

JAG PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

JAG ^{3.0} fest

New Works 
Performing Arts Festival

February 4-10, 2019
White River Junction, VT
Briggs Opera House

JAGFEST 3.0 PARTICIPATING SPONSORS

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our community sponsors. Without their support, JAGfest 3.0 would not be possible!

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WORTHY KITCHEN
THE YANKEE BOOKSTORE





Photo: Geoff Hansen - Valley News

JARVIS GREEN

FOUNDER & PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jarvis Antonio Green moved to the Upper Valley of Vermont/NH in 2011 from New York City and founded BarnArts Center for the Arts in Barnard, VT. He is the Founding Producing Artistic Director of JAG Productions and the former Director of Theatre Arts at ArtisTree Community Arts Center right outside of beautiful Woodstock, VT. Jarvis received his training at the prestigious Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City, Anderson University and South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts.

Directing credits include: Choir Boy, Fences, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill (JAG Productions), Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Fiddler on the Roof (ArtisTree Theatre Company), The 39 Steps, Master Class, Porgy and Bess in Concert, Oliver!, Grease, Little Shop of Horrors (BarnArts Center for the Arts), Suessical the Musical (NCCT). He has also had an extensive career on the stage including My Heart is the Drum (World Premiere), Once On This Island, The Who's Tommy (Village Theatre), Twelfth Night (RAW Shakespeare Company), Our Town, Clybourne Park, Twelve Angry Men (Northern Stage), The Wizard of Oz, Pirates of Penzance (Pentangle Arts), Ragtime (New London Barn Playhouse), Rent, Little Shop of Horrors, A Chorus Line, and more.

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Every February for the past two years, JAG Productions has invited African-American theatre artists to spend a week in White River Junction, Vermont to further the development of a new play or solo performance. Over the course of the one-week residency, three to five projects receive an intensive workshop, constructive feedback, and a staged reading for the public at Briggs Opera House!

ABOUT JAGFEST

We are pleased to announce the third edition of this festival of new works in African-American theatre, JAGfest 3.0! This year, we are delighted that all the playwrights are Black women. Presented February 4-10, JAGfest 3.0 will include a week of community events that will culminate in four staged readings over the course of three days, each featuring a post-show conversation with the artists and moderated by Dartmouth scholars. We'll celebrate after the first performance on Friday, February 8, at 9:00PM with the JAGfest Dance Party featuring DJ Sean at Piecemeal Pies in White River Junction. Tickets to the party are \$5 and include a champagne toast and snacks.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

JAG operates at the center of Art, Community, and Impact by incubating new works. This year, we are pleased to present a week of community events that culminate in our staged readings over the weekend.

**FEB 4 - JAGFEST COMMUNITY WELCOME
DINNER, 6:30PM**

Piecemeal Pies, White River Junction, VT

**FEB 5 - LUNCH WITH THE PLAYWRIGHTS,
12:30PM**

Dartmouth Department of Theater, Hopkins
Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH

**FEB 6 - KYLE T. MAYS LECTURE:
WHEN DID BLACK PEOPLE LOSE THEIR
INDIGENEITY?, 5:30PM**

Room 204, Hopkins Center for the Arts,
Hanover, NH

**FEB 7 - SIGHTED EYES | FEELING HEART
DOCUMENTARY, 7:00PM**

Briggs Opera House, White River Junction, VT

FEB 8 - JAGFEST DANCE PARTY, 9:00PM

Piecemeal Pies, White River Junction, VT

THE LAST DAY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH: A CONVERSATION WITH A NAKED BLACK SOUTHERN LESBIAN

by

The "Maine Attraction" Anders

Directed by Kia Warren & Ayesha
Dillabough

Synopsis:

The international "triple threat of burlesque" baptized by Michael Musto as one of 'NYC's Creatures of the Night' in Out Magazine, The "Maine Attraction" Anders (Lady L'Amours Final Bow, Duane Park, Cheek to Cheek: Lady Gaga & Tony Bennett)

shares her story of ancestry and artistic resilience with a personal and humorous timeline of our nation's violent and systematic oppression. Hailing from Decatur, Georgia, Anders' one-woman master-class on the prominent underbelly of American history, The Last Day of Black History Month... is a multimedia show featuring dance, comedy, music, and poetry unveiling hidden truths while facilitating acceptance, compassion, and unity.

BRIGGS OPERA HOUSE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 7:30PM

About the Playwright:

Maine Anders, better known as "The Maine Attraction," landed her first television appearance as a teenager performing in MTV's 'Fight For Your Rights Campaign.' Since then, her career has soared playing alongside greats including James Brown and Lionel Richie, and burlesque divas Dita Von Teese and Amanda Lepore; making The Maine Attraction a burlesque legend in her own right. As muse for numerous visual artists, Maine has collaborated with everyone from conceptual photographer LaToya Ruby Frazier and acclaimed multimedia artist, Matthew Barney, to the infamous DJ Tiesto and performed at exclusive fashion events hosted by icons Patricia Field and Marc Jacobs. Her ability to transform herself into a myriad of characters gives her the opportunity to play roles that are left of center, and fuse the elements of sex, comedy and drama, as seen in her self-conceptualized debut, The Last Day of Black History Month: A Conversation with a Naked Black Southern Lesbian. Seen playing herself in Dee Rees' "Pariah," Maine has also played leading roles in indie features: "Miente" (Cannes, Havana Film Festival), farcical blaxploitation sensation "Nefertitty", "Nefertitty In Space" and comedy-thriller "The Horror at Gallery Kay." Her role in "Million In The Mirror", a PSA for breast cancer research, recently won The Viewers Choice Award on the Lifetime Channel.



RABBIT SUMMER

by Tracey Conyer Lee

Directed by Christopher Burris

Synopsis:

Wilson and Ruby have good jobs, a beautiful home, a child...working on another, while Ruby's best friend, Claire, has just lost her unarmed Black husband to the quick trigger of a white cop. Wilson idealizes his marriage and ignores the irony of his job as a police officer, smiling through pain Ruby wishes he would share. Tired of feeling helpless and trapped in her Huxtable-like existence, Ruby has a secret plan to fix the American gun problem and push her husband to unpack the legacy of false manhood. As Claire mourns in the comfort of her friends, secrets are unearthed stirring a pot of reality Wilson has never tasted, pitting Black against blue, gun violence against police brutality, manhood against fatherhood and love against need. The trio individually battle to live their truths in a country built on lies while navigating the uniquely American condition of "Being, While Black".

BRIGGS OPERA HOUSE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 4:00PM

About Playwright:

Ms. Lee is a playwright fellow with National Black Theatre. Rabbit Summer, a 2018 Princess Grace Award finalist, has been developed at the Kennedy Center and the 2018 Women's Voices Festival through Ally Theatre Company, and will premiere in 2019 at Aurora Theatre outside Atlanta. Lee's other plays have received production or development at FringeNYC, The Fire This Time Festival, Urban Stages, Boomerang Theatre Company, Redtwist and Congo Square Theatres in Chicago and National Black Theatre. A professional actor for over 25 years, Ms. Lee has originated roles Off Broadway and regionally, performing in over 80 professional productions yielding Carbonell, NAACP and Barrymore Awards. She has also won acting awards for her independent film work and has played roles on the small screen in The Path, Ed, SMASH, L&O: Criminal Intent, All My Children & Guiding Light.



IF THIS BE SIN

by Kirya Traber

Music by Sissi Liu

Directed & Choreographed
by Christopher Windom

Synopsis:

If This Be Sin is a new musical based on the life of the queer Harlem Renaissance entertainer, Gladys Bentley. In 2016 Kirya workshopped the play, Permitted through, the Queerly Fest, the NBT's Keep Soul Alive reading series, and Submerge at Brooklyn Arts Exchange. The play focused on Bentley's life at a pivotal moment in the 1940s when she has lost her prominence and is facing backlash at the dawn of the MacArthur era. Kirya realized that given grand and spectacular scope of Bentley's real life, any retelling

deserves the spectacle and grandeur of a musical. The new work, If This Be Sin, (who's titled is borrowed from an autobiography Bentley spoke of but likely never wrote) is being developed with a full musical score, and will represent Bentley in her early life as an infamous performer in Harlem, as well as her eventual choice to conform and marry a man in the early 1950's.

BRIGGS OPERA HOUSE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 7:30PM

About Playwright:

Kirya Traber is a nationally awarded writer, performer, cultural worker. She is co-host of the PBS series, First Person, and the Lead Community Artist in Residence with Lincoln Center Education. Her plays include the NY Times Critic's Pick, Ping Chong & Company presents Undesirable Elements: Generation NYZ (2018), Music in Color: The Legacy of Florence Price, commissioned by the Orchestra of St Luke's (2017), Both My Grandfathers, developed at Lincoln Center Education (2015), and The Life of Belle da Costa Greene, commissioned by the Morgan Library & Museum (2013). Kirya is the recipient of the a California Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, Robert Redford's Sundance Foundation award for Activism in the Arts, and an Astrea Foundation award for Poetry.



BLANKS OR SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AFTER CHURCH

by Gethsemane Amy
Herron-Coward
Directed by NJ Agwuna

Synopsis:

Medical student Reese desperately hunts for the romance of her dreams while her "aunties"- Black women through history and media- dissuade, distract and try to save her from love's violent abandonment- something they all experienced, something they all did not survive. BLANKS interrogates how intimate partner violence, intersectional patriarchy, and neglect affect Black women's pursuit of romantic and filial love. It asks if love conquers all, what happens when it conquers you?



BRIGGS OPERA HOUSE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 4:00PM

About Playwright:

Gethsemane Herron-Coward is a poet-turned-playwright from Washington, D.C. She is a 2016 Semi-Finalist for the Rising Circle INK TANK, a 2016 Finalist for the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, a 2017 Finalist for SPACE on Ryder Farm. Gethsemane is also a 2016 Grant Recipient from the Puffin Foundation, which supported her residency with JAW Magic Time at Judson Memorial Church. Gethsemane's short play, The Falling Man received a production in The Fire This Time Festival in 2018. Her work has been supported by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Millay Colony, where she was the 2018 Yasmin Scholarship Fellow. Her work has been seen in Atlanta Black Star, The Washington Post, the 24 Hour Plays: Nationals and Columbia University, where she is completing her MFA in Playwriting. She is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild.

CAST MEMBERS

THE LAST DAY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Maine Anders

RABBIT SUMMER

Jon Swain

Sarah Ellen Stephens

Raval Lindsey davis

IF THIS BE SIN

Jennean Farmer

Meredith Amani Watson

Berlayne Smith

Stephen Kime

BLANKS OR SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AFTER CHURCH

Jihan McKenzie

Eternanda Fudge

Sheilah Smiley

Kambi Gathesha

Kendra Vernon

Briana Velazquez

Derricka Kearney

ARTISTIC STAFF

Jarvis Antonio Green Producing Artistic Director

Christopher Landry Production Manager

Zhailon Levingston Associate Producer

Karina Sainz Stage Manager

Nathan Yunkerberg JAGfest Alumni

SPECIAL THANKS

DAVID BRIGGS
DAVE LLOYD
PERRY ALLISON
LLOYD GABOUREL
AMY GOOD
ALICE & JOHN CREAGH
GERALDINE FOWLER
LINDA GALVAO
PETER ROUSMANIERE
KATIE CAWLEY
CARLA KIMBALL
SIMON DENNIS
LIANNE MOCCIA
EMILY DENHAM SWOMLEY
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IMPACT

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