



PRESS RELEASE

Media contact: Michele Johnsen
michele@igniteglobalgood.com, (818) 618-1314

For Immediate Release
January XX, 2023

Towne Street Theatre Presents a Virtual Screening of Tony Robinson's *Black Annie and the Pastor*

*A special black history month presentation in recognition of the passing of
the Emmett Till Anti-lynching Bill of 2022*

Sunday, February 26th at 4pm PST

Los Angeles, CA -- Tony Robinson's riveting drama, *Black Annie and the Pastor*, exposes the true story of a fateful day in August of 1930 when a mob of more than 10,000 white people dragged two African American teens from their jail cells in Marion, Indiana and lynched them on the local courthouse grounds. Word went out that their bodies were to remain hanging to "send a message." At a time and place where almost 30% of white protestant men belonged to the Ku Klux Klan, Pastor J. E. Johnson and three African American men from nearby Muncie defiantly drove to Marion, retrieved the bodies, and took them to be respectfully prepared for burial. In recognition of Black History Month and the groundbreaking and overdue passing of the Emmett Till Anti-

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lynching Bill, Towne Street Theatre (TST) keeps the memory of this act of bravery alive with a special online screening on Sunday, February 26th at 4pm PST. An audience Q&A and discussion will follow led by Henry Ealy, PhD, retired chair of the American Cultures Department and retired president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association at Los Angeles City College, and Brooke-Renee Kinser Bonnell M.A., academic advisor and adjunct instructor of sociology at Ball State University.

“We proudly present this screening of *Black Annie and the Pastor* to preserve the memory of this historical event and inspire contemplation,” said Nancy Cheryl Davis Bellamy, TST’s co-founder and artistic director. “Through the powerful storytelling talents of today’s African-American writers and performers, TST brings together history and recent steps toward change like the passing of the anti-lynching bill.”

Tickets are available on a “pay-what-you-will” basis and can be reserved now at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/towne-street-theatre-presents-black-annie-and-the-pastor-tickets-525265562437>.

Towne Street Theatre is Los Angeles’ premier African American theatre company. It is celebrating 30 years of compelling, inspiring and thought-provoking performances that celebrate black and other diverse storytellers. For more information, please visit <https://www.townestreetla.org>, or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

BLACK ANNIE AND THE PASTOR

Written and directed by: Tony Robinson

CAST

RJ Wayne: Pastor J.E. Johnson
Mack Miles: Trooper Taylor
Anthony Johnson: Anderson Blair
Raymond Mitchell: Isaac Wingfield

John Alexander: Fred Puckett
Jeremiah Benjamin: Dutch Robertson

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William Warren: Mac
KPD: Chestnut
Veronica Thompson: Mother Fisk
Aneisha Hughes: Mrs. Blair
Charlotte Williams: Nel Little
Tamara Koltes: Dixie / Mary Ball
Daphne Jones: Baby Doll
Skylar Silverlake: Mueller
Wil Bowers: Cleophus Little
Steven Guire Knight: Bill Mock
David Macdonald: Whitey Weems/ Claude Deeter
Amani Atkinson: Abram Smith
Major Culbert: James Cameron
Aron Cobb: Thomas Shipp
Narrated by: Nancy Renee and Teresa Taylor

PRODUCERS

Nancy Cheryl Davis-Bellamy, Veronica Thompson, Kristina Roth and Teresa Taylor.

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