



## Adam Kennedy '75

### Playwright and producer

Adam Kennedy nearly didn't make it to MCS. He moved to New York, his earlier school years having been split between Sierra Leone and England, when his MCS class had already been filled. It was, he thinks, his experience in the English school system that piqued Gus Trowbridge's interest and prompted him to find room for a late addition to the 8-9s of 1969, something for which Adam remains grateful. That decision enabled the start of a lifelong friendship between Adam and Gus' own son, Stephen, and brought a memorable student into the MCS family at that earliest period in the school's history.

Adam's professional life has been impressively varied. After graduating from Antioch College with a degree in International Affairs and Journalism, he worked first on Wall Street, then in television and film production, then as an award-winning dramatist, and, most recently, as a publisher and promoter. Following in the artistic footsteps of his mother, playwright Adrienne Kennedy, he is at the forefront of socially conscious art—producing educational shows that incorporate progressive hip-hop videos, introducing new artists through his promotion and publications firms, and co-writing with his mother the play *Sleep Deprivation Chamber*.

*Sleep Deprivation Chamber* won the Obie Award for Best Play in 1996. It is based on

an incident that occurred outside Adam's father's house in Virginia, when, as he was coming home one night, Adam's car was pulled over. With no provocation, he was beaten by a police officer and then arrested and later tried for a crime he knew nothing about. All charges were ultimately dismissed. Through the harrowing months of this ordeal, Marty and Gus Trowbridge wrote him treasured letters of support.

Despite the violence and injustice he has experienced, Adam describes himself as an optimistic realist. He credits Gus and Marty and MCS teachers, especially Clint Ingram, Caroline Schwarzwaldler and Walter Meade, for strengthening within him the faith in equality and justice he learned from his family. He is thankful to Gus for the phenomenal vision and continuing reality of MCS, which he says embodies what is potentially right about America, a vision that is more relevant now than it ever was. In turn, Adam's life and work express what MCS celebrates.

*MCS showed me the possibilities that can happen when people are committed to an equitable community. We were taught to think 'out of the box' and to be independent as well as community-minded. On the other hand, the stark reality of life as a black man in America can never be fully understood or taught unless you experience it. The dynamics of privilege are always underestimated, and in many cases, minimized.*

David Wilcox '71  
Businessman