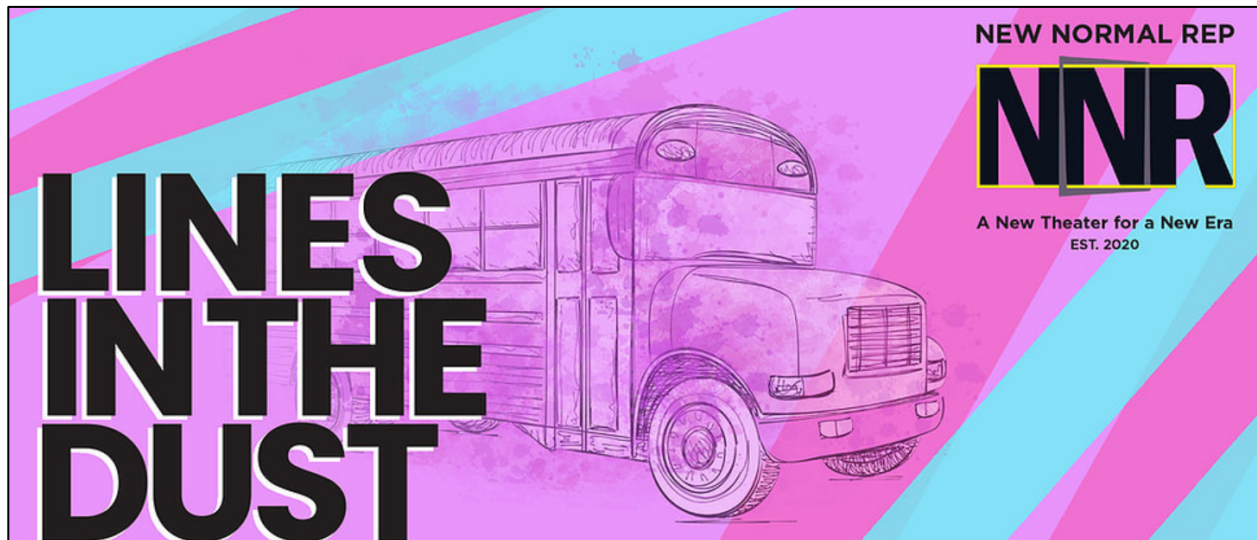


June 8, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEPress contact for the NNR: Keith Sherman & Associates: (212) 764-7900, keith@ksa-pr.com**NEW NORMAL REP PRESENTS A NEW STREAMING PRODUCTION BY
PULITZER PRIZE-NOMINATED & OBIE AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT NIKKOLE SALTER****TICKETS ON SALE NOW – STREAMING AT NewNormalRep.org BEGINS JULY 8**

ADVANCE STREAMING FOR REVIEW: A review link, for press only, will be available to journalists by July 1.

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ACCESS PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS & VIDEO: NewNormalRep.org/pressARRANGE FOR INTERVIEWS WITH PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: Contact Keith Sherman & Associates, keith@ksa-pr.com. NewNormalRep.org [@NewNormalRep](https://www.facebook.com/NewNormalRep) [@NormalRep](https://twitter.com/NormalRep) [@NewNormalRep](https://www.instagram.com/NewNormalRep)

NNR - New Normal Rep (Jack Canfora, Artistic Director; Sally Klingenstein-Martell, Executive Producer), the new streaming theater company dedicated to producing reflective and inclusive plays, continues its inaugural season with ***Lines in the Dust***, by Pulitzer Prize-nominated and Obie Award-winning playwright **Nikkole Salter** (*In the Continuum*, *Carnaval*). Streaming on demand July 8 through August 8 at NewNormalRep.org, tickets for ***Lines in the Dust*** are \$25, \$10 for students, educators and theater professionals, and can be purchased at NewNormalRep.org.

Awoye Timpo (*The Loophole* at The Public Theater) directs a cast including **Jeffrey Bean** (*Amadeus* on Broadway), **Melissa Joyner** (*Maids Door* off-Broadway, the FX Original Series “Mrs. America”), and **Lisa Rosetta Strum** (*She Gon’ Learn* at the Emerging Artist Theatre Festival at TADA!, and United Solo Festival on Theatre Row).

2010, Essex County, NJ. When Denitra loses the charter school lottery for her daughter, she must find another way to escape from their underperforming neighborhood school. The answer seems like a risk well worth taking, but may end up requiring a bigger sacrifice than she ever could have imagined. Set over a half-century after Brown Versus The Board of Education, ***Lines in the Dust*** questions how far we’ve come and more importantly, where we go from here.

Lines in the Dust was commissioned by and received its world premiere at Luna Stage in 2014.

New Normal Rep's production of ***Lines in the Dust*** features costume design by **Qween Jean**, multi-media design by **Afsoon Pajoufar**, sound design by **Stan Mathabane**, and original music by **Alphonso Horne**.

Playwright Nikkole Salter says "This play is about belonging. Who belongs where, and who has access? I was inspired by the intersection between the institution of education, the role that it plays in the American Dream, segregation, housing, and economic mobility. All of these issues are a part of the American conversation, yet have not made it to the forefront of our storytelling. We all need to challenge ourselves and recognize our own roles in these long-standing dynamics. What would it look like to invest in every child as if every child could be the steward of your future?"

[NNR, New Normal Rep](#) exists not in spite of the pandemic, but because of it. Dedicated to presenting new and lesser known plays, via the internet, [NNR](#) will present works with divergent perspectives that explore the historical, cultural, and psychological forces that have helped to shape our 21st Century lives. [NNR](#) commits to anti-racism training as well as partnership with BIPOC organizations to ensure that diversity is present in the curation of our seasons and the assembling of our companies. Above all, [NNR](#) is dedicated to producing deeply entertaining, engaging and illuminating work.

Following ***Lines in the Dust***, [NNR](#) will present **F.I.R.E.** by Julia Blauvelt. More details to come.

All [NNR](#) productions are streamed on demand and can be accessed at NewNormalRep.org.

"New Normal Rep began with casual conversations at the beginning of the pandemic and expanded into something substantive," says Jack Canfora, Artistic Director. "NNR is a theatre company for our world today. We strive to illuminate and warm, to offer eclectic stories from diverse voices that will intrigue and unite us, and so much more."

"As theater people, we always knew that our craft had value," says Jill Eikenberry, founding artist, NNR. "But since the plague has descended on us and the possibility of theater has been taken away, we have come to understand more deeply our need to tell stories and the audiences need to hear them."

"Online theater is a new medium with unique challenges, but we also believe it presents unique opportunities," says Sally Klingenstein-Martell, Executive Producer, NNR. "For too many years, high quality theater has felt out of reach financially and culturally to too many people. New Normal Rep, in a small way, aims to help in bridging this disconnect by providing affordable, diverse, high quality theater to a literally limitless audience."

The New Normal Rep Board of Directors includes: Jeffrey Bean, Jack Canfora, Jill Eikenberry, Melanye Duschene Finister, Eleanor Handley, Melissa Joyner, Sally Klingenstein-Martell, Maria Gabriella Landers, John Schaeffler, Carol Todd and Carl Vorwerk.

Tickets for upcoming NNR productions are \$25, \$10 for students, educators and theater professionals, and can now be purchased at www.NewNormalRep.org. A two-play season subscription is available for \$50, and includes free access to play readings, talk backs, and bonus material.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



NIKKOLE SALTER (Playwright). Hailed by *Variety* as "thoroughly convincing", this Los Angeles-born, OBIE Award-winning actress and writer arrived onto the professional scene with her co-authorship and co-performance (with Danai Gurira) of the Pulitzer Prize nominated play, *In The Continuum* (ITC). For its Off-Broadway run at Primary Stages and the Perry Street Theatre and for its US State Department and Bloomberg sponsored international tour, Ms. Salter received an OBIE Award, and the NY Outer Critics Circle's John Gassner Award for Best New American Play, the Seldes-Kanin fellowship from the Theatre Hall of Fame, and the Global Tolerance Award from the Friends of the United Nations to name a few. Ms. Salter also received Helen Hayes and Black Theatre Alliance nominations for Best Actress for her performance. *ITC*, published by Samuel French, was pronounced - by *The New York Times*, *Newsday* and *New York Magazine* - one of the best plays of 2005 and was featured in numerous esteemed media outlets including *Essence Magazine*, *American Theatre Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Times* and NPR's Leonard Lopate Show. *ITC* has received over 20 productions across the world to date.



AWOYE TIMPO (Director). is a Director and Producer based in Brooklyn, NY. Her work has been seen on stages around the country and in Scotland and South Africa. Her New York directing credits include *The Loophole* (Public Theater), *In Old Age* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Carnaval* (National Black Theatre), *Good Grief* (Vineyard Theatre and Audible) and *The Homecoming Queen* (Atlantic Theater Company). Regionally she has directed *Pipeline* at the Studio Theatre, *Paradise Blue* at Long Wharf, *Everybody Black* at Actors Theatre of Louisville and *School Girls* Berkeley Rep. Awoye is the Founding Producer of CLASSIX, a series exploring plays by Black writers. theaclassix.org.



JEFFREY BEAN (*Michael DiMaggio, P.I.*) recently appeared Off-Broadway in Dublin Carol directed by Ciarán O'Reilly at the Irish Repertory Theatre, receiving a 2020 Drama League Award nomination for Distinguished Performance. He also appeared Off-Broadway in *The Thanksgiving Play* directed by Moritz von Stuelpnagel (Playwrights Horizons) and *About Alice*, an adaptation by Calvin Trillin of his memoir of the same title, directed by Leonard Foglia (Theatre For A New Audience). On television he can be seen on "Billions," "Lincoln Rhyme," "The Blacklist," "The Good Fight" and others. His Broadway credits include the revival of *Amadeus* directed by Sir Peter Hall and the revival of *Bells Are Ringing* directed by Tina Landau. After graduating from SMU's Meadows School of The Arts in 1989, he began his professional acting career at Houston's Alley Theatre where he was a Resident Company member for 24 seasons. At the Alley he performed in over a hundred productions, working with directors David Cromer, Pam McKinnon, Jackson Gay, Michael Wilson among others. Favorite highlights of his residency in Houston include playing Cyrano, creating the role of Isaak Babel in the world premiere of Rajiv Joseph's *Describe the Night* directed by Giovanna Sardelli, performing in *Danton's Death* directed by Robert Wilson, and performing Salieri in *Amadeus* directed by Jonathan Moscone.



Originally from North Carolina, **MELISSA JOYNER** (*Denitra Morgan*) holds an MFA in Acting from the New School for Drama. You may see her on the FX mini-series "Mrs. America", CBS Networks' "Blue Bloods," "FBI" or "Madame Secretary," and countless commercials. She is an Audelco Award Winner, Best Supporting Actress, for her performance as Betty McKay in *Maids Door*, written by Writers Guild Award winner and Emmy Award nominee Cheryl L. Davis; and directed by Jackie Alexander, Artistic Director of The North Carolina Black Repertory Company, producers of The National Black Theatre Festival. As a graduate of The New School for Drama she has studied under some of the most inspiring, respected & accomplished Playwrights, Directors, Actors and Singers in the industry.



LISA ROSETTA STRUM (*Dr. Beverly Long, Ed.D.*), a Philadelphia native, is a director, educator, actress, playwright, producer, casting director, singer, and certified wedding officiant. She received an MFA in Acting from the University of Washington in Seattle and has performed in regional theatres all across the country. Most recently she was one of the directors for the *All Hands On Deck* Virtual Reading Series with Project Y Theatre Company. She also directed *Flyin' West* and *For Colored Girls...* at Five Towns College (Region 1 Kennedy Center Award Winning Production), and Fall for the Marathon 2019 One Act Play Festival with Ensemble Studio Theatre. She starred as Rose in *Fences* with the Rep at The University of Delaware and Virginia Rep. Lisa also starred in the Michigan Premiere of Dominique Morisseau's *Pipeline* at the Detroit Public Theatre, and *Sweat at People's Light*. Her solo play, *She Gon' Learn* premiered at the Emerging Artist Theatre Festival at TADA!, followed by sold out performances at the United Solo Festival on Theatre Row in NYC where the play received one of the festival's Best Solo Show awards. The show was also featured with The New Black Fest at the Lark and had a workshop production at Jersey City Theatre Center. As an actor, Lisa worked at Lincoln Center Theatre with Tony Award winning director Thomas Kail, appeared at Summer Stage, Signature Theatre, New Federal Theatre, Intiman Theatre, The Obie Award Winning 48 Hours in...Harlem, ACT and The Fifth Avenue Theatre in Seattle. Lisa also had a recurring role on "Law & Order: SVU," co-starred on "New Amsterdam," "The Blacklist," and the television pilot "Citizen Baines" with James Cromwell from "LA Confidential."

NEW NORMAL REP

NNR

A New Theater for a New Era
EST. 2020

**LINES
IN THE
DUST**

By Pulitzer Prize Nominee and Obie Award winner Nikkole Salter

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