



**OKLAHOMA CITY  
REPERTORY THEATER**

KELLY KERWIN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PUBLIC THEATER & UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL

**PRESENTS**

**OTTO FRANK**

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH  
LIVE SOUND DESIGN BY MARC ANTHONY THOMPSON

JANUARY 27-28, 2023  
TE ATA THEATER  
OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

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Creator  
**ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH**

Live Sound Design  
**MARC ANTHONY THOMPSON**

Scenic and Lighting Design  
**KIRK WILSON**

Dramaturg  
**ROSIE GLEN-LAMBERT**

Presented in Association with  
**LUNA RAY MEDIA**

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This presentation is part of The Public Theater's Under the Radar: On the Road.

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# FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Welcome to *Otto Frank*, created and performed by Roger Guenveur Smith. Roger is one of the foremost solo performers working in the theater today. His interest in history has pushed this form into a space where poetry, biography, and the spirits of those lost all meet. He has previously excavated the memories of Rodney King, Huey P. Newton, and Frederick Douglass in solo performances that toured the world. It was during one of these tours when he visited the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and was inspired to make this piece. I am thrilled to be presenting his latest work, an introspective meditation on Anne Frank's father—*Otto Frank*.

In this hour-long performance, Roger breathes life into *Otto Frank*, a bereaved father and the guardian of a legacy. Roger portrays Otto as an omniscient narrator who takes us from the tiny hiding space in Amsterdam to our present moment. Otto memorializes the past while he struggles to make sense of what comes next.

This is our second time partnering with The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival—the United States' premiere festival of new and international theater. The Public Theater and OKC Rep share a common goal: to support artists who are redefining the act of making theater. I'm thrilled to have Roger here, along with scenic/lighting designer Kirk Wilson, and Roger's co-collaborator for over three decades: Marc Anthony Thompson, sound designer and composer. These three artists have created something unique and poignant that fits elegantly in this year's season, dubbed *This is Theater*.

We are in a time where hate and violence are on the rise in an alarming way—2021 was the highest year on record for documented reports of antisemitic acts (since the Anti-Defamation League began recording them in 1979). *Otto Frank* is a beautifully simple work of theater, yet in this simplicity exists a palpable sense of urgency about our current age. I hope this work will be an affecting way for you to remember a history that we must never forget and a way to look forward with hope and drive. How can we as a city find more paths towards tolerance, acceptance, inclusion, and perhaps love?

I hope to see you all at *Superstitions*, our next production—a comedy! This world premiere play, by Emily Zemba, will be our penultimate piece this season, and it features an ensemble cast, some retina-burning design moments, and a darkly absurd exploration of our own collective anxiety.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Kerwin".

Kelly Kerwin  
**Artistic Director**

A grayscale background image showing a group of people in a social setting, possibly a studio or cafe. They are engaged in conversation and some are holding drinks. The image is slightly faded to serve as a background for the text.

**Come for the theater, stay for the company!**

Please join us in the adjacent studio following this performance  
for casual convos, revelry, and sweets.

Refreshments provided by

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# ABOUT THE ARTIST

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**ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH (CREATOR)** adapted his Obie Award-winning *A Huey P Newton Story* into a Peabody Award-winning telefilm, currently streaming on Hulu. His Bessie Award-winning *Rodney King* is currently on Netflix. Both *Newton* and *King* were presented at The Public Theater, scored by Marc Anthony Thompson, and directed for the screen by Mr. Smith's longtime colleague, Spike Lee. Smith and Thompson have also collaborated at the Public on *The Hendrix Project*, *Juan and John*, *Frederick Douglass Now*, *Iceland*, and *Christopher Columbus 1992*, as well as *The Watts Towers Project*, *Two Fires*, *Who Killed Bob Marley?*, and *Portrait of Charles White*.

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# PRODUCTION STAFF

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Production Manager ..... **DAVID PILCHMAN**  
Electrics Programmer/Board Operator ..... **CLARA WIEBE**  
A1/Run Crew ..... **TYLER SWIM**  
Stagehand ..... **DILLON BERTHOLF**  
Stagehand ..... **SHAE CHAKRABORTY**  
Stagehand ..... **DALEN ENEVOLDSEN**  
Stagehand ..... **ASHLEY MANDANAS**

Thanks to the entire OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER STAFF, especially:

Chairman ..... **CHRISTIAN KEESEE**  
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## SPECIAL THANKS:

Toast & Coffee, Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City, OU Hillel, The Respect Diversity Foundation, The Public Theater Staff & Under the Radar Team (big love to Mark Russell & Jon Grenay), and Emily Zemba

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# PRESENTING PARTNERS

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**OKLAHOMA CITY REPERTORY THEATER** is dedicated to championing new ways of making theater, supporting innovative artists, and growing the cultural ecology of Oklahoma City. OKC Rep's mission and values are intrinsic to our programming, staffing, and the culture we establish with our audiences, staff, and artists. It is our commitment that OKC Rep is not only responsible for producing and presenting impactful theater in Oklahoma City, but will perpetuate crucial values of equity, inclusion, diversity, sustainability, authenticity, and acceptance in our city. Learn more at [okcrep.org](http://okcrep.org), on Instagram (@okcreptheater), and Facebook (@okcrep).

**THE PUBLIC THEATER** was conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters. The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Since premiering *HAIR* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and upcoming with *Fat Ham* by the Pulitzer Prize winner James Ijames. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 60 Tony Awards, 184 Obie Awards, 56 Drama Desk Awards, 59 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 62 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonio Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes.

**UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL** has grown into a landmark of the New York City theater season and is a vital part of The Public's mission. UTR provides a high-visibility platform to support artists who are redefining the act of making theater. Widely recognized as a premier launching pad for new theater from the U.S. and abroad, UTR has presented works by such respected artists as Elevator Repair Service, Back to Back Theater, Belarus Free Theatre, Lola Arias, Ahamefule Oluo, Wang Chong, Aleshea Harris, and Touretteshero. These artists provide a snapshot of contemporary theater: richly distinct in terms of perspectives, aesthetics, and social practice, always pointing to the future of the art form.

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# OKC REP STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## STAFF

Artistic Director .....	<b>KELLY KERWIN</b>
Director of Development .....	<b>EMILY COMISAR</b>
General Manager .....	<b>JERICHA BICKELL</b>
Production Manager .....	<b>DAVID PILCHMAN</b>
Associate Producer .....	<b>JENNY BRAND</b>

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**Kelly Kerwin (Artistic Director)** began her tenure as OKC Rep's Artistic Director in July 2021. She comes to OKC Rep after over four years at The Public Theater in New York, where she was the Associate Producer for the Under the Radar Festival and The Public's Devised Theater Working Group, as well as a producer for new plays and musicals including *Girl from The North Country*; *Soft Power*; *We're Only Alive for A Short Amount of Time*; *The Line*; *M'lina's Tale*; and Tony Kushner's revised *A Bright Room Called Day*. Kelly served on the artistic staff at Yale Repertory Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Atlantic Theater Company, The House Theatre of Chicago, Chicago's Collaboration, and she was the Co-Artistic Director for the Yale Cabaret's 46th Season. She also worked to establish Chicago's Salonathon, a weekly series specializing in underground performance. She's currently a Lecturer in Dramaturgy/Dramatic Criticism at David Geffen School of Drama at Yale University (formerly Yale School of Drama). Kelly holds a BFA from the Theatre School at DePaul University and an MFA in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism from the Yale School of Drama.

**Emily Comisar (Director of Development)** joined OKC Rep in September 2022. Most recently, she worked at Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma as the Development Associate. Emily moved to OKC in March 2020 from NYC where she spent four years as a Consultant for the fundraising firm Donorly, working with clients such as MCC Theater, The Little Orchestra Society, and Ensemble Studio Theatre. Outside of her fundraising life, Emily has spent many years as a playwright and independent producer. She served as the General & Company Manager for the world premiere *The View Upstairs*, the General Manager for Lone Star Theatre Company, and has produced in festivals including FringeNYC, SheNYC, and the Game Play Festival. Emily holds an MFA in Theatre Management & Producing from Columbia University, an MA from Middlebury College in Italian, and a BA from Northwestern University in Performance Studies.

**Jericha Bickell (General Manager)** Her professional background includes over a decade of operational and administrative experience in the performing arts and events management in Oklahoma. Her previous experience includes working as Event Coordinator with ASM Global – OKC (Paycom Center/Cox Convention Center) and Account & Budget Representative for the University of Oklahoma's Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts. Jericha holds a BA in Communication from the University of Oklahoma. Jericha is a proud Oklahomie and resides in OKC with her husband, Kevin, and their 4 kids.

**David Pilchman (Production Manager)** is a Stage Manager and Production Manager based in OKC. For the last two years, he was the Technical and Production Manager for Oklahoma Contemporary, working with local organizations such as Oklahoma Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, OKC Ballet, Painted Sky Opera, RACE Dance, SPARK! Creative Lab, and OKC Rep. Prior to moving back to OKC in 2020, David worked on new productions in NYC such as *The View Upstairs*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, Mike Birbiglia's *Thank God For Jokes*, and *Clinton the Musical*. Thanks to everyone creating theater in his hometown.

**Jenny Brand (Associate Producer)** has been organizing theater since the age of 16 when she lived in the Netherlands. Since graduating from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Jenny has worked extensively in both the UK and US, including National Youth Music Theatre (UK), European Union Youth Orchestra (UK), Children's Theatre Company (MN), Twin Cities Horror Festival (MN), Revolutions International Theatre Festival (NM), and California International Theatre Festival as their executive producer. Locally, she currently works with OKC Rep, Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma, and Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, and is the executive director of Theatre Crude ([theatrecrude.org](http://theatrecrude.org)).



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# NEXT AT OKC REP

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**SUPERSTITIONS | February 23 - March 5, 2023**

WORLD PREMIERE

Written by **EMILY ZEMBA**

Directed by **KELLY KERWIN**

A foreigner finds a "lucky" penny on the ground. When he offers it to the pleasantly anxious stranger sitting next him, it sparks an absurd and startling conversation about superstitions and American bad luck. What follows is an off-kilter day in the life of 8 strangers as their lives intersect in comical and bizarre ways. Superstitions is a revolving-door of missed connections, funny misunderstandings, and ridiculous monsters that spring to life before our eyes.



**Tickets on sale now!**

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# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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**Our final show of the season!**

**THE BROTHERS SIZE | April 27 - May 7, 2023**

OKLAHOMA PREMIERE

Written by **Tarell Alvin McCraney**

In the Louisiana bayou, big brother Ogun Size is hardworking and steady. Younger brother Oshoosi is just out of prison and aimless. Elegba, Oshoosi's old prison-mate, is a mysterious complication. Flights of poetry, music, dance and West African mythology combine in a contemporary tale that explores the tenuousness of freedom and the need to belong somewhere, to something, to someone.

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# THANK YOU!

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Oklahoma City Repertory Theater is grateful to the supporters whose valuable contributions make our work possible. Thank you for helping us get here.

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OKC Rep's mission is to bring meaningful, high-quality theater to OKC while keeping ticket prices accessible to all. There are many ways to be a supporter of OKC Rep. To learn more, contact Development Director Emily Comisar at [Emily@OKCRep.org](mailto:Emily@OKCRep.org).



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Installation view of *Fugitive Speech*. Photo: Ann Sherman

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