

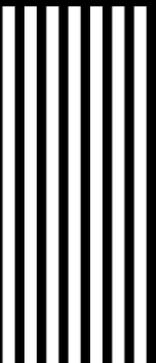


# HONKY

BY GREG KALLERES



DRAMATISTS  
PLAY SERVICE  
INC.



HONKY  
Copyright © 2014, Greg Kalleres

All Rights Reserved

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that performance of HONKY is subject to payment of a royalty. It is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, and of all countries covered by the International Copyright Union (including the Dominion of Canada and the rest of the British Commonwealth), and of all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, the Berne Convention, and of all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations. All rights, including without limitation professional/amateur stage rights, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all other forms of mechanical, electronic and digital reproduction, transmission and distribution, such as CD, DVD, the Internet, private and file-sharing networks, information storage and retrieval systems, photocopying, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved. Particular emphasis is placed upon the matter of readings, permission for which must be secured from the Author's agent in writing.

The English language stock and amateur stage performance rights in the United States, its territories, possessions and Canada for HONKY are controlled exclusively by DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. No professional or nonprofessional performance of the Play may be given without obtaining in advance the written permission of DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., and paying the requisite fee.

Inquiries concerning all other rights should be addressed to Abrams Artists Agency, 275 Seventh Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10001. Attn: Ron Gwiazda.

**SPECIAL NOTE**

Anyone receiving permission to produce HONKY is required to give credit to the Author(s) as sole and exclusive Author(s) of the Play on the title page of all programs distributed in connection with performances of the Play and in all instances in which the title of the Play appears, including printed or digital materials for advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the Play and/or a production thereof. Please see your production license for font size and typeface requirements.

Be advised that there may be additional credits required in all programs and promotional material. Such language will be listed under the "Additional Billing" section of production licenses. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure any and all required billing is included in the requisite places, per the terms of the license.

**SPECIAL NOTE ON SONGS AND RECORDINGS**

For performances of copyrighted songs, arrangements or recordings mentioned in these Plays, the permission of the copyright owner(s) must be obtained. Other songs, arrangements or recordings may be substituted provided permission from the copyright owner(s) of such songs, arrangements or recordings is obtained; or songs, arrangements or recordings in the public domain may be substituted.

HONKY received its world premiere at Urban Stages (Frances Hill, Artistic Director) in New York City on March 15, 2013. It was directed by Luke Harlan; the set design was by Roman Tatarowicz; the costume design was by Sarah Thea Swafford; the lighting design was by Miriam Nilofa Crowe; the sound design was by Brandon Wolcott; the projection design was by Caite Hevner; the production manager was Sean Hagerty; and the production stage manager was Brian D. Gold. The cast was as follows:

THOMAS HODGE.....Anthony Gaskins  
DAVIS TALLISON ..... Philip Callen  
PETER TRAMMEL .....Dave Droxler  
EMILIA HODGE ..... Arie Bianca Thompson  
ANDIE CHASTAIN ..... Danielle Faitelson  
DR. DRISCOLL .....Scott Barrow  
KID 1 ..... Chris Myers  
KID 2 .....Reynaldo Piniella

## CHARACTERS

THOMAS HODGE: 30s, black male.

DAVIS TALLISON: 40s-50s, white male.

PETER TRAMMEL: 30s, white male.

EMILIA HODGE: 30s, black female; Thomas' sister.

ANDIE CHASTAIN: 25-35, white female; Peter's fiancée.

DR. DRISCOLL: 35-60, white male.

KID 1: 18-30, black male.

KID 2: 18-30, black male.

WILSON: Played by Dr. Driscoll.

REPORTER: Played by Dr. Driscoll.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: Played by Kid 1.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Played by Dr. Driscoll.

This play should be performed without an intermission.

**hon·ky** (Hông'ke.) n. offensive slang;  
A disparaging term for a white person

# HONKY

## Scene 1

### “Sky Max 16 Commercial”

*A screen projection of a poor, black, American neighborhood. A soulful woman sings to a melodramatic hip-hop beat.*

SOULFUL WOMAN. *(Offstage.)*

Oh, yeaaaaah ... oooh, yeaaaaaaah ...

*(A silhouette of two black kids dressed stereotypically “ghetto” strut toward each other and begin playing a badass game of one-on-one.)*

When life is hard out in the street

It matters what is on your feet

Reach for the sky.

*(It’s choreographed beautifully, like a dance. It’s about more than basketball.)*

When ghetto’s in your sole

And it’s kinda like *The Wire* on HBO

Reach for the sky. Reach for the sky.

*(Kid 1 shoots. Kid 2 blocks. Kid 1 goes down. Angry, Kid 1 removes his sneaker and aims it at Kid 2, like a gun! Kid 2 then pulls off his Sky Max 16 shoe — a dramatic light shines on it. He aims it at Kid 1, who realizes he’s over-matched and raises his hands in defeat.)*

Reach for the skyyyyyyyy!!

*(The Sky Max 16 logo appears.)*

BADASS ANNOUNCER. The new SKY MAX 16!

KID 2. ’Sup Now! *(Then breaking all coolness we hear:)*

LESS BADASS ANNOUNCER. Now available at all Footlocker locations! *(Lights out.)*

## Scene 2

*A nice office. Davis Tallison, white, sits confidently behind a desk, scrutinizing a wildly-colored basketball sneaker. Across sits Thomas Hodge, black.*

DAVIS. So, are they going to stay these colors?

THOMAS. Well, yeah. That's kinda the design. *(He waits as Davis examines it more.)*

DAVIS. Would you wear these?

THOMAS. You mean...? Sure. I mean. What do you mean?

DAVIS. I mean would you wear them?

THOMAS. Well, I wouldn't design anything I wouldn't wear.

DAVIS. No, I understand that; pride in your work and I get that. But ... would you?

THOMAS. *(With conviction.)* Yes.

DAVIS. See, I think it looks like a circus shoe.

THOMAS. You don't like it.

DAVIS. I can't think of a pair of pants that would go with them.

THOMAS. You said the same thing about the 16s.

DAVIS. Right. Well, the first question, the important one, is would *you* wear them? You say you would. The next question is, would *I*? And the truth is, I wouldn't wear them on a bet.

THOMAS. Well. With all due respect Mr. Tallison, they're not for you. *(This sparks something in Davis.)*

DAVIS. No? Who are they for, Thomas?

THOMAS. They're for, well, black kids. They're for black kids. That's our target. Urban youth; 14-24.

DAVIS. Ahh. That does exclude me, doesn't it? Guess my opinion doesn't carry much weight around here.

THOMAS. No, that's not — what I meant was —

DAVIS. They're for your people. Right? It's okay. That what you're saying?

THOMAS. *(Beat; cautious.)* I was hired to design shoes for the urban youth market. Sky Shoes ... I'm saying, Sky Shoes is an urban — *primarily* — black brand.

# HONKY

by Greg Kalleres

6M, 2W (flexible casting)

When a young African American is shot for a pair of basketball shoes, sales triple among white teens. Are ghetto-glorifying commercials to blame, or is it the white CEO who only sees dollar signs? Luckily, there's a new pill on the market guaranteed to cure racism. HONKY is a darkly comedic look at five people, white and black, as they navigate the murky waters of race, rhetoric, and basketball shoes.

*"Hilarious, irreverent, keeps you laughing from start to finish."*  
—**The New York Times**

*"Skillfully utilizes humor to extend the conversation about racism to the important theatre audience."*  
—**TheatreReviews.com**

*"Kalleres' sense of nonsense is sublime ... [He] doesn't shy away from uncomfortable observations about race."*  
—**OffOffOnline.com**

*"A thought-provoking satire that asks many questions and delivers as many answers."*  
—**HarlemWorld.com**

*"Witty, wicked ... makes you laugh and think and even, at the end, hope."*  
—**Dallas Morning News**

ISBN 978-0-8222-3100-4



DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.

9 780822 231004