NINA SIMONE: FOUR WOMEN
By Christina Ham; Directed by Faye M. Price

FEB 7–MAR 5
Andy Boss Thrust Stage

With special support from
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Special thanks to
**Miranda**

**BY JAMES STILL**

**DIRECTED BY MICHAEL ROBINS**

**JANUARY 27–FEBRUARY 18**

Miranda is a psychological thriller set in one of the world’s most explosive regions. The gripping play portrays a woman who becomes a CIA agent after she loses her brother in 9/11. Her career takes her to the Middle East where her cover is working in a youth theater project to direct a production of Shakespeare’s *Othello*.

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Who can you trust?

**TICKETS / INFO**

Tickets are available at the Illusion Theater Box Office at 612-339-4944 or online at [www.illusiontheater.org](http://www.illusiontheater.org).

*Members of Actor’s Equity Association

Photo by Laurie Falk

**SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation of Minnesota.
Dear Park Square Patron:

There is a light here. For you (yes you). This joyous remounting of Nina Simone: Four Women comes on the heels of The Ghostlight Project, which took place across the country in theatres of all kinds on January 19.

Inspired by the theatrical tradition of keeping a “ghost light” on in a darkened theatre, this theatre vowed to create light for you in challenging times and to provide brave spaces where all can gather.

We re-affirmed that our programs welcome, invite – and in fact celebrate all – regardless of race, class, religion, country of origin, immigration status, (dis)ability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

We also pledged:
• To listen for the voices without representation; to tell the stories untold;
• To establish gender parity;
• To continue inclusive programming and hiring in order to authentically serve diverse talent and audiences.

Today’s play is a unique opportunity to engage in debate and dissent through the lens of one of our country’s greatest musical artists – and leave inspired to take action. Whether you came here today to be entertained or fired up (and hopefully this production does both!), know that when you pass the “ghost light” in our lobby, it is on for you. (yes you.)

Richard Cook, Artistic Director
651.767.8482 | cook@parksquaretheatre.org

C. Michael-jon Pease, Executive Director, CFRE
651.767.8497 | pease@parksquaretheatre.org

PARK SQUARE THEATRE

OUR MISSION is to enrich our community by producing and presenting exceptional live theatre that touches the heart, engages the mind and delights the spirit.
This celebration of Nina Simone is the theatrical dream-child of Regina Williams. Regina found profound inspiration in Simone’s life of artistry and activism. Park Square, inspired by Regina’s devotion to Simone’s passionate life, commissioned this play. Playwright Christina Ham rose to the challenge of this story at this time with her own fiery voice. An extraordinary creative team and ensemble has poured their own insights and talents into this production. And the Twin Cities has understood the combined creative cry and embraced this work. Thanks to all of you for sharing Regina’s dream. Richard Cook, Artistic Director

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NINA SIMONE:
FOUR WOMEN

By Christina Ham

Director....................................................... Faye M. Price
Music Director........................................... Sanford Moore
Dance Choreographer ......................... Patricia Brown
Scenic Designer................................. Lance Brockman
Costume Designer......................... Trevor D. Bowen
Costume Construction ............ Lynn Farrington
Lighting Designer......................... Michael Wangen
Sound Designer.............................. Jacob M. Davis
Properties Designer................ Sadie Ward
Stage Manager........................... Elizabeth MacNally*

CAST

Nina Simone AKA Peaches ....................... Regina Marie Williams*
Sarah AKA Auntie ........................... Aimee K. Bryant*
Sephronia........................................ Jamila Anderson*
Sweet Thing ....................................... Traci Allen Shannon*
Sam ........................................ Sanford Moore

The ruins of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

PERFORMANCE TIME: The performance will run approximately
2 hours 5 minutes, including one 20-minute intermission.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.
As a courtesy to our actors and those around you,
please DEACTIVATE all PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

“Shout, Oh Mary” by Christina Ham. Copyright © 2016 by Christina Ham.
“Brown Baby” Written by Oscar Brown, Jr. Used by permission of Edward B. Marks Music Company

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Park Square Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.
BACKBONE OF THE MOVEMENT

Playwright Christina Ham talked to feature writer Matt DiCintio about Simone’s inspiration and her own.

Can you talk about how you and Regina Williams came together on this?
Regina Williams had brought the concept of her one-woman Nina Simone show to Park Square, and she and Richard Cook contacted me because they wanted a playwright to help develop it. Regina had starred in my play Scapegoat at The Playwrights’ Center, and she admired how I was able to dramatize history in that play. I had listened to Ms. Simone’s music since I was a child, but her civil rights work didn’t become known to me until much, much later. I said yes to joining Regina on this project because it’s one of the most ambitious plays I’ve ever written, and I saw the challenge of telling the story of how Ms. Simone went from being a mere artist to an artist-activist (an important distinction) in a way that has yet to be seen. She felt very strongly after the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church and the murder of Medgar Evers that her music needed to change direction. She had written instrumentals before, but never songs with lyrics. “Mississippi Goddam” was her first foray into lyric writing and she wrote it in about half an hour in real life. Her people were fighting in the streets for their rights, and her old music did not reflect that struggle. She had to start creating art that reflected the times for black people. If it meant making her mostly white audience uncomfortable, she didn’t really care.

Can you talk about the play’s title and how it reflects Simone’s music and politics?
Ms. Simone examines issues of colorism and black female archetypes in her song “Four Women.” There are painful things about being a black woman that still have yet to be put to bed 50 years after this song’s release. Regina and I spoke about how Ms. Simone seemed to embody a different vocality depending on what song she was singing. The “four women” framework helped to reflect the multiple vocalities as seen through these four women who also represent bits of Ms. Simone’s life as well. I saw great value in telling a story that could delve deeply into the question of what exactly is an artist’s responsibility to reflect the times – as Ms. Simone proclaimed – and how black women and our solidarity fare in this battle. Some of my other plays examine women caught in the cross hairs of history (Ruby Bridges, the four little girls, and now Nina Simone). It’s a topic I have an incredible affinity for. Incidentally, Ruby Bridges is being produced at the same time as this show at SteppingStone Theatre which makes me happy to see how these two women bookmark the movement in similar ways at very different ages.

Many audience members, especially younger generations, may not be aware of the role musicians like Simone played in the Civil Rights Movement. Why do you feel it’s important that we don’t forget them?
This play shines a light on the black women who were and were not musicians during this movement who were often marginalized and forced into the background—even though we were the backbone of the movement. Until 1970, Ms. Simone’s music was such a substantial part of the movement, but after this she was basically pushed into relative obscurity. Books on the Civil Rights Movement don’t even index her or discuss how critical she was to the movement. If anything, we can see how art and activism can come together to provide a platform for an artist.

Matt DiCintio holds a PhD in Drama from Tufts. He works at Boston University and teaches at Emerson College.
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Award-winning actor
Full Circle Theater Core Artist
Featured Cast member &
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Christina Ham’s plays have been developed and produced both nationally and internationally with the Kennedy Center, The Guthrie Theater, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Goodman Theater, Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, SteppingStone Theatre, Arielle Tepper Madover off-Broadway at Theater Row with the Summer Play Festival, and the Tokyo International Arts Festival among others. Her play *Four Little Girls* was directed by Phylicia Rashad at the Kennedy Center to a sold-out audience to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. It was simultaneously presented and/or produced in 47 states across the country on the same day with Condoleezza Rice and Eric Holder conducting the talk back in Birmingham. Christina is a two-time recipient of a McKnight Fellowship for Playwrights and a Jerome Fellowship from The Playwrights’ Center in Minneapolis, the Marianne Murphy Women & Philanthropy Award in Playwriting, and a MacDowell Colony Residency. She has received commissions from The Guthrie Theater, SteppingStone Theatre, and Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation among many others. Her plays are published by Dramatic Publishing, Heinemann, PlayScripts, Inc., and Smith and Kraus. A graduate of the University of Southern California with an M.F.A. in Playwriting from The UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television, Christina is a Core Writer at The Playwrights’ Center, a former member playwright of the Workhaus Collective, and The Dramatists Guild of America. She is currently the Resident Playwright at Pillsbury House Theatre. www.christinaham.com
JAMILA ANDERSON*
Sephronia
Park Square Romeo and Juliet Representative Theatre
Guthrie Theater/ Pillsbury House Theatre:
Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet; Pillsbury House Theatre: Angels in America: Parts I and II; Penumbra Theatre: By the Way, Meet Vera Stark; Mixed Blood Theatre: An Octoroon; History Theatre: These Shining Lives; Children’s Theatre Company: Grimm Tales Film Strange As Angels; The Just (short film featuring Michael Madsen) Training B.A., Theatre Arts, University of MN by way of Prairie View A&M University, TX Awards Ivey Award for Best Ensemble, 2015; PV Choice Award for Best Actress, PVAMU; Jane Enroth Undergraduate Actress Award for Most Outstanding Contribution, University of MN Upcoming Projects Producer and Director of #RRRiots at Phoenix Theater (Arts Nest)

AIMEE K. BRYANT*
Sarah AKA Auntie

SANFORD MOORE
Sam
see bio on page 13

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theatre for you. (yes you.)"
TRACI ALLEN SHANNON*
Sweet Thing
Park Square Nina Simone: Four Women, Stick Fly Representative
Theatre National Tour: The Color Purple; Children’s Theatre Company: Wizard of Oz; Pillsbury House Theatre: the road weeps the well runs dry; Theater Latté Da: Aida; Ordway: Cinderella; Theatre at the Center: Footloose; Cortland Repertory Theatre: Once on This Island Training
B.F.A., Theatre Arts, Howard University

REGINA MARIE WILLIAMS*
Nina Simone AKA Peaches
Park Square Nina Simone: Four Women, The Color Purple, Doubt, Gee’s Bend, Constant Star Representative Theatre
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Sister Act; Guthrie Theater: A Christmas Carol, To Kill a Mockingbird, Othello; Ordway: Damn Yankees; Ten Thousand Things: Romeo & Juliet, Doubt; Pillsbury House Theatre: Scapegoat, Death Tax, the road weeps...; Mixed Blood Theatre: Barbecue, Next to Normal; Capri Theater: Nina...I Put a Spell on You, Eartha...the Whole Kitt & Kaboodle Awards Ivey Award Recipient (Mixed Blood Theatre Ruined); Helen Hayes Nominee (Roundhouse/Penumbra Co-production); McKnight Theater Artist Award; MSAB Community Partnership Grant 2017 with Hennepin Theatre Trust Other Solo Recordings: When A Woman Loves A Man; Feel The Spirit...Spirituals, Gospels, and Hymns; Regina is...Songs of Dinah Washington; Proud Penumbra Theatre Company Member Upcoming Projects Guthrie Theater: The Bluest Eye; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Sister Act
FAYE M. PRICE
Director

Park Square Nina Simone: Four Women; (as Actress) Well, Boesman and Lena,
Standing on My Knees

Representative Theatre Pillsbury House Theatre: Co-Artistic Producing Director since 2000 – plays include Scapegoat, The Children, The Brother/Sister Plays, Buzzer, No Child, Hot Comb, River See, Jomama Jones; Guthrie Theater: Production Dramaturg 1996-2000; (as Actress) Penumbra Theatre Company member: The Amen Corner, Zooman and the Sign, Three Ways Home, Jar the Floor, Circle in the Square: From the Mississippi Delta; Baltimore Center Stage: Police Boys; Mixed Blood Theatre: A...My Name Is Alice; Pillsbury House Theatre: The Story; Boesman and Lena; Bel Canto TV/Film Law and Order Training M.A., Theatre Arts (Dramaturgy and Literary Criticism), University of Minnesota Awards/Other First recipient of August Wilson Fellowship in Dramaturgy and Literary Criticism, Sally Ordway Irvine Award, Catherine Lealtad Service to Society Award from Macalester College

TREVOR D. BOWEN
Costume Designer


Representative Theatre Theater Latté Da: Lullaby; Mixed Blood Theatre: Charm, DJ Latinindad’s Dance Party; History Theatre: George Bonga: Black Voyageur; Pillsbury House Theatre: Scapegoat, Bright Half Life; Ten Thousand Things: Henry IV Part I; Guthrie Theater: Choir Boy Macalester College: The Glass Menagerie Training

M.F.A. West Virginia University

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LANCE BROCKMAN
Scenic Designer

Park Square A Raisin in the Sun, Nina Simone: Four Women, My Children! My Africa!, Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders, Red

Representative Theatre Penumbra Theatre: numerous productions including By the Way, Meet Vera Stark; Black Nativity; Minnesota Centennial Showboat: numerous productions Training B.A./M.S., Kansas State Teachers College Awards/Other Twin City Scenic Collection and Theatre of the Fraternity Exhibits of historic scenic art sketches
PATRICIA BROWN
Dance Choreographer
**Park Square** Nina Simone: Four Women
**Representative Theatre** Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College: *The Clean House, Life’s Journey*; Pillsbury House Theatre: *Brother/Sister Trilogy*; History Theatre: Adrift on the Mississippi; Ten Thousand Things: *The Island*; Penumbra Theatre: Children of the Buffalo Soldiers, A Raisin in the Sun
**Training** Faculty, Theatre Arts and Dance, African-based Movement, University of Minnesota; Faculty, Theatre and Dance, African-based Movement, Macalester College

**Awards/Other**
2013 Ivey Award, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre: *Between the Worlds*; 2013 Sage Award Nominee: Outstanding Dance Educator; 2004 Distinguished Teaching Award: University of MN

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JACOB M. DAVIS
Sound Designer
**Park Square** Flower Drum Song, The Soul of Gershwin, Love Person, Nina Simone: Four Women
**Representative Theatre** Theater Latté Da: Sweeney Todd; Nimbus Theatre: The Kalevala; Theatre Pro Rata: Beauty Queen of Leenane; Tedious Brief Productions: Meed Hall; Gremlin Theatre: Sea Marks; Minneapolis Musical Theater: Big River

**Training** M.F.A., Sound Design, California Institute of the Arts; B.F.A., Theatre Design, University of Minnesota

**Duluth** Awards/Other
Professional Member: Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association; Company Member: Theatre Pro Rata; Member: United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829

**Upcoming Projects**
Theatre Pro Rata: Goodbye, Cruel World
ELIZABETH R. MacNALLY*
Stage Manager
Park Square Nina Simone: Four Women; 2 Sugars, Room for Cream; The Left Hand Singing
Representative Theatre Pillsbury House Theatre: The Children; Scapegoat; Bright Half Life; Prep; The Gospel of Lovingkindness; Gidion’s Knot; Marcus, or the Secret of Sweet; the road weeps, the well runs dry; The Brothers Size; Buzzer; Bug; Jungle Theater: Next Fall; Orange Flower Water; Recent Tragic Events; Guthrie Theater: 9 Parts of Desire; Caroline or Change; A Streetcar Named Desire; Sharon Bridgforth Productions: River See (Minneapolis, Chicago and Boston) Training B.F.A., Rockford College

SANFORD MOORE
Music Director
Park Square Nina Simone: Four Women, Hot Chocolate Representative Theatre Penumbra Theatre: By the Way, Meet Vera Stark; The Ballad of Emmet Till; The Amen Corner; Come on Children Let’s Sing: an Evening with Mahalia Jackson; I Wish You Love; Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom; Black Pearl Sings; Black Nativity; Ain’t Misbehavin’; Get Ready; Dinah Was; Threads Dance Company: Composer for Warriors of Light; Guthrie Theater: The Parchman Hour, Digraced, To Kill a Mockingbird, Choir Boy, Crowns, Dream on Monkey Mountain (directed by Bill T. Jones), Triumph of Love, As You Like It; Mixed Blood Theatre: Two Queens, One Castle; Black Belts I, II and III, featuring Jevetta Steele; Illusion Theater: Blues in the Night, Co-creator of Always and Forever; The Lab Theater: Co-creator of When a Man Loves a Diva Other As Founder, Director and Arranger for the award-winning vocal jazz ensemble Moore by Four, Mr. Moore has traveled extensively with his ensemble doing concerts and workshops in the U.S., Europe and Japan and has shared the stage with notable jazz artists Bobby McFerrin, Harry Connick, Jr., the late Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughan, Dizzy Gillespie and Carmen McRae. He has also served as Pianist for Hannibal Lokumbe’s world premiere of the choral work The Spirit of Being, commissioned and performed by VocalEssence; Adjunct Professor at the U of M School of Music conducting the Gospel Choir; and Minister of Music for Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Minneapolis. Upcoming Projects Penumbra Theatre: Girl Shakes Loose
**Production Staff & Crew**

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Jaya Robillard

**Wardrobe Supervisor:** Clara Cavins-Wolford

**Production Director:** Rob Jensen

**Technical Director:** Ian Stoutenburgh

**Paint Charge:** Mary Montgomery-Jensen

**Master Carpenter:** William Bankhead

**Master Electrician:** Brent Anderson

**Sound Supervisor:** Charlotte Deranek

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**MICHAEL WANGEN**  
Lighting Designer  
*Park Square*  
*Nina Simone: Four Women*  
*Representative Theatre*  
*Jungle Theater: Night at Olympus*  
*History Theatre: George Bonga, Black Voyageur*  
*Pillsbury House Theatre: The Gospel of Lovingkindness*  
*Marin Theatre Co.: Gem of the Ocean*  
*Transatlantic Love Affair: Emilie/Eurydice*  
*Illusion Theater: For the Loyal*  
*TV/Film A Prairie Home Companion,*  
*Stage Lighting Supervisor*  
*Equity Awards 2012-2013 McKnight Theater Artists Fellowship*  
*Upcoming Projects*  
*Transatlantic Love Affair: Promise Land*  
*Illusion Theater: Miranda*  
*Frank Theatre: Citizen*

**SADIE WARD**  
Properties Designer  
*Park Square*  
*A Raisin in the Sun; Nina Simone: Four Women; Murder for Two; The Other Place; 2 Sugars, Room for Cream; 33 Variations; Behind the Eye; Of Mice and Men*  
*Representative Theatre*  
*Theatre in the Round, The Phipps Center for the Arts, Lyric Arts, Theatre Unbound, Theatre Pro Rata*  
*Training B.A., Theatre Studies; B.F.A., Arts Administration*

**Other**  
Human Resources Generalist at the Guthrie

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* in-kind gift

Individual support was received between 9.1.2015 and 8.31.2016. Please help keep our records correct by contacting us with any changes or oversights. Contact Rachel Bentley at 651.767.8483 or bentley@parksquaretheatre.org
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Park Square Theatre
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Tuesday – Friday:
12:00 – 5:00pm & 6:30 – 8:00pm (performance days only)
12:00 – 5:00pm (non-performance days)
Saturday: 2:00 – 8:00pm* (performance days only)
*For Sat matinees, ticket office & phones open at 12:30pm
Sunday: 1:00 – 3:30pm (performance days only)

Proscenium Stage seats 348. Andy Boss Thrust Stage seats 203. The Historic Hamm Building is smoke-free. Latecomers are seated at the discretion of the House Manager. Restrooms and water fountains on main floor and lower level. Cameras/audio/video equipment and laser pointers prohibited.
The 2017–2018 season includes these two great shows plus many more!

**Amy’s View**

By David Hare; Directed by Gary Gisselman

Everyone has a different view. Amy’s view is that love conquers all. In 1979 Amy visits her mother, actress Esme Allen, with a big favor to ask and a brash new boyfriend in tow. When the pair meet, Amy will find the views she holds dear are painfully tested as she has to decide what’s worth fighting for. Twin Cities’ favorites Tracey Maloney and Linda Kelsey play Amy and her mother, a grande dame of the London stage in this don’t-miss drama!

MAY 12 – JUN 4

**Cardboard Piano**

Jan 19 – Feb 18, 2018

By Hansol Jung / Midwest Premiere / Drama / Andy Boss Thrust Stage

A powerful examination of the human capacity for violence, love and forgiveness.

See the complete 2017-2018 season listing online.

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