



**Virginia Repertory Theatre**

[www.va-rep.org](http://www.va-rep.org)

**Contact**

Amy Wolf

Director of Marketing & Communications

[awolf@virginiarep.org](mailto:awolf@virginiarep.org)

804-363-1207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **VA Rep presents Eboni Booth's *Primary Trust***

**The 2024 Pulitzer-Prize winner opens March 5 at Virginia Rep**

**Feb. 5, 2026** - Virginia Repertory Theatre announces their first production opening in 2026 - the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Primary Trust*.

A recent off-Broadway hit by playwright Eboni Booth, *Primary Trust* is an insightful exploration of vulnerability, isolation, and the unexpected friendships that can blossom in the face of adversity. When a shy 38 year-old's carefully constructed life—a routine of books, Mai-Tais, and conversations with his best friend—collapses, Kenneth must suddenly confront his past and brave the outside world.

Hailed by critics as “spryly comic and as poignant” (LA Times) and “wonderfully vivid” (The New York Times), this uplifting play takes an often humorous, sometimes heartbreaking, always human look into the process of finding one's footing in an uncertain world.

*Primary Trust* will be presented in VA Rep's Theatre Gym - an intimate, 81 seat theatre located in the November Theatre complex in the Jackson Ward neighborhood of Richmond. The Theatre Gym has hosted many local theatre companies over the last several years, most recently Richmond Shakespeare's *King James*. Last season it welcomed productions from the Black Theatre Alliance, 5th Wall Theatre, and Yes, And! Theatrical Co.

Originally built in 1912, the Theatre Gym was first named The Little Theatre, the first purpose-built movie theatre in Richmond. Renamed The Maggie Walker Theatre in 1934, it remained open until 1963. Its former marquee now fronts the Virginia Repertory Theatre. *Primary Trust* will be the first show produced by VA Rep in this space since the COVID19 pandemic.

*"Primary Trust* is a rare play that finds profound meaning in everyday life, revealing how quiet connections can be just as transformative as grand gestures. And in VA Rep's intimate Theatre Gym, those small, human moments land with extraordinary impact and clarity." says Artistic Director, Rick Hammerly.

## CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Five artists create the cast of *Primary Trust*, featuring **Rex Hudson** as Kenneth, most recently seen in the lead role Tristan for Lucy Prebble's *The Effect* at the Off Square Theatre Company located in the Center for the Arts in Jackson Hole, WY. Playing Kenneth's best friend is NYC based actor, **Brian Anthony Simmons**. Brian holds a BFA in theatre performance from VCU— and his stage credits include working with Black Spectrum Theater, Soho Playhouse, Nuyorican poets café and with Ishamel Reed.

*Primary Trust* also features two actors familiar to Richmond audiences, **Zakiyyah Jackson** (Corrina and others), who was most recently seen in *A Strange Loop* (RTCC 2025 Award - Best Musical), and **Joe Pabst** (Clay & Others) has been directing and performing in the Richmond Theatre Community for more than 35 years— most recently as Mr. Fezziwig in Virginia Rep's *A Christmas Carol*.

Providing an original, live score to the play is **Tevin Davis** (Musician & Others), an actor, singer, musician, writer, music director, and comedian with a B.F.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University. He most recently performed at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and audiences may also recognize Tevin from Season 46 of *Survivor* on CBS.

The show is directed by **Tawnya Pettiford-Wates, Ph.D.**, Professor of Acting and Directing Pedagogy at Virginia Commonwealth University and Artistic Director & Founder of The Conciliation Project, a non-profit social justice theatre company. Dr.T is a playwright, director, actor, poet, and writer. She appeared in the New York Shakespeare Festival's historic Broadway production of *"For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the rainbow is enuf"* performing in both the 1st national and international touring companies. Her television, film, industrial, voice over and commercial credits are extensive. Favorite directing projects include *"uncle tom:deconstructed"* for The Conciliation, *Detroit '67* and *Passing Strange* for Firehouse Theatre, and *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Fences* for the Virginia Rep. Her work with The Conciliation Project has intentionally engaged communities around issues of race, racism, and historic and systemic oppression since 2001.

## **TICKETS AND PERFORMANCES**

Tickets are on sale now at [www.va-rep.org](http://www.va-rep.org) or by calling the box office at (804) 282-2620.

Performances are available Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays at 7:00 PM, select Saturdays at 2PM, Sundays at 3PM, and select Wednesday evenings and matinees.

## **ABOUT VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE**

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a nonprofit professional theater headquartered in downtown Richmond, and one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. With programming for all ages, including the Jessie Bogese Family Series, performances are held at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre on the Marjorie Arenstein stage, at the historic Hanover Tavern in Hanover, VA, and in the Theatre Gym - a more intimate theatre located in the November Theatre complex.

In addition to their season programming, Virginia Rep's Educational Team delivers professional theatre education programs to students K-12 in the Richmond area, including camps, mobile programs, workshops, and in-school enrichment.

Virginia Rep acts as a community partner by offering other theatre companies the opportunity to produce shows in the Theatre Gym free of charge, participation in the Virginia Commission for the Arts Passport Program - where recipients of Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) benefits in Virginia can access up to six free tickets per title, community ticket grants, and pay-what-you-will opportunities. The theatre is also offers sensory friendly performances and works with VirginiaVoice for audio-described performances and is now certified with KultureCity and VisitAble.

## **FULL CAST AND CREATIVE**

*Primary Trust*

By Eboni Booth

### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Direction - Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates

Scenic Design - Daniel Allen

Costume Design - Tajma Graham

Lighting Design - Steven Koehler

Sound Design - Kelsey Cordrey

Stage Management - Lexi Christie

### **CAST LIST**

Kenneth - Rex Hudson

Bert, U/S Kenneth - Brian Anthony Simmons\*

Corrina & Others - Zakiyyah Jackson

Clay & Others - Joe Pabst

Musician & Others - Tevin Davis

\*Members of the Actor's Equity Association