



James Weldon Johnson's

# **The Crucifixion**

presented by Puddingstone  
Creatives

**MARCH 23 & 24, 2024,**

**4:00 PM**

Resurrection Lutheran Church

## **BIOGRAPHY- AARON DOUGLAS**

Aaron Douglas was an American painter, illustrator, and visual arts educator. He was a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance. He developed his art career painting murals and creating illustrations that addressed social issues around race and segregation in the United States by utilizing African-centric imagery.

## **BIOGRAPHY- JAMES WELDON JOHNSON**

James Weldon Johnson was a civil rights activist, writer, composer, politician, educator and lawyer, as well as one of the leading figures in the creation and development of the Harlem Renaissance.

# **WELCOME FROM RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen to Resurrection Lutheran Church, as we experience together profoundly moving portrayal of one the most significant events in history. Today, we gather not merely as observers but as witnesses to the performance of "The Crucifixion" by James Weldon Johnson, presented by Puddingstone Creatives with the Artistic Director Ms. Verna Hampton, that delves deep into the essence of sacrifice, redemption, and the resilience of the human spirit.

In this poignant reenactment of the crucifixion, we invite you to embark on a journey of reflection and introspection. As you witness each scene unfold, may it ignite within you a profound sense of empathy, compassion, and understanding.

Through the artistry of our performers, we endeavor to bring to life, the profound sacrifice made on Calvary's hill, igniting a spark of contemplation within each of us. It is a reminder of the enduring power of love, forgiveness, and hope, even in the face of unimaginable suffering.

As you immerse yourself in this evocative experience, may it leave an indelible imprint upon your hearts and minds. Let us embrace this moment together, united in reverence and appreciation for the profound significance of the story we are about to witness.

Once again, welcome, and thank you for joining us on this poignant journey. May this welcome message set the tone for a respectful and thought-provoking experience for us all with many blessings.

The Rev. Miriam E. Sedzro, Pastor



# NOTE FROM EAD

## PUDDINGSTONE CREATIVES

Puddingstone Creatives (PC) is a grassroots, intergenerational, multi-cultural and all-inclusive creative organization. Their focus is on collaboration, development, education, presentation, performance, and exhibition of all creative art disciplines including costume design, culinary arts, hair, and make-up and costume design.

This afternoon's production of "The Crucifixion" by James Weldon Johnson. An Oratorio with Music and Movement, will be performed by both professional and novice performers from the (PC) "Robbie McCauley Script reading and Performance Lab" and is staged by Verna Hampton Executive Artistic Director and Director of Programming for (PC).

Puddingstone Creatives would like to give a special thank you to Pastor Miriam Sedzro, Ms. Patricia Courtney, the Administrative and Support staff of the Resurrection Lutheran Church for providing a permanent creative space and their continued support of (PC) artistic endeavors in the Nubian Square Cultural District of Roxbury MA.

# THE ENSEMBLE

## **ADILSON BARROS:**

Adilson Barros is originally from Fogo, Cabo Verde, and is a proud father of a 17-year-old young woman. At the age of 3, he won his 1st first-place medal as a dancer at "Tubo Mundo Canta". Adilson migrated to the US at 11 years old and became involved with and is an alumnus of Boston's Wang and Strand Theater dance and theater programs for gifted youth. He has toured with various bands as choreographer and lead dancer. Currently Barros is following his second passion as a Montessori trained educator. Future aspirations are to create a successful and lucrative fashion line.

## **CASSANDRA CATO-LOUIS:**

a.k.a "Cato" - Writer, Performer, Producer, has been an Artist and Entrepreneur for over thirty years. Founding Artistic Director of the African Repertory Troupe, she is now the Creative Director of the Mattapan Cultural Arts Development as well. MCAD is sourcing a Senior LGBTQ+ friendly, artist, live/work space, as well as a performing and visual arts center. Cato is a co-author of two books, How to Marry a Black Man The Real Deal (Doubleday/ Random House/Penguin) and the soon to be published, Mommy's Girls. She currently hosts the ongoing Frank Wilkins Vocalists' Showcase & Jam Session at Slades Boston on alternating Tuesday nights and is honored to be a member of Puddingstone Creatives.

## **PAM GONCALVES:**

Pam Goncalves is a conceptual/performance artist living in Roxbury. She founded Sister Circle a Womyn's Project to support women in finding self-worth, The Colored Ladies, women of color portraying Black women from the 18th & 19th centuries. Each project consists of works of different media forms grounded around specific themes and meanings. Through my visions, spirituality, and research new areas of interest arise and lead to the next body of work.

## **BRANDON GUILLERMO:**

Brandon Guillermo was born in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Harlem. He began serious study of drumming styles from all parts of the Diaspora at the age of ten. Arriving in Boston in 1973 he played with dance troops at Northeastern's A A Institute, Elma Lewis' NCAA, The Art of Black Dance, and solo performers. Brandon has played in various bands; Latin Jazz with Elegua. Other genres include standards, bebop, and avant-garde with the Boston Composers Group, percussion ensembles with the New England Conservatory/ Community Services. Guillermo is currently Freelancing with the band Big Redd's House and the Uprising Dance Theater. Dedicated to Freedom and discipline. fashion line.

## **AKILI HAYNES:**

Akili Haynes is a multi instrument playing musician, educator, composer, poet, puppeteer. Some of his affiliations include Berklee College of Music, Harvard University, and Denise Williams' *Pop Up Poetry* series. He is the Founder and Executive Creative Director of *The World of Chibuzo* and *Chibuzo Music*.

## **BARRY LAWTON:**

Barry Lawton has lived a lifetime of service. Born on Fort Jackson in South Carolina, he has followed the traditions of striving for excellence as demonstrated by his parents. After nearly four decades of public service and a small business Barry retired and embarked on re-igniting his passion for music. A vocal stylist known for his sultry voice and impeccable phrasing, his vocal style and delivery are often compared with some of America's greatest American Songbook vocalists. Barry has performed in many venues and vocal competitions. Whether on the big stage at Birdland in New York City, fine dining establishments, veterans events, hospitals, or assisted living complexes, His high performance and professionalism never change.

## **THAMANAI JEREMIE**

THAMANAI JEREMIE: Thamanie Is a first-generation Haitian American mother, educator, children's book author; culture keeper, and performer. Currently, Jeremie is a supporting vocalist for a Ghanaian poet, artist, and performer Dzidzor. Together they have performed at the New England Institute of Contemporary Art Alongside the Architect of the Black Arts Movement Askia M. Toure. This historical live sound installation supported master weaver, multi-media artist, and inaugural founder of AfriCOBRA Napoleon Jones-Henderson's "I AM AS I AM A MAN" exhibit at the ICA in July 2022.

## **ALLISON LUKE:**

Allison is very excited to make her stage acting debut in The Crucifixion. Allison has trained in acting under Dossy Peabody. When she is not on stage she enjoys creating music and engaging in community activism, Allison is grateful to her family and local artistic community for their support

## **MICHAEL NURSE:**

A Michael Nurse is a stage and film actor who began his theatrical journey while at primary school in his birthplace of London England. In high school, after moving to America, he was involved with Metro Pathways, an arts and science program. He later attended Emerson College receiving a BFA. His theater affiliations include Lyric Stage, Gloucester Stage, Speakeasy, and The New African Theater. Film and T.V. credits include Mystic River, Glory, Housesitter, The Departed, The Town, Spencer for Hire, Say Brother, Judging Amy, Brotherhood and Southie Rules. Michael is very pleased to be working with Puddingstone Creatives under the direction of Verna Hampton.

## **AUSTIN PITCHER:**

A native of Tennessee, Austin is a first-year student in the piano department at Berklee College of Music in Boston. He has performed and competed in music competitions throughout the U.S. and Europe.

## **DAVID RUGGIANO:**

David Ruggiano is a guitarist, music educator, and composer. He has over twenty-five years of experience and traditional musical projects working in various contemporary and traditional musical projects and is currently working with Puddingstone Creatives to bring multi-disciplinary art experiences to the Greater Boston area.

## **DENIECE WOODARD:**

DMy name is Deniece Woodard and I am a recent Graduate of UMass Boston's Music Dept. I play the electric Bass guitar and I also make beats. I produced the beats for this production of The Crucifixion.



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With over 34 years of experience, Karen Wier is a highly skilled attorney dedicated to providing exceptional legal representation and achieving favorable outcomes for her clients.



Best Wishes to the Cast and Crew

Of

Puddingstone Creatives on their

Production of

**"The Crucifixion"**

Written by James Weldon Johnson | Staged by Verna Hampton

Vine St. Community Center Board  
339 Dudley Street Roxbury, MA 02119  
617-635-1285



A photograph of the exterior of a 'Shea Butter Smoothies' store. The storefront features a large glass door and windows. Above the door is a sign with the store's logo, which consists of a stylized 'S' and 'B' in a blue and green square, followed by the text 'Shea Butter smoothies'. The door has a red '617' sticker and a small 'Open' sign. The windows show reflections and some interior details. The building has a brick base.

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# Dillaway-Thomas House



The Dillaway-Thomas House is located in Roxbury | *NPS Photo/Gould*  
83 Roxbury Street, John Eliot Square | MANAGED BY: [Roxbury Heritage State Park](#)  
SIGNIFICANCE: Headquarters during the Siege of Boston | Built in 1750, the Dillaway-Thomas House is said to be one of the oldest buildings in Roxbury. Reverend Oliver Peabody originally built the house as a parsonage for the First Church of Roxbury. His successor, Reverend Amos Adams, lived here with his family until 1775.

*Olympia*  
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**Est. 1903**



The Resurrection Lutheran Church Family with much appreciation to the cast and crew of

## **Puddingstone Creatives**

on the production of  
“The Crucifixion”:  
an oratorio with  
movement & music

music written by James  
Weldon Johnson & staged by  
Verna Hampton

Resurrection Lutheran Church  
94 Warren Street Roxbury, MA 02119

email [rlcroxbury@gmail.com](mailto:rlcroxbury@gmail.com) | phone: 617-427-2066  
<https://www.peopleofresrox.org>





## GREATER BOSTON SECTION

National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

*Many Blessings to Resurrection  
Lutheran Church and the Cast and  
Crew of Puddingstone Creatives for the  
Production of "The Crucifixion"*



**ncnw**

greater boston section

**Greater Boston Section – NCNW**

**Attn: Membership**

**P.O. Box 2804**

**Woburn, MA 01888-1404**

**<https://www.gbsncnw.org>**

*Congratulations to Resurrection Lutheran Church on  
150 Years of Ministry!*



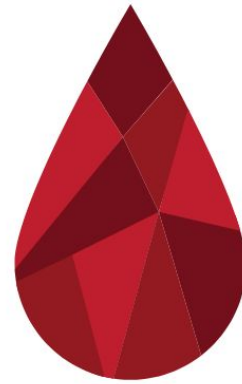
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**Hours of Operation**  
**Monday-Friday 7:30AM - 8:30PM**  
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**Patricia A. Courtney**  
Educational Consultant  
K-12

339 Dudley Street  
Roxbury, MA. 02119  
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Gregory Cummings  
HOST  
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Every fourth Friday at the Bikes Not Bombs at the Roxbury Hub (5208 Dudley Street)

- April 26
- May 24
- June 28
- July 26
- August 23

Our doors are open from 4-7 PM to anyone in the community who wants to work on their bicycle, use our tools, or get more familiar with bicycle components. Bikes Not Bombs' trained Youth Mechanics will be able to assist any Tool Time participants during this time. No experience is necessary! We welcome anybody who wishes to explore their curiosity in how tools and bicycle components interact. You bring the bike and the supplies, we have the tools and the space.

For questions or more information, please reach out to Bikes Not Bombs Youth Organizer, Montell Khaldi at [montell@bikesnotbombs.org](mailto:montell@bikesnotbombs.org)  
Roxbury Hub: 520B Dudley St, Roxbury, MA 02119



# The Choral Majority Inc.



The Choral Majority Gospel Choir is a Merrimack Valley based non-profit arts ministry who've shared their message of faith, love and unity with audiences across New England for over 30 years.

## **Next Concert:**

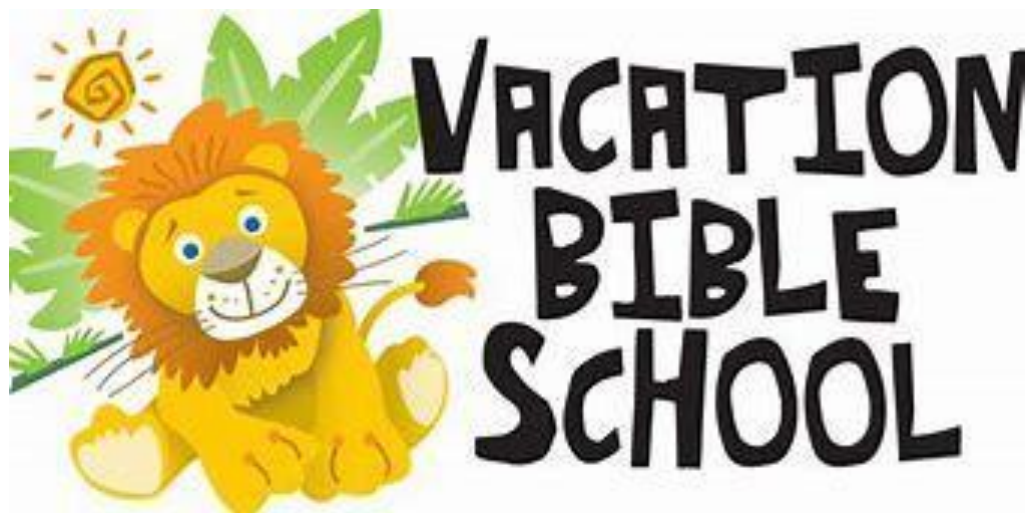
Saturday, April 27, 2024 @ 7:00pm at Westgate Church,  
100 Winter Street, Weston, MA. 02494

Contact: [info@choralmajority.org](mailto:info@choralmajority.org)

# Supporters

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**Resurrection Lutheran Church**

**94 Warren Street**

**Roxbury, MA. 02119**

**Email: [rlcroxbury@gmail.com](mailto:rlcroxbury@gmail.com) or call**

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