



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery Announces  
Seattle Premiere of SKELETON CREW, by Obie and  
Steinberg Award-winning Playwright Dominique Morisseau**

SEATTLE, WA (August 2, 2018) - ArtsWest will open the 2018/19 season on September 20 with SKELETON CREW, the Seattle premiere of Dominique Morisseau's powerful final entry in her celebrated Detroit Cycle. Performances will run Thursday through Sunday until October 14.

In the depths of the 2008 Great Recession, rumors of a shutdown start to spread at one of Detroit's last auto stamping plants, forcing a tightknit family of workers to face a devastating question: what will you sacrifice to survive? In the spirit of August Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, award-winning playwright Dominique Morisseau's bold and compassionate new play lays bare the trials of the human spirit with verve, wit, and an electrifying voice of uncommon poetry.

Since premiering in 2016, SKELETON CREW has been produced to critical acclaim across the country, but the ArtsWest production will be its first time seen on a Seattle stage. ArtsWest Artistic Director Mathew Wright chose SKELETON CREW to begin the 18/19 BEYOND IDEAS season — which focuses on the “heroic effort” necessary to connect in an age of dissonance and disconnection — because of Morisseau's unique ability to illustrate the bridges that connect her characters across deep, painful divides.

“Dominique Morisseau's writing is always stunning,” added Wright. “It's an incredible combination of realistic dialogue with a beautiful poetic sensibility. Those two things operate simultaneously in her work, which I think is a recipe for real magic in the theatre.”

Jay O'Leary, an Afro-Latina director, actor, and teaching artist, will direct SKELETON CREW. The cast will be led by Tracy Michelle Hughes (WEDDING BAND, Intiman), with Allen Miller III (FUCKING 'A', UW Theatre), Charles Wright, and Allyson Brown (MILK LIKE SUGAR). Returning to ArtsWest from the design team are Stage Manager Malie Fujii (PEERLESS), Ryan Dunn (THE WHO & THE WHAT), Scenic Designer Burton Yuen (4000 MILES), Properties Master Robin McCartney (MOTHERS AND SONS) and Sound Designer Stephon Jamaa'l Dorsey (HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH). Rounding out the creative team is Costume Designer Sadiqua Iman, making their ArtsWest debut.

Cast

Tracy Michelle Hughes – Faye

Allen Miller III – Reggie

Charles Wright – Dez

Allyson Brown – Shanita

Creative Team

Jay O'Leary – Director

Malie Fujii – Stage Manager

Ryan Dunn – Lighting Designer  
Sadiqua Iman - Costume Designer  
Burton Yuen – Scenic Designer  
Robin MacCartney – Properties Manager  
Stephon Jamaa'l Dorsey – Sound Designer

### **About the Production**

SKELETON CREW plays September 20 - October 14, 2018 at ArtsWest, 4711 California Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116. Tickets (\$20-\$42) available online at [www.artswest.org](http://www.artswest.org), by phone at 206-938-0339, or at the box office Thursday through Saturday, 2-7:30 p.m.

### **Press Information**

Press tickets are available opening weekend, September 21–23. Please contact Michael Wallenfels at [michaelw@artswest.org](mailto:michaelw@artswest.org) to arrange.

Photos available by request. Contact Michael Wallenfels at [michaelw@artswest.org](mailto:michaelw@artswest.org).  
Full production photos available by September 24. Photo credit to John McLellan.

### **About ArtsWest**

ArtsWest is a vibrant center for both performing and visual arts located in the West Seattle Junction. This 149-seat theatre provides a unique setting for audiences and artists as stories of human emotion unfold in an intimate space. Winner of the American Theatre Wing's 2012 National Theatre Company Award, ArtsWest has produced such diverse work as AMERICAN IDIOT, PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, 2016's critically acclaimed production of Henrik Ibsen's GHOSTS, and a celebrated production of AN OCTOROON earlier this year. ArtsWest produces artistic events that provoke conversation, incite the imagination, and use live theater as a powerful agent of change. [www.artswest.org](http://www.artswest.org)

### **For Calendar Editors:**

**Who:** ArtsWest presents SKELETON CREW

**Where:** ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery

**What:** SKELETON CREW  
by Dominique Morisseau  
Directed by Jay O'Leary

**When:** Thursday, September 20 to Sunday, October 14, 2018. Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. | Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

**Tickets:** General Admission: \$42.00 | Seniors (65+): \$37 | Students: \$20 | TeenTix (door only): \$5  
Tickets online at [www.artswest.org/theatre/buy-tickets/](http://www.artswest.org/theatre/buy-tickets/) by phone at 206-938-0339, and at the box office, 4711 California Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116, Thurs-Sun 2 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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