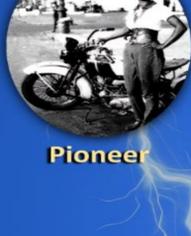


AGM THEATER COMPANY

In Celebration of International Women's Month

Join us as we celebrate the Magnificent Legacy of

MS. GERTRUDE HADLEY JEANNETTE



Pioneer



CEO / Philanthropist



Actress/Writer/Author

A Bolt from the Blue

(A Staged Reading)

by Gertrude Jeannette

Directed by Janice Jenkins

THE ADAM CLAYTON POWELL JR. STATE OFFICE BUILDING

163 WEST 125th Street (2nd FL)
New York, NY 10027

TICKETS \$25 for ALL
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT BOX OFFICE
Or on [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com)

MARCH
SUNDAY 3:00 p.m. **22**
2026

IMPORTANT
Valid I.D.
to Enter
Building

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT GERTRUDE HADLEY JEANNETTE

Today we Honor Gertrude Hadley Jeannette (Actress-Playwright-Author-Political Activist) as part of International Women's History Month.

Ms. Jeannette was an American playwright and film and stage actress. She is also known for being the first woman to work as a licensed taxi driver in New York City, which she began doing in 1942. Despite being blacklisted during the Red Scare in the 1950s, she wrote five plays and in 1979 founded the H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players (Harlem Artists Development League Especially for You) to provide a space for aspiring and professional artists to develop their talents and skills in the theatre, and to enrich the cultural life in the Harlem Community.

THEATRE CAREER

Using money she earned as a taxi driver, she enrolled in a speech class to help manage her stammer. The one class she could find was at the American Negro Theater in Harlem. Acting was part of the curriculum, and because of that, she studied along with notable actors such as Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. "Singled out for her stage presence," in 1945, she played her first lead role in the play "Our Town". She continued to drive a cab until 1949, when she landed a role in "Lost in the Stars", her first Broadway production.

She began writing plays in 1950, writing about strong women that "no one would be ashamed to play." She wrote five plays, and as a "demanding" director, she mentored young black actors in New York. Her first play was her favorite, Titled "This Way Forward". It premiered in 1950, and related to her childhood. She also performed in it. Jeannette relates being blacklisted during the Red Scare of the 1950s due to her association with her friend Paul Robeson, who was also blacklisted. Even though blacklisted, she set up a succession of theater companies in Harlem.

In the 1960s and 1970s she appeared in a number of Broadway theater productions. Among them were The Long Dream (1960), Nobody Loves an Albatross (1963), The Amen Corner (1965), The Skin of Our Teeth (1975) and Vieux Carré (1977).

FILM

Her Film Credits include: Nothing But A Man (1964), Cotton Comes to Harlem (1970), Shaft (1971), The Legend of Nigger Charley (1972), and Black Girl (1972).

Ms. Jeannette acted into her 80s and retired from directing theater at the age of 98. She died on April 4, 2018, at the age of 103 at her home in Harlem and was survived by many nephews and nieces.

AGM Theater Company is proud to present one of her most popular plays, "A BOLT FROM THE BLUE" as part of our International Women's History Month production.

CAST (ALPHABETICAL)

SIMONE BLACK - (LEONA MILLS)

Simone Black is a lover of laughter, beaches, travel, life, whiskey, God, Theatre, poetry, sweet potato pie, all things melanatedly magic and is totally in love with her family and tribe of amazing friends.

Simone is an actress, writer, playwright, director, a published poet & author, an Audelco Award Winner, an Irene Ryan Nominee, & a former Production Manager/Stage Manager. She was last seen on stage at the Gene Frankel Theater as Debra in "Scrambled Eggs" by Reginald L. Wilson. She has been blessed to have had some of her pieces selected & performed at Houston's preeminent Fade to Black Fest (Hey Denise and my beautiful Houston Fam!) & for the Billie Holiday Theatre's "50/50 Love in the Time of Corona".

I dedicate my performance to my mom Christine Black, & to my Scorpio Ancestral Warrior who walks between worlds, thank you for covering me; I fully feel you...& I miss your presence every single day...

AYISHA ETAN - (HELEN MILLS)

Ayisha Etan is a native from Miami, Florida who started dancing as a teen and found her love for acting as an adult. She trained at New Federal Theatre and she is excited to continue exploring her craft as an actor.

SAMANTHA ALËTHEA INNISS - (MS. BENTON)

Samantha Alëthea Inniss is a New York City native with Caribbean roots whose love for the arts began in college, where she studied Social Work and minored in Acting. She honed her craft through community theater and Off-Broadway work, building a strong range and stage presence. An alumna of HB Studio, she continues to embrace each new opportunity with the belief that the world is her stage.

Samantha Alëthea Inniss
Actor + Writer, (646) 338-3552, Samantha-A-Inniss.com

RICK REID - (DR. CLAYTON MILLS)

Rick Reid is a New York based actor. He is one of the original members of the Marvin Felix Camilo's Repertory Company La Familia which produced 'Short Eyes' and an original cast member. His most recent credits are "Once in El Barrio", "Bonhoeffer -Last Days", "Julia De Burgos Child of Water", "Small Talk", "The Owl Maker", a project in development "One Way In No Way Out".

I take pleasure in working with Janet Mitchell and cast on this wonderful play.

BILAL WALKER - (ALVIN)

Bilal Walker is an actor from New York City. Bilal has been a part of many productions and projects over the years, ranging from short films to classical plays to interactive theater. Graduating with a Bachelor's of Arts in Theatre, Bilal continued to hone his craft in spaces such as New Federal Theater, The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, and The Actor's Founndry in Vancouver, BC.

Email | [IMDb](#) | [Website](#)
[Watch 'Art of Love' on Prime Video Here!](#)

CHERIDAN WESTMORELAND - (NARRATOR)

Cheridan Westmoreland, her voice was last heard narrating The Winter View produced by AGM. She wrote, produced and acted in "Shirley&Ross" streaming on YouTube. Cheridan can also be seen in THE THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE is now on TUBI. Thank you, family, and friends for your love and support. To God Be The Glory.

LAWRENCE WINSLOW - (JOE HOWARD)

Lawrence Winslow - Actor /Writer/Producer, is a native New Yorker, he has been acting for more than 30 years. Lawrence has worked on local NY episodes of FBI, The BlackList, Bull, and the Law and Order franchise. He has appeared in various national commercials for McDonalds, Visa, and Universal Theme Parks and voiceovers.

Lawrence has worked in theatre from classical to contemporary drama and comedy. He is currently writing a comedy series, 'Confessions of a Serial Dater', with plans for production. He is listed as an Associate Producer for the award winning series: 12 Steps to Recovery, a comedy about dating.

CREW & STAFF

JANICE JENKINS - (DIRECTOR)

Janice Jenkins was born in Brooklyn, New York. She received a B.A. in Dramatic Arts and Speech from Emerson College in Boston. She was a member of the 127th Street Repertory Company of the Afro-American Studio under the direction of Ernie McClintock. A founding member of The H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players under the direction of Ms. Gertrude Jeannette, Janice has functioned as its Beginning Acting Instructor, House Manager, and finally as Artistic Director for four years. She has received two Audelco Awards: "Best One Person Performance" for "In Pursuit of Justice" by Wendy Jones, directed by Bruce Edwin Jenkins, "Lead Actress" for "A Bolt From The Blue" written and directed by Gertrude Jeannette. Since 2016, Janice has embarked on the new challenge of writing for the stage. She is currently finishing her first full length play as a member of the Advanced Playwriting Class of the New Federal Theater in New York City.

JANET MITCHELL - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Janet Mitchell's work in the theater community spans four decades, she is an Actor, Producer, Director, and Playwright. Janet's career in theater began at the age of fourteen when she joined the "Little Theater" at the famed Harlem YMCA, and she continues to work in the theater. At nineteen, Janet produced her first theater project, Gertrude Greenidge's "The Gift from Saturday" with her parents, Clarence and Adrian Mitchell serving as her first Executive Producers. In 1986, Janet joined The Hadley Players where she appeared in several of their productions. At the Hadley Player, Janet served as a Board Member, Treasurer, Business Manager, and CEO. In 2014, Ms. Mitchell, founded, Mitchell Entertainment Group, LLC, a production company based in New York City. Under her leadership, Mitchell Entertainment Group has produced Marjorie Eliot's "African Life on This American Soil", "An Evening with Langston Hughes", "We Love You Shirley", a one woman play that celebrates the life of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, and "An Afternoon of Poetry and Jazz". In addition, Ms. Mitchell is the Executive Producer and Creator of "Inspire!", an interview format presentation focusing on African American Artist sharing their extraordinary journey in the arts. Some of Janet's directing credits include, "An Evening With Langston Hughes", "Election 2020", "I Remember Harlem When", "Ain't I A Woman, Black Women Speaking Truth To Power", "Fire Can't Kill A Soul", and "Black Women In Motion".

In 2017, Janet Mitchell founded AGM (Adrian Graham Mitchell) Theater Company with Ka'Ran Bridges. Our vision is to provide opportunities for women of color to develop professional experience in performance, writing, directing, and technical positions.

Janet is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College and holds a master's in social work Degree from Yeshiva University.

KA'RAN BRIDGES - PRODUCER / FLYER & POSTCARD DESIGN

Ms. Bridges has been active in the Theatre Community for over 40 years. She is an Actress who has also donned the hats of Stage Manager/Lighting Designer/Costume Designer/ and Voice-over Artist, for numerous theatrical companies, both in and out of New York. She wrote, choreographed, and directed a Children's Theatre Musical called "ROADS" for the Santa Barbara Children's Theatre. Her most noted honors include the "First Place Award" in the California Regional Competition of the National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts (NASDA) for which she had the honor of studying with the late Dame Judith Anderson, and winning the 1995 AUDELCO Judy Dearing Costume Design Award for the AUDELCO nominated Play "In Pursuit of Justice." She is a member of SAG-AFTRA and holds a B.A. and M.A. in Theatre from Lincoln University and the University of California, Santa Barbara, respectively. She studied Acting at Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York City with Alan Langdon, Jackie Brooks and Teri Hayden, and is a Founding Member of the AGM (Adrian Graham Mitchell) Theater Company.

DAVID D. WRIGHT - (SOUND DESIGNER/TECHNICIAN)

David D. Wright, SOUND DESIGNER, is an 11 time recipient of Vivian Robinson's AUDELCO AWARDS for Excellence in Sound Design. He has received three National Federation Community Broadcaster Awards, a Golden Reel, Silver Reel, and Special Merit Awards for radio drama production, Two Off BROADWAY AWARDS at the Berkshires and Off Broadway for Sound Design. David is ecstatic to be among these AGM Creatives. He thanks Olorundare, Gbogbo Egun, and Gbogbo Orisha for his success.

MICHELE BALDWIN - (SOCIAL MEDIA/MARKETING MANAGER)

Michele Baldwin - Human, woman and masterful interdisciplinary artist, is a seasoned veteran of the entertainment field. She is grateful to live the life of an artist and has recently returned her focus primarily to her love of acting. Michele has worn numerous other hats in the business; theatre, film, Tv and the internet as a content creator, producer, writer and director. She is also a talented projection designer and technical design director/consultant, who has provided services for several well-known theatre companies.

As a lifelong learner, she thrives to conquer new things daily, and has been blessed to grace numerous NYC theatres in lead and supporting roles, including Cherry Lane, MST, Second Stage Theatre, 59E59 and EST, to name a few. Michele recently performed at Penn Live Arts in the classic Day of Absence play with the Negro Ensemble Company. Member: SAG-AFTRA, NYWIFT, The Off Broadway Alliance, TRU, Women in Motion, Women in Entertainment, Media Business Independent Producers, Women of Color Unite, IFP, Flobel.org, Newark Arts & Media Business Hub and Frank Silvera's Writers Workshop. She has served as judge for the NJ Thespians Contest. Michele is grateful to be working with AGM Theater Company!

www.MicheleBaldwin.com

LUCY MONGES - (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT)

Lucy Monges has been discovering the world of Theater and loving it. Lucy is now a proud member of the AGM Theater Company Family and we love having her. Lucy is also a World Traveller and loves to go on Cruises! She Loves Music and Loves to Dance!! But most importantly, she loves spending time with her Family - her daughter, her grandson, and all of Loved Ones.

AGM Theater Company continues to honor the memory of our Treasured Production Manager Cynthia Kitt whose light will shine forever in our hearts.

Rest in Power Our Dear Beloved Sister Kitt.

With Eternal Love,

Janet and Ka'Ran

and

The Entire AGM Theater Company Family

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AGM THEATER COMPANY'S Production of "A BOLT FROM THE BLUE" is made possible "in part" by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and, individual contributions from people like you.

