

THE JUDITH CHAMPION MIXFEST

(WRIT)UAL MIX:

Traditions of the Diaspora

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

THE IMMEASURABLE WANT OF LIGHT

By **Daaimah Mubashshir**

Directed by **Colette Robert**

Wednesday, August 16 | 7pm

Narrator

Ronald Peet*

*Maker, Rasheedah,
Afrodille*

Denise Manning*

*Trees, Pennsy, The Famed
Oncologist, Russ*

Lucy Kaminsky

*Hilton Als, Boy, Brock, The
Black Student, Leroy*

Sheldon Best*

*Fred Moten, Child, Chioma,
Man in Suit, Shelle, 419
African Bones*

John-Andrew Morrison*

*Nell Painter, Cello, Woman,
Ms. Coincoin, Jaana, TV
Static, Ella Fitzgerald*

Brenda Crawley*

Stage Manager

Sydneii Colter*

**Members of Actors' Equity Association*

DAAIMAH MUBASHSHIR (They/She, Playwright) is a playwright and theatre-maker living and working in New York. Their work has been commissioned and developed by Fire This Time Festival, Going To The River, WP Theater, PlayCo, Clubbed Thumb, and Soho Rep. Daaimah was recently awarded a Helen Mirrell Playwriting Award, and residencies from The BAU Institute in Camargo, MacDowell, and Catwalk Institute. They are currently Assistant Professor of Theater and Performance at Bard College.

COLETTE ROBERT (Director) is a director and playwright from Los Angeles, based in New York. She directed the world premieres of *Stew* by Zora Howard at Page 73 and *Behind the Sheet* by Charly Evon Simpson at Ensemble Studio Theatre, where she is a member. She recently directed the first New York revival of *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* by Lynn Nottage with Keen Company. Regional credits include City Theatre Company, Penumbra Theatre, and Williamstown Theatre Festival. Colette is an alumna of The Drama League's Beatrice Terry Residency, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and The Public Theater's Van Lier Directing Fellowship. Her play *The Harriet Holland Social Club Presents the 84th Annual Star-Burst Cotillion in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel*, which she also directed, recently closed Off-Broadway, produced by The Movement Theatre Company and New Georges. She is the 2023 SDCF Denham Fellow.

SHELDON BEST (Hilton Als, Brock, *The Black Student, Leroy*). NYC credits include *The Hot Wing King* (Signature Theatre), *Sugar in Our Wounds* (MTC), *Travisville* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Romeo & Juliet* (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem), *brownville song* (Lincoln Center/LCT3), *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* (Atlantic Theater), *the box: a black comedy* (Foundry Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (CTH), *Freed* (59E59 & Penguin Rep), *Six Rounds of Vengeance*, *Alice in Slasherland* (Vampire Cowboys), *Soul Samurai* (Ma-Yi Theater & Vampire Cowboys). TV/ Film - #SAGAFTRAstrong, #SAGAFTRAstrike. www.SheldonBest.com.

BRENDA CRAWLEY (Nell Painter, *Cello, Woman, Ms. Coincoin, Jaana, TV Static, Ella Fitzgerald*). Theatre Credits: *Mary, Intro To* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Mother u/s, Patience* (Second Stage), *Prometheus, Prometheus Bound* (The Tank), *Mother, Problem with Magic is...* (JAG Festival), *Mrs. Draper, State of the Union* (Metropolitan Playhouse), *Ann, whatdoesfreemean* (Nora's Playhouse), *Evelyn, Breaking in the Boss* (NJ Repertory Theatre), *Oralia, Daughters of the Mock* (Negro Ensemble Company).

LUCY KAMINSKY (Tress, *Penny, The Famed Oncologist, Russ*) is an actor and dancer from Brooklyn. Over the last 15 years she's been honored to work with 600 Highwaymen, Jess Barbagallo & Emily Davis, William Burke, Julia May Jonas, Corinne Donly, LILLETH, Meghan Finn, McFeeley Sam Goodman, Sarah Hughes, Juliana F. May, Daaimah Mubashshir, New Saloon and Mac Wellman, among others. Kaminsky was featured in the MGMT music video for "When you Die." Film credits include: *A Different Man* (A24), *The Sweet East* (premiering at Cannes 2023), *The Adults* (Tribeca 2023), *The Plagiarists* (Berlinale, New Directors New Films 2019). She graduated from Bard College with a BA in Environmental Studies.

DENISE MANNING (Maker, *Rasheedah, Afrodille*). AKA @TheHalfPint Legend is a New York City based Actor-visit, Comic, and Musician. She's a 2023 Drama Desk Nominee for Outstanding Lead Performance as Amani in *AMANI* written by a.k. payne & directed by Josiah Davis. Some of her favorite credits include: *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* written by Aleshea Harris & directed by Whitney White, *God is A Comedian*, a self-written and self-produced comedic short film, award winning series and short film *For the Boys* by Ellis Dawson & Mekhai Lee, *Keep This Far Apart* by Tyler English-Beckwith, and 2021 Drama League nominated *G.O.A.T* by Ngozi Anyanwu. If you want to keep in touch, check out Denisemichellemanning.com for more!

JOHN-ANDREW MORRISON (Fred Moten, *Child, Chioma, Man in Suit, Shelle, 419 African Bones*) is an award winning actor living and working in New York City. John-Andrew received a Tony Nomination, a Lucille Lortel Award, and an Obie Award for his work in the Pulitzer Prize winning musical *A Strange Loop* (Broadway and Off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons). He also was an Outer Critics Circle Honoree for his performance in the Off-Broadway premiere of *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. John-Andrew spent many years working at La Mama with George Ferencz as a member of The Experimentals working on readings, workshops and productions of around 50 new plays. He also did several plays with The Classical Theater of Harlem, including the Obie Award winning *The Blacks - A Clown Show, Caligula* with André De Shields and the *New York Times* Critics Pick hit show *MALVOLIO*. John-Andrew holds a BA in Theater Arts from Brandeis University and an MFA in Acting from U.C. San Diego. He is a member of The Actors Center.

RONALD PEET (*Narrator*) is a Bahamian-born marathoner, meditator, and humanist. He's collaborated on stage projects with The New Group, The Vineyard, Joe's Pub, Lincoln Center, The Bushwick Starr, Clubbed Thumb, P73, The Playwright's Realm, Atlantic Theater Company, Roundabout, Ars Nova, Miami New Drama, Barrington Stage, Williamstown Theater Festival, Two River Theater, MTC, Second Stage, MCC, The American Shakespeare Center, Yale, NYU, Juilliard, and more. Upcoming screen projects include Apple TV+'s "Bad Monkey" and A24's *Problemista*.

SYDNEI COLTER (*Stage Manager*) is excited to be collaborating with Atlantic Theater for the first time. Off-Broadway: *Bernarda's Daughters*, *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, *Black No More* (The New Group). Other recent credits include: *Sweet Chariot* (Shiva Theatre), *The Outsiders* (Daryl Roth Theatre), *Echoes in the Garden* (The Chain Theatre).

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.

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