

Taproot Theatre Hosts Work by Ivan McClellan During the Run of *Last Drive to Dodge*

***Eight Seconds: The Photography of Ivan McClellan* opens during the PhinneyWood Art Walk**

SEATTLE, WA – August 16, 2023 – Taproot Theatre hosts *Eight Seconds: The Photography of Ivan McClellan* this fall during the run of *Last Drive to Dodge*, a world premiere by Seattle playwright Andrew Lee Creech presented with The Hansberry Project. Taproot Theatre began hosting the work of local visual artists through its Kendall Center Exhibition Series in September 2021 and features work that complements the Mainstage production. *Eight Seconds* runs September 8 – October 28, 2023, coinciding with the PhinneyWood Art Walk, which runs September 8-9.

“Ivan McClellan’s photography brings Andrew Lee Creech’s story of Prophet and Ro in *Last Drive to Dodge* to us directly, here in the 21st century. Looking at Ivan’s portraits there is no doubt that the culture, the work, the heart, and the hope that Andrew captures onstage has persevered. The Black cowboy is alive and well and riding still,” says Taproot’s Director of Development, Gina Cavallo, who curates the exhibition series.

Set during the golden age of the American west, *Last Drive to Dodge* is a Black cowboy love story about creating a home in the American west. Prophet and Ro are chasing dreams faintly whispered on the wind that sweeps the dusty Texas plain, where ranching is brutal work and change is on the horizon. Set at the end of the Cowboy Golden Age, *Last Drive to Dodge* examines race, love, and legacy in a time when everyone is scrambling for their piece of the American Dream. It is directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton, the Founding Artistic Director for The Hansberry Project, which is a professional Black theatre company dedicated to the artistic exploration of African American life, history and culture. The show opens on September 22, 2023 and runs through October 21, 2023.

All works in the exhibition are available for purchase unless marked by a red dot. Please visit Ivan’s website, <https://eightsecs.com/>, for more information on his work. He can be reached at ivan@eightsecs.com.

LAST DRIVE TO DODGE FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company and The Hansberry Project presents the world premiere of *Last Drive to Dodge* by Andrew Lee Creech. Prophet and Ro are chasing dreams faintly whispered on the wind that sweeps the dusty Texas plain, where ranching is brutal work and change is on the horizon. Set at the end of the Cowboy Golden Age, *Last Drive to Dodge* examines race, love, and legacy in a time when everyone is scrambling for their piece of the American Dream.

WHEN: September 20 – October 21, 2023 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: September 20 & 21, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: September 22, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: September 27, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: September 26 and October 11 at 2:00 PM, October 18 at 10:30 AM (*limited availability*)

WHERE: Taproot Theatre Company's Jewell Mainstage Theatre, 204 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM), or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$25-56 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix members. Accessible ticket prices are also available on TodayTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 14+

CAST:

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|---------|----------------|
| Ro | Dedra D. Woods |
| Prophet | Yusef Seevers |
| Bennett | Tim Gouran |
| Millie | Jonelle Jordan |

UNDERSTUDIES:

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Ro u/s | Esther Okech |
| Prophet u/s | Jarron Williams |
| Bennett u/s | Nik Doner |
| Millie u/s | Marianna de Fazio |

PRODUCTION (FULL LIST COMING SOON):

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Director | Valerie Curtis-Newton |
| Assistant Director | Bretteney Beverly |
| Scenic Design | Matthew Smucker |
| Costume Design | Melanie Burgess |
| Lighting Design | Brian Engel |
| Sound Design | Evan Mosher |
| Stage Manager | Kathryn Greaser |
| Dialect Coach | Gin Hammond |
| Dramaturg | Sonja Lowe |

PHOTOS: Press photos are available online at <https://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> (Jewell Mainstage Theatre → *Last Drive to Dodge* (link not to be published))

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Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Jewell Mainstage Productions, Isaac Studio Theatre Productions, Touring Productions and the Acting Studio. Taproot Theatre Company tells stories of hope, serving the Pacific Northwest through live theatre and educational programs. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS) and Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association (PNA).

Karen Lund, *Producing Artistic Director*
204 N 85th St | Seattle, WA 98103
206.781.9705 | taproottheatre.org

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