

THE JUDITH CHAMPION MIXFEST

(WRIT)UAL MIX:

Traditions of the Diaspora

ATLANTIC THEATER COMPANY

**A FREE READING SERIES
PLAY FESTIVAL**

AUGUST 7 – 16, 2023

CO-CURATED BY

Daaimah Mubashshir, NSangou Njikam & Awoye Timpo

Artistic Director
Neil Pepe

Associate Artistic Director
Annie MacRae

Associate Producer
Abigail Katz

We acknowledge that the Atlantic Theater & School buildings were built on the occupied traditional lands of the Lenape people. We are grateful to the Indigenous caretakers of these lands and honor the Lenape Tribes who continue to thrive today.

(WRIT)UAL MIX

A FREEKY INTRODUCTION

By **NSangou Njikam**

Directed by **Dennis A. Allen II**

Tuesday, August 15 | 7pm

Freeky Dee

NSangou Njikam*

DJ

Dj Scan

Stage Manager

Violet Asmara Tafari*

**Members of Actors' Equity Association*

NSANGOU NJIKAM (Playwright/*Freeky Dee*) is an actor, playwright and Hip Hop Theatre artist originally from Baltimore, MD. His writing credits include *Syncing Ink*, *Re:Definition*, *When We Left parts 1 & 2*, *I.D.*, *21 STRINGS* and he is one of seven writers of *Hands Up: Seven Plays; Seven Testimonials*. Acting credits include *Syncing Ink* (Alley Theatre/Flea Theater), *Re:Definition* (LaMama), *Henry V* (Classical Theatre of Harlem), *Deep Azure* (Congo Square Theatre). NSangou's play *Re:Definition* (Hip Hop Theatre Festival reading) was developed and directed by Chadwick Boseman. NSangou has also written for and collaborated with Grammy Award winner Common, specifically on his Audible.com project "BlueBird Memories," the 2020 NBA All Star Game, and the Audible interview series *Mindpower Mixtape*. *Freeky Dee, Baby*, premiered at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in 2021. His Hip Hop Theatre play *I.D.* (commission by Penn State University) premiered at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa. NSangou is a member of the 2015 Emerging Writers Group at The Public Theater as well as a member of UNIVERSES, a theatre company fusing jazz, blues, hip hop, Spoken Word and Spanish boleros. He received his BFA in Acting from Howard University. After tracing his African ancestry, he received his name from the Bamum King in Cameroon. He is represented by A3 Agency. He currently resides in New York City.

DENNIS A. ALLEN II (*Director*) is a multi-hyphenate in the world of theatre. As a playwright, his play *The Mud is Thicker in Mississippi* won the 35th annual Off Off Broadway Samuel French Festival. He is the recipient of Atlantic Theater Company's inaugural Launch Commission, Clubbed Thumb's Early-Career Writer's Group, and National Black Theatre's "I Am Soul" Playwright Residency. Allen is an associate producer for The New Black Fest and serves as the National Playwriting Program Chair for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival region 1. He is an adjunct professor at LaGuardia Community College, Montclair State University, The New School, and is the Co-Program Director for the MFA Playwriting program at Brooklyn College. Dennis received his MFA from Brooklyn College's Playwriting program.

DJ SCAN (*DJ*) is a Turntablist and producer from Queens, NYC. He has well over 25 years of touring and dj experience worldwide.

VIOLET ASMARA TAFARI (*Stage Manager*) is a Production Manager, Stage Manager and Curator, supporting artists of various calibers and mediums as they unleash their art and spirit on and off stage. Blending the gap between technician and artist, Violet utilizes her ritual and healing background to support pushing the boundaries of art and the community that embraces it. Growing up backstage and on stage, Violet learned the inner workings of what it takes to create memories. Witnessing the unity that art awakens in us, Violet started her company Freefrequency Connects, allowing artists the freedom to acknowledge and honor the art of ritual and the spirit of their work. Creating tools to ground and explore the fluidity of storytelling while honoring the frequencies that inspire, Violet supports the various crossroads that awaken the artistic being into fruition.

Monday, August 7 | 7pm

PANEL DISCUSSION - ROOTS, RHYME, AND REASON:

Traditions of Black Storytelling

moderated by **Dr. Sybil R. Williams**

Tuesday, August 8 | 7pm

BURNBABYBURN: an american dream

by **a.k. payne**

directed by **Awoye Timpo**

Wednesday, August 9 | 7pm

GOOD BLOOD

by **Diane Exavier**

directed by **Cristina Angeles**

Monday, August 14 | 7pm

SHORT PLAYS

by **Dennis A. Allen II, Keelay Gipson, Amina Henry,**

Goldie E. Patrick & Liza Jessie Peterson

directed by **Raelle Myrick-Hodges & Derrick Sanders**

Tuesday, August 15 | 7pm

A FREEKY INTRODUCTION

by **NSangou Njikam**

directed by **Dennis A. Allen II**

Wednesday, August 16 | 7pm

THE IMMEASURABLE WANT OF LIGHT

by **Daaimah Mubashshir**

directed by **Colette Robert**

SPECIAL THANKS

David Callahan, Kirk Curtis, Braley Degenhardt, Dylan Gervais, Julianne Graffeo, Mark Thomas Johnson, John Lagucki, Clare McCormick, Melissa Rocha, Bailey Sawyer, Sarah Shapiro, Jared Solomon, Barbara Toy

Judith Champion, who also underwrote Atlantic's Launch commissioning program, sadly passed away in July of 2022. She was a fierce advocate for theater, and wanted to leave a legacy of support for new voices so that American theater will thrive for generations to come.

(Writ)ual Mix and all of Atlantic's new play and musical development activities are made possible through the support of The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Atlantic productions and programs are also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, as well as the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature. atlantictheater.org