KEEAN SCOTT II is a playwright, poet, actor, director, and producer of original work from Queens, New York. His work has been produced at notable theaters such as National Black Theater, New York Theater Workshop, Arena Stage, and Woolly Mammoth. His play, *Thoughts of a Colored Man*, made its world premiere at Syracuse Stage and transferred to Baltimore Center Stage before moving to Broadway in 2021-22, where he made his writing and unconventional acting debut. Mr. Scott was a part of the 2021 TED Fellow cohort among a global community of artists, inventors, and scientists. His new musical *The Return of Young Boy* started development at New York Stage & Film and has sights on the 2024-25 theater season. He has numerous other plays in development, and an array of projects for television and film, including an adaptation of *Thoughts of a Colored Man* with Netflix/Chernin Entertainment. In 2020, Mr. Scott formed Project Toys, a dynamic and innovative company at the intersection of theater, TV, film, animation, fashion, and more. Project Toys is not just an ordinary production company; it is a creative art studio that embraces the spirit of childlike wonder and channels it into captivating experiences across multiple mediums. The mission is to bring joy, inspiration, and thought-provoking content to audiences of all ages, transcending boundaries and captivating hearts and minds.

DREW DRAKE is an Actor, Poet, Hip Hop Artist, Director and Educator from Huntsville Alabama currently residing in NYC. He is focused on creating art that facilitates healthy dialogue for people of color. Drew was last seen on TV in roles such as “Lamar Cordell” in *Law and Order* and on stages such as Bonnaroo Music Festival, Barclays Center, and Brooklyn Academy of Music’s production *Word. Sound. Power*. In December, he directed *Marisol* by Jose Rivera for NYU Tisch’s Mainstage Fall Undergraduate production. He is the former Poet-In-Residence and Teaching Artist with Urban Word NYC, and is a Professor at New York University (Martin Luther King Scholars Program and Tisch: Playwrights Horizon Theatre Studio), Columbia Law School. He teaches African American Theatre at Medgar Evers College. Drew is super thankful to be coming back to Knoxville to return as an Artist in Residence at the Clarence Brown Theatre / University of Tennessee this Spring Semester.