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ASBURY PARK THEATER COMPANY CONTINUES SEASON WITH THE OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING BROADWAY PLAY, *THE MOUNTAINTOP*

American Playwright Katori Hall's The Mountaintop, which fictionally depicts Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last night on earth in room 306 of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis will be presented by APTCo in May.

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (January 17, 2024) –[Asbury Park Theater Company \(APTCo\)](#) Asbury Park Theater Company (APTCo) proudly announces its upcoming production of *The Mountaintop* by American playwright Katori Hall. Directed by Jarrod Scott, this captivating play delves into the final night of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his mysterious encounter with Camae, one of the hotel's chamber maids. Set in room 306 of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 3, 1968, the eve of King's assassination, *The Mountaintop* offers a poignant exploration of humanity, legacy, and the ongoing struggle for civil rights.

Under the direction of Jarrod Scott, with set design by Neil Prince, a five-time Emmy Award nominee, and production stage management by Dennis Tolentino, audiences can expect a gripping and immersive theatrical experience. The production is produced by APTCo's Producing Artistic Director William Whitefield and Managing Director Bob Angelini.

"This story is Katori Hall's depiction of what may have happened the night before Dr. King was shot and killed. It shows King as a human being, a side that not many see in this civil rights icon," remarks William Whitefield, APTCo's Producing Artistic Director.

Jarrod Scott, the production's director says, "Katori Hall is a renowned African American playwright with numerous accomplishments. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her drama, *The Hot Wing King*, was nominated for Tony Awards for her work as Co-Book Writer for *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, and *The Mountaintop* won The Olivier Award for Best Play. I encourage folks to see her take on what might have happened on the eve of Dr. King's assassination."

The show features Kyle Javon Blocker as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who has just returned from Titusville Playhouse in Florida where he performed in *The Mountaintop* and *Beautiful: The Carol King Musical*. He has also been seen regionally in such shows as *Dreamgirls*, *The Color Purple*, *Into the Woods*, *Rent*, *The Wiz*, *Shrek* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Playing the role of Camae is Natalie Hayes-Scott. She was last seen on the APTCo stage as Kendra in the gripping drama, *American Son*. She has also performed in many local and regional theaters in such shows as *A Chorus Line* and *Dreamgirls*.

APTCo is proud to recognize PNC Private Bank as a Gold Season Sponsor as well as Holman Frenia Allison CPA's & Advisors, The Jules L. Plangere Jr Family Foundation and Manasquan

Bank as a sponsor for *The Mountaintop*. “We are grateful that these fine institutions value the arts in our community.” says APTCo’s Managing Director, Bob Angelini.

The Mountaintop will play for 5 performances, opening on Friday, May 10th and closing on Sunday, May 19th with 4 evening and 1 matinee performance available. The Palatia Theater is located inside the Jersey Shore Arts Center, 66. S. Main Street, Ocean Grove, NJ. All tickets for *The Mountaintop* are \$40. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the start of each show.

To learn more about Asbury Park Theater Company, and to purchase tickets for *The Mountaintop*, visit www.asburyparktheatercompany.org.





Pictured above from L to R: The Mountaintop's Production Stage Manager Dennis Tolentino, Actors Kyle Javon Blocker and Natalie Hayes-Scott, and the show's director Jarrod Scott. The Mountaintop is being presented at Asbury Park Theater Company May 10-19 (photo by Asbury Park Theater Company).