



urbanStages

STORIES
FROM OUR
STAGE



A SPECIAL ONLINE PRESENTATION

JUNE 24 | 7:30PM TO JUNE 28, 2021

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 A SPECIAL ONLINE PRESENTATION
STORIES FROM OUR STAGE
FEATURING SCENES FROM

DOGS OF RWANDA

BY SEAN CHRISTOPHER LEWIS

DIRECTED BY FRANCES HILL & PETER NAPOLITANO

FEATURING DAN HODGE

MUSIC COMPOSED AND PERFORMED BY ABOU LION DIARRA

A DEAL

BY ZHU YI

DIRECTED BY JOHN GIAMPIETRO

FEATURING ALAN ARIANO & PUN BANDHU

LANGSTON IN HARLEM

BOOK BY WALTER MARKS, KENT GASH AND LANGSTON HUGHES

LYRICS BY LANGSTON HUGHES MUSIC BY WALTER MARKS

DIRECTED BY KENT GASH

FEATURING JOSH TOWER & C. KELLY WRIGHT WITH MUSICAL DIRECTOR JOHN DIPINTO

HONKY

WRITTEN BY GREG KALLERES

DIRECTED BY LUKE HARLAN

FEATURING DAVE DROXLER & ARIE BIANCA THOMPSON.

MABEL MADNESS

WRITTEN BY AND STARRING TONY AWARD WINNER TREZANA BEVERLEY

DIRECTED BY FRANCES HILL & PETER NAPOLITANO

BARS & MEASURES

BY IDRIS GOODWIN

DIRECTED BY KRISTAN SEEMEL

FEATURING RODERICK LAWRENCE

CHARMED LIFE

FROM SOUL SINGING TO OPERA STAR

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY LORI BROWN MIRABAL

DIRECTED BY VINCENT SCOTT

KIM T. SHARP EDITOR/VIDEOGRAPHER

VINCENT SCOTT ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

JUNE 24 | 7:30PM TO JUNE 28, 2021

WHO'S WHO CAST AND CREATIVE

DOGS OF RWANDA

DAN HODGE (*David*) is an actor/director whose career has been largely based in Philadelphia. Holding an MFA from The Old Globe in San Diego, his interest in the classics led him to found The Philadelphia Artists' Collective. Their mission is to produce rarely seen and neglected classical plays. He brought *Dogs of Rwanda* to Urban Stages after a successful run at Philly's InterAct Theatre. Dan wishes to extend his immense gratitude to Frances Hill and Peter Napolitano for their trust and guidance, and the entire Urban Stages team for their support. In particular, he wants to send love to Abou Lion Diarra for sharing the stage with him every night and being a great partner on the journey.

ABOU LION DIARRA (*Musician*) is the founder and musical director of the powerhouse group, The Black Warriors, NYC's premiere band working with West Africa's biggest acts. Their launch at Celebrate Brooklyn's African Festival was followed by a 40-city tour working with artists from Guinea, Ghana and the Ivory Coast, Abou's native country. Abou first picked up the sticks at age three. He played on bottles, cans, tables, garbage cans, whatever made a good sound. His musical journey led him to study with one of the Ivory Coast's most renowned drummers, Soro Mades, then going on to the Institute National des Arts (INA) and a scholarship to Orchestre de L'Universite D'Abidjan. His appearances in West African clubs and on television ultimately led him to New York. Abou is a new breed of drummer who can navigate through different musical genres, switching beats, rhythms and styles. Aside from playing the drums Abou also plays flute, saxophone, clarinet, guitar, bass, piano and djembe; is pursuing his songwriting talents; and hopes to achieve all that God has given him to do.

SEAN CHRISTOPHER LEWIS (*Playwright*). His work as a playwright and solo performer have won NEFA National Theatre Project Award, The Kennedy Center's Rosa Parks Award, National New Play Network's Smith Prize, NEA Voices in Community Award, a Puffin Foundation Artists Award, a Barrymore Award from the Theatre Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, a Central Ohio Critic's Circle Citations for Best Touring Production and Best New Work, a National Performance Network Creation Fund Grant, William Inge Fellowship and an NNPN Emerging Playwright Residency. His plays and solo pieces include *Dogs of Rwanda* (NNPN Rolling World Premiere at 16th Street Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, InterAct Theatre Company, Out of Hand Theatre, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Englert Theatre, Redfern Performing Arts Center, UNI Genocide Center, CSPS/Legion Arts, Horizon Theatre, Available Light Theatre); *Killadelphia* (Baltimore Center Stage, American Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, InterAct Theatre Company, Southern Rep, Institut Del Teatra in Spain, Revolutions International Theatre Festival, 16th Street Theatre, Riverside Theatre, CSPS/ Legion Arts, Cape May Stage, Adirondack Theatre Festival, Touchstone Theatre, Heartbeat Ensemble, Gerald W. Lynch Theatre, Available Light Theatre, Graterford Prison and the Idaho Juvenile Detention Center); *Just Kids* (KO Festival of Performance, Sandglass Theatre, Available Light Theatre, Pontine Theatre); *The Gone Chair* (Open Stage of Harrisburg; Penn State University's Cultural Conversations Festival); *I Will Make You Orphans* (Uno Festival of International Solo Performance, Hyde Park Theatre, Riverside Theatre, The Chocolate Factory, Available Light Theatre); *Black and Blue* (Riverside Theatre, Geva Theatre Center); *Militant Language* (Know Theatre of Cincinnati, Halcyon Theatre, Bang and Clatter and Theater for the New City, published by Original Works Publishing); *The Aperture* (Cleveland Public Theatre); *The Homeschooling of Jonathan Anderson* (Drilling

Company NYC, Luna Theater, Prologue Theatre, Theatre of Note, Orange Tea Theatre in Amsterdam and in the U.K. at FutureLight) and *Manning Up* (NNPN Rolling World Premiere at Riverside Theatre, Salt Lake Acting Company and Actor's Summit). Recently, with Jennifer Fawcett, he developed the oneman performance installation *Ghost Story* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. It then performed at Englert Theatre and will begin touring in 2018. He is the co-creator and writer of the comic books *Saints*, *The Few* and *Coyotes* all three of which are published by Image Comics, with *Saints* recently optioned for television by Grandview/Automatik. He can be heard as a commentator on NPR'S *This American Life*.

FRANCES HILL (Co-Director, *Urban Stages' Founder/Artistic Director*) began her theatrical career in California as an actress. Since 1983, Ms. Hill has overseen more than 600 staged readings/workshops and 90 productions of new works for the stage. She has directed over 30 workshops and productions. Her favorite directing credits include Gino Dilorio's *Apostasy*, Roma Greth's *Our Summer Days*, Jim Lehrer's *Chili Queen*, (directed at Urban Stages and Kennedy Center), John Picardi's *Seven Rabbits on a Pole* and *The Sweepers* (directed at Urban Stages and Capital Rep); *Comfort Women* by Chungmi Kim (Urban Stages 2004), *27 Rue De Fleurs*, *My Occasion of Sin*, *Mabel Madness* and *Dogs of Rwanda*. Two of her plays have been produced, *Our Bench* and *Life Lines*. Under the guidance of Ms. Hill, Playwrights' Preview Productions/Urban Stages have moved two plays into commercial Off-Broadway successes. *Minor Demons* opened the new Century Center Theater, and *Men on the Verge of His-Panic Breakdown* won an Outer Critic's Circle Award URBAN STAGES ELEANOR and ALICE 6 while playing to capacity audiences at the 47th Street Theater. Urban Stages' African American Poets as Playwrights won eight Audelco Nominations, and *Coyote On a Fence* received two Drama Desk nominations and a Pilgrim's Project Award. Eisa Davis's *Bulrusher* was one of three nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. 2010 production of *Langston in Harlem* won several drama desk nominations, a John Calloway award, and several Audelco nominations, including a win for best music production of the year (2010), along with several other awards. Recently *Character Man* by Jim Brochu (2014) was nominated for a Drama Desk, and Outer Critic's Circle award and *Mabel Madness* by Trezana Beverley (2016) was nominated for an Audelco Award.

PETER NAPOLITANO (Co-Director) has over 30 years experience as a writer, director and producer in New York theatre and cabaret. He was lyricist of *Tropicana*, book and direction by the legendary George Abbott (produced Off-Broadway by Musical Theatre Works); lyricist/librettist of *The Lady in Penthouse B*, music by Matthew Ward (produced mufti style by York Theatre, starring Nancy Dussault); *Pinocchio of Chelsea*, music by Mark Janas (MMTL staged reading at Snapple Theater Center); and *That Way*, music by Barry Levitt (staged readings at Urban Stages, MMTL). He is an alumnus of the prestigious BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and has had his songs and special material performed by many outstanding cabaret and theatre artists. His directing credits include the early work of Charles Busch at The Performing Garage and Theatre for the New City. He has received two Bistro Awards (Director, Outstanding Series) and four MAC Awards (Director, Song, Open Mic, Benefit Series) for his recent work in virtually every major New York cabaret venue. Associated with Urban Stages for seven years, he has previously collaborated with Ms. Hill on the direction of *Mabel Madness*, written and performed by Tony Award winner Trezana Beverly for which he also wrote two songs with composer Levitt, co-produced *Musical Legends*, *My Occasion of Sin*, *Character Man* and produced seven seasons of MAC and Bistro Award-winning benefit series *Winter Rhythms*. A guest lecturer at Manhattan School of Music, he is a graduate of the NYU School of the Arts, Experimental Theatre Wing, where he studied with celebrated theatre artists Spalding Gray, Charles Ludlam, Anne Bogart, to name a few. Other highlights of his varied career include working with the ground-breaking Off-

Broadway Ridiculous Theatrical Co. and The Glines, contributing editor of *The Blockbuster Guide to Movies on Video* (Dell) and author of “Modern Love” essay for *The New York Times*.

March 9 – March 31, 2018: The New York premiere of *Dogs of Rwanda* at Urban Stages

Performed by Dan Hodge with music composed and performed by Abou Lion Diarra

Frank J. Oliva (Set Designer), John Salutz (Lighting Designer), Ryan Belock (Video Designer), Kim T. Sharp (Technical Director) & Jeana Hillary Caporelli (Production Stage Manager) & Jenna Lowry (Assistant Stage Manager). Graphic Design: Sylvia Haber, Perpetuart.

A DEAL

ALAN ARIANO (*Mr. Li*). Broadway: THE KING AND I (Lincoln Center Revival), M. BUTTERFLY, JEROME ROBBINS' BROADWAY, SHOGUN: THE MUSICAL and MISS SAIGON (Original Company). National Tour: FLOWER DRUM SONG. Off Broadway: Ma-Yi Theater's FELIX STARRO (title role), Urban Stage's A DEAL and SHANGHAI MOON (opposite Charles Bush). World Premieres include The Geffen Playhouse's EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS, The Portland Center Stage's SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS and Prospect Theater's HONOR. Regional Theaters include The Kennedy Center, The MUNY, Dallas Summer Musicals, Walnut Street Theatre, Pioneer Theater, The Fifth Ave, Music Theatre of Wichita, Weston Playhouse, California Music Circus and Lyric Opera of Chicago. Favorite stage roles include The King (The King and I), Bishop & Grantaire (Les Miserables), and Ito (Mame). Television credits include: L&O SVU (recurring Judge), FBI: MOST WANTED, THE PATH, HARRY'S LAW, LEVERAGE, LAW & ORDER, AS THE WORLD TURNS, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, SNL, and HBO's TREME.

PUN BANDHU (*Peter & various roles*) has acted on Broadway (Wit), Off Broadway (Public Theater, Primary Stages, EST, Playwrights Horizons among others). He has guest starred on numerous TV shows including NCIS: New Orleans, FBI, and recurs on Blue Bloods. He recently played John Yoo in Amazon's The Report and can also be seen in the Oscar-nominated films Michael Clayton, Burn After Reading, and Can You Ever Forgive Me? among others. www.punbandhu.net

ZHU YI (*playwright*) is New York-based writer, originally from China. Member of Ma-Yi Writers Lab and Royal Court Theatre's International Playwrights Programme. Alumni of Ensemble Studio Theatre's playwrights group Youngblood, and Emerging Artist Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop. Her work has been produced in various languages in Asia, Europe, Americas and Australia. MFA in playwriting, Columbia University. Recent productions include: *I Know You* (Dear Ireland Project, Abbey Theatre, Ireland) *You Never Touched The Dirt* (Clubbed Thumb, NYC), *A Deal* (Chippen St Theatre, Australia; Urban Stages, NYC), *I Am a Moon* (National Performing Arts Center of China), *Holy Crab!* (Círculo de Tiza, Mexico), and *Apene i Himalaya* (Hålogaland Teater, Norway).

JOHN GIAMPIETRO (*Director*) is a Brooklyn-based stage director of opera and theatre. Recent credits include *La Feldeltà Premiata* at The Juilliard School, *The Turn of the Screw* and *Carousel* at

Chautauqua Institution Festival of Music. He is a frequent director with Youngblood, Ensemble Studio Theatre's Obie Award-winning young writers group. At EST John directed *The New York Times* acclaimed production of *Year of the Rooster* by Olivia Dufault. Other opera and theatre productions seen at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Vermont Shakespeare Festival, Curtis Institute of Music, The Flea and NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He has directed over 20 operas for the Chautauqua School of Music where he is the principal stage director. John is a faculty member in the vocal arts department at The Juilliard School. Writing includes new English dialogue versions of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and *Der Schauspieldirektor*. Upcoming, a new English dialogue version of Nicolai's opera *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for The Juilliard School, in 2018.

November 15 to December 10, 2017: The World premiere of *A Deal* at Urban Stages

Original Cast: Alan Ariano, Pun Bandhu, Helen Coxe, Lydia Gaston, Wei-Yi Lin and Seth Moore

Rebecca Kane (Stage Manager), Jeana Caporelli (Assistant Stage Manager), Frank Oliva (Set Designer), John Salutz (Lighting and Sound Designer), Audrey Nauman (Costume Designer), Ryan Belock (Video Designer) and Kim Sharp (Technical Director). Graphic Design: Sylvia Haber, Perpetuart.

LANGSTON IN HARLEM

JOSH TOWER (*Langston*): Bway/NYC/ Regional: Had the pleasure of playing Langston Hughes in Urban Stages production of LANGSTON IN HARLEM. Currently Aaron Burr in Hamilton- 1st National Tour. Other jams include: Berry Gordy in Motown the Musical (Bway & tour), Simba in Lion King (Bway & Tour 2001-2007), School of Rock , Ragtime, Clybourne Park, JC Superstar, Miss Saigon, Les Miz, Murder Ballad, Camelot. Various TV & film. BA, Temple University. MFA,UNC Chapel Hill . US Army Veteran. IG@therealjoshtower

C. KELLY WRIGHT (*Madam Alberta K. Johnson*) is an actress, singer, and dancer. She has performed in [Off-Broadway](#) musicals and plays in New York City and in television and film in the U.S. and internationally. She is known for the development of new works in theater. She appeared in the world premieres of *A Little Princess* and *Memphis*. She has worked with new works from [Marcus Gardley](#), [Katori Hall](#), Imani Harrington, Mike Jones, Victor Lodato, Nina Mercer, [Robert O'Hara](#), and Venus Opal Reese.^[1] She was an [AUDELCO](#) Award nominee for Best Supporting Actress.^[2] In film she is known for her performance in *Black Nativity*, *Angel Wishes: Journey of a Spiritual Healer*, and *Everyday Black Man*. *Angel Wishes: Journey of a Spiritual Healer* is based on the life of Lana Bettencourt, who survived childhood abuse and two abusive marriages.

WALTER MARKS (*Book writer & Music*) is probably best known for his song "I've Gotta be Me", recorded by Sammy Davis, Tony Bennett, Michael Jackson and many others. He has also written songs recorded by Barbra Streisand, The Temptations, Ella Fitzgerald, Little Anthony and the Imperials, Steve Lawrence, Eydie Gorme, and other artists.

He wrote the songs for the Broadway musicals “Bajour” and “Golden Rainbow”, the book, music and lyrics for the off-Broadway musical “Body Shop”, the screenplay and songs for the motion picture “The Wild Party” (Merchant-Ivory Films - directed by James Ivory). He also wrote the off-Broadway comedy-mystery “The Butler Did It”.

He is the author of a crime/thriller series introducing Detective Jericho — “Death Hampton” “The Battle of Jericho” “The Hated” “A Man’s Partner” “Amazing Detective” and “Tumbling Down” “Shocking Confessions” and “Rip Saw”. More info on WalterMarks.com

KENT GASH (*Director, Book co-writer*) directed the Premiere of Robert O’Hara’s’ *Barbecue* at the Public Theatre and is co-author and director of *Langston in Harlem*, (Four 2010 Audelco Awards including Best Musical.) New York productions: *Lockdown* for Rattlestick Playwrights Theater (also virtual co-production with WP Theater), the Off-Broadway premiere of *Miss Ever’s Boys* for Melting Pot Theatre Co., the York Theatre presentation of Duke Ellington’s *Beggar’s Holiday*. Recent Regional: *Guys and Dolls* at the Guthrie, *Master Harold...* at Arizona Theatre Co., *The Wiz* at Ford’s Theatre (WASHINGTON POST TEN BEST of 2018, BROADWAY WORLD BEST MUSICAL AWARD, THREE HELEN HAYES AWARDS) and *The Gem of the Ocean* at South Coast Rep (LA TIMES TEN BEST of 2017.), Tarell McCraney’s *Wig Out* for Sundance Theatre Lab and Studio Theatre, DC., *Choir Boy* at the Studio DC, Marin Theatre Co. and *The Comedy of Errors*, set in the Harlem Renaissance, for Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Upcoming productions for 2021-22: *Twelfth Night* for the Acting Co., *Paradise Blue* at City Theatre and the new Billy Strayhorn musical, *Something to Live For*. Mr. Gash is the former Associate Artistic Director of both the Alliance Theatre and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Mr. Gash is the founding Director of the New Studio on Broadway, Tisch Drama-New York University.

JOHN DIPINTO (*musical director*) is a pianist, accordionist, singer, actor, music director, composer and arranger. He has worked extensively in the NY theatre and cabaret scenes, and has appeared at Urban Stages as associate music director for *Langston In Harlem* and as music director for *Water From The Moon*. He is currently music supervisor for *Trav’lin’*, a new musical featuring the songs of composer J.C. Johnson. Broadway credits include: *Footloose*, [title of show], *Laughing Room Only*, *Victor/Victoria*. Off Broadway: *Shoes And Baggage*, *A Christmas Memory*, *Disaster!*, *Summer Of '42*, *Oil City Symphony*, *I’m Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road*, *Streakin’!*, *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*, *A Man Of No Importance*. Regional: *Pump Boys And Dinettes*, *Smoke On The Mountain*, *A Day In Hollywood/A Night In The Ukraine*. John is an Adjunct Professor at New Jersey City University, and a musical director for NYU’s Graduate Musical Theatre Writing program.

April 15 – May 2, 2010: The World premiere of *Langston in Harlem* at Urban Stages

Original Cast: Josh Towers, Jordan Barbour, Jonathan Burke, Francesca Harper, LaTrisa Harper, Dell Howlett, Krisha Marcano, Kenita Miller, Okieriete Onaodowan, Gayle Turner, Glenn Turner, C. Kelly Wright.

Musical Direction: Barry Levitt & John Dipinto | Choreographer: Byron Easley
 Costume Designer: Austin K. Sanderson | Scenic Designer: Emily Beck
 Lighting Designer: William H. Grant, III | Sound Designer: Jason Fitzgerald
 Projections Designer: Alex Koch | Sound Mixer: Sean Hagerty | Lighting Operator: Lee Terry
 Associate Choreographer: Daniel Watts | Assistant Director: Carl Cofield

HONKY

DAVE DROXLER (*Peter*) premiered his one-man show *Robin and Me: My Little Spark Of Madness* as part of Abingdon Theatre's One Night Only Series at Lucille Lortel. Dave's play, *Walken On Sunshine*, premiered at FringeNYC, winning the "TheaterMania Audience Favorite Award" and "Outstanding Excellence in Acting" for Dave's performance. Other select New York Theater acting credits include *Candide*, directed by Hal Prince and choreographed by Pat Birch (NYC Opera), the Drama Desk nominated production *The Man Who Laughs* (Stolen Chair Theater), *Sweetee*, directed by Pat Birch (Signature Theatre), and the NYTimes Critics pick *Honky* (Urban Stages). Dave voices Kiko on Nick Jr's "Santiago Of The Seas", as well as numerous other characters for Nick Jr's "Sunny Day", PBS's "Alma's Way" and upcoming shows for HBO Max, Noggin, and Netflix. Other TV/Film credits include "How to Get Away With Murder" and "Limitless". www.davedroxler.com

ARIE THOMPSON (*Emilia*) (AEA, SAG) is a Los Angeles based actor and producer. She is happy to return to Urban Stages (virtually) to revisit the role of Emilia in HONKY which she originated in its East Coast Premiere. Other New York and regional stage credits include *Queen For A Day* (Theater at St. Clements, dir John Gould Rubin), *HENRY V* and *Dead City* at the Public Theater, *Haymarket Eight* at Steppenwolf Theater, *Twelve Volt Heart* at Hartford Stage and the upcoming world premiere of *Our Daughters Like Pillars* by Kristen Greenidge, dir. by Kimberly Senior at Huntington Theater Company. Film and TV credits include: *Law and Order: SVU*, *We Are CVNT5*, *Once Upon A Lifetime* (dir. by David Skato), *The Wrong Valentine* (Lifetime) and the upcoming miniseries *Keeping Up With The Jones* also starring Vivica A. Fox which premieres this July on LMN. Follow her on Instagram: @ariebiancathompson.

GREG KALLERES (*playwright*) Since graduating from the Tisch Dramatic Writing Program at NYU, Greg's plays have been produced all over the country. He received the Emerging Playwright Award for his Off Broadway play, HONKY (Urban Stages, *NY Times Critic's Pick*) and the Reva Shiner Comedy Award for his play APROPOS OF NOTHING (Bloomington Playwrights Project). The San Diego Rep Production of HONKY was aired on PBS and his play, A BEAUTIFUL SPELL, was adapted into Arabic and produced twice in Beirut, Lebanon -- and later adapted as a podcast starring Jenna Elfman. His screenplay OUR CONDOLENCES was on the 2018 Black List and is being produced by Will Ferrell's production company, Gloria Sanchez. Greg is currently writing movies for the animation studio Illumination Entertainment. In addition to theater and film, Greg spent five years writing commercials for ESPN, Nike, Jordan and many others. Or so he says.

LUKE HARLAN (*director*) is a director and producer for theater, film and TV. He has developed and directed numerous short and feature films, television shows, operas, and dozens of world premiere plays. He has worked with HBO, Saturday Night Live, Martin Scorsese, The Public Theater, Yale Rep,

and New York Theater Workshop, among others. Luke is currently Co-Producer of the upcoming HBO series *The Gilded Age*. He holds an MFA in Directing from Yale School of Drama.

March 8, 2013 – April 14, 2013: The World premiere of *Honky* at Urban Stages
October 22 – November 17, 2013: 2nd Production at Urban Stages

Original Cast: Scott Barrow, Philip Callen, Dave Droxler, Danielle Faitelson, Anthony Gaskins, Chris Myers (2nd Production: DeLance Minefee), Reynaldo Piniella and Arie Bianca Thompson.

Set Design by Roman Tatarowicz | Lighting design by Miriam Nilofa Crowe

Costume design by Sarah Thea Swafford | Sound Design by Brandon Wolcott

Projection Design by Caite Hevner Kemp | Production Manager: Sean Hagerty

Stage Manager: Brian D. Gold | Assistant Production Manager: Meghan Santelli (2nd Production:

Kristen M. Herrick) | 2nd Production Addition: Lighting Assistant: Alex Mannix

MABEL MADNESS

TREZANA BEVERLEY (*playwright, Mabel*) is an actress, director, writer, educator and singer. Winner of the coveted Tony Award for her acting work in the Broadway show 'For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf', Trezana Beverley has created a unique signature in the American theater. She is a graduate of NYU Tish School for The Arts.

ACTING HIGHLIGHTS: Broadway and Regional theater include *My Sister My Sister*; *Mother Courage*; *A Raisin In The Sun*; *Peer Gynt*; *All's Well That Ends Well*; *Medea*; *Constant Star*; *King Lear* (performed as a man) and *Mabel Madness* (a one-woman show about the life of Mabel Mercer).

FILM HIGHLIGHTS: *Carolina Skeletons* and *Beloved* starring, Oprah Winfrey.

DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS: *The Trojan Woman*; *Under the Bridge*. And the artist in residence at PlayMakers Theater Co. Chapel Hill, NC.

EDUCATOR: The Juilliard School- guest faculty director ten years; Mason Gross Rutgers University-guest director; NUY Tish School for The Arts-guest director; Morgan State University-guest director and Brandeis University-guest director. She is currently on the teaching faculty of The Conservatory of Performing Arts at The State University of New York at Purchase.

WRITER: *The Spirit Moves*; *Mabel Madness*; *A Song for Mara*, the story of a homeless woman. And many prose and poetry. Ms. Beverley is also the founder and artistic director of THE TREZANA PROJECT, a theater company that features Dance-Acting. **AWARDS:** Tony Award; Mademoiselle Woman of the Year; Adulco Award; Theater World Award; work sited in 'Towards A Poor Theater' author, Jersey Grotowsky (Simon and Shuster).

FRANCES HILL (*Co-Director, Urban Stages' Founder/Artistic Director*): Bio Above

PETER NAPOLITANO (*Co-Director*): Bio Above

February 19 – April 10, 2016: The World premiere of *Mabel Madness* at Urban Stages

Written By and Starring Tony Award Winner Trezana Beverley

Tabitha Pease (Scenic Designer) Christina Watanabe (Lighting Designer), Nicholas Blade Guldner (Video Designer), Gail Cooper-Hecht (Costume Designer), Douglas Mills (Technical Director), Jill Woodward (Production Stage Manager) & Sarah Brown (Assistant Stage Manager)

BARS & MEASURES

RODERICK LAWRENCE (*Eric*): Big love to the creative team, my cast & crew for embracing me in taking this journey with them. 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 (aPioneer 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

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*) came 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). Recent favorite revivals include Bad Penny by Mac Wellman (The Flea), Brecht & Weill's The Threepenny Opera and Hamlet (CoHo Productions).

October 18 to November 17, 2019: The New York premiere of *Bars and Measures* at Urban Stages

Original Music by Justin Ellington

Cast: Shabazz Green, Roderick Lawrence, Abraham Makany & Salma Shaw

Assistant Director: Vincent Scott | 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
 Fight Choreographer: Dan Renkin | Music Coach: Cleve Douglass
 Press Representative: Joe Trentacosta, JT Public Relations | Graphic Design: Sylvia Haber,
 Perpetuart | Marketing: Deirdre M Cossman | Social Media: Myan Disnie Sebastien

CHARMED LIFE FROM SOUL SINGING TO OPERA STAR

LORI BROWN-MIRABAL (*playwright & performer*): Throughout her award-winning singing career, Lori Brown Mirabal has worked with legendary opera and music theatre luminaries in the US and abroad. Her favorite leading roles include international tours as "Carmen" (Carmen) and "Bess" (Porgy and Bess), "Rosina" (Il Barbiere Di Siviglia) "Ella" (Bubblin' Brown Sugar) and that of real-life African American pioneer, "Clara Brown" (Gabriel's Daughter) at the Central City Opera world premiere. Mirabal established an opera company, Opera Soup Productions, LLC, to creatively introduce opera to family audiences. She published her first children's book "From Soul Singing to Opera Soup," in 2017, and recently released her first children's recording, "Musetta's Musical Story Time." Currently, Mirabal is co-producing, and recreating the role of "Clara Brown," in a documentary film told through the lens of the opera Gabriel's Daughter. Website:

<https://www.loribrownmirabal.com>

VINCENT SCOTT (*director*): New York based, Scott has directed in Los Angeles, Chicago, London and Dublin as well as on Off-Broadway. His passion is to develop new plays through staged readings or full productions. His most recent premieres are "What Happen to The Dollar" and "Good Corporate Citizen" both by Sam Garber, and "Accentuate the Positive (The Johnny Mercer Story)" by Calvin Ramsey. He has had numerous readings at Urban Stages, the most recent being "Gumbo House" by Keion Jackson and "#NWORD" by Christian Elder. Scott also assisted Timothy Douglas in Chicago with "Changes of Heart" and Austin Pendleton and Jan Buttram at the Abingdon Theatre Company with "The Last Will" and "Hellman v. McCarthy." At Urban Stages, he has assistant directed "Death Of A Driver" by Will Snider (directed by Kim T. Sharp) and "Bars and Measures" by Idris Goodman (directed by Kristian Seemel). He recently directed the world premiere of Lori Brown Mirabal's "Charmed Life from Soul Singing to Opera Star." Here at Urban stages.

March 12-14, 2020 (paused due to the pandemic. Will continue in 2021): The World premiere of *CHARMED LIFE: From Soul Singing to Opera Star* at Urban Stages

Written and performed by Lori Brown Mirabal

Pianists: Allison Brewster Franzetti, Steven Gross & Wayne Saunders

Scenic & Video Designer : Jaime Terrazzino | Lighting Designer: Madeleine Burrow

Technical Director: Kim T. Sharp | Production Stage Manager: Madeleine Burrow

Assistant Stage Manager: Jaime Terrazzino

Press Representative: Joe Trentacosta, JT Public Relations

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KIM T. SHARP (*Editor/Videographer*): works with Urban Stages to champion work by artists of diverse cultural backgrounds. Directing credits include the off-Broadway premiere of Will Snider’s *Death of a Driver* (Urban Stages), Anand Rao’s *A Muslim in the Midst* (Hudson Guild), and Ronan Noone’s *The Atheist* with Wolfgang Novogratz (at Urban Stages), and virtual productions of Sholeh Wolpe’s *Holy Corona* (The Alternative Theater), Bara Swain’s *The Southern Comfort Plays* (Planet Connections) and Ruth Zamoyta’s *The Incels* (Urban Stages).

VINCENT SCOTT (*Associate Producer*): Bio above

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We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers Unions: Actors Equity Association, American Guild of Musical Artists, American Guild of Variety Artists, SAG-AFTRA through the Theatre Authority, Inc, for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.