



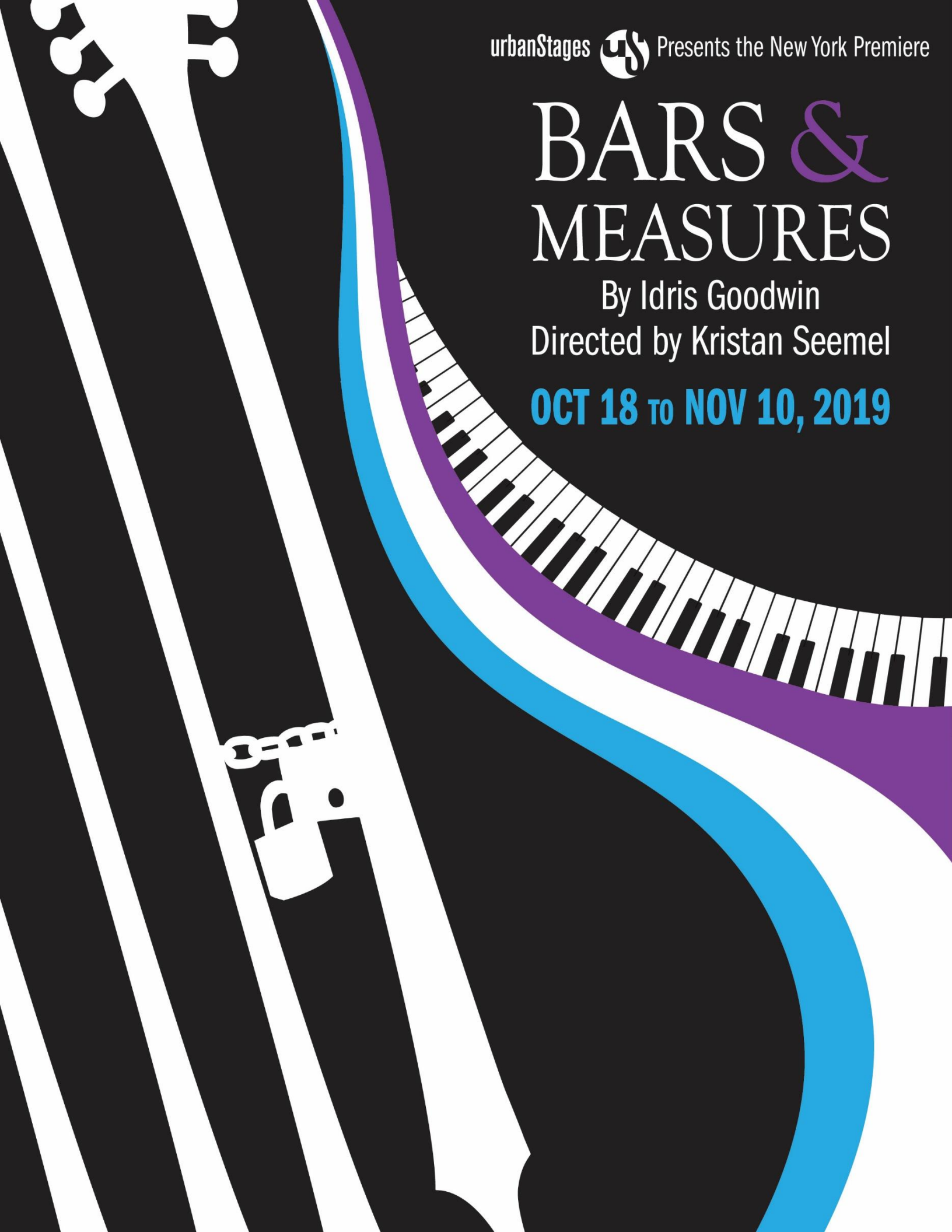
urbanStages Presents the New York Premiere

# BARS & MEASURES

By Idris Goodwin

Directed by Kristan Seemel

**OCT 18 TO NOV 10, 2019**





## URBAN STAGES

Frances Hill, Founder/Artistic Director | Antoinette Mullins, Development and Literary Director  
Olga Devyatisilnaya, Company Manager/Financial Admin | Ilanna Saltzman, Outreach Program Director

PRESENTS

# BARS AND MEASURES

BY IDRIS GOODWIN

DIRECTED BY KRISTAN SEEMEL

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JUSTIN ELLINGTON

FEATURING

SHABAZZ GREEN, RODERICK LAWRENCE,  
ABRAHAM MAKANY, SALMA SHAW

FRANK OLIVA SCENIC DESIGNER

SARAH LAWRENCE COSTUME DESIGNER

JOHN SALUTZ LIGHTING DESIGNER

DAVID LAWSON SOUND DESIGNER

KIM T. SHARP TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

REBECCA KANE PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

MADELEINE BURROW ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

VINCENT SCOTT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



## From The Desk of The Artistic Director, Frances Hill

Urban Stages welcomes Idris Goodwin's play *Bars and Measures* to our stage. We have been following Goodwin since we held a reading of his dark comedy *Blackademics* in 2015. His three-character play *Hype Man* was also a particular favorite of mine last year. Mr. Goodwin has a gift of bringing music into his plays almost as another character. It is a pleasure to produce a playwright who creates well-defined and complexed characters and explores diverse ideas that spring to life on stage.

We are currently putting the final touches on our Winter Rhythms music series returning for its 11<sup>th</sup> year: December 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, we will soon announce our spring MainStage production beginning March 2020.

[urbanstages.org](http://urbanstages.org) to stay in the know.

# CAST

Bilal .....Shabazz Green

Eric.....Roderick Lawrence

Wes & various roles.....Abraham Makany

Sylvia & various roles.....Salma Shaw



THE ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS EMPLOYED IN THIS PRODUCTION ARE MEMBERS OF ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE UNITED STATES

*Bars and Measures* was commissioned by and world premiered at B Street Theatre, Sacramento, CA in August 2015

# CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright.....	IDRIS GOODWIN
Director.....	KRISTAN SEEMEL
Composer.....	JUSTIN ELLINGTON
Scenic Designer.....	Frank Oliva
Costume Designer.....	Sarah Lawrence
Lighting Designer.....	John Salutz
Sound Designer.....	David Lawson
Technical Director.....	Kim T. Sharp
Production Stage Manager.....	Rebecca Kane
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Madeleine Burrow
Assistant Director.....	Vincent Scott
Fight Choreographer.....	Dan Renkin
Music Coach.....	Cleve Douglass

# URBAN STAGES STAFF

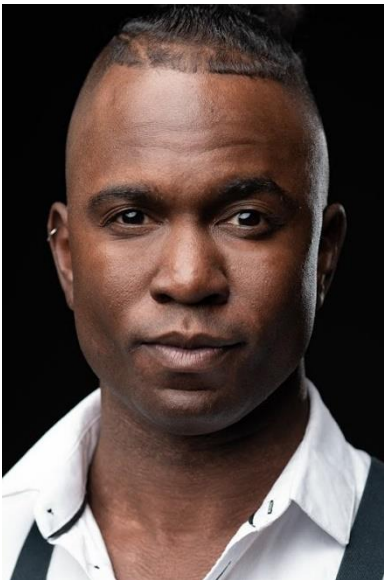
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# CAST



**SHABAZZ GREEN (Bilal):** New York Credits: *Philosophy for Gangsters* (Beckett Theatre); *Intruder: The Musical* (Hudson Guild). Regional Credits: *Oklahoma* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts); *Topdog/Underdog, Sister Act: The Musical* (Lake Dillon Theatre Company); *Hands on a Hardbody* (Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center); *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre); *The Ballad of Trayvon Martin* (New Freedom Theatre); *Little Rock* (Passage Theatre); *Humbug* (Premiere Stages). Film: *Romance in the Digital Age*. @shabazzgreen

[www.shabazzgreen.com](http://www.shabazzgreen.com) FEAR NOT!



**RODERICK LAWRENCE (Eric):** Grateful to be making his Urban Stages debut! Big love to the creative team, my cast & crew for embracing me in taking this journey with them, and to Idris for writing such a powerful piece. The Credits: Television: Comedy Centrals *Broad City*, Film: *What The Heart Wants* (coming 2019), *IMMUNE* (MIFF BEST SHORT) Nat. Tour: *The Lion King* (SIMBA UIS). NYC/LA: GUY in *ONCE* the Musical (Pioneer Theatre Company), *OTHELLO* in John Leguizamo's *Othello: The Remix*, Bebe Winans ALT in *Born For This: The Bebe Winans Story, August Rush: The Musical*, YOUTH in *Passing Strange* (Playhouse Square). Love to God, Mom, Pops, Evan, Shelby, Granny, Aunts, Cousins, Vicky B, Camille, Sandy and my entire team over at HCKR! Baldwin Wallace Music Theatre. @roderickl

Lawrence. Love to God, Mom, Pops, Evan, Shelby, Granny, Aunts, Cousins, Vicky B, Camille, Sandy and my entire team over at HCKR! Baldwin Wallace Music Theatre. @roderickl





**ABRAHAM MAKANY** (WES and various roles)- Theater: *The Corpse Washer* in the 43rd Humana Festival (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Trial of an American President* (Theatre Row); Waterwell's *Hamlet* (The Sheen Center); *Kandahar to Canada* in The 34th Marathon of One-Act Plays (Ensemble Studio Theatre); *Job* (The Flea Theater); the Obie Award winning production of *The Brig* (The Living Theatre). Television: *Gotham*, *Blue Bloods*, *Deception*, *The Blacklist*, *The Ridge: Origins*, *Orange is the New Black*, *Homeland*, *Blindspot*, *The Americans*, *HAPPYish*, *Person of Interest*, Wyatt Cenac's *Problem Areas*. Film: *Rainbow Ruthie*, *Brooklyn Park*, *Saint Nicholas*, *El Gallo*. Abraham has a B.F.A. in Acting from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts.



**SALMA SHAW** (Sylvia and various roles): A two-time Helen Hayes Award recipient who began her career in DC, Salma performed leading roles in *Acquittal* Off-Broadway, *A Muslim in the Midst*, NY Times Critic's Pick This Time and readings of the musicals *Monsoon Wedding*, *Salaam Medina: Tales of Halfgan*, *Bollywood Kitchen*, *In a Sea of Faces* and *Ocean in a Teacup*. Recent TV: *Main Justice* (CBS pilot); *FBI*; *The Blacklist*; *The Path*; *Blue Bloods*; *Divorce*; *L&O:SVU*; *The Mysteries of Laura*; *Shades of Blue*; *American Odyssey*. Graduate of Stanford University and proud member of SAG-AFTRA, Actors' Equity Association and Equity (UK). IG: @salma.shaw, [www.salmashaw.com](http://www.salmashaw.com)



## CREATIVE TEAM

**IDRIS GOODWIN** (Playwright) is an award-winning playwright, break beat poet, and Producing Artistic Director of Louisville's StageOne Family Theater. Goodwin uses story to inspire and incite new audiences across culture and generation. His plays include *And In This Corner Cassius Clay*, *This Is Modern Art* co-written with Kevin Coval, *How We Got On* and *Hype Man*, a break beat play. He's been honored to receive commissions and developmental support from institutions like The Kennedy Center/ New Voices New Visions, The Eugene O'Neill Conference, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, and Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor Residency. He's currently writing *Scarfoot Lives*, a new play co-commissioned by Arena Stage's Power Play Program and The Playwright Center's McKnight Fellowship. In addition to the forthcoming poetry collection *Can I Kick It?*, he's had several publications with Haymarket Books including *Inauguration* and *Human Highlight: Ode To Dominique Wilkins*. A frequent public speaker at conferences and educational spaces, Idris is one of the leading voices in his field, committed to using art to cultivate more diverse and equitable spaces. Visit Idris on the web and social media.

**KRISTAN SEEMEL** (Director), grew up in the theater working on new plays, serving as dramaturg on a score of premiere productions and developmental workshops in Portland, Oregon where he worked for almost a decade. He is passionate about new writing and his directing projects include the recent premieres of *HYPE MAN* by Idris Goodwin, *Mary-Kate Olsen is in Love* by Mallery Avidon and *The Electric Lighthouse* by Ed Himes (all at The Flea). Other new plays Kristan has directed include *Mutt* by Lava Alapai (Many Hats Collective) and *The Verspiary* by Matthew Zrebski (Stark Raving Theatre) as well as NW regional premieres of Carlos

Murillo's *Mimesophobia* (Sand & Glass Productions), *The Long Christmas Ride Home* by Paula Vogel (TheatreVertigo) and Mac Wellman's *A Murder of Crows* (defunkt theatre). Kristan also assisted on the recent Flea premieres of NSangou Njikam's *Syncing Ink* and A. R. Gurney's *Ajax*. Recent favorite revivals include *Bad Penny* by Mac Wellman (The Flea), Brecht & Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* and *Hamlet* (CoHo Productions). Kristan's staging of Gertrude Stein's *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights* (defunkt theatre) garnered him a Portland Dramatic Critics Circle award for Outstanding Direction. In New York, Kristan has developed new plays at Playwrights Horizons/Clubbed Thumb (Superlab), the Lark and Target Margin Theater. He is an Associate Artist at Tribeca's own Flea Theater and a graduate of the Brown/Trinity Rep MF.

**FRANK J. OLIVA** (Scenic Designer) is a Cuban-American Stage Designer. With Urban Stages: *Dogs of Rwanda*, *A Deal*, *Angry Young Man* and *Communion*. Recent work include world premieres and new productions at Cincinnati Symphony, The Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Guild Hall, Two River Theatre Company, UP Theatre Company, and others. Associate Designer on projects for Broadway, Lincoln Center Theatre, St. Ann's Warehouse, Atlantic Theatre Company, Signature Theatre, and more. Forthcoming designs include new productions of *Street Scene* (Mannes School) and *The Roommate* (Kitchen Theatre). Winner of the 2017 Innovative Theatre Award for Stage Design and a 2018 Audelco Award nominee for Best Stage Design. His work will be featured at the 2019 Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design & Space. BFA:NYU. [www.frankjoliva.com](http://www.frankjoliva.com)

**SARAH LAWRENCE** (Costume Designer) A graduate of Parson's The New School for Design, Sarah is a Brooklyn based artist, costume designer, and musician. While pursuing her design degree and creating her own sustainable hand-crafted fashion line ([www.gravexsl.com](http://www.gravexsl.com)). Sarah found her way into theater as Assistant Costume Designer for Thomas Bradshaw's *Fulfillment* produced by

The Flea Theater in the fall of 2015. She has since designed shows such as Witness Relocation's *The Loon* (Dir Daniel Schaefer, 2016), New York Times Critics Pick *Inanimate* (written by Nick Robidou, Dir Courtney Ulrich, 2017), and Goodspeed Musical's *Cyrano* (Dir Erica Schmidt, 2018); as well as performing in the freaky feminist folk music duo, Pretty Polly (@prettypolly). Sarah is thrilled to work with Urban Stages on Bars and Measures!

**JOHN SALUTZ** (Lighting Designer) is a New York based Lighting and Sound Designer. His work has been seen and heard in New York at the York Theatre Co., Ensemble Studio Theatre, Urban Stages, Queens Theatre in the Park, the Tank, Hard Sparks, Atlantic Acting School, Stella Adler Studio of Acting, as well as regionally at Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater, Connecticut Ballet, Argyle Theatre, ACT of Connecticut, Opera North NH, Southeastern Regional Ballet Association, Centenary Stage Co., Southeast Alabama Dance Co., and Provincetown Theater. Additional information can be found at: [www.johnsalutzdesigns.com](http://www.johnsalutzdesigns.com)

**DAVID MARGOLIN LAWSON** (Sound Designer) is a New York based sound designer and recording engineer. He has worked with, recorded, and designed for many New York area performing arts organizations including: Urban Stages, BAM, Signature Theater, Repertorio Espanol, The Juilliard School, La MaMa E.T.C., HERE Arts Center, New World Stages, and others. Recent works include: *Oliver Twist* (The New School), *Barrabas* (TFNC), *Dance Africa* (BAM), *The Producers* (Argyle), *A Letter to Harvey Milk* (Acorn Theater), *Angry Young Man* (Urban Stages), *A Star Has Burnt My Eye* (BAM Next Wave). David teaches courses in sound design at Pace University, NYC. [www.dmlsoundny.com](http://www.dmlsoundny.com)

**KIM T. SHARP** (Technical Director) works regularly with Urban Stages in their efforts to champion new works by artists of diverse cultural backgrounds. He served as Associate Artistic Director and Literary Manager for Abingdon Theatre

Company for 16 seasons. As a director and literary consultant, he continues to work with theatre artists to bring unique and vitalizing material to the stage. Thanks to Frances for this opportunity as well as to Kristan, the cast, the designers, stage managers and entire staff at Urban Stages for their time and talent to present the NYC premiere of Idris' intriguing script.

**REBECCA KANE** (Production Stage Manager)'s favorite previous stage management credits include *A Deal* (also at Urban Stages) and *90210! The Musical!* She has worked with numerous other companies, shows, and festivals in New York City, including The Tank, Hey Jonte! Productions, the Juilliard School, Third Rail Projects, Atlantic Theater Company, and The Telling Company. Other work credits include Marquee Merchandise and StarQuest International Dance Competition. She is also a playwright with numerous performances at The Tank and various theatre festivals in the city, and she spent time this summer in residency on Governor's Island with Rising Sun Performance Company.

**MADELEINE BURROW** (Assistant Stage Manager) recently graduated from Fordham University where she worked on a multitude of productions with The Mimes and Mummers Theater Troupe and Fordham Experimental Theatre. Some of her favorite credits include lighting design for *The Addams Family*, and set design for *Noises Off*. She also worked at the New Ohio Theater's Ice Factory Festival where she enjoyed working on Antigravity Performance Project's *Dear Diary LOL*.

**VINCENT SCOTT** (Assistant Director) is a New York based director who has directed in New York as well as in Los Angeles, Chicago, London and Ireland. Recently his assistant directing credits include: *The Last Will*, directed by Austin Pendleton, *Hellman vs McCathy*, directed by Jan Buttram, *Changes of the Heart*, directed by Timothy Douglas and *Death of a Driver*, directed by Kim T. Sharp . He is also an educational consultant at Urban Stages. He is a member of SDC.

# ABOUT URBAN STAGES

Urban Stages' mission is to champion new works by artists of diverse cultural backgrounds and to make these works available to all.

We do this by discovering and nurturing artists through our DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, investing in artists by producing new works on our MAINSTAGE, and by touring artists, admission-free plays/workshops and more via our OUTREACH PROGRAM!

Urban Stages give talents resources to address the multi-faceted issues facing our contemporary world and develop their gifts. Through uS, plays make noticeable and lasting entries into the theatrical landscape often going on to publication or productions at larger venues.

We have been honored with awards, nominations and recognition from the Drama Desk, Obie Awards, Audelco, Outer Critics Circle and much more. For instance, our world premiere of the musical *Langston In Harlem* by Walter Marks (music and book) and Kent Gash (book and direction) garnered a Drama Desk Nomination, a Joe A. Calloway award and 4 Audelco awards including Best Musical Production of 2010. Our 2014 spring premiere of *Jim Brochu Character Man* was nominated for a Drama Desk and an Outer Critics Circle award for Best Solo performance. *Honky* (2013) by Greg Kalleres saw a regional run at San Diego Rep and was later broadcast on PBS. Bill Bowers has toured the United States and the world with his two Urban Stages premieres blending mime and theatre – *Beyond Words* (2012) and *Under A Montana Moon* (2002)! *A Deal* (2017) world premiered at Urban Stages and went on to tour throughout China in Mandarin. *Death of a Driver by Will Snider* (2019) transferred to a regional production immediately after its Urban Stages' world premiere.

In addition to plays and musicals, annually we hold a music festival - WINTER RHYTHMS - that features famous and up-and-coming musical artists. The festival has received the 2015 Ruth Kurtzman Benefit Series Award, the 2016 Bistro Award for Best Benefit Series, a Time Out Critic's Pick, a feature in Cabaret Scenes and other recognitions of excellence.

Outreach is our 28-year-old program providing high-quality theater and art resources on and off our Off-Broadway stage. Our mission with Outreach is to provide equal access to the arts, engage different demographics and create multicultural educational works.

Every year, we hold over 200 events throughout all 5 boroughs of NYC. We have a repertoire of 20+ multi-cultural programs, ranging from plays that explore science, plays that spotlight historical figures as well as dance and mime workshops. Each show caters to specific age groups, from toddlers to families to Adult Learners. Many of the neighborhoods we reach (and return to multiple times) have little to no theatre and arts programming. We are even the first theatrical experience for some. Our programs travel mainly to libraries and non-profit organizations. They are all admission-free for patrons. For artists, our Outreach Program offers paid opportunities. We commission plays, pay royalties and fees, allowing writers and artists to be working artists.

Under the Outreach Umbrella are our art residencies. We are able to offer extended theater and art related residencies for weeks to months at a time to places like senior citizens centers, community centers and schools. In the past, we offered programming to LGBTQ homeless centers, centers helping women reclaim their lives after incarceration and drug abuse, and various non-profit agencies. Finally, annually we hold a Summer Theater Camp for children 10-15 years old. Professionals teach our campers about all aspects of theatre and the campers collaborate on an original musical. We offer partial scholarships making our camp more accessible.

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