



2021 RESIDENCY FOR

BLACK WOMEN THEATRE MAKERS



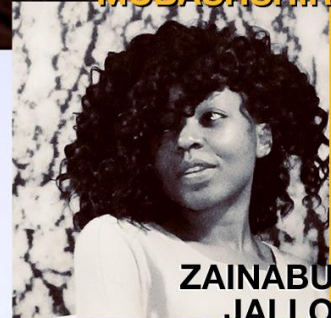
DIONE
CARLOS



DAAIMAH
MUBASHIR



KATLEGO
KAI
KOLANYANE-
KESUPILE



ZAINABU
JALLO

Public Presentations

September 27-30, 2021

DAAIMAH MUBASHSHIR

OUT FROM THE SHADOWS – BLACK WOMEN IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

MONDAY, SEPT 27 AT 6:00PM EST

With this panel, Mubashshir and an esteemed gathering of speakers including Dr. Joy James (Ebenezer Fitch Professor of Humanities, Williams College) and Dr. AnneMarie Mingo (Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Penn State) will discuss the unnamed work of Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement.



Daaimah Mubashshir (Artist-in-Residence) is a playwright and theatre-maker. Her work has been commissioned by the Guthrie Theater and 3 Hole Press. Awards include a 2020-2022 WP Theater Lab Fellowship, 2019-2022 Core Writer Fellowship (Playwrights Center, MN), an 2018 Audrey Residency (New Georges), a MacDowell Fellowship, a Catwalk Institute Residency, a Foundation of Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant. She is also a proud alumna of Fire This Time Festival. Her published works include “Molasses and A Blue Coat” – Kenyon Review Online, “The Zero Loop” (No Tokens Journal), “Come with Me –

Solve for X in The Occasional 2,” edited by Will Arbery (53rd State Press), and *The Immeasurable Want of Light* (MacDowell, 3 Hole Press). Selected stage plays include *Night of Power*, *Room Enough* (MacDowell, Fire This Time Festival, Clubbed Thumb, Pride Plays, Playwrights Center), *The Chronicles of Cardigan and Khente* and *Emily Black is A Total Gift* (New Georges). Daaimah is currently on faculty at Bard College and has also been a guest speaker at Yale School of Drama, Williams College, Skidmore College, and Kennesaw State University. She is the Artistic Director of [{EDAP}](#) which produces moving image work, text and performance to give audiences a kinetic experience of black bodies freeing themselves from the bondage of our past. For more information please visit – daaimahmubashshir.com or everydayafroplay.com

Jordan Ealey (Research Assistant, they/she) is a dramaturg, scholar, and critic currently based in the DC-area. As a dramaturg and theatre maker, Jordan has worked with arts organizations such as Theatrical Outfit, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Working Title Playwrights, University of Florida, and Synchronicity Theatre, among others. Jordan specializes in new play and musical development and is currently working as a dramaturg on *We Won't Sleep*, a new musical by Lauren Gunderson and Ari Afsar. Jordan also co-hosts and co-produces *Daughters of Lorraine*, a black

feminist theatre podcast, which is supported by HowlRound Theatre Commons. Currently, Jordan is pursuing a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Sydné Mahone (Dramaturg) is an independent dramaturg and the editor of two books: *Moon Marked and Touched by Sun: Plays By African American Women*; and *With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together*. Recent affiliations include a return to Crossroads Theatre Company, Karin Coonrod's Compagnia de' Colombari, and the Ford's Theatre. She is honored to be working with The Play Company.

Joy James (Panelist) is the Ebenezer Fitch Professor of the Humanities at Williams College. James is author of: *Shadowboxing: Representations of Black Feminist Politics*; *Transcending the Talented Tenth: Black Leaders and American Intellectuals*; *Resisting State Violence: Radicalism, Gender and Race in U.S. Culture*. Her edited books include: *Warfare in the American Homeland*; *The New Abolitionists: (Neo) Slave Narratives and Contemporary Prison Writings*; *Imprisoned Intellectuals*; *States of Confinement*; *The Black Feminist Reader* (co-edited with TD Sharpley-Whiting); and *The Angela Y. Davis Reader*. James is completing a book on the prosecution of 20th-century interracial rape cases, tentatively titled "Memory, Shame & Rage." She has contributed articles and book chapters to journals and anthologies addressing feminist and critical race theory, democracy, and social justice. She is the recipient of grants, fellowships or awards from: the Fletcher Foundation; the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities; the Rockefeller Foundation; the Bellagio Fellowship; the Aaron Diamond Foundation/Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; the Ford Foundation; and the Gustavus Myers Human Rights Award.

AnneMarie Mingo (Panelist) is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and an affiliate faculty member in the Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State. She received her BS in Business Administration from Florida A&M University; MBA from Rollins College; M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary; and Ph.D. in Religion - Ethics and Society from Emory University. She is currently working on her first book project in which she constructs a theology and ethic from oral histories gathered from Black religious women who were active in the Civil Rights Movement. As a religious social ethicist, her research interests include women in 20th and 21st Century Black Freedom Struggles with a specific focus on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, South African Anti-Apartheid Movement, and Movement for Black Lives, and theological and ethical influences in social movements. She also publishes in areas of Black Church activism, peace and reconciliation, and the influence of Black music and media on social activism. Dr. Mingo has received numerous awards for her work on the Penn State campus and the broader

community including the Barash Award for Human Service (2016) and the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Faculty Advising Award (2017)

ZAINABU JALLO

A DIVINE MISSION

TUESDAY, SEPT 28 AT 2:00PM EST

This event takes three parts: “ONE DAY I JUST APPEARED!” — an introduction of Brazilian **Arthur Bispo do Rosario**, a patient of a psychiatric institution in Rio de Janeiro for over forty years, where he created works of art with found objects as part of a “divine mission.” Jallo’s residency project surrounds his work and representations of memory within it; SYMBOLIC MEMORY AND PERFORMATIVE HISTORIOGRAPHY — a roundtable discussion with art curator **Ricardo Resende**, translated by Theatre Director, **Camila Santos**; and a READING: Excerpts from two situations of *A Divine Mission* – directed by **Velani Dibba** and featuring **Abby Awe**, **Brian D. Coats**, **Lizan Mitchell**, and **Isaiah Dodo-Williams**, from the six situations of Jallo’s work-in-progress play.



Zainabu Jallo’s (Artist-in-Residence) academic and creative work have been conveyed through Fellowships at the Sundance Theater Institute, The Institute for World Literature, Harvard University, The Mellon School of Theater and Performance at Harvard (Migrations session), Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin, ResidenzTheater Munich, Chateau de Lavigny, House of Writers in Switzerland. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts England, and UNESCO Coalition of Artists for the General History of Africa. Her scholarly interests include Diaspora studies, Iconic criticism, and Material Culture. Zainabu’s award-winning plays include *Onions Make Us Cry*, *White Elephants*, and *Holy Night*.

Abby Awe (*Seraph*) is a recent LA-based actor. Before moving to LA she lived and worked in NYC. Pre-pandemic stage credits include the world premiere of *Athena* (JACK) and workshop of Clare Baron’s play *SHHH!* TV/Film credits: *God Friendened Me*, *The Tick*, *Souvenirs*, *Shoplifters of the World*. She is an alum of NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She is thrilled to be a part of this PlayCo reading!

Brian D. Coats (*Bispo*) was a member of the premiere of August Wilson's *Jitney* at Manhattan Theatre Club as well as the National Tour. New York appearances include LCT3/ Lincoln Center, The Public Theater, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and Classical Theatre of Harlem. Regional performances include Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Seattle Rep, Old Globe, Mark Taper Forum, Arena Stage, Cleveland Play House, Denver Center Theatre, Two River Theater, Geva Theatre, Studio Theatre, Huntington Theatre and many others. TV including *FBI: Most Wanted*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *JAG*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Sopranos*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Luke Cage* and *The Blacklist*. He graduated from University North Carolina School of the Arts.

Velani Dibba (Director) is a director and multidisciplinary artist of Polynesian-West African descent. Her work focuses on the collision of different cultures through design-focused and ensemble-driven work. Her work has been presented at the World Theatre Congress, the Edinburgh Fringe and New Ohio Theater, and reviewed by *The New York Times*, *VULTURE* and *The Scotsman*. Velani is an Inaugural Fellow at the Laboratory for Global Performance & Politics and a former Global Cultural Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. She holds a BSFS in International Relations from Georgetown University and an MFA in Directing from Columbia University.

Isaiah Dodo-Williams (*Voice*)

Dennis Ngoc Ho (Streaming Manager) is a Vietnamese-American stage manager from Southern California. He believes that stage managers act as a pillar in theater productions and whose primary goal is to help the creative vision reach the stage, physical or digital. University of California, Los Angeles BA grad. Columbia University, MFA Stage Management.

Lizan Mitchell (*Seraph*) Broadway: *Electra*, *Having Our Say*, *So Long on Lonely Street*. Off-Broadway: *The First Noel*, *Brownsville Song*, *Cell*, *Rosmersholm*, *For Colored Girls* (25th Anniversary), *Gum*, *Ma Rose*, and *Salt*. Regional: *The Tempest* (Old Globe), *Skeleton Crew* (Trinity Rep), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Arena Stage), *The Good Peaches* (Cleveland Play House), *The House That Will Not Stand*, (Yale Repertory, Berkeley Repertory, Victory Gardens), *Dead and Breathing* (CATF, National Black Theater UK premiere), *A Trip to Bountiful* (Cincinnati Playhouse, Roundhouse Theater). Film/TV: Detroit, "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Deadbeat," "We'll Never Have Paris," "Golden Boy," "John Adams," "The Good Wife," *The Human Stain*, *The Preacher's Wife*, "Sesame Street," and "The Wire." Lizan received the Black Theater Alliance Award, Audelco Award, and 2018 Helen Award for Best Actress. She is a founding member of Quick Silver Theater Company.

Ricardo Resende (Panelist), has a Master's degree in Art History at the Escola de Comunicações e Artes at the University of São Paulo. He has been working in the past 25 years as curator in art institutions as the Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo at the Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo. Since 1996 he has been the curator and consultant on the Leonilson Project. From March 2005 to March 2007, he was the director of the Museu de Arte Contemporânea do Centro Dragão do Mar de Arte e Cultura, in Fortaleza. From 2009 to 2010 was the director of Centro de Artes Visuais, Fundação Nacional das Artes, Department of the Ministry of Culture, in Rio de Janeiro. From 2010 to 2014, he worked as the General Director of the Centro Cultural São Paulo. Since 2014, Curator for Museu Bispo do Rosario Arte Contemporânea.

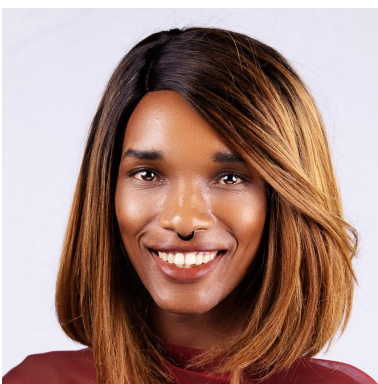
Camila Santos (Interpreter) is a fiction writer from Brazil who has been living in New York City since 2004. Her work has appeared or is upcoming in *Newtown Literary*, *Columbia Journal*, the *New York Times*, and elsewhere. Her work in Portuguese can be found in *Ruído Manifesto* and is forthcoming in *Coletânea de Poesia - Mulherio das Letras, EUA*. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing and Literary Translations from Queens College. In 2020, she was named a Center for Fiction Emerging Writer Fellow. She is currently working on her first novel and a collection of short stories.

KATLEGO KAI KOLANYANE-KESUPILE

MERITI

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 29 AT 12:30PM EST

Katlego Kai Kolanyane-Kesupile entered the residency fascinated with bereavement and its complementary fortitude. As such, she presents **Meriti**, a new absurdist, bilingual, Afrofuturist exploration of modes and tactics of managing grief. Taking on multidisciplinary forms of communication, Kolanyane-Kesupile and her cast will deliver a staged reading of the play, and engage the audience in introspective dialogue about grief, rituals, abandonment, community, and perseverance. **Meriti** is a meditation on bridging the performative and personal domains of feeling and living.



Katlego Kai Kolanyane-Kesupile (Artist-in-Residence) is an international award-winning cultural architect, Development Practitioner and Interdisciplinary Artist from Botswana. Her work in human rights, education, and communications centers decoloniality, feminism and Disability theory. Katlego is a classically trained singer and composer,

theatrical performer and designer. Her published writing ranges from contemporary critiques, creative work in poetry, music and theatre, and scholarly research. Katlego is the founding director of the Queer Shorts Showcase Festival (Botswana's premier LGBTQ-themed theatre festival) – for which she has written numerous works and mentored performers and writers, and founder of the Writers' Meet Social Club. Her accolades include being a TED Fellow, Chevening Scholar, OkayAfrica #100Women honoree in the Arts, Mandela Washington Fellow, and CACE Africa Writivist. She holds an MA in Human Rights, Culture and Social Justice from Goldsmiths University of London, and a BA (Hons) in Dramatic Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand.

Lebogang Jessica Kelebemang (Stage Manager) Combine energetic, enthusiastic and efficient and you have Lebogang Jessica Kelebemang. Lebogang Jessica Kelebemang is a Performing Arts graduate and is the stage manager of the MERITI Production and team. Before graduating, Lebogang gained vast experience acting in a local play "A Devil On the Cross", choreographing for a local television musical series "Phases - Going The Extra Mile" and performing as a synchronised swimmer in a local site-specific theatre production just to state a few. Lebogang enjoys an engaging challenge that allows her to learn and apply her skills and abilities. She strives to become a powerful positive influence to others.

Annah Ketlaareng (Performer) is an actor and Makeup artist that recently graduated from AFDA Botswana (currently known as AWIL College). She is casted in an absurdist theatre piece called Meriti written and directed by Katlego Kai Kolanyane-Kesupile, she will be taking the role of Gadi. She has experience working in television as she has been casted in a few local television dramas and has also worked in a couple of films in South Africa as a makeup artist on set. She also does activism work speaking on mental health issues. She looks forward to growing her skills through this production.

Neo Jasmine Mokgosi (Photographer/Videographer) is a trained photojournalist and brand building specialist, currently based in Gaborone, Botswana. Her personal work consists mainly of self portraits exploring themes of femininity and fragility. Her professional work consists of collaborations with various artists, using both photography and videography to archive creative work by young people in Botswana. She is particularly interested in working with queer artists to develop queer or non-binary gaze and move away from the usual 'male gaze' offered by most image makers.

Zanele Moyo (Performer) is a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Theatre) graduant, who is no stranger to the theatre, having been initially inducted into acting at the tender age of 10. Her growing interest in Performing Arts, fuelled by her ability to impress all those who have seen her in action, led Zanele to pursue acting as a career. She has performed various roles of acting in; staged readings of the

Award winning Off-Broadway play “Motswana” by Donald Molosi, “Madi-Majwana: Stories from your pocket” Radio Drama and “Ntwakgolo TV Drama amongst others. An exceptional performing arts practitioner whose focus is on; cultural reclamation, addressing socio-economic issues in society by staging some lived experiences.

Tefo Omphile Paya (Performer) is a Dramatic Artist from Botswana. He is a formally trained and highly qualified Performance Specialist. He holds a Masters of Arts in Dramatic Arts, with Distinction, from The University of The Witwatersrand in Johannesburg South Africa. He is an Actor (Stage and Screen), a Facilitator, Trainer and overall Creative. He is currently the Maitisong Director where he manages Maitisong (Maitisong is a Creative and Cultural Hub in Botswana) and he produces various creative projects for Maitisong. He is also the Founder and Creative Director at TOP Art, a company that works with young creatives through mentorship and instilling the principle of seeing Art as a tool for growth and development. Tefo is well known for producing work that speaks to Truth, Openness and Passion.

Laura Sekwababe (Performer) is making a return to the stage in her role as Moitse in the upcoming absurdist piece MERITI. Her last performance was a role in the Queer Shorts Showcase of 2015, in a short written and directed by Katlego Kolanyane-Kesupile. In the time spent off-stage, she pursued a Bachelors in business administration with a specialization in marketing; but remained true to her artistic nature by becoming a music teacher and recording (secular and religious) children’s songs. Although Laura may be an educator by profession, she loves to learn and is a student at heart.

DIONE CARLOS

COLORFUL EYES

THURSDAY, SEPT 30 AT 6:00PM EST

Dione Carlos’ residency project takes as its point of departure work by visual artist **Rosana Paulino**, whose work has prompted discussions about race and gender since the 1990s, calling into question the “Brazilian racial democracy” imaginary—created to erase the devastating legacy of the enslavement of the country’s Indigenous and Black populations. A dramaturgy based on Paulino’s visual art, Carlos’ project takes the forms of both a written text and audiovisual material, with the objective of materializing what visual art expresses with images using the poetry of words. She will

present a short video of a reading from her play, in Portuguese with English subtitles, followed by a live conversation about the work.



Dione Carlos (Artist-in-Residence) is a Brazilian playwright, screenwriter, actress, and curator. She has seventeen plays staged nationally and internationally in countries like Mexico, Colombia, Belgium, and Portugal. She has six published drama books, as well as articles in magazines and specialized websites. In 2019, she represented Brazil on the International Day of the Portuguese Language in Greece, having lectured at the Acropolis Museum. Currently, she develops scripts for TV and cinema.

Micaela Schweidson Kramer (Interpreter and Translator) is a literary scholar, translator and visual artist. She has a Master of Advanced Study (Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies) in Comparative Literature from Paris III: The Sorbonne Nouvelle, and a PhD in Comparative Literature from New York University. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, where she teaches in the Humanities and Media Studies Department.

Luiz Fernando Marques, Lubi (Editor) graduated in Audiovisual and at the School of Dramatic Arts/USP. Member of Grupo XIX de Teatro and Teatro Kunyn. Has directed and written a total of 31 plays, part of it been staged in over 120 cities in Brazil and 30 abroad (Argentina, Armenia, Cape Verde, Cuba, France, French Guiana, England, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Russia, and Uruguay), performed in Spanish, French, English, and Italian. Throughout its trajectory has accumulated, among awards and nominations, more than 20 mentions Brazil's main awards. In 2016 he was creative director of Remonta, the worldwide tour of the music band Liniker e os Caramellows. Since 2008, is a mentor in Staging at the Escola Livre de Teatro.

Jonatas Marques (Camera Operator/DP) I have worked in audio visual, photography and multimedia production for almost 15 years. As an editor, I have worked at the Istituto Europeo di Design, as well as for São Paulo based production companies, and for the Italian agency Studio Festi. I've edited videos for SuperDrags (Netflix), Jeep, Group XIX from Estável Theater and Co., large scale performances at Porto Seguro Theater, and corporate events for Hasbro, the Marquise Group, and Roca Brasil. I also work as an audio visual consultant for projects and companies, and as an art educator for educational projects. I am dedicated, creative, good-humored, and persevering. This is me. www.jonatasmarques.com

Jonatas Marques: Com quase 15 anos de experiência em audiovisual, fotografia e Produção Multimídia. Como editor, trabalhei na própria faculdade Instituto Europeu de Design, produtoras de SP e na agência italiana Studio Festi. Montei vídeos para SuperDrags (Netflix), Jeep, TNT, Nubank, Bauducco. Já cliquei diversas companhias de teatro, dentre elas Grupo XIX de Teatro e Cia. Estável, grandes shows no Teatro Porto Seguro e eventos corporativos para a Hasbro, Grupo Marquise, Roca Brasil. Atuo também com Consultor Audiovisual para projetos e empresas e Arte Educador em Projetos Educacionais. Dedicado, criativo, bem-humorado e perseverante. Esse sou eu.

www.jonatasmarques.com

Eramir Neto (Sound Editor) studied at the Arts Foundation of São Caetano do Sul (BR) and at Goldsmiths University (UK). In 2020 and 2021 he released, mixed and mastered two albums, a solo album called MENIERE (2021) and another with 3 other Brazilian musicians called Sala 101 (2020). He did the original music and sound designer for a children's podcast called “My Human Saiu” and a short film called “Bubble”. And still in audiovisual, he worked as a sound designer in “Maria D'Apparecida-Luz Negra”.

Rosana Paulino is a visual artist, educator and researcher. She has a BA and a PhD (in the Direct Doctorate track) from the University of São Paulo. Her work questions the place occupied by black women in Brazil, and the pernicious effects that slavery has had in Brazilian society. Paulino has had exhibitions in important museums within Brazil as well as outside the country, and her work can be found in institutions such as the State Pinacoteca (São Paulo), MASP (Argentina) and UNM—University of New Mexico Art Museum (USA).

Rosana Paulino é artista visual, educadora e pesquisadora. Possui graduação pela Universidade de São Paulo e doutorado pela mesma instituição, na modalidade DD – Doutorado direto. Suas obras questionam o local ocupado pela mulher negra no Brasil e os efeitos deletérios da escravidão em nossa sociedade. Expos em importantes museus no país e no exterior e tem obras em instituições como a Pinacoteca do Estado (SP), MASP (SP), MALBA (Argentina) e UNM - University of New Mexico Art Museum (USA).

Our four participating artists and the projects they have developed this summer were selected in collaboration with curatorial consultant **Kathy A. Perkins**. <https://kathyaperkins.com/>



WHO WE ARE

The Play Company commissions, develops and produces new plays, from the U.S. and around the world, to create contemporary theatre that reflects and responds to both our New York City home and today's interconnected world. We support ambition and experimentation in both form and content. We champion new and marginalized voices to expand the repertoire of artists represented on U.S. stages. We commit to affordable access and collaborative community engagement, welcoming inclusive audiences to join us in exploring the meaning of our time through live theatre experiences.

Since our first full production in 2000, we've produced 39 plays from the U.S., Central and South America, the UK, Europe, the Russian Federation, South and East Asia, and the Middle East. Our organization, artists, and shows have been honored with Obie, Lucille Lortel, American Theatre Wing, Drama Desk, and Drama League awards and nominations. PlayCo received a 2007 Obie Award for our "unique contribution to the Off Broadway community".

SPECIAL THANKS

Carlyle Brown
Group.Br
Maitisong Theatre

STAFF

Charlene Adhiambo

Artistic Associate

Robert G. Bradshaw

Managing Director

Trip Cullman

Associate Artist

Carolina Đõ

Community Engagement Associate

Kate Loewald

Founding Producer

Janie Paw

Social Media Assistant

Annie Jin Wang

Assoc. Director, Programming &
Communications

Blake Zidell & Associates

Press Representative

Readers Group

Velani Dibba, Taylor Barrett Gaines, Ana
Graham, Jeremy Tiang, and Antonio Vega

BIPOC Council

Charlene Adhiambo, Ugo Chukwu, Victoria
Detres, Carolina Đõ, Mia Katigbak, and Ayo
Renée Schwartz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carmine Boccuzzi

Chair

Kate Loewald

Secretary

Trip Cullman

Bruce Geismar

Ruth Hendel

Lawrence Kaplen

Victoria Reese

George Sheanshang

Philip Levy, in memoria

The Play Company gratefully acknowledges the leadership support of The Kaplen Brothers Fund.

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council, and The New York State Council on the Arts.

The Play Company gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:



THE KAPLEN BROTHERS FUND

