



1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343 • [www.stagestheatre.org](http://www.stagestheatre.org) • Box Office: (952) 979-1111

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **A Hidden History Comes to Life with *Hidden Heroes: The Black Women of NASA* at Stages Theatre Company**

**HOPKINS, Minn., Apr. 5, 2019**— Stages Theatre Company (STC) is excited to bring to stage the inspiring story of the young girls who grew up to become of the Black Women of NASA! **Hidden Heroes** is based on the book **Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA** by Sue Bradford Edwards and Duchess Harris, whose grandmother was in the group of the first 11 black women recruited to work at NASA. The production takes audiences on a journey capturing the young girls' brilliance, creativity, and imagination as they break barriers, accomplish the impossible, and become the courageous women who created opportunities that have influenced the industry of space exploration, mathematics & engineering. The world-premiere production will run in our Jaycee Studio from April 26 through May 19, 2019

**Hidden Heroes** is approximately 70 minutes with no intermission and is best enjoyed by children ages 7+. **Tickets are on sale now!** Visit [www.stagestheatre.org](http://www.stagestheatre.org) for specific performance dates and times or call the Box Office Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6 pm at (952) 979-1111, option 4. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$14 for seniors, ages 60+ and children.

Adapted to stage by playwright Shá Cage & directed by Signe V. Harriday, **Hidden Heroes** encourages the audiences to dream big and imagine the unimaginable. "Centering the stories, voices, and experiences of Black women is part of what excites me about directing this production", said Signe V. Harriday, Director. "Making unabashed space to create, play, and embody the fullness of ourselves is a healing journey and one I believe will touch the hearts of our audiences. Seeing reflections of ourselves in the brilliance and magic of our elders and

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ancestors is in part what this play and production is all about. Hearing and experiencing these dynamic stories helps us all see our interconnectedness and I hope inspires our audiences to dream.”

**Hidden Heroes** is based on the book **Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA** by Sue Bradford Edwards and Duchess Harris, which discusses how in the 1950s, black women made critical contributions to NASA by performing calculations that made it possible for the nation’s astronauts to fly into space and return safely to Earth. “It is such an honor to bring Duchess Harris & Sue Bradford Edwards’ amazing book to life for our audiences,” stated Sandy Boren-Barrett, Stages Theatre Company Artistic Director. “My hope is that this production sparks the imagination of our audience and inspires them to believe they can do anything!”

**Hidden Heroes** publicity images and cast head shots available for download here:  
<http://bit.ly/STC-HiddenHeroes>

## ABOUT THE CAST AND CREW

The cast for **Hidden Heroes: The Black Women of NASA** features:

Celia Birgy (Katharine)	Sadie Nelson (Ensemble)
Lynnea Doublette (Ella)	Alyra Nicholson (Ensemble)
Johannah Easley (Teacher)	Jamela Pettiford (Big Grand)
Natavia Griffin (Miriam)	Lilie Rankin (Mary)
Saniya Long (Annie)	Arianna Sanford (Ensemble)
Kennedy Lucas (Christine)	

The Creative & Production Team includes:

<b>Artistic Director:</b> Sandy Boren-Barrett	<b>Lighting Designer:</b> Soren Olsen
<b>Director:</b> Signe V. Harriday	<b>Technical Director:</b> Alan Pagel
<b>Playwright:</b> Shà Cage	<b>Props Designer:</b> Holly Peterson
<b>Costume &amp; Make Up Designer:</b> Samantha Fromm Haddow	<b>Stage Manager:</b> Bridget Gustafson
<b>Set Designer:</b> Jim Hibbeler	<b>Assistant Stage Manager:</b> Joya Horne
<b>Sound &amp; Video Design:</b> Peter Morrow	<b>Design Fellow:</b> Maxwell Collyard

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*Stages Theatre Company was founded in 1984 and since then has grown to become one of the largest professional theatres for young audiences in the country. We engage young artists with themes relevant to their lives and involve them in creating magical works featuring young people in meaningful roles. Through on-stage productions, education programs and other outreach opportunities, Stages Theatre Company annually serves more than 150,000 young people and their families. For more information visit [stagestheatre.org](http://stagestheatre.org)*

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Stages Theatre Company is dedicated to creating a space where diverse opinions, courageous dialogue, and local, national, and international community engagement is not only valued, but vital to our shared artistic and educational success. We make this pledge in hope of curating a welcome home for all.

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