



# HONKY

BY GREG KALLERES



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HONKY  
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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**

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