



**ARTS
EMERSON**



OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

TOSHI REAGON and BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON

APR 21—24

**EMERSON CUTLER
MAJESTIC THEATRE**

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WELCOME



Dearest ArtsEmerson Friends,

It is finally here. The triumphant return to Boston of **Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower**, based on the classic Afrofuturist novel by Butler, and featuring the breathtaking music and lyrics by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon. Nearly five years ago, the ArtsEmerson and Boston community was gifted this transformative work; it was a sold-out run that audiences could not get enough of—and neither could we. Despite several pandemic related setbacks, we are so happy **Parable's** return is finally a reality.

Originally published in 1993, Octavia E. Butler's work created a dystopian-like world collapsing under the threats of poverty, inequality, greed and climate change. The year? 2024. A time now just two years away from our present and yet the challenges faced in the text are all too present right now. Toshi and Bernice's music tackle this familiar anger and frustration head on with songs that ignite, inspire and challenge us to fight for our lives and to seed a different kind of future.

Through 2020–2021, ArtsEmerson was so fortunate to host Toshi for a year-long artist residency at Emerson College, Parable Path Boston, funded by the Fresh Sound Foundation and the Doris Duke Foundation. Throughout her residency and beyond, Toshi made it her mission to connect with artists, activists and local non-profit and municipal leaders, engaging the belief systems and interrelated social issues that impact climate justice and survival in Boston. At the heart of Toshi's work is community and activism, and a vision that theaters can spark the civic transformation we need. It's a vision that we share.

There are so many people to thank for getting us here, including all of our Parable Path collaborators, as well as the entire ArtsEmerson community, patrons and staff for their unwavering commitment and dedication. **Parable of the Sower** is supported by our Gaining Ground Fund, which supports work that reflects the African Diaspora experience in America. Thank you to the countless Gaining Ground supporters for believing in this work and our mission.

It was a long road to get to this moment, but it was certainly worth the wait. Without further ado, please enjoy **Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Howse".

David C. Howse, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronee Penoi".

Ronee Penoi, Director of Artistic Programming

SHOW CREDITS

OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S PARABLE OF THE SOWER

CREATED BY
TOSHI REAGON and BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON

CO-DIRECTED BY
ERIC TING and SIGNE V. HARRIDAY

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
TOSHI REAGON and BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON

WITH
**MARIE TATTI, ALINA CARSON, HELGA DAVIS, KYLE GARVIN,
JARED WAYNE GLADLY, TOUSSAINT JEANLOUIS, KARMA
MAYET JOHNSON, BE STEADWELL, ALEXANDRA KOI, JOSETTE
NEWSAM, SHELLEY NICOLE, TOSHI REAGON, NOAH VIRGILE,
EVIE SCHUCKMAN**

ORCHESTRA
**MONIQUE BROOKS ROBERTS, ZACH BROWN, BOBBY BURKE,
FRED CASH, JR., ADAM WIDOFF**

MUSIC DIRECTION
TOSHI REAGON

CHOREOGRAPHY
**MILLICENT
JOHNNIE**

SCENIC
**ARNULFO
MALDONADO**

ART INSTALLATION
ABIGAIL DEVILLE

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR
YASMINE LEE

PRODUCTION MANAGER
ANTHONY J. CERRATO

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
CHRIS DE CAMILLIS

TOUR LIGHTING DIRECTOR
DEVIN CAMERON

COSTUMES
DEDE M. AYITE

LIGHTING
CHRISTOPHER KUHL

AUDIO SYSTEMS
JOHN KEMP

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
CAROLINE PASTORE

TOUR PRODUCER
**ARKTYPE/ THOMAS O.
KRIEGSMANN**

COMPANY MANAGER/COVIDCM
MORGAN JOHNSON

AUDIO TECHNICIAN
ALEX DAKOGLU

2ND AUDIO TECHNICIAN
LAURA BRAUNER

The Pre-Show Soundscape includes the music of Bernice Johnson Reagon, Jason Moran, Meshell Ndegeocello, Arooj Aftab, Climbing PoeTree, 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. World Premiere at The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi November 9, 2017. It is made possible with funding by 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 parableopera.com.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council/Reopen Creative Boston Fund, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

PROGRAM NOTE

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 share-cropping, 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.*



**FROM OUR FRIENDS
ON THE PARABLE PATH**

**GARDAREV CENTER
Presents**

SOUNDING THE PLANET

AN EARTH DAY EVENT

SATURDAY, APR 23, 2022
(RAIN DATE - April 24th)

Session 1: 12:15-1:30PM

Session 2: 2:15-3:30PM

Price: \$10 per session

BOSTON NATURE CENTER
500 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan, MA 02126
Info: bnc@massaudubon.org

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Featuring cutting edge music, sound, and poetry performances by New England's own Letta Neely (Poetry), Crystal Bi (Visual Artist), Ian Condry (Sound Artist), and Forbes Graham (Sound Artist). Participate in a guided, mindful walk on the Nature Center's trails as you immerse yourself in four site specific avant-garde installations designed to inspire you to think about ecology, sustainability, and environmental justice.

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: Helga Davis, Shelley Nicole, Toshi Reagon

Part 1

Lauren Olamina.....MARIE TATTI
Rev. Olamina.....JARED WAYNE GLADLY
Cory Olamina.....KARMA MAYET JOHNSON
Keith Olamina.....KYLE GARVIN
Harry Balter.....NOAH VIRGILE
Mrs. Hsu.....EVIE SCHUCKMAN
Richard Moss.....TOUSSAINT JEANLOUIS
Zahra Moss.....ALINA CARSON
Joanne Garfield.....BE STEADWELL
Tracy Dunn.....ALEXANDRA KOI
Mrs. Sims.....JOSETTE NEWSAM

Part 2

The Ancestor.....JOSETTE NEWSAM
Lauren Olamina.....MARIE TATTI
Harry Balter.....NOAH VIRGILE
Zahra Moss.....ALINA CARSON
Travis Douglas.....JARED WAYNE GLADLY
Gloria Natividad Douglas.....KARMA MAYET
JOHNSON
Jillian Gilchrist.....ALEXANDRA KOI
Allison Gilchrist.....BE STEADWELL
Grayson Mora.....KYLE GARVIN
Emery Tanaka Solis.....EVIE SCHUCKMAN
Taylor Franklin Bankole ...TOUSSAINT JEANLOUIS

ORCHESTRA

Percussion.....BOBBY BURKE
Bass.....FRED CASH, JR.
Bass.....ADAM WIDOFF
Cello.....ZACH BROWN
Violin.....MONIQUE BROOKS ROBERTS
Guitar & Keyboard.....CHOGYI

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TOSHI REAGON (*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 in a quiet and intimate festival, intimate venue or local club. She has collaborated with many artists, including Carl Hancock Rux, Ani Franco, Lenny Kravitz, Elvira Costello and Nona Hendryx. As a composer, she has worked with Katori Hall, Urban Bush Women and The Jane Comedy Dance Co., among others. She is currently touring Bessie Award-winning *The Blues Project* with tap dancer Michelle Dorrance and Dorrance Dance. She founded WORD ROCK & SWORD, a community festival that takes place throughout New York City every third year. 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*; *Hush*; *Toshi* co-composed music for two Peabody Award-winning films and received a NYFA Award for Music Composition and the 2010 OutMusic Heritage Award and The Black Light 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 (*Librettist, Composer*) is a scholar, singer/songleader, activist. For over half a century she has been a profound contributor to African American and African culture. Born in African West Georgia, her singing style and traditional repertoire is grounded in her experiences in church, school and political activism. 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 '60s; she founded an all-women a cappella ensemble, The Harambé Singers, during the Black Cultural Movement; she founded and led the internationally acclaimed Sweet Honey in the Rock for 30 years until 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 Charles E. Frankel Prize for Contributions to the Public Understanding of Humanities.

OCTAVIA ESTELLE BUTLER (*Author, June 22, 1947–February 24, 2006*) was a renowned African American author, 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 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 2 a.m. every day to write, and then went to work as a telemarketer, potato chip inspector and dishwasher, among other things. 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 overall have increased worldwide, her work is taught in over 200 colleges and universities nationwide; and a graphic novel adaptation of her book *Kindred* was a #1 *New York Times* Bestseller in 2017. In 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, an opera by Toshi Reagon based on Butler's novel *Parable of the Sower* is part of The Public Theater "Under the Radar" festival and will be touring worldwide in 2018.

ERIC TING (*Co-Director*) is an Obie Award-winning director and artistic director of California Shakespeare Theater. Recent directing credits include *Bina's Six Apples* by Lloyd Suh (world premiere, CTC, Alliance); *The 1491s* (with *Two Knees* (world premiere, OSF); *Gloria* by Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins (ACT); *The Good Person of Szechwan* and *The Winter's Tale* (Cal Shakes), 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: *Between Two Knees* (Yale Rep); *Learn* translated by Marcus Gardley (Cal Shakes).

SIGNE V. HARRIDAY (*Co-Director*) is a fierce visionary and powerful storyteller who crafts theater that awakens our individual and collective humanity. As a director, multidisciplinary artist, activist/abolitionist, facilitator and producer, she uses theater as a catalyst to ask questions about who we are and who we are in relation to others. She is the artistic producing director of Pillsbury House + Theatre, a center for creativity and community in Minneapolis. She is a founding member of Million Artist Movement, a network of artists and activists committed to Black liberation and healing. She's also a member of Rootsprings Cooperative, cultivating healing space for BIPOC artists/activists/healers in MN. Recent writing credits include *When to Send Up When It Goes Down*, *bull-jean stories* and *Dining with the Ancestors*. She is a Drama League Directing Fellow and earned her MFA training at the Institute for Advanced Theatre at Harvard and Moscow Art Theatre. She's a gold medalist with her synchronized swimming team the Subversive Sirens. signeharriday.com.

MARIE TATTI is a performance artist, naturalist and community organizer from Washington, DC. Her performance training comes from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in DC and the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, NJ. Performance credits include appearing in concert at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage (2022); a grant-winning performance of her original song "Come Back Home" for Emergent Seed Co. (2021); *Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower*: The Opera created by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon (2019–present); *A Letter to My Ex the Musical* by Be Steadwell (2019); *Annie Salem* by Rachel Chavkin and Heather Christ-Powerhouse/NYSAF 2019; and two self-published EP albums available at tattiana.bandcamp.com.

ALINA CARSON is a musical theater-trained performance artist and actor from Baltimore, Maryland. She is based in New York, and she is skilled in dance and stage combat. She attended the Arena Players in Baltimore from 2004–2014 before relocating to New York in 2016, where she spent three years as a company member of the Harlem Repertory Theatre that has since been on hiatus due to COVID. Most recently, Alina has been working primarily in film; she can be seen in Nikyatu Jusu's *Nanny*, which is featured in Sundance Film Festival 2022. Her commercial and print listings include Sephora, Nike, Beyonce, JC Penny, Bed Bath and Beyond, Carvel, Microsoft, Mejuji, Major Lazer, Jabheeb Electronics and Beats by Dre. Her most notable stage productions include *Midsommer Moon* with the Virginia Stage Company and *Raisins in The Sun* with the Harlem Repertory Theatre. She has trained with Lisa Carsor, Robert Chew, Anthony Abeson and Anesa Folds of the Freestyle Love Supreme Training Academy.

HELGA DAVIS is a vocalist and performance artist with feet planted on the most prestigious international stages and with firm roots in her local community. Davis has made five BAM Next Wave Festival appearances, and was most recently principal actor in the 25th-anniversary international revival of Robert Wilson and Philip Glass' seminal opera *Einstein on the Beach*. She is the host of the eponymous podcast "Helga on WQXR, winner of the 2019 Greenfield Prize in composition, a 2019 Alpert Award finalist, and the 2018–21 visiting curator for the performing arts at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

KARMA MAYET JOHNSON is a multidisciplinary performer and writer. Karma Mayet's newest play, *Race Card*, was deemed "powerful, political/libert" by *The New York Times*. She is composer/librettist of *Indigo*, a blues opera. As creator of the Rootsong practice, she facilitates somatic improvisation as a healing justice practice for organizations and individuals. *Parable* is the third opera helmed by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon (*Temptation of St. Anthony*, *Zinnias*) Karma has had the honor of experiencing as a member of the cast.

KYLE GARVIN is so honored to join this great company in the *Parable of the Sower* opera. Hailing from Bridgeport, CT, Kyle earned a BFA degree in musical theater from the University of the Arts. Kyle has toured both nationally and internationally in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Go Diego Go Live!* and *Thomas and Friends Live!* He's performed regionally in theaters across the country; his favorite credits include *Twist: An American Musical* under the direction of Debbie Allen (Alliance Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse), *Hairspray* (Courthouse Repertory Theater), *Barrow* (Virginia Stage Company), *The Wild Party* (Marlow Group Theater) and *Oliver* (Parker Mill Playhouse).

JARED WAYNE GLADLY, a NYU alum originally from Houston, TX, is a Harlem-based actor, singer, host and voice-over artist. Over the course of his career, he has collaborated with Bill T. Jones, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Kenny Leon, Des McAnuff, Dominique Morisseau, Toshi Reagon, Susan Stroman, Maurice Hines, Joe Iconis, Patricia McGregor and Eric Ting, to name a few. New York/Broadway credits include *Frozen*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Holler If Ya Hear Me*, *Encore! Cabin in the Sky*, *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *Dreamgirls*, *The Scottsboro Boys*. Film/TV: "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," *Black Nativity*, *Random Unrelated Projects*. Currently, Jared can be heard as the voice of Cricket Wireless' mascot Barry. Outside of theater, Jared partners with Harlem community organizations The Soapbox Presents and the FCBC food pantry.

TOUSSAINT JEANLOUIS is an actor and teaching artist. Originally from Houston, Texas, he attended Arizona State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in theater with a concentration in acting and continued to California Institute of the Arts, currently in the Fine Arts 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.

BE STEADWELL is a queer pop composer and storyteller from Washington, DC. She utilizes looping, vocal layering and beat boxing to compose her songs on stage. Be's original music features earnest lyricism and affirming queer content. Be's goal as a musician is to make other black girls, queers, introverts and weirdos feel seen and loved. Be earned a BA in film studies from Oberlin College and an MFA in black from Howard University. Her 2014 film *Vow of Silence* screened in film festivals around the world, including Black Star, HBO's OutFest, The Schomburg Center and Inside Out Toronto. In 2019, Be composed the music for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company's production of "the gown." Later that year, Be wrote and directed *A Letter to My Ex*, the musical. *A Letter to My Ex* imagines a queer black woman's experience through the year of a big breakup. In 2021, Be released her latest album, *Succulent*.

JOSETTE NESAM 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. She has also performed lead, background vocals and recordings with amazing artists such as Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, Melba Moore, Lou Reed, Mally Gray and Angeliqe Kidjo, Nona Hendricks, Billy Bragg, Taina Asili, Norm Lewis and the incomparable Ben E. King. She's played in renowned musicals such as *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Neil), *Ragtime* (Sarah), *Gustave Flaubert's The Temptation of St. Anthony* (Chorus), *Zinnias* (Mama) and Toshi Reagon's musical adaptation of Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* (Mrs. Simms). She is currently a vocalist with Toshi Reagon's Big Lovely.

SHELLEY NICOLE 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, actress and founder of Shelley Nicole's blaKbÜshe. Through *Reverend Butterfly*, she released three albums: *she who bleeds...*, *The Quick & Dirty EP* and *I Am African*. The latter, produced by Vernon Reid, is forged from rock, funk and soul's connective tissue, empowering women to reclaim their cultural identity and personal agency. Ms. Nicole has performed in cities from London to Los Angeles and graced the stage at Lincoln Center, Hammerstein Ballroom and The Apollo Theater. As a featured member of the Burnt Sugar Arkestra, Shelley has toured throughout Europe and the US. In February 2020, she played at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center and continues to play a key performance role in Nia O. Witherspoon's *Dark Girl Chronicles*.

NOAH VIRGILE is a performer and artist originally from Boston, now living in NYC. Theater: *Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower* (COP UCLA), *The Royal Family of Broadway* (Barrington Stage Company), *Alice* (Wheelock Family Theatre), *Rabbit Hole* (The Umbrella Stage Company), *Follies* (Astoria Performing Arts Center). Readings: *Concrete Jungle* (Manhattan Theatre Club/DDM Productions), *Heartbreakers in Hell* (Open Jar Residency), *The Valley* (A.R.T./New York), *Demons* (Bentley Theatre/JAGFest 4.0), *Fall Survives* (Barrington Stage Company), *The Oldenburg Suite* (NYMF). Honored to be returning to this piece after our journey was cut short in 2020. [@noahvirgile](http://noahvirgile.com).

EVIE SCHUCKMAN (they/them) is a Chinese American actor, playwright and artist hailing from South Florida and Chengdu, China. They're elated to be joining the *Parable* family, and to share Octavia Butler's vision with audiences across the US. Dreyfus SOA alum, BFA Boston Conservatory. Deep gratitude to Toshi, Eric and Signe. Huge thanks to Lisa and Andrew. To Mom and Dad, Eliza and Ali: your love is the soil I'm rooted in, your care is my sweet water. You can find Evie online @evieschu and evieschu.com.

ALEX KOI is a Brooklyn-based musician, electronic artist and composer. She has dedicated her practice to exploring rainbows of musical possibilities and to a voracious effort of artistic innovation, expression and collaboration. She is the vocalist and co-composer for art rock band Saajtak and has had the privilege of working with many people who inspire her. She has collaborated with musicians, visual artists, directors and dancers and toured across North America at venues such as the Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Jazz Festival, Joe's Pub, Detroit Institute of Arts and more. She was a teaching artist with the University Musical Society and worked with students as a visiting artist at Carnegie Mellon University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, the University of Mary Washington and the University of Michigan. Saajtak's debut album, *For The Makers*, will be released June 3, 2022 via American Dreams Records.

BOBBIE BIRD (*Drums*) is a multi-instrumentalist/producer and singer-songwriter. His last self-produced internationally critically acclaimed record entitled *Long Live the Duke & The King* landed him a hit song, "Shine on You," in Ireland. He has been an active member of Toshi Reagon's record, *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, Gary Shider and 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*.

MONIQUE BROOKS ROBERTS (*Violin*) is a violinist hailing from Louisville, KY. Monique has had a busy and fulfilling career, having performed and recorded for many notable artists, including Alicia Keys, Common, Aretha Franklin and Jill Scott, just to name a few. She has played at Carnegie Hall; Lincoln Center; the John F. Kennedy Center; The Knickerbocker; Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia; the world-famous Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, Russia; and plenty more. She's appeared on many TV programs, such as the "MTV Music Awards," NPR's "Tiny Desk," "The David Letterman Show," "The Stephen Colbert Show," the "BET Honors" and much more! Monique released her very first solo album titled *Free* on January 31, which debuted at #12 on the iTunes R&B/Soul charts!

ZACH BROWN (*Cello*) is a NYC-based cellist, born in Far Rockaway, Queens. Zach is both a classically and jazz-trained cellist. Using the training and experience from both styles, Zach 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. He has performed as a guest soloist with his main group Westbound Situation for the Marquette Symphony. Performing at classical venues like Carnegie and Lincoln Center, he has also performed at Nublu 151 and Village Vanguard with The Turtle Island String Quartet.

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

ADAM WIDOFF (*Bass*) is a multi-instrumentalist who lives in Woodstock, NY. Starting with piano at age 5, he has since studied several instruments and musical traditions including Balinese Gamelan orchestra with Nyoman Astita and North Indian classical music with Ali Akbar Khan and Jamaluddin Bhartiya. Widoff has recorded and performed with Lenny Kravitz, Toshi Reagon, David Torn, Kate Pierson and others.

DEDE M. AYITE (*Costume Designer*) is a two-time Tony Award-nominated costume designer whose Broadway credits include *American Buffalo*, *A Soldier's Play*, *Slave Play*, *American Son* and *Children of a Lesser God*. Select Off-Broadway credits include *Merry Wives* (The Public Theater); *Secret Life of Bees*, *Marie and Rosetta* (Atlantic); *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Signature); *BLK, School Girls...* (MCC); *Beila: An American Tall Tale* (Playwrights Horizons); *The Royale* (Lincoln Center); *Toni Stone* (Roundabout). Regionally, Ayite's work has appeared at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Steppenwolf, Arena Stage and more. She has worked in television with Netflix, Comedy Central and FOX Shortcuts. Ayite earned her MFA at the Yale School of Drama and has received Obie, Lucille Lortel, Helen Hayes, Theatre Bay Area and Jeff awards, along with four Drama Desk nominations.

ABIGAIL DEVILLE (*Installation Artist*) (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 Culture of the Universe in Clogs 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); *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: 2014–15 fellowship at The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, 2015 Creative Capital grantee and received a 2015 Obie Award for design. DeVille is the 2017–18 Chuck Close Henry W and Marion T Mitchell Rome Prize fellow.

MILLICENT JOHNNIE (*Choreographer*) served as an associate artistic director of Brooklyn-based dance company Urban Bush Women. Choreographed the original *Parable of the Sower* workshop (New York City Opera), Off-Broadway, *Americanville*, *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 Theatre Festival); *The Hip Hop Project* (Knarrett Performing Arts Center); *The Shipments and 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 Theatre); *The Burning* (Contemporary Arts Center); and immersive/site responsive theater: *Cry You One* (Mondo Bizarro and Art Spot Productions). Johnnie directed and choreographed *Rent* (Ferdale Repertory Theatre), *West Side Story* (University Kwazulu Natal, Cape Africa), *Bamboula: Musician's Brew* (Clalo Parker Robinson 45th anniversary tour) and *Cubamo: The Musical* (Village Theatre). She has received numerous awards and nominations for her work, including a United States Artist nomination for dance, the Prague International Dance Festival Award, Times-Standard Betti's Choice Award, Theatre Bay Area Award and Vivian Robinson Avelco 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.

JOHN KEMP (*Audio Systems Designer*) is thrilled to be part of the *Parable of the Sower* team. He sends his love to all who come, gone and will be.

CHRISTOPHER KUHL (*Lighting Designer*). 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 Theater*, Aali Theatre, Centre Pompidou), *The Elephant Room* (St. Ann's Warehouse), *Abacus* (BAM, Sundance Film Festival, EMPAC). He has received two Bessie Awards, two Ovation Awards and Sherwood, Drammy and Horton awards. He is originally from New Mexico and a graduate of CalArts.

YASMINE LEE (*Movement Director*) is a movement and dance-centered multidisciplinary artist. She has worked as a choreographer, movement director and performer across dance, theater, film, television, video and ceremonies in over 30 countries. Select credits include: Broadway: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *The Crucial Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Crucible*, *Once the Musical* (also West End, Australia, Canada, S. Korea), *Rent*, *Off Broadway: Social!* (with David Byrne at Park Avenue Armory), *Wild Goose Landing* (The Public Theater), *Sweeney Todd* (Barrow Street Theatre), *My Name's Not Indian Joe* (Davenport Theater), *Knives In Hens* (59 E 59), *Pearl: Spring River Flower Moon Night* (Lincoln Center), *Tender Napalm* (59 E 59), *Once the Musical* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Brown Butterfly* (Aaron Davis Hall). Film and TV: "Made For Love" (HBO season 2, episode 3), Katie Perry for "SNL," "Amici" season 9 (Canale 5 Italia), *Across the Universe* (Julie Taymor/20th Pictures), *Opening Ceremonies: World Expo 2020 (JAE)*, *XXII Winter Olympic Games* (Sochi). Other: "The Dunham Technique Video" (commissioned by U.S. Library of Congress/archived by Smithsonian Institute), *Margie Gilles' Legacy Project*, *Momix*, inaugural program Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Joan Peter's Dance Co., Earl Mosely's Diversity of Dance. Lee is George's Mama.

ARNULFO MALDONADO (*Scenic Designer*) is a New York City-based set and costume designer. Notable New York credits include *School Girls or the African Mean Girls Play*, *Charm* (MCC Theater); *Bull in a China Shop* (Lincoln Theatre Center); *Twelfth Night* (The Public); *Kingdom Come* (Roundabout); *Duat*, *generations* (Soho Rep); *Caught* (Play Co); *Men on Boats*, *Iowa* (Playwrights Horizons); *Iphigenia in Aulis* (CSC). Regional: Berkeley Rep, *Pietergenia Central* (CSC). City Opera, Guthrie Theater, Old Globe, Olney Theatre Center, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Two River Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival. Tour: The Magnetic Fields: 50 Song Memoir (BAM Next Wave/international tour). Mr. Maldonado is a Clubbed Thumb Affiliated Artist, a recipient of a Princess Grace Fabergé Theater Award and a Clubbed Thumb Hewes Design nominee. MFA: NYU Tisch. arnulfomaldonado.com.

CHRIS DE CAMILLIS (*Stage Manager*). Broadway: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Misery*, *It's Only a Play*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Off Broadway: The Rape of the Sabine Women* by Grace B. Mathis (Playwrights Realm); *Bulldozing the Wall* (New World Stages); *The Total Bent* (Public); *Much Ado About Nothing* (NYSF/Delacorte); *Pride's Crossing* (Lincoln Center); *Slavs!* (NYTW); *Oliver Twist* (FAN), *Raised in Captivity* (The Vineyard). Regional: American Repertory Theater artistic coordinator and resident stage manager 1998–2013.

CAROLINE PASTORE (*Assistant Stage Manager/ Wardrobe*) graduated last May from SUNY Purchase's theater/design technology program where she studied stage management. Since moving to NYC, she's been able to go on tour with Cartography for their final few performances as their stage manager and work as a production assistant on several events. While at Purchase, she worked on *Passage* (production stage manager) and *Right Behind You* (production stage manager). She also has spent two summers at The Cape Playhouse, where she was a part of several productions, including *Lady Day...* (assistant production manager), *Noises Off* (assistant stage manager), *Shoe* (assistant stage manager) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (assistant stage manager). Caroline would like to dedicate her work to her dear friend, Ari Bourke, for continuously inspiring her work as a theater artist.

DEVIN CAMERON (*Tour Lighting Director*) is based in New York City, where he creates for theater, dance and live events. Recent credits include Drama Desk Award-winning *The Strange Undoing of Prudence Hard* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Tony Award-winning director Ruben Santiago-Hudson (Billie Holiday Theatre), Waters—national tour (National Public Radio), *Dream Machine* (Free Play) and resident lighting designer at the critically acclaimed immersive theater experience *Sleep No More* (Punchdrunk), *deivcameron.com*.

ALEX DAKOGLU (*Sound Engineer*) was born and raised in Philadelphia and has been involved in music since elementary school, starting with six years of piano, and eventually playing guitar in bands for sound mixer. In 1993, he started working as a live sound mixer. In 2004, a couple years after receiving a BM in jazz guitar from the University of the Arts, Alex moved to Los Angeles and quickly became head sound mixer at the House of Blues on Sunset Strip, where he mixed gospel, rock, R&B and hip hop weekly. In his seven years there, he worked with many well-known musical acts before shifting his career to the road and full-time sound mixing. Today, Alex has mixed in venues such as Madison Square Garden, Sydney Opera House and Radio City Music Hall with symphony orchestras, bands and artists. Currently, Alex once again lives in Philadelphia and tours with long-time friends/artists such as Idina Menzel, Herb Alpert, Live and Toshi Reagon, while also sound designing and mixing for musical theater and guest lecturing in live sound at his alma mater.

SUEANN LEUNG (*Costume Associate*) is a New York-based costume designer with a keen interest in using design to explore identity and expression. They have served on Santo Loquasto's Tony Award-winning design team for Broadway's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Dolly!*. Leung's recent work has included a shift to film and TV, media that is changing more quickly to tell our stories. Most recently, they were the costume designer for HBO Asia Vision's 2021 *Fantasia* "Little Sky," a queer Asian American coming-of-age drama about the power of design, as well as "Butterfly Powers" and "A Live Performance Centering Queer Asian Diasporic Love for the Metroland Museum of Art" in collaboration with The P.O.W Project. Leung earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in gender studies from Mount Holyoke College, and this background continues to inform their work using costume design as a powerful tool to humanize and respectfully represent people—especially queer people of color.

SAMANTHA SHOFFNER (*Props Designer*). Broadway: *Trouble in Mind*, *Slave Play* (2019), *Remount*, and *August Wilson Lobby Design*, Associate Broadway: *Off Broadway: A Lesser God*, *The Price*, *Noises Off*, *Falsettos*, *China Doll*, *Living on Love*. Select Off-Broadway: *To My Girls*, *Hollywoood Dreams*, *SKH!!!*, *Seize the King*, *A Strange Loop*, *BLKS*, *Merrily We Roll Along* (Roundabout), *Is God Is*. Corporate: Google, Samsung, Grammys, Emmys, H&M, Macy's. Production Design: IBM, NBCUniversal, BMV's, Disney, Marvel. Freelance interior designer and artist. smartsetsybsam.com.

ARKTYPE/THOMAS O. KRIEGSMANN (*Tour Producer*) specializes in live worksmanship (tour and touring nationally). His past work includes projects with Kanye Schaal, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Daniel Fish, Victoria Thérèse Chahin, Yael Farber, Liana Devere Smith, Annie B. Pearson and Al Lazer, Lisa Peterson, Peter Sellars, Julie Taymor, John Cameron Mitchell and Tony Taccone. Recent premieres include 600 Highwaymen's *A Thousand Ways*, Bryce Dessner's *Triptych* (*Eyes of One*), *On the Border*, John Cameron Mitchell's *The Origin of Love*, Kanye Schaal & Chris Quire's *Therapy*, Sam Green & Krinoid's *Quelques Choses*, *Therapy*, *Big Dance Theater*/Mikhail Baryshnikov's *Man in a Carse* and *Nagat*/Deaf Blind Theater's *Not by Bread Alone*. Ongoing collaborations include 600 Highwaymen, Big Dance Theater, Rude Mechs, Arden M.S. and Clara B., Toshi Reagon, and Caitie Thierney. His current premieres include *Oppa* (Harlem Stage), *Thine* (Orange Grove), *High House*, *Seize the King*, *32* (Lincoln Center), *Michael's Mehanda*. He is a founding member of CIPA (The Creative & Independent Producer Alliance). More information at arktype.org.

MEIYIN WANG (*Original Producer*) is a producer and curator of live performance. She is the producing director of *Parable of the Sower* at the Public Theater in New York. She was the co-director of *Under the Radar Festival* at the Public Theater and the Festival Director of La Jolla Playhouse's *Without Walls*, and the curator of the *Harlem Renaissance Arts and Heritage* series. As an educator, she has worked with artists in *Concrete Concrete*, *Half Straddle*, *Pleasure* and *Work* has been seen across four continents. Wang was born and raised in Singapore and currently lives in Brooklyn.

Very special thanks to our friends at University of the Sacred Heart—Matthew Harris, Annie Michael, J. Kondziolka, Cayenne Harris, Brian Groves, Sara Bilman, Maryroed, Mark Jacobson, and Jeffrey Meyersdorf, Kobi Jaworski, Andrew Johnson, Dominic Bischoff-Brown, Arthur Kaye, Johnnie Bichard-Brown, Coley, BROUWESTEIJNE, Conan Kirksey, Barbara Luciano, Amy Laura Cohn, Anne Sackler, Landia Mann, Elana Dykeman, Diane Haskel, Jewelle G., Jan Foust Hurte, Quait Sullivan, James Crawford & Complete Music Studios

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At Emerson College's Office of the Arts, we hold ourselves accountable to the work of undoing oppression and advancing equity to overcome our city's bitter history of segregation and racial inequality. As part of this work, we must start by acknowledging that we are residing on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Massachusett people, whose name was appropriated by this Commonwealth.

We pay respect to the Massachusett elders past, present and future, the traditional custodians of the lands on which we make and present our art. We acknowledge the truth of violence perpetrated in the name of this country and make a commitment to uncovering that truth through dialogue, partnerships and learning.