



EXPANDED VOICES
July 25, 2021

HANG TIME PRODUCTIONS
presents

Jamal

Written and Directed by
STEVE DRIFFIN & CHARLIE GRADY

Stage Manager
TINA LOURENCO-LANG



STEVE DRIFFIN (*Playwright, Screenwriter, Director*) was born in New Haven, CT, but raised in Brooklyn, New York and South Carolina. For most of his life, Steve has always had an inextricable bond with writing stories and was further inspired by the emergence of Black Filmmakers. After graduating from college, he moved to his birthplace during the height of the drug pandemic and witnessed the impact drugs had on his Newhallville community. He did not like what was happening to the people and community and decided to speak of the ills by using guerrilla theater and performing plays on the streets of New Haven. Steve became a well-known playwright in the community and produced many independent plays to sold-out venues. He wrote several screenplays and stage plays that became quarter-finalists and semi-finalists in different competitions and in 2021 his screenplay "Butterflies" won the Big Apple Film Festival and Screenwriting Competition.



CHARLIE GRADY (*Playwright, Executive Producer*) a retired police detective is also an accomplished professional drummer and actor. In 1993 after being featured in many music videos' on MTV and BET, Charlie hit the live stage. His first professional role on stage was the lead role of Ronald Lee Andrews in "Whatever Happened to Black Love" at the historic Apollo Theater in Harlem. The play ran with great success for several months at the Union Square Theater in NYC. He has since continued to act in films such as "Inside Game", "The Word", "Breaking Point", "An Affirmative Act", "Mail Order Bride" and "Fake" to name a few. His television appearances include "All My Children", "Guiding Light" and episodes of "Law & Order" and numerous TV commercials. In 2002, he began writing screen plays based on his vast true life experiences in law enforcement and entertainment. Jamal is the second original stage play effort co-written and directed with New Haven native and Director Steve Driffin. Charlie would like to thank all in CT communities that continue to support him and his efforts across the state at providing voice to those formerly incarcerated. Special thanks to The Legacy Theater Staff and a huge thanks to the entire cast and stage crew of JAMAL for all their hard work in this reflection of provocative urban stories brought to life on stage!



ANTHONY BROWN (*Jamal Green*) is 28 years-old and is from Hartford, Connecticut. He recently played the role of Jerome in the movie *All In: The Family* that was released on Amazon Prime in May, 2020.



EMMETT CASSIDY (Connor) is a native of Branford, with a true passion for acting, traveling, and storytelling. He has performed in several productions with Legacy, such as *Hamlet* (Laertes), *Private Lives* (Elliot), *Joan Joyce* (Mr. Marinara/Joe Joyce Sr/Jr/Reporter), as well the upcoming production of *Oedipus Rex* (Shepherd). Whenever offstage, Emmett enjoys music, writing, carpentry, and playing Dungeons & Dragons with his friends. “A very special ‘thanks’ to Steve and Charlie for allowing me this opportunity; working with you both has been an absolute pleasure, and a thrilling experience that I will forever cherish.”



JHULENTY DELOSSANTOS (*Dougie Cordova*) Raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Jhulenty Delossantos has been in plays with Collective Consciousness Theatre (Angel Cruz in *Jesus Hopped The A Train*, Dose in *This Is Modern Art*), Long Wharf Theatre (Wingman in *When She Had Wings*), Capital Classics Theatre Company (Dumaine in *Loves Labours Lost* and Gentleman in *Othello*) and many other shows as well! Jhulenty is honored to be working with HangTime productions!”



PATRICIA DEL RIO (*The Reporter*) is an Emmy award winning journalist with 3 additional Emmy nominations. She is also a co-recipient of the prestigious regional Edward R. Murrow Award. Patricia makes a special guest appearance as “The Reporter” in the cast of Jamal in her first theatrical appearance. Ms. Del Rio previously worked as a reporter and anchor at WPIX in New York from 2005 until 2009 and at its sister station KTLA in Los Angeles in the same role from 1999 until 2005. She began her career in Palm Springs, California. Patricia was the first Los Angeles based correspondent to report live from Ground Zero following the September 11th attacks, for which she would earn an Emmy nomination. Her reporting while her news van was under attack during the 2000 NBA Championship LA Laker riots earned her and her news team a regional Edward R. Murrow Award. She won an Emmy Award in 2004 for anchoring Best Newscast in Los Angeles (Morning 5-7am). She now lives on the shoreline with her husband and daughter and works at WFSB News 3. Charlie Grady and Steve Driffin extend a very special thanks to Mrs. Delrio for lending her expertise to the production of JAMAL at the Legacy Theater!



CHLOE LANG (*Harmony Ferrara*) is a 19 year-old Pace University junior studying Entertainment Management. She is delighted to be taking the stage with HangTime Productions. Chloe has spent years in front of the camera for a variety of commercials, print, and film. Chloe is best known for her role as Stephanie on the international children’s show *LazyTown*.

*Special Thanks to RICHARD SQUERI
KARINA “LIL 2” WU & CASSIE “LIL 1” VOLCY, CALCAGNI,
THE ENTIRE TEAM AT LEGACY THEATER!*



THE HANG TIME PRODUCTION TEAM is a division of the statewide non-profit organization known as the Trifecta. The Trifecta combines three separate community programs designed to create holistic healing for the entire family thus building stronger communities.

In 2019, Founder/CEO, Professional Actor, Writer, Producer, Director Charlie Grady established the arts division of the non-profit to address the need to educate the general public on issues facing formerly incarcerated citizens.

The unique program highlights local and National issues of social justice by performing stage productions based on real life challenges and examples of failures and successes of the re-entry community. Using local actors, stage crews at local theaters, Hang Time Productions provides part time employment and opportunities for all to showcase their talents and learn a skill for potential careers. Some of the Hang Time Productions team are in fact formerly incarcerated. The goal is to teach alternate careers to individuals interested in the arts.

Partnered with Charlie Grady is New Haven's writer and stage Director Steven Driffin. Steve heads up the educational and training for the Hang Time arts/theater program.

The first show written and directed by Hang Time Productions titled "Her Time" was based on real life scenarios and premiered at the Klein Memorial Theater in Bridgeport, CT to an audience of over 900 people. The dramatic performance drew tears, laughter and raised awareness of specific troubles of a woman that was incarcerated at 18 years of age and released 25 years later.

She struggles with reintegrating back into a society that has passed her by and tries to re-establish relationships with her two adult children. The drama heightens when her daughter seems to be traveling down the same path as her mother that led her to prison. Will she persevere and save her family and redeem herself in time?

July 11, 2021, The Connecticut Hall of Change's Great 8 story telling series premiered at the Legacy Theater in Branford, CT to a sold out audience. Four members of the CT Hall of Change Great 8 took the stage to share their truths about being incarcerated and overcoming barriers to become part of the first in the country's Great 8.

The Great 8 are formerly incarcerated individuals inducted into New Gate Prison & Copper Mine Museum to highlight their lifetime achievements and contributions to community after release from incarceration.

Both Great 8, Her Time as well as JAMAL shows will return in 2022 at local theaters so stay tuned for these and more upcoming new live shows by Hang Time Productions!!

For more info on Hang Time/Trifecta visit: www.hangtimerealtalk.com and www.cthallofchange.org
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