

NEW THEATRE
OUTSIDE THE BOX

PRESENTS

New works written and performed by
former students of **Boston Arts Academy**

THE next STAGE

SUNDAY, **NOVEMBER 20, 2011** | 7:00 PM

WHAT (WELLFLEET HARBOR ACTORS THEATRE)
PART OF THE **LAB WORKSHOP SERIES**
ON THE **JULIE HARRIS STAGE**

SUGGESTED DONATION | \$8.00

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



I continue to remind people who ask about the birth of TC SQUARED that, when I left Boston Arts Academy, after ten years as Founding Chair of Theatre, a group of my former students sat around my kitchen table and talked. I discovered there was a real hunger for continued artistic growth and a sense of community, reminiscent of their nurturing days at BAA. These young people had taken different paths; some worked part-time jobs; some graduated with advanced degrees from college; some went on to teach, write, or

work in the arts; some formed their own theatre companies; but all of them wanted to be involved in a special community in the arts. Out of this grew TC2, the Thomas-Clark Theatre Company.

My Founding Board continue to sit around my table, sharing food, and volunteering tirelessly to revisit our Mission Statement, to read scripts, and to plan the next stage in their artistic journey. I am in awe of their tireless devotion to this process. New scripts from former BAA students arrive from around the globe: from the Dominican Republic, from Australia, as well as from LA, NYC, Philadelphia and Boston...

And now TC SQUARED is on tour! After three staged readings in Boston, we are honored to have been invited to perform at WHAT (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre) as part of their Lab Workshop series. For TC2, this is the culmination of a weekend Retreat where we offered workshops in playwriting and acting from professional artists, together with discussions around our vision and future plans.

We are always looking to mentor new young playwrights who will continue to address social issues and transform audiences. As we did this month, we will also offer a platform to current BAA writers who we feel exhibit exceptional skill in their craft. We all thank Company One, Boston Arts Academy, and our Honorary Board for their support, and we are delighted that you, our audience, are a part of this new venture. These young artists of TC SQUARED have powerful voices and we are lucky to be listening.

Rosalind Thomas-Clark
Artistic Director

Rosalind Thomas-Clark continues to work professionally as an actor and director for stage, radio, and film, and, committed to theatre for social change, she started her own theatre company, TC Squared. She directs productions from young playwrights and actors, former students of Boston Arts Academy, which address relevant contemporary issues. She also heads the team for the prestigious experiential summer program, London Cultural Connections, which has been affording students this life-changing experience since 1995. A life-long teacher of literature, theatre and the arts, Ms. Thomas-Clark received her undergraduate degree in theatre from the Guildhall School in London, and her master's degree at Brown University. Involved in several start-up arts organizations, she was the founder and director of the Theatre Workshop in Edinburgh, Scotland; the South Island Workshop and the Music Theatre Group in London, England; the Open House Community Arts in Yorkshire, England; the Watershed at the Bristol Arts Centre in England; and The Maidment Arts Centre at the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

Her work with the urban community has included founding TOY (Theatre Outreach for Youth) during her time at Brown University. She was a founding faculty member and Chair of Theatre at the Boston Arts Academy for ten years. The recipient of a SURDNA Arts Teacher's Fellowship in 2003, she studied with Augusto Boal in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the Center for the Theatre of the Oppressed, working in prisons, favellas, and with other community organizations. In the summer of 2006, she traveled with ten BAA students to perform at the Edinburgh International Fringe Festival in Scotland, UK. She was awarded Boston's Teacher of the Year Award in 2005, and a SURDNA Artist Colony Grant in 2008. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, near her three children and five grandchildren.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission will encourage and produce staged readings of new work by former students of Boston Arts Academy who are now writing and acting in the professional theatre. Our role is to mentor young artists to reach diverse audiences through socially relevant theatre which challenges opinions and pushes artistic boundaries to produce transformative theatre.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Rosalind Thomas-Clark

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

Erika Cesar

Raiza Cheng

Gabriella Ciambrone

Nikki Prefontaine

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

John ADEkoje

Abdi Ali

Phyllis Bretholtz

Peter Gould

Kirsten Greenidge

Shawn LaCount

Victoria Marsh

Linda Nathan

Juanita Rodrigues

Margie Schaffel

Susan Werbe

TC SQUARED PLAYWRIGHTS

Zadima Cadyma

Jamila Capitman

Raiza Cheng

Gabriella Ciambrone

Taoe Clarke

Jahcobi Cosom

Yolandi Cruz

Natasha Devonish-Jordan

Phelip Foncesca

Sam Harnish

Emilia Herman

Elbert Joseph

Kati Li

Marquita Niles

Ian Poole

Diego Ribeiro

Jesse Tolbert

Paloma Valenzuela

Ione Vasquez

Veronica Wells

TC SQUARED ACTORS

Tory Bullock

Zadima Cadyma

Erika Cesar

Gabriella Ciambrone

Benito Henri

Elbert Joseph

Michael Knowlton

James Milord

Danny Mourino

Marquita Niles

Nicole Prefontaine

Ray Ramirez

Diego Ribeiro

Jaclene Rosato

Paloma Valenzuela

Veronica Wells

TC SQUARED PRODUCTION TEAM

Maria Cabral

Alex Castillo-Nuñez

Vonski Celestin

Niurka DeJesus

Jadira Figueroa

Stephanie Gerard

Elyas Harris

Elisvania Ramos-Vargas

Grady Robinson

THE NEXT STAGE PRODUCTION TEAM

Event Coordinator: Gabriella Ciambrone

Stage Manager: Jadira Figueroa

Technical Consultant and Videography: Veronica Wells

House Managers: Niurka De Jesus and Stephanie Gerard

Light Board Operator: Elyas Harris

Photography: Phyllis Bretholtz

TC Squared Trailer DVD: Alex Castillo-Nuñez

PROGRAM

Welcome | Ros Thomas-Clark, TC Squared Artistic Director

Scenes from *RANT!* by Paloma Valenzuela

THE GAME SHOW: Charlie - Benito Henri | Jose - Ray Ramirez | Rogers - Danny Mourino
The Girl Who Reads Minds - Erika Cesar

THREE FRIENDS SITTING AROUND TALKING by Emilia Herman

Man 1 - Michael Knowlton | Man 2 - Benito Henri | Woman - Emilia Herman

KITTENS by Yolandi Cruz

Maxine - Nikki Prefontaine | Ashley's Voice - Marquita Niles | Cat - Emilia Herman
TOYS: Doll - Danny Mourino | Buzz - Benito Henri | Dora - Erika Cesar | Map - Ray Ramirez

A scene from *WORKING TITLE* by Raiza Cheng

Alicia - Emilia Herman | Doctor - Danny Mourino

A scene from *WEDNESDAY DOUBLE* by Gabriella Ciambrone

Ava - Nikki Prefontaine | Claudio - Danny Mourino | Charlie - Michael Knowlton

A scene from *DEAD FRIENDSHIP* by Taoe Clarke

Vince - Benito Henri | Ray - Ray Ramirez | Hannah - Nikki Prefontaine | Shannon - Erika Cesar

From *WHEN I SAW HER AGAIN* by Natasha Devonish-Jordan

The Woman Who Remembers - Nikki Prefontaine | The Woman Who Dreams - Marquita Niles

from the screenplay *THE GUITARIST* by Veronica Wells

Enrique - Ray Ramirez | Juan Carlos - Danny Mourino

DREAM ACT by Raiza Cheng

Immigrant - Erika Cesar

A scene from *MEMORIES* by Ione Vasquez

Laura - Erika Cesar | Michael - Benito Henri | Granddaughter - Marquita Niles
Ramos - Danny Mourino | Junior - Ray Ramirez

A scene from *QUESIOCUANTO* by Paloma Valenzuela

Nandin - Erika Cesar | Pepe - Danny Mourino

A scene from *4 SOUTHWEST* from the *QUI'MO CHIC* Series by Jahcobie Cosom

He - Ray Ramirez

AYITI by Zadina Cadyma

She - Erika Cesar / Marquita Niles

A scene from *JUST A GLIMPSE* by Elbert Joseph & Richard Marshall

Mark - Michael Knowlton | Hector - Ray Ramirez

I HATE FISH by Diego Ribeiro

Man - Danny Mourino

Scenes from *LOVE QUEENS WHO SUFFER FROM POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER*

by Jamila Capitman & Heather Thomas

Woman - Erika Cesar

ENSEMBLE

Erika Cesar, Benito Henri, Emilia Herman, Michael Knowlton,
Danny Mourino, Marquita Niles, Nikki Prefontaine, Ray Ramirez

POST SHOW RECEPTION

**ZADINA CADYMA ('03)**

Zadina is a resident of Cohort 8 at the Timilty Middle School in Roxbury where she is completing her Boston Teacher Residency year in 7th grade Social Studies. Formerly, as the Coordinator of Reading & Study Skills at Salem State University, and as a Career Specialist with the Boston Private Industry Council, Zadina has finally pursued her vision of becoming a history teacher. With a degree in Sociology and a focus in Cultural Diversity from Salem State University, Zadina's primary focus as an educator is teaching students who have been underserved in Boston. Her interests in the Civil Rights Movement, Humanities and Geography have influenced her decision to change the way students think about history. Raised in Roxbury, and a former theatre student at Boston Arts Academy, Zadina looks forward to exploring what it means to be a teacher who integrates theatre within her classroom.

**JAMILA CAPITMAN ('05)**

Jamila is a theatre artist, community organizer, and youth worker who grew up in Roxbury, MA. She attended Boston Arts Academy as a theatre major and received a full scholarship to Howard University's theatre department, where she developed her skills as an artist, then transferred to Temple University to major in African American Studies. Here she began her journey as an artist/activist by starting Raw Fruit Theater Troupe. She has acted in and directed several shows, including *For Colored Girls...* by Ntozake Shange and a series of short plays called *Learning To Swim*, which was part of the 2009 Philly Fringe Festival. This past year Jamila was the co-writer and director of Raw Fruit's first original piece, *Love, Queens Who Suffer From Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*, a choreopoem inspired by her own life experience, and the work of great female literary artists like Ntozake Shange. She is most excited that excerpts from this piece will be featured in the second NEXT STAGE reading by TC SQUARED.

**ERIKA CESAR ('01)**

Erika graduated with a bachelor's and master's degree from Emerson College and is now a teacher of Spanish and Theatre at English High School in Boston. She is a member of the Founding Board of TC SQUARED and helped to define the mission statement and launch *The Next Stage*. A member of Company One's Professional Development for Actors class, Erika was seen in their Showcase on stage at the BCA, in scenes from *Anthony and Cleopatra* and *A Bright Room Called Day*. Onstage roles include *The Colored Museum* (BAA) and *Twelfth Night* (Emerson Stage). Erika is an alumna of the first BAA Class of 2001, and was chosen to speak at graduation on the stage of the Shubert Theatre.

**RAIZA CHENG ('05)**

Raiza is a Founding Board member of TC SQUARED and has been instrumental in building the launch of this new company. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Management from the University of Massachusetts Boston with a concentration in Finance, and a minor in Economics. She received an award for Outstanding Senior from Financial Executives International and is the first one in her family to graduate from college. While at BAA, she won the Technical Theatre Award, and was credited as Production Manager for several shows. *Working Title* is the second piece she has contributed to *The Next Stage*, and is delighted that more BAA alumni are sending in their original writing to TC SQUARED.

**GABRIELLA CIAMBRONE ('05)**

Gabriella is delighted to be witnessing the second *Next Stage* reading! Since the last reading she has been very busy getting involved with the Dorchester Arts Collaborative. She is their newest board member and is working hard to bring more mediums of art to Dorchester. She is currently the executive producer of *Oleanna* by David Mamet, being produced this summer by Can't Wait Productions. She recently traveled to South Africa and Swaziland, gaining lots of inspiration and material for the New Orleans Fringe Festival in November 2011, which she plans on attending with her good friend (and BAA alum) Adobuere Ebiama. Gabriella would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support, as well as the families she works for, and Tavolo for letting her take the time she needs to commit to her art.

**TAOE CLARKE ('08)**

Taoe was the recipient of the Franklin Worthington Taylor Award when he graduated from Boston Arts Academy in 2008. His play *Dead Friendship* was showcased that year, and received great reviews. Taoe is completing a degree at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and was seen recently as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A member of Company One's Professional Development for Actors class, Taoe was seen in the last Showcase on stage at the BCA, in scenes from *Orphans* and *Gruesome Playground Injuries*. Taoe continues to develop his writing and acting for both film and stage, and is thrilled to be a part of the launch of TC SQUARED.

**JAHCOBIE COSOM ('08)**

Jahcobie graduated from Boston Arts Academy in 2008, and was also RICO Speaker. He left BAA with strong hopes of his growth artistically, especially after becoming BAA's first media student, which led him to the prestigious California Institute of the Arts. He is entering his 4th and final year as a film/video major whose work is highly interdisciplinary. Jahcobie has been on the BAA Board of Trustees, as well as another for a non profit agency. His writings have been published and featured

at CalArts, LA state Luckman fine arts gallery, and at different events combining visual art and text, as well as dance, music, performance and hybrid text. Jahcobie is a filmmaker, director, actor, producer, educator and artist-scholar who constantly strives to blur the lines on art and its aesthetic that we have set as a society. He has currently finished co-producing *Hymn to the Sun*, an opera music video forced into contemporary time. He is completing his *16mm Dance on Film Collection*. Just released was *Mucositis* the first part of the collection. He is very excited to begin a strong alliance with TC SQUARED, as well as with other prominent members of the Boston artistic scene. He looks forward to this being a tickle for the many laughs, cries, and for the spiritual movement he hopes to provoke in his hometown of Boston.



YOLANDI CRUZ ('13)

Yolandi is a junior at Boston Arts Academy and has been selected for the chosen spot offered by TC SQUARED to promising current BAA student playwrights. As a sophomore, Yolandi was part of the Emerson Theater Festival, performing in *The Color Experiment* directed by John ADEkoje, in *A*

Midsummer's Night's Dream directed by Jason Bowen, and, this year, in *The Waiting Room* written by John ADEkoje. Yolandi is an aspiring playwright, poet, actor, and filmmaker, and is pleased to have her work showcased in *The Next Stage*.



NATASHA DEVONISH-JORDAN ('04)

After graduating from the Boston Arts Academy with awards in Technical Theatre, Natasha went on to study Film and Photography at Emerson College on a full scholarship. In 2005, she decided to leave Emerson College and move to Australia. In the past six years she has completed two degrees

in Australia and recently applied for Permanent Residency there. When not working as a Primary School teacher, Natasha spends her time studying fire twirling, rock climbing, writing, and working on intimate/confronting self-portraits. She is currently studying Afro-Colombian dance and training with the Australian Women's Circus, developing her skills in trapeze, Chinese pole and acro-balance. On her 23rd birthday, Natasha flew a plane. She is hoping to learn to learn how to drive soon.



BENITO HENRI ('11)

Benito graduated last year from Boston Arts Academy, having distinguished himself on stage in several productions, including *Marisol*, *Giants*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as Soul Element's original piece *The Worst Days of Our Lives...* A member of Company One's Professional

Development for Actors class, Benito was seen in the last Showcase on stage at the BCA, in scenes from *Orphans* and *Ruined*. He recently appeared in Company One's Fringe Wars in J.C. Tolbert's *A Lonely Recluse*. Benito is a student at Mass Bay Community College, and plans to transfer to a school where he can pursue his love of theatre. He welcomes this chance to be a part of TC SQUARED.



EMILIA HERMAN ('02)

Originally from Costa Rica, Emilia is fluent in both English and Spanish. In 1996, when she was eleven years old, her family migrated to the United States. With only one suitcase each, they traveled for almost a year. She met Mickey Mouse in Orlando, went on her first date in Oregon, and saw

her first snowfall in New York. Finally, they settled down in Boston, where she attended Boston Arts Academy and graduated as a Theatre Major. In 2005 she moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting. She joined the Actors' Gang early upon arrival and performed in several plays, one of which won the *LA Weekly* award for Best Revival Play of the year. She has had intensive training in Improvisation, Clowning, and Commedia, and has been a principal performer in a number of national commercials.



ELBERT JOSEPH ('01)

Elbert is proud to be part of TC SQUARED. He is an actor, playwright, tech crew member, American Sign Language coach, and theatrical interpreter. His acting credits include: *Hysteria* at Nora Theatre; *Peter Pan* at Wheelock Family Theatre; Ryan Landry, American Repertory Theatre; Ensemble,

The Whizz, Dust Orphan Theatre; Harwich Junior Theatre; and Project Shakespeare, Lyric Stage. His ASL coaching and interpreting credits include: *The Lion King*; *Wicked*; *Mary Poppins*, Boston Opera House; *Fences*, Huntington Theatre; *Road to Mecca* (coaching) at Boston University; and many shows at Wheelock Family Theatre. His next ASL coaching project is *West Side Story* at the Colonial Theatre. He wishes to thank the interpreting team, Rachel, Kelly and Chris, for volunteering to be part of TC SQUARED. EJ believes the arts inspire and transform lives! He thanks TC and her company for making him feel welcome!



MICHAEL H.J. KNOWLTON ('03)

Michael grew up and currently resides in Dorchester. He graduated from Boston Arts Academy in 2003 as an instrumentalist and then continued playing drums at Berklee College of Music. After two years he left Berklee and soon after began working for the family business, Sibley Construction,

where he continues to work today. On an impulse, he signed up for a beginner's improv/acting class in 2010. This was his intro to acting. Michael was hooked! After this class he acted in four Emerson and Mass Art student films before being invited to join TC SQUARED in April 2011. Michael is honored to be able to be on stage for the first time with the many talented, passionate members of TC SQUARED and looks forward to working with them in the future.



DANNY MOURINO ('03)

Boston native Danny, an aspiring screenwriter and actor, graduated from Boston Arts Academy in 2003. While at BAA, Danny appeared in numerous productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Inner City Blues*, *The Laramie Project*, *Soldier's Play* and *Grand Magic*. Danny also participated

in the Emerson Theatre Festival, the Artsfirst Promising Student Arts Program and Doing The Right Thing In Dorchester, a benefit Gala sponsored by filmmaker Spike Lee. Professional productions include Company One's Boston Fringe, The African American Theatre Festival, and Company One's *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Currently, Danny is looking to make a comeback after taking a brief hiatus from the theatre scene. He plans to join Company One's Professional Development for Actor's class in the fall. He is excited to be working with TC again and is happy to be a part of TC SQUARED.



MARQUITA NILES ('04)

Marquita gained her bachelor's degree in psychology from Pine Manor College, with a concentration in Adolescent Behavior. She is native to Boston and started her teaching career in the non-profit area. She will soon participate in the urban ministry at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

School. Recently, she became a member of ARTiculation, and also had the joy of improving her acting in Company One's Professional Development for Actor's class, which she looks forward to joining again in the fall. Marquita's latest performances were in *Hope of Glory* and *Old School Love* at Jubilee Christian Church. Her passion for writing and performing stems from her life as a foster child, and from her deep desire to impact the lives of young people. She is excited about being a part of TC SQUARED!



NIKKI PREFONTAINE ('01)

A graduate of Boston Arts Academy, Nikki is a Founding Member of TC SQUARED. She recently was cast in John ADEkoje's film, *Knock Around Kids*, as Angie, and traveled to the UK with Rosalind Thomas-Clark to teach in the London Cultural Connections summer program. She holds a Bachelor of

Arts in Theatre Studies from Emerson College. Emerson Stage credits include *The Me Nobody Knows* and *The Hot L Baltimore*. Nikki performed in the first two productions of *The Next Stage*, and Company One's World Premiere of *Grimm*. A member of Company One's Professional Development for Actors class, Nikki was showcased several times on stage at the BCA, in scenes from *A Winter's Tale*, *Venus in Fur*, *Humble Boy* and *As You Like It*. Currently Arts Technician for Boston Public Schools (Curriculum & Instruction/Arts), she is also pursuing a Masters of Education in Community Arts, with a specialization in Theatre Studies, at Lesley University.



RAYMOND RAMIREZ ('04)

Raymond is overwhelmingly excited to continue his return to the ever-thriving Boston acting scene. Most recently he was part of Shakespeare Now's production of *Julius Caesar* and Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as Company One's production of *Grimm*, which presented a gritty

adaptation of The Brothers Grimm fairytales from playwrights such as Gregory Maguire and John Kuntz, among others. His most notable Boston roles include, Judas in *The Last Days Of Judas Iscariot* (Company One), Alex in *A Clockwork Orange*

(Company One), Jack in *Clara's Ole Man* (Our Place Theatre Co.), and miscellaneous roles including Elaine Brown in *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*. (Company One). Raymond has also recently been fortunate enough to spend his time doing background work on a couple of movies filming in the Boston area.



DIEGO RIBEIRO ('02)

Diego graduated in 2002 from the Boston Arts Academy with many roles to his credit, including John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Grandfather in *You Can't Take It With You*. At The Juilliard Conservatory, Diego played The Professor in the World Premier

of *Kitty, Kitty, Kitty*. Back in Boston, he was in the Word Premier of *Angels in America: the Opera* at the Boston Center for the Arts; Mendosa in *Tooth and Claw* for Zeitgeist Stage; and in *The Taming of the Shrew* with Commonwealth Shakespeare. Diego is delighted to be back as a writer and actor for TC SQUARED.



PALOMA VALENZUELA ('05)

Paloma is a playwright and screenwriter, originally from the city of Boston, where she graduated from Boston Arts Academy. She studied Dramatic Writing at the NYU Tisch Summer Program, becoming a Writing for Film and Television Major at Emerson College, where she wrote and

produced her first full-length play, *RANT!* in 2008. Excerpts were selected for the first staged reading of TC SQUARED at the Boston Center for the Arts in 2011. Her first short film, *La Oficina*, was selected for the competition in the Festival de Cine Global Dominicano 2010, and *Mujeres en Cortos* 2011. Paloma moved to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to work as the Second AD for a Dominican sitcom. In the summer of 2010, she directed her first independent film, *Saturday*. This was showcased through the Dorchester Arts Collaborative in the Spring of 2011. Paloma has collaborated with various writers and directors both in Boston and the Dominican Republic, and has created an independent production company called La Gringa Loca Productions. A freelance screenwriter/script editor, she teaches an independent screenwriting class through La Gringa Loca at the Cinemateca Dominicana, and works as a drama teacher at Saint Joseph's School in Santo Domingo. She hopes to continue to collaborate on independent projects and grow as a writer and an artist. Check out her humorist blog, Typing With Fake Nails!



VERONICA WELLS ('06)

Veronica was born and raised in Boston, graduating from Boston Arts Academy with many roles under her belt, as well as directing a piece for Senior Showcase. She graduated in Film and Video from Massachusetts College of Arts in 2010. Among her films are *Mama V*, *Final Notice*, and

a video installation shown at the Artists' Foundation and Mass College of Art. A strong supporter of and contributor to Boston's Escena Latina, she is happy to be back on the stage and sharing it with her BAA family.



TC SQUARED GIVES SPECIAL THANKS TO:

WHAT

Company One

Shawn LaCount

Boston Arts Academy

John ADEkoje

Phyllis Bretholtz

Victoria Marsh

Elizabeth and John Skelton

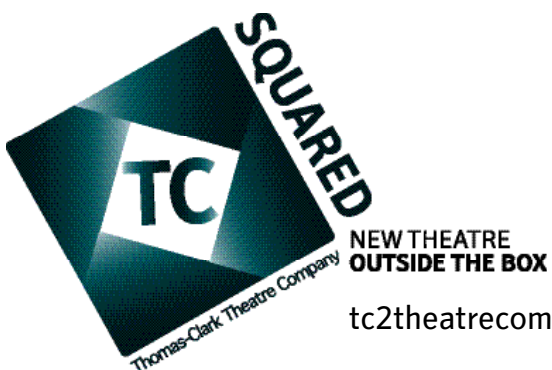
Margie Schaffel

Susan Werbe

MANY BAA Theatre Alumni

All of OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, & SUPPORTERS!

SUGGESTED DONATION | \$8.00



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