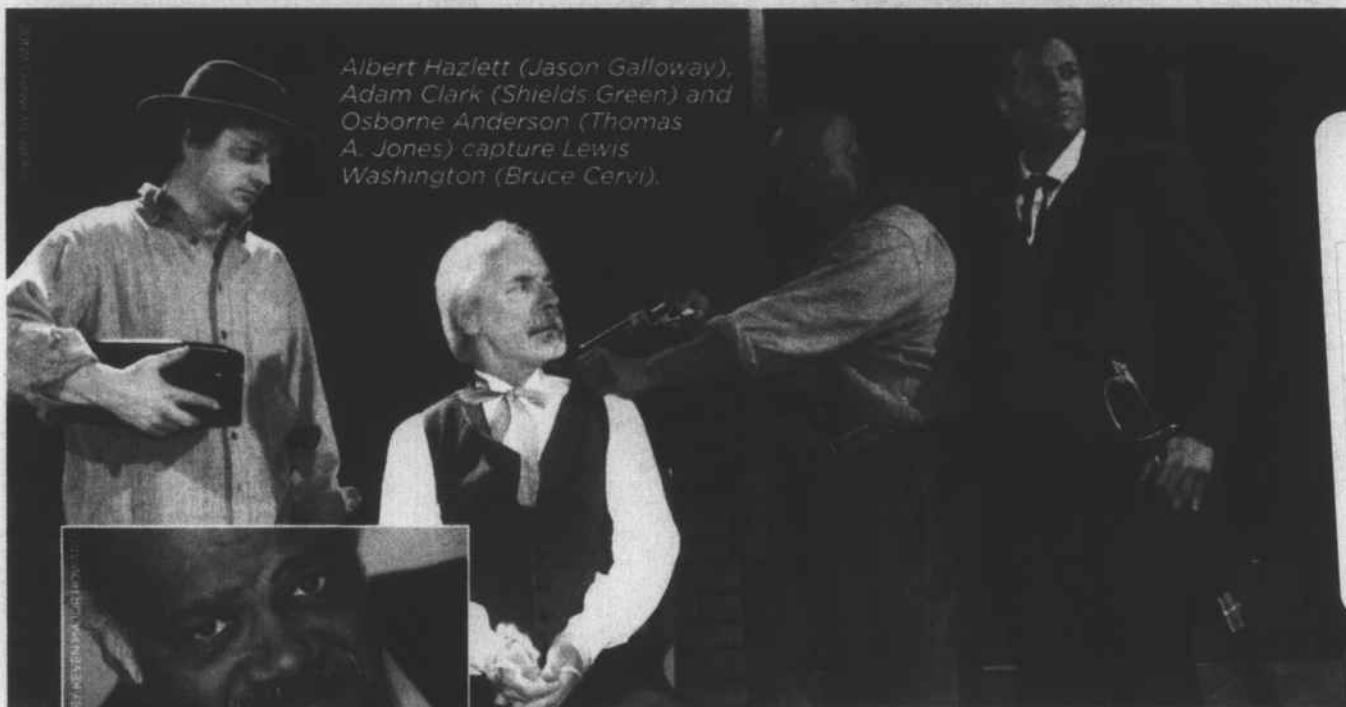


# The Journals of Osborne P. Anderson



Albert Hazlett (Jason Galloway), Adam Clark (Shields Green) and Osborne Anderson (Thomas A. Jones) capture Lewis Washington (Bruce Cervi).

## The Journals of Osborne P. Anderson

Hanesbrands Theatre - Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts

Tues, Aug. 4	8 p.m.
Wed, Aug. 5	3 p.m.
Wed, Aug. 5	8 p.m.
Thurs, Aug. 6	3 p.m.

**\$41**



Ted Lange

**N**BTF favorite Ted Lange is back with another one of his dynamic historical plays.

Festival audiences will be among the first to see "The Journals of Osborne P. Anderson." Lange, the writer and director, debuted the play, via his Torrance, Calif.-based Lange Productions, just two months ago in Los Angeles. Critics and theater-goers agreed that Lange has hit another one out of the ballpark with "Osborne," which spotlights one of American history's most contentious episodes: abolitionist John Brown's bloody attempt to incite a slave revolt, an act many credit with sparking the Civil War.

Lange is a history buff who does painstaking research, including site visits, before he puts pen to paper. His previous plays include "Lady Patriot," about Elizabeth Van Lew, a slave in the household of Confederate President Jefferson Davis who spied for the Union; and "George Washington's Boy," which revolves around the relationship between the nation's first president and his favorite slave, Billy Lee.

"I call myself a footnote historian," Lange recently told the entertainment site AXS. "What I've been doing for the last seven years is finding these African-American heroes who have participated in American history but are usually just a footnote because the historians are white and they kind of brush over them. They don't give them what I believe is their due regarding their participation in American history."

Lange relied heavily on the writings of Osborne Perry Anderson, the only black among Brown's group of insurgents who escaped the gallows, for the play, which begins with Brown, a white preacher who believed that slavery should have ended 100 years earlier with the American Revolution,

seizing weapons and the inhabitants of a Harpers Ferry, Va., farmhouse. His plan is to go from house to house, fomenting a revolution among slaves as he collects weapons and kills or holds hostage anyone who stands in his way. Lewis William Washington, the great-grand nephew of George Washington, was among Brown's hostages and a key witness in Brown's prosecution.

Lange's riveting play takes the audience from the revolt to the courtroom to Brown's ultimate fate. The play premiered with an ensemble cast that included Bruce Cervi (Lewis Washington), Adam Clark (Shields Green), Steve Ducey (Hazlet-Understudy), Jason Galloway (Albert Hazlett), Kareem Grimes (Dangerfield Newby), Gordon Goodman (John Brown), J.D. Hall (Frederick Douglass), Boise Holmes (John Anthony Copeland), Thomas Anthony Jones (Osborne P. Anderson), Daniel Kucan (John Avis), Drew McAuliffe (Judge Richard Parker), Paul Messinger (James Doyle/Lawson Botts), Jeff Murray (Lewis Washington - understudy), Chrystee Pharris (Harriet Newby), Michael Proctor (John Wilkes Booth), William Reinbold (Jeb Stuart/George Sterns) and Stephen Spiegel (Silas Soule, Drury Doyle). NBTF favorite Starletta DuPois, best known for her work in films like "Waiting to Exhale," is also one of the players, masterfully portraying John Copeland's mother, Delilah.

Lange, of course, is best known as an actor. His role as "Love Boat" bartender Isaac Washington propelled him to international stardom. These days, he is making a name for himself behind the scenes. In addition to his award-winning plays, he has authored several books and directed episodes of popular sitcoms like "Dharma and Greg," "Moesha" and "Eve." ■



John Brown (Gordon Goodman) and J.E.B. Stuart (William Reinbold).



Boise Holmes as John Copeland and Starletta DuPois as his mother, Delilah Copeland.