



## **Audio Description Notes for *Skeleton Crew***

### **WELCOME**

Welcome to the Guthrie Theater's production of *Skeleton Crew*. This play was written by Dominique Morisseau and is directed by Austene Van.

My name is Connie Fullmer, and I will be your audio describer for this performance, which is about 2 hours and 15 minutes long with one intermission.

The creative team for this production includes:

- Scenic Designer: Regina García
- Costume Designer: Samantha Fromm Haddow
- Lighting Designer: Nic Vincent
- Sound Designer/Composer: Jeff Lowe Bailey
- Dramaturg: Faye M. Price
- Vocal Coach: Keely Wolter
- Movement Director: Austene Van
- Fight Director/Intimacy: Annie Enneking

This production contains strobe lights, haze, fog, mature language and the use of prop cigarettes.

### **SYNOPSIS**

As the Great Recession of 2008 begins to decimate industries across America, the once-gleaming "Motor City" has lost its luster. At one of its still-standing auto factories, four colleagues-turned-friends hear rumors that their plant is facing foreclosure. Faye, Dez, Shanita and Reggie all have different stakes in the company should it go under, which they grapple with in the break room as the fear of losing their jobs looms. In the final chapter of her acclaimed Detroit trilogy, Dominique Morisseau explores the impact of the Recession-era economy while offering a heartfelt glimpse into the inner lives of Detroit's resilient working class.

### **SETTING**

Detroit, Michigan. Stamping plant. Winter. Somewhere around 2008.



## **STAGING AND PROPS**

The set is designed to be a typical factory break room from the play's location and era.

The building itself is made with painted, worn and soiled brick, with large, frosted pane windows. There is huge ductwork overhead, running across the width of the stage. Alongside the ductwork are two rows of fluorescent tube lamps.

On the left side of the set, facing the stage, is a large vertical window composed of smaller square, frosted panes. The lighting through this window shifts throughout the play to mimic various times of day.

At the far left of the set's back wall is another vertical window of multiple panes, large enough to illuminate one actor when backlit choreography is performed throughout the show. Next to the window is a dark-colored steel door with an automobile poster above it that says, "Garage mechanic on duty."

Around the corner from the door is a wall leading to the far back of the stage. On this wall is another set of lockers with a time-stamp machine attached to the side facing the audience, several automobile-related posters and another set of windows at the top. At the far back of the set is an entryway that leads to another window and an entry door to the factory floor. To the right of the door to the factory is a blue wall with a bulletin board and several more posters above it. Attached to the bulletin board are workplace signs for OSHA or HR messaging, plus several additional signs with messages like "No smoking Faye," "No guns on the premises," "Zero tolerance policy for disorderly conduct" and "Unit meeting Thursday, don't miss it again y'all." At the bottom of the bulletin board is a small tray for a stapler.

To the right of the bulletin board is another large span of square windowpanes, large enough to illuminate two actors when backlit choreography is performed throughout the show. At the back right corner of the stage is a kitchenette with a small white refrigerator, upper and lower wooden cabinets, a sink, a microwave and a coffee maker. On the fridge is a sign that says, "Don't take food that doesn't belong to you." Above the cabinets in the kitchenette are posters for auto parts and mechanic slogans. Above the sink there is a sign that reads, "Please wash your own cups and dishes!" The flooring in the kitchenette area is comprised of one-foot square linoleum tiles that alternate in color. The far right of the stage is an entryway that leads offstage, featuring posters for car parts and a small section of brick wall.

The furniture throughout the set is minimal, with lots of open floor space. To the far left of the stage are several cardboard boxes, a boom box and a small bench. At the center of the stage is a lounge area with a worn, brown leather couch, a companion leather chair and two matching leather ottomans. There are two wooden end tables, one to the left of the couch and one to the right of the chair. Over the couch is a white throw blanket, and two white patterned pillows rest on the couch cushions. On each end table there is a small lamp and assorted objects like magazines, disinfectant spray and tissues. To the right of the lounge area is a small dining set with a light-gray Formica table and four wooden chairs with red seat cushions. On the table is a metal napkin dispenser, salt and pepper shakers, and playing cards.



## **CAST, CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES**

**Reggie**, the auto plant supervisor, is played by **Darius Dotch**. Reggie has short hair and wears conservative supervisor-type clothing. He wears gray pants with multiple keys hanging from his belt and a V-neck knit vest or sweater. Reggie wears black leather shoes, and he often carries a clipboard.

The other three characters are all assembly line workers.

**Shanita** is played by **Stephanie Everett**.

**Dez** is played by **Mikell Sapp**.

**Faye** is played by **Jennifer Fouché**.

All three have medium or long dreadlocks. When they come in from outdoors, the dreadlocks are hanging free, but when they come in from the line, the dreadlocks are tied back. All three wear construction boots, sturdy work clothes — overalls, coveralls, jeans, cargo pants and long-sleeved shirts — and bright orange safety vests.

## **THREE THINGS TO KNOW**

- *Skeleton Crew* premiered on Broadway in 2022 and received three Tony Award nominations, including Best Play.
- Playwright Dominique Morisseau was born and raised in Detroit and received the Spirit of Detroit Award for her writing about the city. *Skeleton Crew* is the third play in her acclaimed Detroit trilogy, which includes her plays *Paradise Blue* and *Detroit '67*.
- Director Austene Van is an acclaimed Twin Cities theater professional, Artistic Director of New Dawn Theatre and Producing Artistic Director at Yellow Tree Theatre. Most recently at the Guthrie, she directed our 2022 production of *A Raisin in the Sun*.