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***He’ll Conjure His Ancestors Tonight*MOXIE’s *Blue Door* Explores Personal & Cultural Identity  
in a riveting two man show with music.**

*“Barfield poses sharp questions and counter-questions on contemporary black identity. Her vision is fearless and humane...” -*Los Angeles Times

January 2017, San Diego CA**.-** MOXIE Theatre proudly begins 2017 with a play about struggling to live with – or escape – the past. Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, starring Vimel Sephus and Cortez L. Johnson. ***Blue Door* will make its San Diego premiere at MOXIE Theatre, Sunday January 29th. *Opening Night is Saturday February 4th with performances until February 26th, 2017.***

Infused with abundant humor and woven through with original songs, *Blue Door* is a tour de force for two actors, a vivid, exuberantly theatrical play about the African-American male experience. The central character, Lewis, is a tenured professor of mathematics at a well-regarded university. Underneath his veneer of success, however, lies a soul troubled by questions of personal and cultural identity. When his wife leaves him, apparently due to the fact that he won’t embrace his heritage and attend the Million Man March, Lewis experiences a disorienting insomnia and inadvertently conjures his ancestors. Three generations of men (all played by one actor), from slavery through Black Power, challenge Lewis to embark on a night journey combining past and present.

*“Often my work is born out of a troubling or complicated feeling. The material that makes me uncomfortable is usually my best work. I’m interested in the gray areas of human interaction. I believe that this is what makes characters complicated and compelling. I don’t seek to portray the people in my plays as 100% likeable. I hope to make them real. Shortcomings and flaws, ethical dilemmas and the possibility of ascension drives my work”.-* Tanya Barfield

***BLUE DOOR* CREATIVE TEAM**

Directed by Delicia turner Sonnenberg. The Design and Production Team includes: Set Design: Victoria Petrovich, Costume Design: Shelly Williams, Lighting Design, Sherrice Mojgani Sound Design: David Scott, Props Design: Angelica Ynfante, Technical Direction: Cynthia Bloodgood, Scenic Charge Artist: Ashleigh Scott

**ARTIST BIOS**



**Tanya Barfield (Playwright)** Tanya Barfield is an African-American playwright whose works have been presented both nationally and internationally. Raised in Portland, Oregon and attended Metropolitan Learning Center. Before becoming a playwright, Barfield was a solo performer, appearing in her one-woman show *Without Skin or Breathlessness*. She graduated from New York University and then attended the Juilliard School Playwrights program, receiving an Artist Diploma. She taught playwriting at Primary Stages School of Theater and Barnard College, New York University and she served as the literary manager of the Juilliard Drama Division from 2009-2014.

Her plays include: *The Call* (Playwrights Horizons & Primary Stages), *Of Equal Measure* (Center Theatre Group), *Blue Door* (Playwrights Horizons, South Coast Repertory and additional theaters), *Dent, The Quick, The Houdini Act* and *121º West*. She wrote the book for the Theatreworks/USA children’s musical: *Civil War: The First Black Regiment*. Tanya was a recipient of a 2013 Lilly Award and the1st Annual Lilly Award Commission. She has been commissioned by Playwrights Horizons, Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, Primary Stages and Geva Theatre Center. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild Council.

**Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (Director)** is the founding Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, where she has directed many acclaimed productions. Recently named Director of the Year by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, she has also directed for San Diego Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet Theatre Company, Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company, New Village Arts, Diversionary Theatre, ion theatre company, and Playwrights Project. Her honors include Theatre Communications Group’s New Generations Program fellowship, San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Awards, Patte Awards, a Women’s International Center Living Legacy Award, Van Lier Fund fellowship (Second Stage Theatre), and the New York Drama League’s Directors Project. Delicia is married to designer Jerry Sonnenberg and proud mama to August and Zoë.

**THE CAST**

**Vimel Sephus (Lewis)** is delighted to be back at MOXIE. He is a native, who after two terms of enlistment and brief tour with Air Force Entertainment’s *Tops in Blue,* returned to San Diego and has become a constant on stage. He has played distinct roles such as Virgil Tibbs in Ion’s *In The Heat of The Night* and the title character in *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity.* He’s been a part of two SD Theatre Critics Circle nominated casts from MOXIE - *Crumbs from the Table of Joy, Trouble In Mind* and *Our Lady of Kibeho.*He was most recently seen as *BF* in MOXIE’s *peerless and* the San Diego Musical Theatre production of *Ragtime.*

**Cortez L. Johnson (Simon, Rex and Jesse):** Johnson studied Theatre at Southern Illinois University of Carbondale and has worked both nationally and internationally as an actor. He was last seen in MOXIE’s *brownsville song (b-side for tray)* and the San Diego Rep's televised production of HONKY (PBS). Johnson's theatre credits stretch from the Caribbean to Europe, Africa, and to various parts of Asia. Favorite theatre productions include: *Fastest Woman*, *A Raisin in The Sun*, *Antigone, Juice* (Stage adaptation), *The Mending Monologues, The Bombity of Errors.*

**FACTS**

**WHAT:** *BLUE DOOR*

**WHERE:** MOXIE Theatre

6663 El Cajon Blvd Suite N, San Diego, CA 92115

**SCHEDULE:** January 29th - February 26th. ***Opening Night February 4th***

Thursday at 7pm; Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2pm

**Sunday Feb 12, 2017 2:00pm Second Sunday Q & A**:   
***Join the actors for a post-show discussion, learn more about the play and enrich your theatre going experience*.**

**TICKET PRICES:** Opening Night $40.00

General Admission $30.00

Previews $20.00   
 Groups of 10 or more $20.00  
 Groups of 15 or more $15.00

**DISCOUNTS:** Seniors, Students, Military and AASD receive $5 off general admission

**BOX OFFICE:** 858-598-7620 or [www.moxietheatre.com](http://www.moxietheatre.com)