A tale of two brothers: one a classical pianist and the other a jazz bassist. One a Christian and the other a Muslim. One living in freedom and the other in jail.

Separated by bars, can the brothers reconcile their differences through the language they know best: Music?

Inspired by a true New York story, this play is an irrepressible journey through faith, family, melody and time.
URBAN STAGES
Frances Hill, Founder/Artistic Director | Antoinette Mullins, Development and Literary Director Olga Devyatisilnaya, Company Manager/Financial Admin | Ilanna Saltzman, Outreach Program Director | Kim T. Sharp, Technical Director | Bara Swain, Literary Projects Consultant | Vincent Scott, Special Projects Producer | Sue Matsuki & Tom Toce, Musical Theater Producers

PRESENTS
BARS AND MEASURES

BY IDRIS GOODWIN
DIRECTED BY KRISTAN SEEMEL
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JUSTIN ELLINGTON
EDITED BY RYAN BELOCK

FEATURING
SHABAZZ GREEN, RODERICK LAWRENCE, ABRAHAM MAKANY, SALMA SHAW

FRANCES HILL PRODUCER
VINCENT SCOTT ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
KIM T SHARP TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
JOE TRENTACOSTA PUBLIC RELATIONS
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.
CAST

Bilal .................................................................Shabazz Green
Eric.................................................................Roderick Lawrence
Wes & various roles.......................................Abraham Makany
Sylvia & various roles.................................Salma Shaw
CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright.................................................................IDRIS GOODWIN
Director.................................................................KRISTAN SEEMEL
Composer...............................................................JUSTIN ELLINGTON
Producer.................................................................Frances Hill
Associate Producer................................................Vincent Scott
Editor.................................................................Ryan Belock
Sound Designer......................................................David Lawson
Technical Director................................................Kim T. Sharp
Production Assistant ...........................................Madeleine Burrow
Music Coach........................................................Cleve Douglass
URBAN STAGES

STAFF

Founder/Artistic Director.............................................Frances Hill
Development and Literary Director......................Antoinette Mullins
Company Manager/Financial Admin..............Olga Devyatisilnaya
Outreach Program Director..............................Ilanna Saltzman
Technical Director..................................................Kim T. Sharp
Literary Projects Consultant..............................Bara Swain
Special Projects Producer.................................Vincent Scott
Musical Theater Producers.........................Sue Matsuki & Tom Toce
Press Rep.....................................................Joe Trentacosta, JT Public Relations
Social Media.....................................................Disnie Sebastien
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 FEAR NOT!

RODERICK LAWRENCE (Eric): 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 U/S). 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, Auntie Cindy and Buff, Cousins, Vicky B, Camille, Sandy and my entire team over at HCKR! Baldwin Wallace Music Theatre. Arrest the killers of Breonna Taylor. @rodericklaw
Abraham Makany- Broadway: The Lehman Trilogy (Nederlander Theatre) Regional Theatre: Noura (MarinTheatre Company), The Corpse Washer (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Off-Broadway: Bars and Measures (Urban Stages); Trial of an American President (Theatre Row); Waterwell’s Hamlet (The Sheen Center); Kandahar to Canada (Ensemble Studio Theatre); Job (The Flea Theater); The Brig (The Living Theatre). Television: Orange is the New Black, Gotham, BlueBloods, The Blacklist, Homeland, Blindspot, The Americans, Deception, Person of Interest, HAPPYish, Wyatt Cenac’s Problem Areas. Born in Houston, TX, Abraham trained at Rutgers University’s Mason Gross School of the Arts. Fight for love always. IG: @abmakany

Salma Shaw (Sylvia): A two-time Helen Hayes Award recipient, Salma is thrilled to reprise her role in Bars and Measures at Urban Stages, where she also sang in Winter Rhythms. She is currently producing a short film starring Roderick Lawrence and writing a second. Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway: Bars & Measures; Acquittal; This Time; A Muslim in the Midst. Selected readings: Monsoon Wedding; Rain & Zoe Save the World; Ocean in a Teacup; In a Sea of Faces; Bak Chang; MAYA; Hamlet; Bollywood Kitchen. Selected TV: For Life; Main Justice; FBI; The Blacklist; Blue Bloods; L&O:SVU. Stanford and Harvard graduate. Proud member of AEA, SAG•AFTRA and Equity (UK). IG: @salma.shaw; Web: 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 MFA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn San Andres (President), Mik Chwalek (Vice President), Thomas Hehman (Treasurer), Peggy O’Brien (Secretary), Eileen Begg, Sandy Berger, Mary Churchill, April Gow, Frances Hill, Francine Pascal, Martha Sproule, Tom Toce and Craig Horsley

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ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS
AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS
SAG-AFTRA
through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

And
Bars and Measures was commissioned by and world premiered at B Street Theatre, Sacramento, CA in August 2015 as part of an NNPN rolling world premiere and produced at Prop Theater Chicago, IL June 2016, Jungle Theater Minneapolis, MN August 2016 and Boston Court, Pasadena, CA Sept 2016. Bars and Measures received development at Tricklock Company / Theater Without Borders Conference, New Mexico Jan 2015 and New Black Fest at The Lark Playwriting Center, New York March 2015.

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