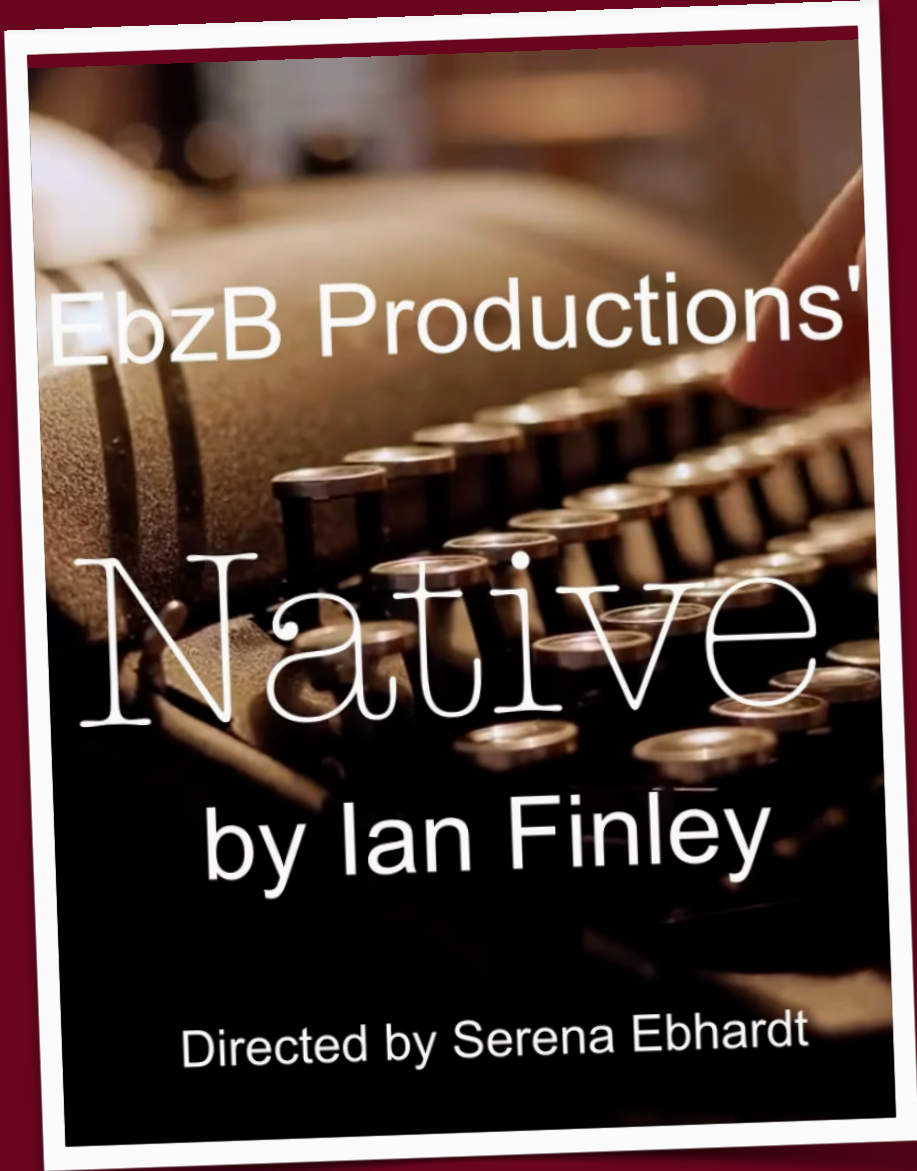


About EbzB Productions

Founded in 1998 by Serena Ebhardt and David zum Brunnen, EbzB Productions has built a legacy with one of its signature productions, Dr. Elliot Engel's *The Night Before Christmas Carol*. This production has toured from coast to coast, been filmed for PBS, and been experienced by hundreds of thousands of patrons. Over the years, we've expanded our roster with new productions and welcomed several talented artists to our family. While many of our stage productions have been featured on public television, we have recently ventured into new territory with our first feature film, *The Problem Of The Hero*. Adapted from Ian A. Finley's stage play *Native*, this film is earning praise and accolades at international film festivals. To see the transition from stage to screen, visit www.problemofthehero.ebzb.org. For over 25 years, our mission has been to create original, touring theatrical productions that tell unique stories, promote authenticity and integrity, foster self-discovery, and drive positive transformation in individuals, artists, audiences, and communities - immediately or over time. We owe much of our success to our "Balcony People", those of you who have supported us as mentors who have patiently guided, nurtured, and advocated for us throughout our careers. Inspired by this, we are committed to paying forward every bit of that kindness to the next generation of artists and audiences. For more information about our work, please visit www.ebzb.org.

About Reclaiming Our Time Productions

Founded in 2024, Reclaiming Our Time [RecTime] Productions formed from conversations and brainstorming sessions between Natasha A. Jackson and J. Mardrice Henderson. Together, they felt the need for a production company that not only showcases the stories of marginalized groups but cultivates the work of creatives who may be new to theatre. J. and Natasha surrounded themselves with a group of individuals with notable experience in acting, directing, dramaturgy, sound design, and stage management, therefore establishing a theatre collective. The vast experience of theatre we share gives us both insight and foresight into what is lacking in theatre today. The organization's name is an homage to the distinct, rich history of theatre in Africa. The drawings in African caves support the belief that those of the African diaspora are the foundation of modern-day theatre. However, the stories of African descendants are often marginalized or confined to certain parts of the year. Our organization plans to change that narrative. Through professional development and creative empowerment, RecTime seeks to shift the paradigm of BIPOC theatre by reclaiming our history, our contributions, and our time! While theatre productions are at the center of our organization's mission, we believe we can give back to the audiences that we have served where RecTime incorporates programs in varying sects of theatre, provides series and workshops that develop & showcase new works, and partners with institutions to provide arts education to students interested in all aspects of theatre. RecTime's podcast, *Artistry Avenue* premiered on July 4, 2024, and explores the intersection of theatre and social issues. (Now available on Spotify and iHeartRadio. For more on Reclaiming Our Time Productions, please visit www.reclaimingourtime.org.



EbzB Productions'

Native

by Ian Finley

Directed by Serena Ebhardt

Featuring

J. Mardrice Henderson*
David zum Brunnen*



Time: March, 1941.

Setting: A Room in the Hotel Edison. New York City.

J. Mardrice Henderson* (Richard Wright) is an accomplished actor and co-founder of Reclaiming Our Time Productions [RecTime], where he also serves as Artistic Director. He is a graduate of UNC at Greensboro, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Acting. A member of the Actors' Equity Association, with a professional career that spans national stages and streaming platforms. J. Mardrice has most recently appeared as Daddy #1 in *The Supremes at Earl's All- You-Can-Eat*, currently the #1 feature film now streaming on Hulu! J. Mardrice has been featured on national stages including the 2019 National Black Theatre Festival [NBTF] as Ya'al in *Pooled: A Gospel Musical* and at the 2022 NBTF as Deacon in *The Dance on Widow's Row*. In 2022, he portrayed Walker in a staged reading of *Blues in My Coffee*, written, produced, and directed by TV legend Ted Lange. J. Mardrice has toured with EbzB Productions as Richard Wright in *Native* since 2017. He also portrays Richard Wright in *The Problem of the Hero*, the film derived from Ian Finley's *Native*. *The Problem of the Hero* has been featured in several film festivals and received numerous awards, including the IMPACT Award at the Naples International Film Festival in 2023. Acting is J. Mardrice's greatest passion, and it is always a pure joy working with the EbzB production team. This particular performance brings even greater joy as it's a joint venture with his newly erected theatre production company. His performance is dedicated to his mother, the late Richard Wright, and all the men of color who have felt silenced by society. For more information, please visit www.jmardrice.com.

David zum Brunnen* (Paul Green) David has been driven by the discovery of the power of a story since childhood, and it has led him to pursue such endeavors as acting, producing, creating, and a host of other pursuits. The belief in the power of telling a story has inspired him to appear on stage and in film throughout the United States, and also in Canada. He fell asleep on stage in his very first role as a resting shepherd in the church kindergarten Christmas play, and he's felt at home on the stage ever since. Under the auspices of EbzB Productions, his collaborations with Serena Ebhardt have generated some acclaim (and some failures, too) along the way. He's also appeared on numerous regional stages in the U.S. & Canada. He's managed small and regional theatres, led a statewide non-profit service organization, and was a long-time leading arts activist in North Carolina. His efforts have been recognized in many ways – be it awards, honors, or a tip of the hat (from his peers, from publications, or others). David has been active on a variety of causes of state and local interest. Raised in Rowan County, NC; he now resides in the Triangle region of North Carolina, and is a longtime outdoors enthusiast. David is married to (performer, playwright, and director) Serena Ebhardt, and is a proud father to their son.

Serena Ebhardt* (Director) is an accomplished director and actress who co-founded EbzB Productions (www.ebzb.org). Her career spans various performance mediums and locations, including Europe, Canada, and Off-Broadway, as well as national tours, regional stages, and screen acting. Most recently, she co-starred in Hulu's *Dopesick*. Notably, her production of *War Bonds: The Songs and Letters of World War II* has gained recognition through public broadcasting stations across the United States. Serena has expanded her work to include writing, teaching, producing, administration, and directing for the Theatre. Her directorial approach is influenced by Overlie's Viewpoints and Gardner's Multiple Intelligences. This is evident in her work on projects like *Brown V. Board of Education*, which she wrote, produced, and directed, featuring Mike Wiley. Her collaboration with Wiley has led to significant works such as *Dar He: The Lynching of Emmett Till* and *Blood Done Sign My Name*. Additionally, she directed and helped devise *The Clothesline Muse* with Nnenna Freelon. Her production of *The Wrights of Passage*, originally written and directed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' flight in Kitty Hawk, continues to tour after twenty years. It has been seen by thousands of students across North Carolina. In 2014, Serena made a notable return to her beloved alma mater, UNC-Chapel Hill, to direct *Johnny Johnson* by Paul Green with music by Kurt Weill. She worked with Tim Carter on an adaptation of the script and score, which is now the officially licensed version used by the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music. Serena earned her BA in Dramatic Art from UNC-Chapel Hill, where she received the Paul and Elizabeth Green Scholarship. Her training includes Master Classes at Hedgerow Theatre and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Artists as Educators. She is a member of Actors' Equity Association and Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Natasha A. Jackson* (Stage Manager) is an equity stage manager who has been a part of the theatre community for the past 18-plus years. Her equity shows include Yodyful Music production, *No Fear Blues Long Gone: Nina Simone*, and EbzB Productions' *Native*. She is also the Executive Director of Reclaiming Our Time Productions (reclaimingourtime.org). Natasha holds a certificate as a Consent Forward Artist and is currently working to complete her certification as an Intimacy Director. She is a director, producer, and the co-creator of the Board Liaison role developed at North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theater to promote safety in theatrical environments. She is excited to be a part of this very thought-provoking production and be a part of the conversation. Natasha is grateful for the support of her family and friends.

Ian Finley (Playwright) - Ian Finley is a playwright and former theatre educator, having served as the North Carolina Piedmont Laureate in the field of dramatic writing. Finley originally hails from Utah, where he studied at the University of Utah, and premiered *You Can Say That Again: A Trio For Secretaries* (KCATF 2001) and *The Nature Of The Nautilus* (Kennedy Center/ Jean Kennedy Smith Award winner 2002). Finley received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of Performing Arts. Finley previously served as Head of Drama at Research Triangle High School, and continues to write for regional theatre companies.