

Friday and Saturday, May 5–6, 2023, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower

Created by Toshi Reagon & Bernice Johnson Reagon
Co-Directed by Signe Harriday & Eric Ting
Music and Lyrics by Toshi Reagon & Bernice Johnson Reagon

with

Abby Dobson, Afi Bijou, Alex Koi, Alina Carson, Be Steadwell,
Evie Schuckman, Isaiah Stanley, Josette Newsam, Marie Tatti Aqeel,
Neil Dawson, Noah Virgile, Shelley Nicole,
and Toussaint Jeanlouis

Orchestra

Chogyi, Fred Cash, Jr., Bobbie Bird, Monique Brooks Roberts, and Zach Brown

Music Direction

Toshi Reagon

Choreography
Millicent Johnni

Scenic Designer
Arnulfo Maldonad

Costume Designer
Dede M. Ayite

Lighting Designer
Christopher Kuhl

Audio Systems
John Kemp

Art Installation
Abigail Deville

Movement Director
Yasmine Lee

Production Manager/Lighting Director
Jojo Franjoine

Production Stage Manager
Chris De Camillis

Assistant Stage Manager
Caroline Pastore

Co-Tour Producer
ArKtype/Thomas O. Kriegsmann

Associate Tour Producer
Sami Pyne

Company Manager/CovidCM
Shannon Molly Flynn

Assistant Production Manager
Henry Muller

Front of House
Sound Engineer
Noah Phillips

2nd Audio Technician
Laura Brauner

Lead Sound Engineer
Alex Dakoglou

*The Pre-Show Soundscape includes the music of Bernice Johnson Reagon, Jason Moran,
Meshell Ndegeocello, Arooj Aftab, Climbing PoeTree, and Alicia Hall Moran. News Reporter – J. Bob Alotta.*

Produced by Wise Reagon Arts
Consultant Shanta Thake

Based on the novels *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents* by Octavia E. Butler.
Courtesy of the estate of Octavia E. Butler.

*Originally commissioned by The Public Theater, and co-commissioned by The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi.
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the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower was developed with support by The Public Theater and during a residency
at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York, NY. Additional support provided by the Apollo's Salon Series Program.
Fiscally sponsored by Cal Shakes.*

Originally Produced by Wise Reagon Arts LLC and Meiyin Wang.

Learn more about the *Parable of the Sower* collaborators and journey at www.parableopera.com.

SETTING

Part 1: The walled community of Robledo, a suburb of Los Angeles, CA, in the near future.

Part 2: Later, on the road north.

PERFORMERS

Talents: Abby Dobson, Shelley Nicole, Toshi Reagon

Part 1

<i>Lauren Oya Olamina</i>	Marie Tatti Aqeel
<i>Rev. Olamina</i>	Neil Dawson
<i>Keith Olamina</i>	Isaiah Stanley
<i>Cory Olamina</i>	Afi Bijou
<i>Harry Balter</i>	Noah Virgile
<i>Richard Moss</i>	Toussaint Jeanlouis
<i>Zahra Moss</i>	Alina Carson
<i>Joanne Garfield</i>	Be Steadwell
<i>Tracy Dunn</i>	Alex Koi
<i>Mrs. Sims</i>	Josette Newsam
<i>Mrs. Hsu</i>	Evie Schuckman

Part 2

<i>The Ancestors</i>	Josette Newsam
<i>Grayson Mora</i>	Isaiah Stanley
<i>Lauren Olamina</i>	Marie Tatti Aqeel
<i>Harry Balter</i>	Noah Virgile
<i>Zahra Moss</i>	Alina Carson
<i>Travis Douglas</i>	Neil Dawson
<i>Gloria Natividad Douglas</i>	Afi Bijou
<i>Jillian Gilchrist</i>	Alex Koi
<i>Allison Gilchrist</i>	Be Steadwell
<i>Emery Tanaka Solis</i>	Evie Schuckman
<i>Taylor Franklin Bankole</i>	Toussaint Jeanlouis

ORCHESTRA

<i>Percussion</i>	Bobbie Bird
<i>Bass</i>	Fred Cash, Jr.
<i>Cello</i>	Zach Brown
<i>Violin</i>	Monique Brooks Roberts
<i>Guitar & Keyboard</i>	Chogyi

Tonight we are in exploration of family. The one you are born into—the one you choose—the one you find—the one that finds you.

Sometime in the future, we meet Lauren Olamina, a 15-year-old girl living inside the remnants of a walled community kept secure by a locked gate. This is a community being held together by her father's will and vision. A community that did not choose to be together, but is forced to work together because of the massive deterioration of the world around them: a widening economic gap, privatization of what were once public resources, rampant corporate take-over, 21st-century sharecropping, drugs, violence, and an overwhelming disregard for life. All these things chip away at what little sense of security Lauren feels. She comes to know that she is not safe behind that wall. She comes to know that the God of her

father is not her God. And so, even as she prepares to leave, she begins to create her own religion: Earthseed—The Books of the Living.

When the wall comes down, Lauren loses her family. She leaves home with a few old maps, and starts out on an unknown journey north, out of the suburbs of Los Angeles, passing as a man with two wounded friends at her side, gathering more along the way. Finding love, finding comrades. Teaching Earthseed.

*All that you touch
you Change.*

*All that you Change
Changes you.*

*The only lasting truth
is Change.*

*God
is Change.*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TOSHI REAGON | she/her (*librettist, composer, music director*) is a talented and versatile singer, composer, musician, curator, and producer with a profound ear for sonic Americana—from folk to funk, from blues to rock. While her expansive career has landed her at Carnegie Hall, the Paris Opera House, and Madison Square Garden, you can just as easily find Toshi turning out at a music festival, intimate venue, or local club. She has collaborated with artists including Carl Hancock Rux, Ani DiFranco, Lenny Kravitz, Elvis Costello, and Nona Hendryx. As a composer, she has worked with Katori Hall, Urban Bush Women, and The Jane Comfort Dance Co., among others. She is currently touring the Bessie Award-winning *The Blues Project* with tap dancer Michelle Dorrance and Dorrance Dance. Reagon founded WORD*ROCK*SWORD, a community festival that takes place throughout New York City every September. Together

with her mother Bernice Johnson Reagon, she has created two operas with director Robert Wilson, *The Temptation of St. Anthony and Zinnias*, *The Life of Clementine Hunter*. Reagon has co-composed music for two Peabody Award-winning films and received a NYFA Award for Music Composition, the 2010 OutMusic Heritage Award, and the Black Lily Music and Film Festival Award for Outstanding Performance. She is a National Women's History Month honoree and was named a 2015 Art of Change Fellow by the Ford Foundation.

BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON | she/her (*librettist, composer*) is a scholar, singer/songleader, activist. For over half a century she has made profound contributions to African American and American culture. Born in Southwest Georgia, her singing style and traditional repertoire is grounded in her experiences in church, school, and political ac-

tivism. As a composer, she has created a narrative of her social and political activism through her songs and larger compositions. She performed as a member of the SNCC Freedom Singers during the sixties; she founded an all-women *a cappella* ensemble, The Harambee Singers, during the Black Cultural Movement; and she founded and led the internationally acclaimed Sweet Honey in the Rock for 30 years until her retirement. Paralleling her work in music, Reagon is one of the leading authorities in African American cultural history. She is a recipient of the Heinz Award for Arts and Humanities, a MacArthur Fellowship and the Presidential Medal, and the Charles E. Frankel Prize for Contributions to the Public Understanding of Humanities.

OCTAVIA ESTELLE BUTLER | she/her (author, June 22, 1947–February 24, 2006) was a renowned African American author and the recipient of a MacArthur “Genius” Grant and a PEN Lifetime Achievement Award for her body of work. Born in Pasadena in 1947, she was raised by her mother (a housemaid) and her grandmother. The author of many award-winning novels, including *Parable of the Sower* (1993), a *New York Times* “Notable Book of the Year,” and *Parable of the Talents* (1995), winner of the Nebula Award for the best science fiction novel published that year, she was far ahead of her time: though the MacArthur Grant made life easier in later years, she struggled for decades when her dystopian novels exploring themes of Black injustice, global warming, women’s rights, and political disparity were, to say the least, not in commercial demand. During these years of obscurity, Butler, always an early riser, woke at 2am every day to write, and then went to work as, among other things, a telemarketer, potato chip inspector, and dishwasher. At the time of her death in 2006, interest in her books was beginning to rise, and in recent years, her work has become timely and hugely popular among all kinds of readers. Sales have increased worldwide, her work is

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taught in over 200 colleges and universities nationwide, and a graphic novel adaptation of her book *Kindred* was a No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller in 2017. In other media, her novel *Dawn* is being developed for television by Ava DuVernay (*Selma* A *Wrinkle In Time*) and other works are also in production. Currently, Toshi Reagon's opera based on Butler's novel *Parable of the Sower* is touring worldwide.

ERIC TING | he/they (co-director) is an Obie Award-winning director. Recent directing credits include the world premieres of Lloyd Suh's *The Far Country* (Atlantic Theater Co) and *Bina's Six Apples* (Alliance, Children's Theater Co); Marcus Gardley's *Lear* (Cal Shakes, co-director); and *Between Two Knees* by the 1491s (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). New York: Manhattan Theatre Club, Public Theater Under the Radar, BAM Next Wave, Soho Rep. Regional: Long Wharf Theatre, Hartford Stage, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Philadelphia Theatre Co, Cincinnati Playhouse, Goodman, Victory Gardens, Denver Center, CTG, ACT, Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. International: Singapore, France, UAE, Holland, Canada, Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bali. Upcoming: Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *The Comeuppance* (Signature Theater).

SIGNE V. HARRIDAY | she/her (co-director) is Artistic Producing Director at Pillsbury House + Theatre in Minneapolis. She is a community organizer, fierce visionary, and powerful storyteller who crafts theater that awakens our individual and collective humanity. As an artist engaged deeply in cooperative development, community centered program creation and leadership consulting, Harriday fosters social justice in action across sectors. As a director, multidisciplinary artist, activist, and facilitator, she uses theater as a catalyst to ask questions about who we are and who we are in relation

to each other. She is also co-founder of Million Artist Movement, a collective of artists committed to Black liberation; co-founder of the award-winning synchronized swimming team, The Subversive Sirens; founder of Rootsprings Coop, a retreat center for BIPOC artists/activists/healers in Minnesota; and a core team member of REP Community Partners. Harriday earned her MFA in acting at the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard and at the Moscow Art Theatre. signeharriday.com.

MILLICENT JOHNNIE | she/her (choreographer) served as Associate Artistic Director of the Brooklyn based dance company Urban Bush Women and choreographed the original *Parable of the Sower* workshop (New York City Opera). Off-Broadway: *Ameriville, Party People* (The Public Theater). Other theater credits include *Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter* (Montclair Peak Performances), *Symphony for the Dance Floor* (Brooklyn Academy of Music), *The Love Project* (National Black Theater Festival), *The Hip Hop Project* (Krannert Performing Arts Center), *The Shipment, We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Südwestafrika, Between the Years 1884–1915* (UnderMain Theater), *The Burning* (Contemporary Arts Center) and immersive/site responsive theater: *Cry You One* (Mondo Bizarro and Art Spot Productions). Johnnie directed and choreographed *Rent* (Ferndale Repertory Theater), *West Side Story* (University KwaZulu Natal, South Africa), *Bamaboula: Musician's Brew* (Cleo Parker Robinson 45th Anniversary Tour), and *Cubamor The Musical* (Village Theater). She has received numerous awards and nominations for her work, including a United States Artist nomination for dance, the Prague International Dance Festival Award, the Times-Standard Beti's Choice Award, the Theatre Bay Area

Award, and a Vivian Robinson/Avdelco nomination for outstanding choreography. She choreographed the feature film *Scary Movie 5*, served as a choreographer for Disney's *Frozen: Live at the Hyperion*, and more recently performed in the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Brazil. Johnnie is a visiting assistant professor in dance at Florida State University.

YASMINE LEE | she/her (*movement director*) is a dance and movement-centered artist who has worked across concert dance, theater, film, television, ceremonies, and music videos in over 40 countries. She is Georgie's *Mama 24/7*. Select credits include Upcoming: *Megalopolis* (Francis Ford Coppola), *Maggie: A New Musical* (Theater Aquarius), *Let The Right One In* (Berkeley Rep), and *Disco Show* (Caesar's Palace). Now playing: *A Beautiful Noise* (Broadway), *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Broadway and Toronto). Past: *Made For Love* (HBOMax), *Social* with David Byrne (Park Ave Armory), *Sweeney Todd* (Barrow Street Theater), *Wild Goose Dreams* (The Public Theater), Katy Perry for SNL (NBC), *The Crucible* (dir: by Ivo van Hove), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (dir: Marianne Eliot), *Once* (dir: John Tiffany), *Rent* (dir: Michael Greif). Opening and Closing Ceremonies World Expo '20 (Dubai); Opening Ceremonies XXII Winter Olympic Games (Sochi), *Knives In Hens* (59E59), *Tender Naptalm* (59E59), *PEARL* (Lincoln Center), *My Name's Not Indian Joe* (Davenport Theater); Issey Miyake product launch (Louvre Museum); AMICI Di Maria Di Felipe (Canale 5 Italia), *Across The Universe* (dir: Julie Taymor), *Dunham Technique Video* (commissioned by the US Library of Congress/ Archived at Smithsonian Institute), Joan Peter's Dance Company, MOMIX, Earl Mosely's Diversity of Dance (founding member).

PERFORMERS

ABBY DOBSON | she/her, a sonic conceptualist performing artist, composer, activist, and scholar, is an artist in residence with the African American Policy Forum (AAPF). She has performed at the Apollo Theater, Blue Note Jazz Club, Hammer Museum, Kennedy Center, and on *The Tonight Show*. Featured on Talib Kweli's album *Gravitas* ("State of Grace"), Dobson was nominated for a 2014 BET Hip Hop Award for Best Impact Song. She was a Create Change Fellow with the Laundromat Project and performed with Black women artists for Black Lives Matter. Dobson is also a member of the Resistance Revival Chorus, a women's chorus, and Burnt Sugar, an improvisational ensemble. Her song "Say Her Name," inspired by AAPF's campaign of the same name, is featured on The Resistance Revival's *This Joy* album, released in 2020 on Righteous Babe Records. Passionate about using music as a tool for empathy cultivation, Dobson creates music to inspire audiences to engage in action and promote transformative social change. Her essay "From Baldwin to Beyoncé: Exploring the Responsibility of the Artist in Society—Re-envisioning the Black Female Sonic Artist as Citizen" appears in *African American Arts: Activism, Aesthetics, and Futurity*, published in December 2019.

AFI BIJOU | she/her can be seen on her third season in the role of Sister Marny on *Godfather of Harlem* (MGM+). Her credits include *Law & Order* (NBC), *The Night of* (HBO), and *Insecure* (HBO). Broadway: *Fela!*, *Holler If You Hear Me*, *Once On This Island*, and off-Broadway and regional productions such as *Blood Quilt* (Arena Stage), *An Octoroon* (Berkeley Rep), and *Good Goods* (Yale Rep). It has been a few seasons and so it feels good to be back live.

ALEX KOI | she/her is a Brooklyn-based vocalist, composer/producer, and improvising musician. She heads her eponymous solo project and is the vocalist and co-composer for the art rock band saajtak. Koi has performed with musicians, visual artists, and dancers alike, including Shara Nova, Theo Bleckmann, Chris Bruce, Morley Kamen, Nathan Thatcher, Joo Won Park, Eleonore Oppenheim, Nicole Mannarino, and Ragnar Kjartansson. Notable performances include those at the Guggenheim Museum, Joe's Pub, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Toronto Jazz Festival, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Koi has dedicated her artistic practice to exploring rainbows of musical possibilities as influenced by her interest in improvisation, electronic music, theater, and experimentalism. IG: @isalexkoi.

ALINA CARSON | she/they is a musical theater-trained performance artist, dancer, and actor from Baltimore, Maryland. She worked with Baltimore's Arena Players before relocating to New York, where she spent three years as a company member of the Harlem Repertory Theatre. Past productions include *Midsummer Moon* with the Virginia Stage Company, *Raisin in the Sun* with Harlem Rep, and *The Disco Oasis* in Central Park. Carson is based in Brooklyn and is currently finishing her debut album *Get a Little Lost*. She has appeared in film projects such as *Nanny* by Nikyatu Jusu, *Class* by Enzo Cellucci and Hank Azaria, and *@DatingZoe* by Adi Riesenbergs and Jess Dunn. Carson feels extremely fortunate to be a vessel for Octavia Butler's prophetic storytelling, and would like to give a special thanks to her beloved aunt and acting mentor, Lisa Carson.

BE STEADWELL | she/they/he is a queer pop composer and storyteller from Washington, DC. She composes her songs on stage using looping, vocal layering, and beat

boxing. Her original music features earnest lyricism and affirming queer content. Steadwell's goal as a musician is to make other Black girlies, introverts, and weirdos feel seen and loved. She earned a BA in Black studies from Oberlin College and an MFA in film from Howard University in 2014. Her thesis film, *Vow of Silence*, screened at film festivals around the world, including at Black Star, HBO's OutFest, the Schomburg Center, and Inside Out Toronto. In 2019, Steadwell composed the music for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's production of *The Gone*. Later that year, she wrote and directed *A Letter to My Ex*, the musical, which imagines a queer Black woman's experience in the aftermath of a breakup. In 2021, she released her latest album, *Succulent*.

EVIE SCHUCKMAN | they/them is an actor, playwright, and visual storyteller with roots in South Florida, Chengdu (China), and New York City. They hold a BFA in musical theater from Boston Conservatory at Berklee, with an emphasis in solo performance. Schuckman is fascinated by the art of transformation. A resident company member at theater incubator Mercury Store in Gowanus, Brooklyn, they spend most of their time building innovative devised theater and new plays within a collaborative ensemble setting. (Recent related duties include: feeding miniature bread loaves to puppets, performing an exorcism, disappearing behind a door, and sapphic witchcraft in recitative.) Schuckman has developed works with companies across New York City, including Ars Nova and MCC Theater, where they were most recently seen in a workshop production of a new musical directed by Whitney White. Their pride is in their history, and the legacy of those who have come before them—trans, disabled, immigrant, neurodiverse, elders—and those who have just joined us. Welcome. Love to Andrew and Lisa. To Mom and Dad: it really is all for you. @evieschu www.evieschu.com.

ISAAH STANLEY | he/him is an actor based in Brooklyn, most recently seen as Hamlet in Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival's *Willpower* tour. Stanley is so grateful to be back with the *Parable* family to tell this story. Biggest thanks to my family and friends who support me daily, and to this most incredible company. Thank you for being here! @isaiahstanley.

JOSETTE NEWSAM | she/she is a New York native who has performed solo and background on the *Today Show*, *Live with Regis and Kelly*, and *Live with Kelly and Michael*. She has performed voice-overs for NBC Universal and has also performed lead, background vocals, and recordings with artists such as Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, Melba Moore, Lou Reed, Macy Gray, Angeliqwe Kidjo, Nona Hendricks, Billy Bragg, Taina Asili, Norm Lewis, and the incomparable Ben E. King. Along with Toshi Reagon's musical adaptation of Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower*, Newsam has appeared in musicals such as *Ain't Misbehavin* (Nell), *Ragtime* (Sarah), Gustave Flaubert's *The Temptation of St. Anthony* (Chorus), and *Zinnias*" (Mama). She is currently a vocalist with Toshi Reagon's BIGLovely.

MARIE TATTIANA AQEEL | she/her, or Marie Tatti, is a performance artist and nature enthusiast originally from Washington, DC. She is an alumnus of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts (DC) and the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University (NJ). Her performance credits include *Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower* created by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon; Millennium Stage at the John F. Kennedy Center; and *A Letter to My Ex* by Be Steadwell. Aqeel currently resides in the mountains of Central Virginia, where she enjoys working on her premiere studio recording album, being outdoors, and engaging in circle singing and ceremonial arts.

More information can be found on her website at www.tattianaaqeel.com.

NEIL DAWSON | he/him is a New York City-based actor originally from Bronx, NY. Acting credits include *The Mountaintop* (Weston Playhouse), *Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower* (LA, tour), *Waiting for Giovanni* (The Flea Theater), *Fires in the Mirror* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *Stick Fly* (Majestic Theater), *The Blacks* (Classic Stage Company), *Ain't Supposed to Die...* (Classical Theatre of Harlem), *Intimate Apparel* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater), *365 Days/365 Plays* (Public Theater), *American Black-out* (NY Fringe Festival), *Macbeth* (Bonn International Theater Festival), *Brooklyn Bridge* (Children's Theatre of Minneapolis), *Black Man Rising* (Audelco Award Winner, National Black Theatre Festival), and *Flambeaux* (Theater for the New City) Television: *Godfather of Harlem*, *New Amsterdam*, *Law and Order*, *The Today Show*, and numerous national commercials, voice-overs and industrials. Education: MFA, University of Washington Professional Actor Training Program.

NOAH VIRGILE | they/them is an artist and performer based in New York City. Favorite theatrical credits include: Sam in *The Day You Begin* (Kennedy Center), Harry Balter in *Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower* (national tour), *The Royal Family of Broadway* (Barrington Stage Company), Tweedle Dum in *Alice* (Wheelock Family Theatre); Jason Willette in *Rabbit Hole* (Umbrella Stage Company); and *Follies* (Astoria Performing Arts Center). www.noahvirgile.com - @noahvirgile

SHELLEY NICOLE | she/her is a transformational healer using the power of love and the energetic magic of music to shift the world. She is a songwriter, vocalist, composer, and actress, and the founder of the band Shelley Nicole's blaKbÜshe, which has

released three albums produced by Grammy winning *Living Colour* guitarist Vernon Reid. Her music is forged from rock, funk, and soul's connective tissue, and empowers women to reclaim their cultural identity and personal agency. As a featured member of the Burnt Sugar Arkestra, Nicole has performed around the globe and graced a variety of stages including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Apollo Theater, Afro-punk, Son d'hiver, SF Jazz, and the Hammer Museum. In 2020, Nicole presented *Punanny Politixxx: Hindsight is 2020* at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center to critical acclaim. She continues to play a key role in Nia O. Witherspoon's *Priestess of Twerk* and is excited to return to *Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower*.

TOUSSAINT JEANLOUIS | he/him is an actor and teaching artist. Originally from Houston, Texas, he attended Arizona State University, earning a BA in theater with a concentration in acting, and continued at the California Institute of the Arts, earning a MFA in acting. He currently lives in New York City, where his last performance was in the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Hot Wing King* by Katori Hall at the Signature Theatre.

ORCHESTRA

BOBBIE BIRD | he/him (percussion) is a multi-instrumentalist/producer and singer/songwriter. His last self-produced and internationally acclaimed record, *Long Live the Duke & The King*, landed him a hit song ("Shine on You") in Ireland. Bird has been an active member of BIGLovely for over a decade and has produced Toshi Reagon's *There and Back Again*. Alongside Loik Dury, he scored the film *Paris* by Cedric Klapisch; the soundtrack went on to be the Number One-selling record for two weeks in France. His early songwriting and production can be heard in the band Drugs' *The Prescription for*

Mis-America, featuring Parliament/Funkadelic's George Clinton, Garry Shider, Clip Payne. He has spent the past year composing for Microsoft and X-Box and has co-written the theme song for Cedric Klapisch's latest film, *Back to Burgundy*. Bird will be touring with his band Lazlo Bane later this year; their song "I'm No Superman" is the theme song for the hit show, *Scrubs*. Bird is also currently developing groundbreaking behavioral products for his dog training business, Lew Burke's Dog Training. He is also working on a documentary about his father, Lew Burke, whose work with his dogs was featured on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*, *Merv Griffin*, and *Mike Douglas*, to name a few. Look out for songs soon to be released from his brand new band, Bobby Wrong & The Spare Change Orchestra.

FRED CASH JR | he/him (bass) is a native of Chicago and has been touring with Toshi Reagon's BIGLovely since 1998. Cash attended the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and has worked with such artists as Jean-Paul Bourelly, India Arie, and Jerry Butler.

MONIQUE BROOKS ROBERTS | she/her (violin) is a violinist hailing from Louisville, KY. She has enjoyed a busy and fulfilling career, having performed and recorded for notable artists including Christina Aguilera, Lizzo, Alicia Keys, Common, Jill Scott, Mos Def, Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin, J. Cole, Shawn Mendes, and Mumu Fresh. Brooks Roberts was also a touring member of the Philadelphia String Quartet for seven years. She has performed with the Soulful Symphony Orchestra, Gateways Festival Orchestra, Harlem Symphony Orchestra, and Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey, where she was the principal second violinist. She has also been featured on live television on multiple occasions, appearing on the Grammys Awards, VH1 Storytellers, NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts, CBS' *Late Show With*

David Letterman, Late Show with Stephen Colbert, the MTV Video Music Awards, and the BET Honors. Brooks Roberts has played at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, the John F. Kennedy Center, Radio City Music Hall, the Kimmel Center, Marinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg (Russia), the renowned Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow (Russia), the Theater at Madison Square Garden, the Newport Jazz Festival, the Willingboro Jazz Festival, and plenty more. She currently performs and tours with Rootstock Republic, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Toshi Reagan, and as a solo artist.

KARMA (CHOGYI) MARCO | he/him (*guitar*) is a multi-instrumentalist songwriter and producer from Woodstock NY. When not working on his own music, he is a member of both 420 Funk Mob and Omar Hakim & Rachel Z's band, Ozmosys. Marco is also the only second guitar player in history to play with Bad Brains, supporting the legendary Doctor Know. This is his third tour with *Parable*, a rather appropriate carriage forward of his lineage, as the grandson of Richie Havens.

ZACHARY BROWN | he/him (*cello*) is a New York City-based cellist born in Far Rockaway, Queens. Brown is both a classically and progressive/improvisation-trained cellist. Employing both styles, he focuses on pushing the boundaries of progressive cello playing in his writing and collaborations. He has been a guest artist and instructor at the Savannah Music Festival, New Directions Cello Festival, Ithaca Summer Music Academy, and Owens College. Performing at classical venues like Carnegie and Lincoln Center, he has also appeared with the Turtle Island String Quartet, Terence Blanchard, Queen Latifah, Ashanti, Jadakiss, and gospel artists such as Iye Tribbet, Hezekiah Walker, and Donald Lawrence. He has also appeared on *The Tonight Show* with Doechii.

CREATIVE TEAM

ARUNULFO MALDONADO | he/him (*scenic designer*). Broadway: *A Strange Loop* (Tony Nominee), *Topdog/Underdog*; *Trouble In Mind*. Off-Broadway: *Shhhh* (Atlantic); *The Coast Starlight* (Lincoln Center Theater); *Nollywood Dreams, School Girls...* (MCC); *The New Englanders, Sugar in Our Wounds* (Lucille Lortel Award, MTC); *Dance Nation, Wish You Were Here* (Playwrights Horizons); *To My Girls* (Second Stage); *A Case for the Existence of God, Fires in the Mirror, My Broken Language* (Signature). Regional: Alley Theatre, Berkeley Rep, CTG, Guthrie, Steppenwolf, Woolly Mammoth, among others. International Tour: *The Magnetic Fields: 50 Song Memoir*. 2020 Obie Sustained Excellence in Set Design, Princess Grace Fabergé Theater Award, Henry Hewes Design Award nominee. IG: arnulfo.maldonado.design. arnulfomaldonado.com.

DEDE AYITE | she/her (*costume designer*) is a two-time Tony Award-nominated costume designer working in theater, opera, and film. She recently designed *X, The Life and Times of Malcolm X* for Detroit Opera. Her most recent Broadway credits include *Topdog Underdog, American Buffalo, How I Learned to Drive, A Soldier's Play, Slave Play, and American Son*. Her select Off-Broadway credits include *Richard III, Merry Wives* (The Public Theater); *Seven Deadly Sins* (Tectonic); *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*, (Signature); *Nollywood Dreams, School Girls...* (MCC); *Bella: An American Tall Tale* (Playwrights Horizons); *Toni Stone* (Roundabout). Regionally, Ayite's work has appeared at venues including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Steppenwolf, and Arena Stage. She has worked in television with Netflix, Comedy Central, and FOX Shortcoms. Ayite earned her MFA at the Yale School of Drama and has received a TDF/Kitty Leech Young Master Award, Obie, Drama Desk, Henry

Hewes, Lucille Lortel, Helen Hayes, Theatre Bay Area, and Jeff awards.

CHRISTOPHER KUHL | he/him (*lighting design*). Recent work includes: *Dog Days* (Los Angeles Opera); *The Object Lesson* (BAM, Edinburgh Festival, Sydney Festival); *The Source* (San Francisco Opera, REDCAT, BAM); *The Institute of Memory* (The Public Theater, T:BA Festival); *Straight White Men* (Young Jean Lee's Theatre Company, The Public Theatre, Kaai Theater, Centre Pompidou), *The Elephant Room* (St. Ann's Warehouse); *ABACUS* (BAM, Sundance Film Festival, EMPAC). He has received two Besse Awards, two Ovation Awards, and the Sherwood, Drammy, and Horton Awards. Kuhl is originally from New Mexico and a graduate of CalArts.

JOHN KEMP | he/him (*audio systems design*) is a sound designer, audio engineer, and musician. Productions include *Straight White Men* (2018 Helen Hayes/Assoc.) and *Oh, Hello On Broadway* (2016 The Lyceum/Assoc.). Engineering credits include Shakespeare in The Park's *Julius Caesar* (2017), *Here Lies Love* (2014), and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (2009). He also co-wrote music for the movie *One Angry Man* (2010), which enjoyed a (thankfully) limited release and is the holder of his single IMDB credit. He currently serves as Audio and Media Director at NYU Tisch Undergraduate Drama.

ABIGAIL DEVILLE | she/her (*art installation*) (b. 1981, New York, NY) received her MFA from Yale University 2011 and her BFA from the Fashion Institute of Technology in 2007. DeVille has exhibited a constellation of site-specific installations in the United States and Europe. Her most recent exhibitions include No Space Hidden (Shelter) ICA LA, Los Angeles, CA (2017); 20/20: The Studio Museum in Harlem and Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA (2017);

A Picture of the Universe in Clock Time, Momentum 9, Moss, Norway (2017); Magnetic Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today, Kemper Museum, Kansas City, MO (2017); Harlem: Found Ways. Cooper Gallery at Hutchins Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (2017); Urban Planning: Contemporary Art and the City 1967–2017, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, MO (2017); Chaos or Community? Michel Rein, Brussels, BE (2017); and The Intersectional Self, The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, New York, NY (2017). DeVille has designed sets for theatrical productions at venues such as the Stratford Festival (2014), directed by Peter Sellers; Harlem Stage (2016); La MaMa (2015); JACK (2014–16); and Joe's Pub (2014), directed by Charlotte Brathwaite. She has received honors including a 2014–15 fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, a 2015 Creative Capital grant, and a 2015 OBIE Award for design. DeVille is the 2017–18 Chuck Close Henry W. and Marion T. Mitchell Rome Prize fellow.

JOJO A. FRANJOINE | they/them (*production manager/lighting director*) synchronizes energy to create visual landscapes. Franjoine founded *elektralite.space*, a collective of queer artists, designers, and problem solvers striving to discover potent truth of expression. Jojo believes in finding punctum—the unexpected extra. Jojo is sensitive—they ask questions, research, rethink, and re-design. Thru a unique collaborative process, Jojo ensures simple yet aerobic visual synthesis. *elektralite.space* works in a wide range of project flavors. From theater, dance, opera, music, fashion, television/broadcast, architecture, and light installations, Jojo creates a style and visual identity unique to each story. View more of at www.elektralite.space; [@elektralite.space](https://twitter.com/elektralite.space).

HENRY MULLER | he/him (*assistant production manager*) is a Chicago-based freelance lighting designer, programmer, and technician. He received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 2022, where he studied theatrical design and psychology. While his focus is in lighting, he has also worked as a stage manager, production manager, sound designer, and musician. He would like to thank his friends, family, and dogs.

CHRIS DE CAMILLIS (*stage management*). Broadway: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Misery*, *It's Only a Play*, *The Glass Menagerie*. Off-Broadway: *The Rape of the Sabine Women* by Grace B. Mathias (Playwrights Realm); *Building the Wall* (New World Stages), *The Total Bent* (Public), *Much Ado About Nothing* (NYSF/DELACORTE); *Pride's Crossing* (Lincoln Center), *SLAVS!* (NYTW), *Oliver Twist* (TFANA), *Raised in Captivity* (The Vineyard). Regional: American Repertory Theater; Artistic Coordinator and Resident Stage Manager 199–2013.

CAROLINE PASTORE | she/her (*assistant stage manager/wardrobe*) is a New York City-based stage manager who graduated from SUNY Purchase's theater/design technology program, where she studied stage management. Past credits include the Cape Playhouse's productions of *The Fantasticks* (production stage manager), *An American in Paris* (assistant stage manager), *Lady Day...* (assistant production manager), *Once* (ASM), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (ASM), Kaneza Studio's *Cartography* (sub stage manager), and VT Stage's *MAYTAG Virgin*. Caroline would like to dedicate her work to her dear friend, Ari Bourke, for continuously inspiring her work as an artist.

NOAH PHILLIPS | he/him (A1) is a media technician and sound designer living and working in New York City. Before moving to New York, Phillips earned his BA in media

production from the Evergreen State College and worked throughout the Pacific NW in nearly all aspects of theater, broadcast, live production, and post production. Currently, he works as an off-Broadway A1, designer, and sound technician. Selected credits include *Fat Ham* (A1, The Public Theater) *Twelfth Night* (A1, The Classical Theater of Harlem) *Where We Belong* (Associate System Designer, The Public Theater), and *Sunday in the Park with George* (sound designer, Barnard College).

SHANNON MOLLY FLYNN | she/her (*company manager*) is a director, producer, and writer in New York City. Her passion and empathy for the human spirit are what inspired her wild love affair with the theater. Flynn splits her time between the nonprofit sector, currently sitting as the Founding Artistic Director of Normal Ave, and the New York City nightlife, producing concerts and shows at 54 Below, The Cutting Room, Green Room, and The Duplex. She is the director of *Sons of the Prophet* and *The Dream of the Burning Boy* at Normal Ave, as well as numerous readings and workshops of new plays. Flynn produced of the world premiere of Lily Houghton's *of the woman came the beginning of sin and through her we all die* and Kayla Martine's *Indoor Person*. She believes good humans make good artists and fiercely defends a human-first approach to every aspect of her work. Flynn is half of the writing duo Pearlstein and Flynn. Check out their new musical, *Wake You Up*. (IG: @shanmofly). shannonmollyflynn.com.

SAMI PYNE | she/her is the associate producer at ArkType, one of the world's leading supporters of new, experimental work. She is also a New York City-based independent producer passionate about decluttering and demystifying the production process for creators. Pyne had the pleasure of working with companies such as 600 Highwaymen, The

Arts & Climate Initiative, The Exponential Festival, Clubbed Thumb, New York Theatre Workshop, Aeon's Sophia Club, The Martin E. Segal Center, Signature Theatre, Park Avenue Armory, The Play Company (PlayCo), The Tank, The New Ohio, Theatre Development Fund (TDF), and HERE Arts Center. Shenandoah Conservatory BFA, 2017. Graduate of the Columbia University Theatre Management & Producing MFA program, 2020. Operations Committee leader of the Creative & Independent Producers Alliance. Fellow of WP Theater's 2022–24 Producers Lab. www.samipyne.com and www.arktype.org for more info.

WISE REAGON ARTS is an independent production company engaged in creating and cultivating art/work/life/song/action centering congregational gatherings. When it was founded in 2018 by Toshi Reagon to produce the opera *Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower* (co-produced with Meying Wang), Reagon created the Parable Path to move with and beyond the experience of the ritual singing of Butler's story. The Parable Path is inspired by the journeys in the *Parable* novels that very much reflect the state of our current world. So, we work together on the issues that we are facing, seeing the unique expertise that each of us has to problem solve: being in collaboration and facing our right-now and future together; realigning ourselves with the planet's resources. Wise Reagon Arts' newest work, *You're Having Too Much Fun So We're Gonna Have To Kill You*, looks at the era of disco and the journey this music took to global dominance, the death ritual to shut it down, and the relentlessness of a beat that will not die. Wisereagonarts.com.

ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann | he/him (co-tour producer) specializes in new work development and touring worldwide. His past work includes projects with Kaneza Schaal, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Daniel Fish, Victoria Thiérrée-Chaplin, Yael Farber, Anna Deavere Smith, Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar, Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, Peter Sellars, Julie Taymor, John Cameron Mitchell, and Tony Taccone. Recent premieres include 600 Highwaymen's *A Thousand Ways*, nora chipaumiré's *Neh-nada*, Sam Green's *32 Sounds w/ JD Samson*, Bryce Dessner's Triptych (*Eyes of One On Another*) directed by Kaneza Schaal, John Cameron Mitchell's *The Origin of Love*, Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers' *Cartography*, Sam Green and Kronos Quartet's *A Thousand Thoughts*, Big Dance Theater/Mikhail Baryshnikov's *Man in a Case*, and Nalagaat Deaf-Blind Theater's *Not by Bread Alone*. Ongoing collaborations include 600 Highwaymen, Sam Green, Timothy White Eagle, Andrew Schneider, Big Dance Theater, Toshi Reagon, and Compagnia T.P.O. Upcoming premieres include Justin Peck & Sufjan Stevens' *Illinois* and Scott Shepherd's *This Ignorant Present*. Kriegsmann is a founding member of CIPA (Creative & Independent Producer Alliance). More information at arktype.org.

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