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RETURNING TO ARTSEMERSON AS A
FULLY REALIZED STAGE PRODUCTION
**OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S
PARABLE OF THE SOWER**
4 PERFORMANCES ONLY – LIMITED AVAILABILITY
APRIL 21 – 24, 2022
EMERSON CUTLER MAJESTIC THEATRE

CREATED BY TOSHI REAGON IN COLLABORATION
WITH BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON
CO-DIRECTED BY ERIC TING & SIGNE V. HARRIDAY

[Boston, MA – Monday, March 21, 2022] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, is thrilled to welcome back Toshi Reagon and **Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower**. This masterful adaptation of Octavia E. Butler's award-winning masterpiece will play a very limited engagement with four performances only from April 21– 24, 2022 at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre.

Parable of the Sower is returning to ArtsEmerson as a fully realized staged production after its sold-out 2017 Concert Experience presentation. As Reagon describes, "In 2017, we were still in our workshops so we had not finished the piece. Now we are finished with the show...we now have our set, costumes, lighting design, music, all in service to the great story by Octavia E. Butler."

With music and lyrics composed by Toshi Reagon in collaboration with her mother, Bernice Johnson Reagon (Sweet Honey in the Rock), **Parable of the Sower**, which may best be described in its singular form as a congregational opera, is a triumphant, mesmerizing theatrical work of rare power and beauty that illuminates deep insights on gender, race and the future of human civilization.



Photo courtesy of Paul Marotta



Photo courtesy of Waleed Shah

Parable of the Sower brings together over 30 original musical anthems and requiems drawn from 200 years of Black music to bring the acknowledged Afrofuturist masterpiece to the stage. It tells the story of Lauren

Olamina, a young woman who lives in a not-so-distant America where climate change has driven society to violence and the brink of extinction. When she loses both family and home, she ventures out into the unknown. What begins as a desperate fight for survival leads to something much more profound: a startling vision of human destiny that births the seeds of a new faith.

“We are so excited at last to bring **Octavia E. Butler’s Parable of the Sower** to the stage after having to cancel the production in March 2020 during the COVID-19 shutdown,” says ArtsEmerson Executive Director David C. Howse. “The piece is urgent, its music is gorgeous, the event is exhilarating, and Octavia E. Butler’s prescient voice just seems to keep gaining in clarity and wisdom. Toshi Reagon is a dear friend of ours here at ArtsEmerson. We’re glad to welcome the company, and Butler’s vision, back to Boston.”

Tickets for **Parable of the Sower** may be purchased 24/7 at ArtsEmerson.org, or by calling 617-824-8400 (Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The ArtsEmerson central ticketing office at the Paramount Center (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open for walk-up service Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET. (Please note that the Cutler Majestic Theatre Box Office is only open on performance days beginning two hours prior to curtain time.) Groups of 10+ attending any performance may save up to 30%.

Thanks to generous support from Rockland Trust, a limited number of \$10 Mobile Rush tickets will be available at 10:00 AM ET each performance day on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusively through the TodayTix mobile app. For more information, please click on “General Public” when you visit [ArtsEmerson’s Offers web page](#).

For production stills and other media kit assets, click [here](#).

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR OCTAVIA E. BUTLER’S PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Dates:

April 21 - 24, 2022

Venue:

Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116

Performance Schedule:

Thursday, April 21, 2022	7:30pm	Press Performance
Friday, April 22, 2022	8:00pm	
Saturday, April 23, 2022	8:00pm	
Sunday, April 24, 2022	2:00pm	

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Content:

Recommended for Ages 13+

Running Time:

120 minutes, no intermission

Public Health Information:

The Theatres of Emerson College firmly believes in the importance of a fully vaccinated community, and the utmost priority is the safety of patrons, program participants, artists, and team members. Efforts will continue to re-evaluate and establish new guidelines to ensure that protocols fulfill the promise of supporting the well-being of all.

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination is required for entry to all events. According to the CDC, “full COVID-19 vaccination” is defined as two weeks after one dose of a single-shot regimen, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two weeks after the second dose of an mRNA vaccine, such as Pfizer or Moderna. Currently, booster shots are not required under the new policy. Masks covering mouth and nose are mandatory inside all venues at all times (except for speakers, performers, and musicians while actively participating in a performance or presentation. Based on most recent scientific findings, we are recommending N95, KN95, or well-fitting 3-ply surgical masks; however, any mask with at least 3-ply construction is permissible. No gaiters, bandanas, or masks with vents are allowed.

[**CLICK HERE TO REVIEW FULL DETAILS REGARDING COVID-19 HEALTH PROTOCOLS.**](#)

CREDITS

Created by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon

Co-Directed by Eric Ting & Signe V. Harriday

Music and Lyrics by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon

Music Direction by Toshi Reagon

With

Marie Tatti Aqeel, Alina Carson, Helga Davis, Kyle Garvin, Jared Wayne Gladly, Toussaint Jeanlouis, Karma Mayet Johnson, Morley Kamen, Alexandra Koi, Josette Newsam, Shelley Nicole, Toshi Reagon, Noah Virgile, Evie Schuckman

Orchestra

Monique Brooks Roberts, Zach Brown, Bobby Burke, Fred Cash, Jr., Chogyi, Matt Graff

Choreography: Millicent Johnnie

Scenic: Arnulfo Maldonado

Costumes: Dede M. Ayite

Lighting: Christopher Kuhl

Audio Systems: John Kemp

Art Installation: Abigail Deville

Movement Director: Yasmine Lee

Production Manager: Anthony J. Cerrato

Production Stage Manager: Chris De Camillis

Assistant Stage Manager: Caroline Pastore

Tour Producer: ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann

Company Manager/CovidCM: Morgan Johnson

Tour Lighting Director: Devin Cameron

Audio Technician: Alex Dakoglou

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.

BIOGRAPHIES

OCTAVIA ESTELLE BUTLER (Author, June 22, 1947–February 24, 2006). Octavia E. Butler 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 way 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 Theatre “*Under the Radar*” festival and will be touring worldwide in 2018.

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 turning out at a music festival, intimate venue or local club. She has collaborated with many 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 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 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*. Toshi 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 (Librettist, Composer) is a scholar, singer/songleader, activist. For over half a century she has been a profound contributor 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 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 sixties; she founded an all-women a cappella ensemble, The Harambee Singers, during the Black Cultural Movement; she founded and led the internationally acclaimed Sweet Honey in the Rock for thirty 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.

ERIC TING (Director) is an Obie Award-winning director and Artistic Director of California Shakespeare Theater. Recent directing credits include *Black Odyssey*, *Othello* (Cal Shakes), the world premiere of Sam

Hunter's *Lewiston* (Long Wharf Theatre) and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Cincinnati Playhouse), Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig's *The World of Extreme Happiness* (Manhattan Theatre Club/Goodman), Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *Appropriate* (Center Theatre Group), Kimber Lee's *Brownsville Song* (Long Wharf/ Philadelphia Theatre Co.), Sam Hunter's *A Great Wilderness* (Williamstown), Nora Chipaumire's *Miriam* (BAM Next Wave), Jackie Sibblies Drury's *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation...* (world premiere, Soho Rep/Victory Gardens). Ting is a founding member of the artists' collective Intelligent Beasts.

SIGNE V. HARRIDAY (*Associate Director*) Signe V. Harriday is a director, multidisciplinary artist, synchronized swimmer, and activist using theatre as a catalyst to ask questions about who we are and who we are in relation to each other. Co-founder of MaMa mOsAiC, Million Artist Movement, and the Subversive Sirens and Associate Company Member of Pillsbury House Theatre. Current projects: *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (Penumbra Theatre) and *Supadupa Kid* (Barrington Stage). www.signeharriday.com

PERFORMERS

MARIE TATTIANA AQEEL 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 DC (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 Christian (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, JcPenny, Bed Bath and Beyond, Carvel, Microsoft, Mejuri, Major Lazer, Jabhead Electronics, and Beats by Dre. Her most notable stage productions include *Midsummer Moon* with the Virginia Stage Company and *Raisin in The Sun* with The Harlem Repertory Theater. She has trained with Lisa Carson, Robert Chew, Anthony Abeson, and Aneesa 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's seminal opera *Einstein on the Beach*. She is 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.

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 Theater, Pasadena Playhouse), *Hairspray* (Courthouse Repertory Theater), *Matilda* (Virginia Stage Company), *The Wild Party* (Barrow Group Theater), and *Oliver* (Paper Mill Playhouse).

JARED WAYNE GLADLY is a NYU alum originally from Houston, TX, is a Harlem based actor, singer, host, and voiceover artist. Over the course of his career, he has collaborated with Bill T. Jones, Rueben 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, Encores! 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 theatre, 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, earning a Master of 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.

MORLEY KAMEN weaves the threads of jazz, soul, and folk traditions into a singular tapestry of vocal and acoustic splendor — the sound wave of a life lived with uncommon devotion to human rights and environmental justice. Raised in vibrantly multicultural Jamaica, Queens, and educated at the United Nations School, Duke Ellington High School for the Performing Arts and Alvin Ailey, Morley travels the world to sit and sing with visionaries on the frontiers of social change. Her music appears on network television, commercials and in human rights documentaries. To date, Morley has released seven albums of original songs via Sony, Universal and independently and is currently completing a children's project with her husband, Chris Bruce, and a new solo album, generously funded by a grant from Cafe Royal. Morley recently wrote and performed the theme Song for "That Kindness - A play for and by the Nurses of America" by V (Formerly Eve Ensler) Morley spearheaded the successful fundraiser "Borderless Lullabies" that continues to be a source of revenue for the pro bono legal defense fund KIND - Kids-In- Need-Of- Defense to aid reuniting children with their families after being separated by ICE.

JOSETTE NEWSAM 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, Macy Gray, and Angelique 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' (Nell)", "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 songwriter, vocalist, composer, actress and founder of Shelley Nicole's blaKbüshe. Through Red Butterfly Music, she released three albums, she who bleeds..., The Quick & Dirty EP and I Am American. 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 Feb. 2020 Shelley presented "Punanny Politixxx: Hindsight is 2020" 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. Theatre: Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower (CAP 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 Springs (Barrington Stage Company), The Oldenburg Suite (NYMF). Honored to be returning to this piece after our journey was cut short in 2020. www.noahvirgile.com - @noahvirgile.

ORCHESTRA

BOBBIE BIRD, Drums is a multi-instrumentalist/producer & 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 BIGLovely for over a decade and has produced 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, 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.

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 Kimmel Center, 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 31st, 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 jazzed 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.

JULIETTE JONES, Violin is a multi-genre live and studio recording violinist, BMI composer and founder of Rootstock Republic—a broad-based string production company. Under the company, she has scored, recorded and contracted for a number of live, television and multimedia events, including the People’s Choice Awards, NBC’s Grammy-nominated and Emmy-award winning broadcast of “Jesus Chris Superstar” live and the Oscar-nominated film, ‘*Mudbound*.’ Juliette graduated from The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University with a B.M. in Violin Performance. As a performer, she has worked with a veritable list of “who’s who” including Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Lauryn Hill, Common, Lizzo, Robert Glasper, Janelle Monáe, Hans Zimmer, John Legend, Adele and One Republic; and dancer-choreographers, Camille A. Brown, Michelle Dorrance and Marjani Forte-Saunders.

CREATIVE TEAM

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); *BLKS*, *School Girls...* (MCC); *Bella: 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 Shortcoms. Ayite earned her MFA at the Yale School of Drama and has received an 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 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), *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: *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, Times-Standard Beti's Choice Award, Theatre Bay Area Award and 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.

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 Theatre, Kaai Theater, 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 a Sherwood, Drammy, and Horton, award. 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 & ceremonies in over 30 countries. Select credits include: *Broadway: Harry Potter And The Cursed Child*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night--Time*, *The Crucible*, *Once Musical* (also West End, Australia, Canada, S. Korea), *RENT. Off-Broadway: SOCIAL!*(w/David Byrne @Park Avenue Armory), *Wild Goose Dreams* (The Public Theater), *Sweeney Todd* (Barrow Street Theater), *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 Musical* (New York Theater 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/Sony Pictures) Opening Ceremonies: *World Expo 2020* (UAE), *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 Georgie'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 Theater 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, Center Stage, Central City Opera, Guthrie Theater, Old Globe, Olney Theater Center, Opera Theater of St Louis, Philadelphia Theater Company, Two River Theater, Williamstown Theater 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 multiple-Henry Hewes Design nominee. MFA: NYU Tisch. www.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. 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 1998-2013.

CAROLINE PASTORE, Assistant Stage Manager / Wardrobe, graduated last May from SUNY Purchase's Theatre/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...* (Asst. Production Manager), *Noises Off* (Asst. Stage Manager), *Once* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Asst. Stage Manager). Caroline would like to dedicate her work to her dear friend, Ari Bourke, for continuously inspiring her work as a theatre 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 Prudencia Hart* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Their Eyes Were Watching God* with Tony Award–winning director Ruben Santiago-Hudson (Billie Holiday Theatre), *Water±*—National Tour (National Public Radio), *Dream Machine* (Free Play), and resident lighting designer at the critically acclaimed immersive theater experience *Sleep No More* (Punchdrunk). devincameron.com

ALEX DAKOGLU, Sound Engineer was born and raised in Philadelphia, has been involved in music since elementary school, starting with 6 yrs of piano, and eventually playing guitar in bands for many years. 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 7 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 clients/artists such as Idina Menzel, Herb Alpert, LIVE, 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 *Hello, Dolly!*. Leung’s recent work has included a shift to film and TV – media that is changing more quickly to tell diverse stories. Most recently, they were the costume designer for HBO APA Visionaries 2021 Finalist “*Little Sky*”, a queer Asian American coming of age drama about the power of chosen family, as well as “*Butterfly Lovers 永久徘徊*”, a live performance centering queer Asian diasporic love for The Metropolitan Museum of Art in collaboration with The W.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, & August Wilson Lobby redesign). Associate Broadway: *Children of a Lesser God*, *The Price*, *Noises Off*, *Falsettos*, *China Doll*, *Living on Love*. Select Off-Broadway: *To My Girls*, *Nollywood Dreams*, *Shhh!!!*, *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, BMW, Disney, Marvel. Professor at Citytech; Props & Paint. Freelance Interior Designer and artist. www.smartsetsbysam.com.

ARKTYPE / THOMAS O. KRIEGSMANN, 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 Thiérée-Chaplin, Yael Farber, Anna Deavere Smith, Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar, 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 ANOTHER)*, John Cameron Mitchell’s *THE ORIGIN OF LOVE*, Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers’ *CARTOGRAPHY*, Sam Green & Kronos Quartet’s *A THOUSAND THOUGHTS*, Big Dance Theater / Mikhail Baryshnikov’s *MAN IN A CASE*, and Nalaga’at Deaf-Blind Theater’s *NOT BY BREAD ALONE*. Ongoing collaborations include 600

HIGHWAYMEN, Big Dance Theater, Rude Mechs, Adrien M. & Clare B., Toshi Reagon, and Compagnia T.P.O. Upcoming premieres include Scott Shepherd's THIS IGNORANT PRESENT w/Malthouse, Sam Green's 32 SOUNDS, and Nora Chipaumire's NEHANDA. 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 The Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center 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 Park Avenue Armory's Artist In Residence series. As an independent producer, she has worked with artists including Toshi Reagon, Half Straddle, Pig Iron and her work has been seen across 4 continents. Wang was born and raised in Singapore and currently lives in Brooklyn..

PRESENTER INFORMATION

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, and its mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and virtual performances, films, and conversations invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Executive Director, David Howse. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Emerson College

ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons both operate from within the Emerson College Office of the Arts. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theater District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,700 undergraduates and 1,400 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals. The College has an active network of 51,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

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