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Twilight Los Angeles, 1992

Anna Deaveare Smith

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DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

TWILIGHT
LOS ANGELES, 1992

A performance based on excerpts from
ANNA DEAVERE SMITH'S TWILIGHT LOS ANGELES, 1992

KULAS AUDITORIUM

April 7 & 8 at 8pm
April 14 & 15 at 8pm
April 16 at 2pm

20700 North Park Blvd., University Hts, OH 44118
Twilight Los Angeles, 1992 is a play in the anthology I use for my Introduction to Theatre class. For over a year now, it has been required reading for my students in that class, and several of them also have done group presentations and research on the play. It is the one play of the semester that really grabs the students’ interest, since they all remember and were affected by seeing the violence in L.A. on TV when they were kids. The playwright, Anna Deavere Smith, interviewed 200 people who in some way were affected by or involved in the civil disturbances in Los Angeles that followed the acquittal of the four LAPD officers whose beating of Rodney “Glen” King was captured on that famous video. Smith then performed twenty-five or so of the fifty interviews that she published. Smith, herself an African-American woman, played 25 or so characters who were men and women, white, African-American, Latino and Asian or Asian-American, wealthy, middle class and poor, in a remarkable tour de force solo performance. In this production, I wanted to cast as many interested students as possible. So instead, our production is an ensemble performance featuring the poet and performer Storm E, along with a diverse cast of John Carroll University students. Working on this show has been a wonderful experience for me. I feel blessed in having such an enthusiastic and gifted cast, an assistant director, Tara Moore, whose staging and
Timeline of Events
March, 1991 to October, 1993

March 3, 1991: Los Angeles Police officers beat, subdue, and arrest Rodney G. King. George Holliday, a resident in a nearby apartment, captures the beating on videotape and distributes it to CNN and other stations. It is soon seen around the world.

March 7, 1991: King is released after the district attorney’s office announces there is not enough evidence to file criminal charges.

March 15, 1991: Four Los Angeles police officers—Sergeant Stacey C. Koon and officers Laurence M. Powell, Timothy E. Wind and Theodore J. Briseno—are arraigned on felony charges stemmed from the King beating. On March 26, they plead not guilty.

April 1, 1991: In response to the King beating, Mayor Tom Bradley appoints a commission, headed by former deputy secretary of state Warren Christopher, to investigate the Los Angeles Police Department.


November 26, 1991: Judge Stanley M. Weisberg chooses Simi Valley in neighboring Ventura County as the new venue for the trial of the officers charged in the King beating.

March 4, 1992: Opening arguments begin in the King trial. None of the twelve jurors is African-American.

April 29, 1992: The jury returns not-guilty verdicts on all charges except one count of excessive force against Officer Powell; a mistrial is declared on that count alone. The verdict is carried
collaboration were crucial to the success of this production, a stage manager, Bonnie Brunelle, whose calm competence is an inspiration to me, and terrific designers and crew. All of these people displayed a total commitment to this script that was evident from the first day of auditions through production meetings to these performances that you are witnessing. They make me look very good and I am very grateful. I think that this script is most powerful in how it portrays ordinary people reflecting upon urban conditions that are ignored, and, most especially, the isolation that occurs among races, classes and ethnic groups in U.S. cities like Los Angeles, Cleveland and many others. It is this isolation—which breeds the hostile, fearful, angry and unexamined assumptions about “Them,” to quote the Hollywood Agent—that is the real villain in this play. To close, I’d like to quote from two characters whose wisdom has inspired everyone working on this play:

“... in order for me to be a true human being, I can’t forever dwell in darkness, I can’t forever dwell in the idea of just identifying with people like me and understanding me and mine.”

—Twilight Bey

“You gotta look at history, baby, you gotta look at history.”

—Allen Cooper, a.k.a. Big Al
May 8, 1992: Federal troops begin to pull out from Los Angeles. The Crips and the Bloods (the two major gangs in Los Angeles) announce plans for a truce.

May 16, 1992: Led by mayors of many of the nation’s largest cities, tens of thousands of protesters demonstrate in the nation’s capital demanding billions of federal dollars in vast urban aid.

September 24, 1992: Mayor Tom Bradley announces that he will not seek re-election the following June.

February 3, 1993: The federal civil rights trial against the four police officers begins.

April 17, 1993: The verdicts are returned in the federal King civil rights trial. Officers Briseno and Wind are acquitted. Officer Powell and Sergeant Koon are found guilty of violating Rodney King’s civil rights. On August 4, Powell and Koon are each sentenced to thirty-month prison terms.

August 19, 1993: The Reginald Denny beating trial begins in Los Angeles. Damian Williams and Henry K. Watson are charged with a list of crimes including attempted murder of Reginald Denny and others in South Central near the corners of Florence and Normandie.

October 18, 1993: Damian Williams and Henry K. Watson are acquitted of many of the counts against them.

December 7, 1993: Damian Williams sentenced to a maximum of ten years in prison for attacks on Reginald Denny.

--Excerpted from the Center Theatre Group/Mark Taper Forum program.
live on television. Over two thousand people gather for a peaceful rally at First African Methodist Episcopal Church in South-Central Los Angeles. Violence erupts. Police dispatches relay reports of head wounds, vandalism, and burglary in an ever-widening radius. Reginald Denny is yanked from his truck cab and beaten unconscious at the intersection of Florence and Normandie; the incident is captured on video. Mayor Bradley declares a local emergency. Governor Pete Wilson calls out the National Guard. Fires break out over twenty-five blocks of central Los Angeles.

April 30, 1992: Bradley imposes a curfew for the entire city, restricts the sale of gasoline, and bans the sale of ammunition. The Justice Department announces it will resume an investigation into possible civil rights violations in the King beating. Retail outlets are looted and/or burned in South Los Angeles, Koreatown, Hollywood, Mid-Wilshire, Watts, Westwood, Beverly Hills, Compton, Culver City, Hawthorne, Long Beach, Norwalk and Pomona.

May 2, 1992: Clean-up crews hit the streets and volunteers truck food and clothing into the hardest hit neighborhoods. Thirty thousand people march through Koreatown in support of beleaguered merchants, calling for peace between Korean-Americans and blacks. Mayor Bradley appoints Peter Ueberroth to head the Rebuild LA effort. President Bush declares Los Angeles a disaster area.

May 3, 1992: The Los Angeles Times reports 58 deaths; 2,383 injuries, more than 7,000 fire responses; 12,111 arrests; 3,100 businesses damaged. Twenty to forty thousand people have been put out of work because their places of business were looted or burned. In violation of long-standing policy, LAPD officers cooperate with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and begin arresting illegal immigrants suspected of riot-related crimes. Suspects are turned over to the INS for probable deportation.
Act 1 Scenes

1. Indelible Substance –
Josie Morales, Clerk-Typist, City of Los Angeles, Uncalled Witness to Rodney King Beating, Simi Valley Trial

2. The Unheard
Maxine Waters, Congresswoman, 35th District

3. Your Heads In Shame –
Anonymous Man, Juror in Simi Valley Trial

4. Carmen
Angela King, Aunt of Rodney King

5. These Curious People
Stanley K. Sheinbaum, Former Angeles Police Commission

6. Lightning But No Rain
Theresa Allison, Founder of “Mothers Reclaiming Our Children,” Mother of Gang Truce Architect Dewayne Holmes

7. Messages
   Tom Bradley, Former Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
   I Was Scared
   Anonymous Young Woman, Student, University of Southern California
   Hammer
   Stanley K. Sheinbaum

8. Godzilla
Anonymous Man #2, Hollywood Agent

9. Magic #2
Betye Saar, Artist

10. Don’t Shoot!
Richard Kim, Appliance Shop Owner
Act 2 Scenes

1. War Zone
Judith Tur, Ground Reporter, LA News Service

2. The Beverly Hills Hotel
Elaine Young, Real Estate Agent

3. Washington
Maxine Waters, Congresswoman, 35th District

4. Bubble Gum Machine Man
Allen Cooper, A.K.A. Big Al, Ex-Gang Member, Ex-Convict, Activist in National Truce Movement

5. When I Finally Got My Vision / Nightclothes
Michael Zinzun, Representative, Coalition Against Police Abuse

6. Ask Saddam Hussein
   Elaine Brown, Former Head of the Black Panther Party; Author *A Taste of Power*
   
   A Jungian Collective Unconscious
   Paula Weinstein, Movie Producer

7. A Weird Common Thread
Reginald Denny

8. I Remember Going...
Reverend Tom Choi, Minister, Westwood Presbyterian Church

9. Limbo -- Twilight #2
Twilight Bey, Organizer of Gang Truce
Cast – In Order of Appearance

Act 1

Josie Morales.......................... Sermonte Anderson
Maxine Waters ........................ Alana Roberts
Anonymous Man ........................ Russell DiTurno
Angela King ............................ Karla Taborn
Stanley K. Sheinbaum ................. Ryan Carey
Theresa Allison ........................ Bahjah Eckstein
Tom Bradley ............................ Elliot B. Edmunds
Anonymous Young Woman ............ Katie McCafferty
Stanley K. Sheinbaum ................. MaryAnna Moore
Hollywood Agent ...................... Jesse Capps
Betye Saar .............................. Holly Craider
Richard Kim ............................ Patipan Paktipatt

Act 2

Judith Tur .............................. Trisha Nord
Elaine Young ........................... Sara Lepro
Maxine Waters ........................ Alana Roberts
Allen Cooper ........................... Karla Taborn
Michael Zinzun ......................... Desmond “Storm E” Jones
Elaine Brown ........................... Sermonte Anderson
Paula Weinstein ......................... Krissy Gasbarre
Reginald Denny ......................... Jesse Capps
Rev. Tom Choi .......................... Patipan Paktipatt
Twilight Bey ............................ Charles Holmes, Jr.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Karen Gygli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Tara Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Bonnie Brunelle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Design</td>
<td>Keith Nagy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Construction</td>
<td>Michael Benson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound Design</td>
<td>Michael Benson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Board Operator</td>
<td>Moria Nagy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Design</td>
<td>Keith Nagy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighting Crew</td>
<td>Joey Humphries</td>
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<td>Master Electrician</td>
<td>Julie Ziegler</td>
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<td>Matthew McCasser</td>
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<td>Wardrobe Design</td>
<td>Rachel Abbey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wardrobe / Props</td>
<td>Amy Abdelnour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wardrobe / Make-Up</td>
<td>Lynn Gargasz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Office</td>
<td>Anne Wadowick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Manager</td>
<td>Jeannine Allee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Kat Schlenker</td>
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</tbody>
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world you may just be one person, but to one person, you may just be the world.

Russell DiTumo – Anonymous Man
This is Russell’s first production at JCU, as well as his first production period. This has been a big lesson in higher learning for him. He thanks the Pacelli B. Party-ers for their support, his crazy and loving family for giving him reason to escape the real world, and last but not least, his ten other personalities, without whom he may never have thought that he was a movie star.

Bahjah L. Eckstein – Theresa Allison
Bahjah is making her acting debut in TWILIGHT, which is perfect because she always wanted to be a “star,” and this just might lead to something. Bahjah is an education major and her ultimate goal is to become a licensed counselor. She attributes much of her success to her mother, Joyce, and her rich network of family and friends. Her motto for life is “I realize I don’t know everything, but I am capable of learning anything.”

Elliot B. Edmunds – Tom Bradley
Elliot is making his college acting debut in this show. He is a Junior Art History major here at JCU. He thanks all the people who have made the show possible.

Krissy Gasbarre – Paula Weinstein
Krissy is a sophomore communications and psychology major partaking in her second role at JCU. She was “Old Lady” in last semester’s musical SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE. Various other roles include “Vera Charles” in MAME, “Sonia” in GODSPELL, and “Miss Havisham” in GREAT EXPECTATIONS. Krissy is thrilled to be playing “Paula Weinstein” and hopes you enjoy the show and walk away with a new perspective of some kind. Thanks to her parents, grandparents, Jeff, her extended family, her friends and Matt.

Charles E. Holmes, Jr. – Twilight Bey
Charles is a sophomore Business major at JCU. This is his stage debut.
Biographies – The Cast

Sermonte Anderson – Elaine Brown, Josie Morales
Sermonte is a Sophomore Accounting Major at JCU. This is her first performance with this university, with previous acting experience through her church. She is a member of the Providence Baptist Church Mass Choir, which occasionally puts on musical plays. Sermonte recently portrayed Sojourner Truth in MY SOUL LOOKS BACK AND WONDERS HOW I GOT OVER, a production that she also danced in. Thanks to God for giving her the time and patience to be a part of this production, and she hopes to be a part of more plays here in the future.

Jesse Capps – Hollywood Agent, Reginald Denny
Jesse is a senior who will be studying and teaching in South Korea next year as a Fulbright Scholar. His short story The Toymaker was published in the Fall 1997 John Carroll Review. He pleads guilty to being a regular at “Open Mic Nite” and had performed in “Small Bricks” for three years. Before his return to school, Jesse was a welder, a postal worker and a laborer for a short time in a lumberyard working 4 o’clock to midnight. He was diagnosed with cancer in 1995 and proudly dedicates his recovery and tonight’s performance to his mother Constance who showed him the courage and the strength necessary to defeat his illness. Jesse thanks you for coming tonight: “Without you, we ain’t here!” He is a little tired of all the excitement in his life and just wants things to calm down...

Ryan Carey – Stanley K. Sheinbaum
This is Arse’s debut performance and he is very excited about it. He is also pretty damn nervous, so don’t laugh if he forgets his lines. Thanks to his parents, his kids, his brothers, his posse, his Brian, and his Kyle for sticking by him and helping him out.

Holly Craider – Betye Saar
Ms Craider, a freshman, is excited to be making her first walk across the JCU stage. She appeared in DRACULA and ANNIE in high school. She thanks her family and friends for all of their encouragement, and for reminding her the importance of the little things in life. She hopes the powerful message of this play will reveal to the audience that “To the
Just joshin’ ya. Thank you Karen and thank you cast and crew. I love shmoo all!”

Patipan Paktipatt - Richard Kim, Rev. Tom Choi
Patipan is a Communications graduate student from Bangkok, Thailand. This is his third appearance in Kulas after TWELFTH NIGHT and THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN. Last year he guest directed Neil Simon’s GOD’S FAVORITE at VASJ High School. He also directed Nancy Kieffer’s HEAD OF A BLUE-EYED MAN. He dedicates this performance to his friends in room 024, and many others... i.e. a certain US Government Agency. (HA!)

Alana Roberts - Maxine Waters
Alana is a Humanities major and a Communications minor. She is ecstatic to be in a play again. Thanks to her mother, grandmother and her “Peep.”

Karla Taborn - Angela King, Big Al
Ms. Taborn is a Junior Communications major, excited to be making her stage debut here at JCU. Karla thanks Dr. Gygli and Tara, the directors, and her family, especially her mother Cynthia, stepfather Darrick and her sister and brother.

The Crew

Rachel Abbey - Costume Design
Just back from Los Angeles, Rachel is happy to be back in the world of Cleveland theater. She has recently worked with Great Lakes Theatre Festival, as well as Red Hen Productions on their staged reading of THE MERCHANT OF VENICE at Spaces Gallery. Thank you Keith and Karen for this opportunity.
Desmond "Storm E" Jones - Michael Zinzun

"Storm E" is an award winning spoken word poet, author, performing artist and motivational speaker. He has been a three time winner of Amateur Night on IT'S SHOWTIME AT THE APOLLO, and opened for the 40-city tour of Michael Baisden's LOVE, LUST AND LIES book tour. His powerful performance skills were instilled in him as a youth growing up in church, and he uses theatre, reality and blank pages to polish his "Vibe." In conjunction with Cleveland Public Theatre, Jones worked with at-risk youth from neighboring communities to produce LOVE, DEATH AND BEYOND, a series of short stories, poetry and scenes written by Shakespeare, himself and each of the 30+ students who participated. His credits include "Bono" in Cuyahoga Community College's production of August Wilson's FENCES, and "Black Man #1" in Studs Terkel's RACE.

Katie McCafferty - Anonymous Young Woman

Ms. McCafferty is ecstatic to make her JCU debut as a freshman. Some of her favorite productions in high school were GODSPELL and DANCING AT LUGHNASA, and SEASONS OF LOVE at the Near West Theatre. She hopes to "sound her barbaric YAWP over the rooftops of JCU" in many shows to come. Many thanks to her family and friends for their love and support. "This one's for you Dad -- You may not be in the audience but you'll always be in my heart."

Sara Lepro - Elaine Young

Sara, a freshman, is making her acting debut on the J.C.U. stage. She performed in a couple of plays during high school, including POCAHONTAS and A CHRISTMAS CAROL, but considers this her most memorable performance thus far and is very excited to be a part of the cast. Sara would like to thank her family and friends for all their support!

MaryAnna Moore - Stanley K. Sheinbaum

MaryAnna is super excited to be in this show! Thanks for coming and enjoy!

Trisha Nord - Judith Tur

This is Trisha's second appearance on the John Carroll stage. She was Celeste #2 and Elaine in the fall musical SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE. She hopes to see this stage again next year as a Junior.

"Before I close, I'd like to thank the Academy for this magnificent honor...

Oh wait, I'm sorry... that's not right.
Anna Deavere Smith – Playwright

Twilight Los Angeles, 1992 received critical acclaim on Broadway and in Los Angeles, and Newsweek hailed her as “the most exciting individual in American theatre” in 1993. For this show Ms. Smith received two Tony nominations, as well as an Obie, a Drama Desk Award, two NAACP Theatre Awards and numerous other honors. Her FIRES IN THE MIRROR: Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Other Identities, explores the 1991 clash between Jews and Blacks in the New York Community, was the runner up for the Pulitzer Prize and was also an Obie winner.

Ms. Smith has continues to perform both TWILIGHT and FIRES at theatres across the country and as far away as Australia. Her most recent performance of TWILIGHT at Ford’s Theatre in Washington D.C. drew an audience that included President and Mrs. Clinton and Vice President Gore.
Karen Gygli - **Director**
As Assistant Professor of Theatre in the Department of Communications at John Carroll University, Dr. Gygli teaches courses in acting, directing, and Asian and African-American theatre. Some of her favorite directing projects have been BURIED CHILD, THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN and LEND ME A TENOR at John Carroll, and EIGHT IMPRESSIONS OF A LUNATIC and THE CLUE IN THE OLD BIRDBATH for Red Hen Productions where she serves on the Advisory Board. She recently taught an acting workshop at the Real Escuela Superior del Arte Dramatico in Madrid, Spain. She is thrilled to be directing TWILIGHT LOS ANGELES, 1992 with such an enthusiastic, hard-working, diverse, supportive and gifted ensemble, assistants, designers and crew--the list of good attributes could go on and on!!! Thanks everyone!!

Tara Moore - **Assistant Director**
Tara is a senior Communications major whose future plans are to go on to grad school in Secondary Education to become an English Teacher. But that’s just until she becomes a world-renowned playwright, author and director. She thanks all the people who give her love and who regularly curse her out (you know who you are) when she is in doubt of her talents. She also thanks Dr. Gygli and the entire cast for making this one of her best experiences of her life.

Keith Nagy - **Scenic Design**
Assistant Professor of Communications / Theatre at John Carroll University, Mr. Nagy’s work has been seen around Northern America for the last twenty years. His fourteen years as Director of Productions at Cleveland Opera has seen his lighting and scenic designs at Seattle Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Palm Beach Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Opera de Puerto Rico. At last count his designs have been seen in over fifty cities in North America. Work in Northern Ohio includes Baldwin Wallace College Summer seasons since 1984. These shows include THE FOREIGNER, QUILTERS, THE ODD COUPLE (Female Version), MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940, DANGEROUS OBSESSION, THEY’RE PLAYING OUR SONG, LOST IN YONKERS, MY FAIR LADY, and BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS. Other companies his work has been seen with are Ohio Ballet, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Karamu Theatre and the JCC – FIDDLER ON THE ROOF and RAGS – in Cleveland Heights. He recently worked on Dobama Theatre’s TRESTLE AT POPE LICK CREEK, and directed THE BURIAL for the MARINELO ONE-ACTS on campus this semester.
Slides for this evening's production were taken from:


Special Thanks—

- B.U.S.A. – Black United Students Association
- Dr. Alan Stephenson
- Dr. Shirley Seaton and the Office of Multicultural Affairs at John Carroll University
- Mary Ann Flannery and the Communications Department of John Carroll University
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