax), Leo Frank in *Parade* (Players by the Sea), and so many others.

ABOUT THE CAST



BILL RATLIFF (Senator E.W. Higgins) A brand-new Granddaddy, “Papa” Bill last appeared on the ABET stage as John D’Agata in *Lifespan of a Fact*. Other ABET appearances include Warden Stamma in the blink-and-you-missed-it production of *The Shawshank Redemption*, Don Quixote/Cervantes in *Man of La Mancha*, Mark Rothko in *RED*, and in Floyd Collins and *Love Letters*. Favorite roles include Charlie in *The Whale*, LBJ in *All the Way*, Oscar Wilde in *Gross Indecencies: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, and Dr. Parker in *Bat Boy: The Musical*. Other credits include *The Lion in Winter*, *Mr. Roberts*, *Equus*, *The Dining Room*, *The Fantasticks*, *All My Sons*, and *A Walk in the Woods*. Bill has also appeared as Salieri in *Amadeus*, the Detective in *Porgy and Bess*, and several Children and Family shows with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Bill is a graduate of Furman University where he studied theatre.



MARY ELIZABETH SCHUBERT (Lily Whitfield) is happy to be back with ABET after her debut as Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*. Originally from Bethesda, MD, she has performed throughout Jacksonville and St. Augustine since moving in 2016. Favorite credits include Carol in *Oleanna*, Florence Unger in *The Odd Couple*, Leah Hareluk in *The Immigrant*, Denise in *The Harvest*, and Kay Banks in *Father of the Bride*. Thank you for joining us in sharing this timely story.



CHRISTOPHER WATSON (Garth Williams & others) is happy to be back on ABET’s stage! You may have caught him recently in The 5 & Dime’s latest production, *Clyde’s* as Jason; or last year’s Classic in San Marco: *Private Lives* as Eliot. Also, this coming holiday season you can catch him as the Mad Hatter in *The Jacksonville Christmas Spectacular* at the Ritz Theatre downtown. The number of times this story from the past resonates with our current state of politics is too many. Way too many. Hopefully you will laugh today. Maybe even cry a little. But most importantly, hopefully you leave here today more determined. Everything changes.

ABOUT THE CREW



LINDSAY CURRY (Director) – Jacksonville native, storyteller, and “Best Aunt Ever” award winner, has been making theatre in Jacksonville for over 15 years. As an actor, some of her favorite roles include: Dog Sees God (PBTS), The Lyons (PBTS), Clybourne Park (The 5&Dime) and Night, Mother (The 5&Dime). As a director, she has been privileged to work on many projects, but her highlights include: Top Dog/ Under Dog (The 5&Dime), Constellations (The 5&Dime), and Sweat (The 5&Dime). Thank you to the patrons for supporting local, community based theatre; Thank you to the cast for trusting the process and bringing joy to this script; Thank you to the crew (Christian and Katie) for keeping us together.



CHRISTIAN CABRERA (Stage Manager) is excited to be assisting with such a wonderful production! You would not have seen him onstage or behind it, as this is his first time working on a show. Working with Lindsay and the cast has been such an exciting and fulfilling experience. He would like to thank his partner Josh for letting him witness his creative process, and for being a constant source of love and inspiration in everything he does.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We would like to thank the following Donors for their generosity...

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Neptune Beach Senior Center	Limelight Theatre	

A very special thank you to Players By the Sea
for hosting our entire 2022-23 Season.





ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

is to bring the excitement of live theatre to diverse audiences. An emphasis is placed on new and original plays, neglected classics, and on developing new talent.

ABET is a not-for-profit theatre registered with the state of Florida, the City of Jacksonville through the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, The Tom Nehl Fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, and other private foundations and individual donations.

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ABET Founder: **Carson Merry Baillie**

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