

STAGES

CAPITAL★
REPERTORY theatre
managed by PROCTORS

BLOOD TYPE: RAGU
Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT



There is a wonderful line from the musical *Once on This Island*: "Our lives become the stories that we live."

For years, in social situations with friends, I would casually recount stories about my colorful Italian upbringing. Usually, the reaction would be belly laughter and even a few tears leading to the response, "you really should write about this."

I love to write but I just didn't want to create a memoir of funny anecdotes for a fleeting laugh. There was as a richer story I wanted to express. I wanted to capture the

joys and challenges of growing up as a first-generation child of immigrant parents and how that child negotiates between two very different cultures.

Also, I wanted to examine how a boy finds his identity and manhood in a culture that is driven by very specific traditions and expectations about masculinity. There are already enough stories out there portraying Italian-Americans as *Goombas*, *Mafiosi* and *Guidos*.

My intention for writing **Blood Type: RAGU** was to craft a true family story from a different perspective. I chose to write it as a one-man play because I thought it would be more powerful to witness 20 characters emerge from a child's point of view.

The true challenge began in transitioning from playwright to actor. I had to stop thinking and start feeling.

Sometimes I would hear myself say, "Who wrote this? This is hard!" Then I remembered it was me. It was also helpful to receive feedback from

my wife Teresa, producer Andrew Levine and director Ted Sod.

The show developed a faster pace and character transitions became more defined. While there are 20 characters, the most important character is the 21st – the audience. I never tire of the rhythm and energy that a live audience offers.

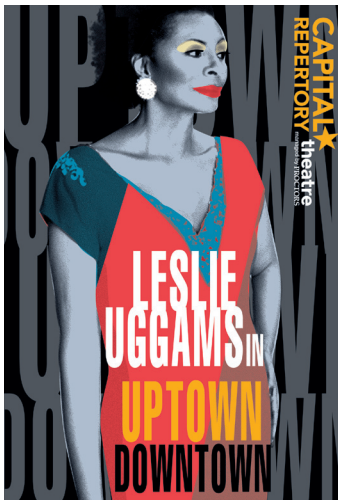
Early in the run, I sometimes struggled with the question, "Do I have a voice? Would anyone care about what I had to say?" The answer came when I realized the more you speak from a personal voice, the more people will identify with the work.

Audience members from many diverse cultures have shared that they are still experiencing the same story and return bringing other family members.

For me, it is an honor and gift to be performing *Blood Type: RAGU* for Capital Region audiences.

I hope you enjoy the show!

– Frank Ingrasciotta



SPECIAL MESSAGES TO SUBSCRIBERS

Remember: **Leslie Uggams** in **Uptown Downtown** is here for only two weeks (Limited Engagement: July 19 – Jul. 31). Your seats may not be your customary ones for this show, but we believe you will still enjoy an outstanding performance of *Seriously Good Theatre!*

SAVE THE DATE! Monday, Sept 12 6-9pm

CAPITAL REP'S SNEAK PEEK!

Mark your calendars for Capital Rep's fantastically festive party that features the REAL stars of the theatre! This year, members (donors to our Annual Fund) attend free – and we will also open our doors to curious patrons who want to get the inside scoop on what's coming to our stage! This is the party that brings out the ham in everyone!

Come and have a fun-filled evening of refreshment, good company and the first look at Capital Rep's 31st year of creating *Seriously Good Theatre!*

BOX OFFICE NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY

New Box Office Hours: The Capital Rep Box Office at 111 North Pearl Street is currently only open 2 hours before each performance.

Tickets also may be purchased three ways through our partner - Tickets by Proctors:

- 1. On the phone**, by calling 518-445-SHOW: Monday through Friday 10am – 6pm Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm
- 2. In person** at the Proctors Box Office 432 State Street Schenectady: Monday through Friday 10 am – 6pm Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm
- 3. Online** 24 hours a day at capitalrep.org.

Please note for credit card purchases, your statement now will show a charge to Proctors (our management partner).

Subscriber ticket exchanges may be made by fax using the new Box Office Fax number: 518-881-1823.

BLOOD TYPE: RAGU MEMORIAL WEEKEND OFFER

\$10 off a ticket

Offer available until June 3rd
Mention promo code
FAMILY at time of sale.

Tickets must be purchased by June 3rd for this offer. Valid on all performances. Not applicable with any other offer or discount. No retroactive discounts; offer not available on web purchases.