

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

*ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS,
AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS, SAG-AFTRA*

through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear

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In the Memo: HARLEM9

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Puffin Foundation, Ltd.



presents

in Association with National Black Theatre

the 5th Annual

48Hours In... Harlem

National Black Theatre
2031 5th Avenue

August 16, 2015
7:00pm

www.harlem9.org

@harlemnine #48hoursinharlem #48hours5years

WHAT IS HARLEM9?

Harlem9 is a collaborative producing organization in Harlem, comprised of a group of producers from various production backgrounds and organizations. Our goals are to produce together in Harlem, exploring the past, present and future of Black culture and to celebrate our rich history of story telling.

Spencer Scott Barros, Bryan E. Glover, Garlia Cornelia Jones-Ly, Eric Lockley, Jonathan McCrory, Sandra Daley-Sharif

PRODUCERS' CORNER

*Welcome to the 5th annual **48Hours In... Harlem!** Wow. Five years. To be honest, we knew we were on to something when we birthed **Harlem9** and **48Hours In...Harlem**. Our gathering and deciding to produce together was a reflection of the larger resurgence of Black theater in NYC, the new renaissance in Harlem, and the many, many super talented black theater professionals we knew. However, we had no way of foreseeing: five years of sold out performances (including tonight); an Obie award; a prize winning play; numerous accolades; several invitations; and continuing expressions of gratitude for our work.*

We remain honored and humbled to be at the helm of it all, supporting our artists as they do their craft. And, as Harlem9, what we've also come to appreciate deeply is the power of collaboration. We come from various backgrounds and histories in theater, yet we have found that our focus on respect for the artists, our shared love of Black people and culture, and our passion for seeing our stories told by our voices has continually drawn us together to create something larger than ourselves.

So we say again, thank you for joining us. And now, those magic words you may, by now, know well (and for those of you experiencing this special evening for the first time, in a nutshell): we chose 6 iconic Black plays, selected because of their provocative nature and commentary on "blackness." Our meet and greet for the artists was Friday from 7 - 9, at which we randomly composed 6 companies, each consisting of 1 playwright, 1 director and 3 actors. We then randomly assigned a play to each company, and asked our playwrights to write a new play inspired by these works in a 10-minute format, making their own provocative statements. At 9pm the work began. From 9pm to 5am, the playwrights wrote their new works. On Saturday, the 6 companies rehearsed. Earlier today, they met with the tech crew, and now, at 7pm, we're left with 2 hours and counting.

6 black plays. 30 black artists.... Harlem 9 presents: 48 Hours in Harlem!!

WHO IS HARLEM9?

Sandra is a member of Abingdon Theatre Company's Playwriting Group, NewShoe Theatre, New Perspectives Theater's Women's Work Project, and The Geese.

BRYAN E. GLOVER has supported the arts and emerging artists for a number of years. He has worked with musicians, choreographers, performance artists, and playwrights in a variety of contexts and cities. Previous New York City productions include: First Dark Drama (Co-producer, Ontological Theater, August 2006); A Love Like Damien's (Associate Producer, Here Arts Theater, November 2006); It Goes Unsaid (Producer, Poet's Den, July 2007); Monstah Black and the Sonic Leroy: Submerged in Blue (producer, various NYC venues, 2010); and A Raisin in the Salad: Black Plays for White People (Producer, FringeNYC, 2010). Bryan is also a leadership and life coach. Find out more at www.bryaneglover.com

GARLIA CORNELIA JONES-LY founded Blackboard Reading Series, devoted to Black Playwrights @ **the cell**, a Twenty First Century Salon(TM) in Chelsea in September 2008, which she Co-Curates. She is also a resident artist there. Garlia is a freelance writer and Licensed Real Estate Agent with Bohemia Realty Group. Her most recent work has appeared in The New York Times with her son's birth story, "On a Sidewalk in Harlem: A Birth Story". MFA Playwriting The New School for Drama, MA African American and African Diaspora Studies Indiana University. Love to Sulei, Aida and Malachi. Twitter: @garliacornelia / www.garliacornelia.com

ERIC LOCKLEY is an actor, writer, producer and a founding member of both The Movement Theatre Company & Harlem9. As an actor he's performed internationally and as a writer his works Blacken the Bubble and Without Trace have been on stages in both NYC and Chicago. For his work in the theater both on-stage & behind the scenes, Eric has received awards from the Theater Hall of Fame & the National Theatre Conference. www.ericlockley.com

JONATHAN McCRORY is currently the Director of Theater Arts Programming at the National Black Theatre in Harlem and works professionally as a director, an actor, and producer. He is a founding member of The Movement Theatre Company [TMTTC] and Harlem9. A Washington, DC native, he attended Duke Ellington School of the Arts, then TISCH School of the Arts at NYU. To learn more about

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHTS CONT'D



JEROME A. PARKER is an award-winning playwright from New York City. His work has been developed through readings and productions at the Public Theater, the Old Vic, the Cherry Lane, Classical Theatre of Harlem, the National Black Theater, BAAD!, Company of Angels, and the Los Angeles Theater Center amongst others. Most recently he was commissioned by Intiman Theatre to create an original play for their audiences.



CORI THOMAS' plays include: *When January Feels Like Summer*; *Flight 109*; *Pa's Hat*; *My Secret Language Of Wishes*; *Akosua Means Sunday*; Sundance and MacDowell Fellow. Winner Theodore Ward Prize for African American Playwrights and ATCA Osborn Award Best New Play.



JAMES ANTHONY TYLER has a MFA in Film from Howard University and a MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU. His play *hop tha A* is a 2015 O'Neil Playwright's Conference semi-finalist. *Some Old Black Man* presented at La Mama. John Golden Playwriting Award recipient and current Dramatists Guild Fellow.

WHO IS HARLEM9?

SPENCER SCOTT BARROS [Liberation Theatre Company] Spencer has been an actor/producer/facilitator/teaching artist for more than 20 years in NYC. He is a founding member of Harlem9 and was the Associate Artistic Producer of Blue Diamond Productions, Inc. for 10 years. He was also an Associate Producer for the Evening Shades One-Act Festival in NYC for 3 years. As an actor, he is an Acclaim Award winner. He has been the Associate Producing Director of Liberation Theatre Company for the last 5 years. He also facilitates global discussions on creating an inclusive and respectful work environment.

SANDRA A. DALEY-SHARIF [Liberation Theatre Company] Sandra is a Josephine Abady Award recipient. She recently received an honorable mention from the EstroGenius Festival, and was named a NYFA Fellowship Finalist. She is the Artistic Director of Liberation Theatre Company.

JUST CALL ME KEEBS

Thank you to **Makeba Rainey** for designing our new logo and t-shirt image. Check out this upcoming and break-out artist at:
www.justcallmeKEEBS.com

48HOURS IN... HARLEM

Lunchtime in Heaven

Do you know where Justice lies?

Inspired by: POLICE BOYS by Marion McClinton

Playwright: Keelay Gipson

Director: Cezar Williams

Company: Jonathan Burke*, Roger Casey*, Beethoven Oden*

Grow

A couple agrees to an adventure to help their relationship grow, but at the last minute one half backs out causing a conflict that may alter their future.

Inspired by: SPUNK by Zora Neale Hurston

Playwright: James Anthony Tyler

Director: Maya Sharpe

Company: Reynaldo Piniella*, Lisa Strum*, Nikki E. Walker*

A Different World

In this special episode, Denise Huxtable faces a tough decision about college when she visits her guidance counselor.

Inspired by: WHEN THE CHICKENS CAME HOME TO ROOST
by Laurence Holder

Playwright: Jerome A. Parker

Director: Niegel Smith

Company: Lekethia Dalcoe, Mirirai Sithole*, Benja Kay Thomas*

48HOURS IN... HARLEM CONT'D

~INTERMISSION~

Somebody Somewhere

3 people come together in a bar one rainy day in Harlem and discover that everybody is somebody.

Inspired by: NO PLACE TO BE SOMEBODY by Charles Gordone

Playwright: Cori Thomas

Director: Libya Pugh

Company: Dyllon Burnside*, Marjorie Johnson*, Gabriel Lawrence*

The Pull of Gravity

Two college roommates collide on a path paved with scandal, disillusionment, and betrayal.

Inspired by: THE DARKER FACE OF THE EARTH by Rita Dove

Playwright: Chisa Hutchinson

Director: Rod Gailles OBC

Company: Sentell Harper, John Clarence Stewart*,

Messeret Stroman*

STEREO-YOOOOO. YO

In striving to make names for themselves, a group of actors must determine the price of their soul.

Inspired by: TROUBLE IN MIND by Alice Childress

Playwright: Danielle Eliska Lyle

Director: Kaia Calhoun

Company: Richarda Abrams*, Cyndii Johnson*,

Christopher Livingston*

* these Actors are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGE MANAGER.....Belynda Hardin
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....Alexandra Evans

CREW: Lee Andrews, Christian Felix, Sita Johnson, Jordan Lawson, Taiya Sharif, Ash Tai, Bernard Tarver, Joan Valentina, C. Kelly Wright,

AFTER - PARTY ASSISTANT COORDINATORS: Brittany Bellizeare, Jennifer Fouche, Heather Alicia Simms, L.A. Williams

VOLUNTEERS: , Ayo Oneke Cummings, Jordan Rogers, Ryan Swain

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHTS



KEELAY GIPSON is an award-winning playwright whose work has been seen at the Wild Project, HERE Arts Center, Loft227, 133rd Street Arts Center, The Theater at Alvin Ailey, Paradise Factory, Pace University, SCENE, The University of Houston. He has been featured in Next Magazine, Time Out New York and TheAdvocate.com.



CHISA HUTCHINSON award-winning plays include *She Likes Girls*, *Sex on Sunday*, *The Subject*, *Dead & Breathing*, and *Somebody's Daughter* among others. She's been a Lark Fellow, a Dramatists Guild Fellow, a NY NeoFuturist, and a staff writer for the Blue Man Group. She is a proud second-year member of New Dramatists. (www.chisahutchinson.com)



DANIELLE ELISKA LYLE writer. director. filmmaker. photographer. unpredictable. a wolverine. NYU MFA in dramatic writing. true lover of theatre, film and television. did a few amazing things, but looking forward to the mind-blowing extraordinary.