

## **"RED, WHITE & BLUES"**

(A Memory Play)

By Stephen Montagne

### **CHARACTERS**

12 actors (4 white, 8 black; 5 actors play more than one character)

**ETHAN GREY:** 25-year-old, devout Mormon from Upstate New York trying to make it as a stand-up comedian in the cutthroat clubs of the Lower East-Side of Manhattan. He has a background in computer science, and is coming-of-age politically. Ethan is the Narrator of this play.

**DOROTHY DORCHESTER:** 80-year-old half "culturally" Jewish, half Irish American, recovering alcoholic, estranged from her one daughter, and is living in a retirement home in Riverdale in the Bronx. An avowed agnostic, she had a successful career as stand-up comedienne, theater actor, and clarinetist who hung with Sinatra and the Rat Pack back in the day.

\***KIMBERLY** (aka: "Susan White"): 30-"ish", strawberry blonde (or red-head), feminist living in the Santa Monica neighborhood of Los Angeles, but is originally from Montgomery Alabama. She's a journalist, a Progressive "Netroots" reporter, and a fierce supporter of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. She's currently "sexually fluid", (though questioning her sexuality, she primarily sleeps with men), and grapples with "daddy issues."

\***EDDIE HAYNES:** 75-year-old, Scots-Irish, former Marine, and Vietnam War veteran nicknamed "The Hell Raiser." Originally from Birmingham Alabama, and a former member of "The Brotherhood" (a White Supremacist/White Nationalist hate group) turned campaigner for candidate Barack Obama while living in Riverside California where he's currently in the hospital recovering from a heart attack.

**MILES THOMPSON:** Late-20's (possibly 30's; age range and hair style, either shorter hair or dread locks, can vary), former LSU football player turned Progressive local New Orleanian radio personality for New Orleans talk radio station WWWL. He's a soon-to-be father with his girlfriend, and a fierce supporter and advocate for presidential candidate Barack Obama. He's originally from the Lower 9th Ward, but currently resides in the West Bank in Algiers Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. He spends most of his time visiting his dying "Gramps" at the Touro Infirmary.

**JACKSON THOMPSON:** 40-something, Black New Orleanian originally from the Lower 9th Ward who relocated to the West Bank in Algiers Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. He's an unemployed mechanic with both a drinking problem and a gambling addiction. He's somewhat a-political but leans Democratic, and is a divorced father of Miles and--

\***SIMONE THOMPSON:** Mid-20's, "homegirl" (her style includes feathered hair and "Daisy Dukes"). She's currently a student at Tulane University, but would rather drop out and work full-time to help her family financially. She leans Obama, but is more focused on supporting her community and caring for her "Gramps"--

**TERRENCE THOMPSON:** 70-year-old, “old school” (read: homophobic), former member of the U.S. military and lifelong New Orleanian raised in the Lower 9th Ward where he owned and ran an autobody shop. He lost his home because of Hurricane Katrina causing he and his family to relocate to the West Bank in Algiers, which he resents. He recently lost his wife, Selma, and is currently dying of cancer at the Touro Infirmary, and is completely uninterested in the current political campaign.

**SHAUNA CARRIÈRE:** Late-20’s, Creole debutante from a wealthy Uptown New Orleanian family whose mother is white and father Black. She’s a former print model turned elementary school teacher, and she’s currently pregnant with hers and Miles Thompson’s child (she’s showing a little at the beginning of the play, and is about to “pop” by the end). A lifelong Democrat in a family that switched to Republican after 9/11, she’s not as zealous about Barack Obama as Miles who she wishes would propose to her already!

**\*CARINA THOMPSON:** Mid-20’s, Black hipster in both style (eyeglasses, bangs, turtlenecks and cardigans) and personality. Originally from the Garden District of New Orleans currently living in Greenwich Village New York in an apartment her father set her up in, and her on-and-off again boyfriend (a libertarian, conspiracy theorist, stand-up comic, half Irish, half “culturally” Jewish atheist from Boston named “Jamie Edelstein”) crashes there along with his shady, drug dealing friends. She dabbles in stand-up comedy, but has no career to speak of. A Tulane drop out, and Ralph Nader supporter who comes from a wealthy Uptown family but, like her cousins Miles and \*Simone, fits in more in the “Wards.” She and Ethan are “friends”... and she has a drug problem.

**RONALD THOMPSON:** 50’s, Black, wealthy entrepreneur and financier who lives in the Garden District of New Orleans, but is originally from the 9th Ward. The older brother of Jackson Thompson, Terrence Thompson’s oldest child, and the primary breadwinner of the Thompson clan. He graduated from an Ivy league college, then served in the Navy. He’s the father of Carina Thompson, happily married, and is a staunch fiscal conservative Republican, and fierce supporter of presidential candidate John McCain.

### **ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS/OFF-STAGE VOICES**

\*COMEDY CLUB MC (off-stage)

\*HECKLERS: (#1, #2 & #3) (off-stage)

(8th Black Actor) \*CARLTON/TOMMY/("Hooded Man") TITO: \*Jamaican Nurse/\*New Orleanian/\*Rastafarian

\*BARACK OBAMA (same actor who plays Ronald Thompson)

\*HILLARY CLINTON (same actor who plays Kimberly)

\*JOHN MCCAIN (same actor who plays Eddie Haynes)

\*RON PAUL (same actor who plays Eddie Haynes)

\*AN ANGEL (same actor who plays Kimberly)

(\*) indicates: plays more than one character

Time: The Year 2008

Locations: New York; Southern California; New Orleans; Denver

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

### **Notes On Staging**

This piece requires some multimedia. Therefore, strategically placed television screens, and a scrim at the back of the stage, serves to illuminate: locations, written words, \*video montages, photographs, \*media images, and \*news reports from the 2008 election. \*Audio clips are to be used from political speeches, church sermons and nightly cable news shows.

(\*) indicates: may require usage rights from original source material.

The stage should not contain a built set; sets and set pieces should roll in and out as needed. Light cues, and (some) stage direction, are indicated in (parentheses), as well as set pieces entering and exiting to indicate a set change or change of scene.

(Black out.) does not necessarily indicate a change of scene, but rather a transition within the same scene.

Certain scenes jump back and forth from one location to the next, and light cues should correspond accordingly.

Ethan remains on stage observing whenever he is not involved in a scene; a chair should be stationed stage left for Ethan to "observe" (except for when he's not, which will be obvious when it happens).

A 15-minute intermission should occur between Act Two & Act Three.

### **Notes On Dialogue:**

Certain words should be spoken in the regional dialects of the South (example: words such as oil should be pronounced earl; that, this, the and there replaced with dat, dis, da, and dere, etc., to reflect the African American patois found in the various wards of New Orleans, 7th, 9th, etc).

Dashes (--) at the end of a line of dialogue indicate an interruption, or a change of thought within a line of dialogue, and dual dialogue is used frequently throughout the piece.

Ellipses (...) indicate "beat"/"pause", active silences, or movement in silence.

Words in italics are for emphasis, or to indicate "yelling", or to indicate a change in vocal pitch, or "air quotes", or dialogue within the dialogue, or a word in a language other than English.

Underlined words indicate raised volume or emphasis!