

# NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE

213 West 137th Street  
New York, NY 10030  
info@nationalblacktheatre.org

www.nationalblacktheatre.org

**Michael F. Lythcott**  
Board Chair

**Linara Davidson**  
Treasurer

**Velma Banks**  
Secretary

**De'Ara Balenger**  
**Denise Bradley-Tyson**  
**Anthony Roth Costanzo**  
**David Alan Grier**  
**Alia Jones-Harvey**  
**Zoë Kravitz**  
**Leslie Odom, Jr.**  
**Tracey Ryans**  
**Cleo Wade**  
**Jonathan Wiggins**  
**Michelle Wilson**

**Sade B. Lythcott**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Dr. Barbara Ann Teer**  
CEO Emerita



Dear Friend,

As National Black Theatre reaches the end of a groundbreaking year, it's the perfect time to reflect on its impact. NBT ushered in **a season of firsts** – performing at the world-famous Kennedy Center; winning a TONY for *Purlie Victorious* on Broadway; and three Lortel awards for nicHi douglas' stunning (*pray*) – while continuing to build a pipeline for Black stories via NYC-based productions that were widely accessible to all. As NBT looks to another year of milestones, I hope you'll **join me in contributing to the creation of new pathways for future generations of Black artists.**

My own journey with NBT began in 2016, when they invited me to a one-day table-read of my strange little play *Kill Move Paradise*. **I immediately felt a profound sense of belonging.** It was my introduction to the breathtakingly talented director Saheem Ali, which **launched one of the most important collaborations of my career.** NBT produced *Kill Move Paradise* and the experience **impacted my approach to playwriting ever since.** It was a NYT Critics Pick, and paved the way for future partnerships with NBT, most notably the Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony-nominated *Fat Ham*.

NBT is a laboratory of the soul committed to developing theater that can transform both artists and audiences, as it did for me. **Your giving has a tangible, real-life impact. It funds the workshop of a new play. The costumes, props, lighting and sound to tell stories that heal and unite. It attracts the best talent, on and off the stage. Please consider giving today to invest in a community of creation that is our lifeblood.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ijames'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

James Ijames

