

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

# KINGS COME HOME

DIRECTED BY  
IRA KIP &  
WINNE



KIP  
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IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
THE APOLLO THEATER AND  
NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP

National Black Theatre & KIP Republic  
in association with  
The Apollo Theater & New York Theatre Workshop  
*presents*

THE NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF  
**KINGS... COME HOME**

Conceived & Directed by Ira Kip  
Co-Directed by Winston "Winne" Bergwijn

**CAST**

Rubiën Vyent  
Revé Terborg  
Melvin Aroma  
Daniël Pando  
Saron Tesfahuney  
Giovanni Pisas  
Ayesha Jordan

**CREATIVE TEAM**

Smita James, Writer  
Veronique Efomi, Writer  
Munganyende, Writer

Faizah Grootens, Choreographer  
Ilgin Abeln, Dramaturg  
Nina Haanappel, Director's Assistant  
Amel-Che Parkinson, Assistant Choreographer  
Eddy van der Laan, Scenographer  
Esmeralda Tan, Costume Designer  
Kelthoum Mazid, Styling  
Earlnaël Bitoria, Lighting Tech  
Neldrick Martis, Sound Tech  
Michael Lampe, Composer  
Lynnée Denise, Music & Cultural Curator

Selwyn de Wind, Videographer & Photography  
Diana Ejaita, Artwork  
Kevin Rooi, Typography  
Cye Wong Loi Sing/Brand New Guys,  
Creative Director of Photography  
Dionne Verway, Significant Directorial Contributions

**PRODUCTION CREW**

Jacob Cange, Technical Director  
Megan Mahoney, Master Electrician  
Mike Weir, Automation Operator  
Siteline Fabrication, Set Fabricator  
Ava Novak, Production Manager  
Belynda M'Baye, Company Manager

Channa Begbie, Head of Production  
Joan Esajas, Creative Producer & Curator  
Parisa Niawarani, Production Assistant  
& Social Media

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Justin Hernandez, Key Technician  
Christopher Theodore, Key Technician

# WELCOME LETTER FROM NBT

Dear Family,

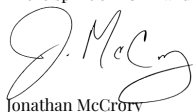
You have arrived! Found yourself in something creative, something expressive, something timely and holy. You have decided to invest in your curiosity and spend some of the most precious currency we all have together, your time. Collectively we have arrived to share, experience and will go on another journey with the second production within National Black Theatre's Season. Inspired by "The Negro Motorist/Travelers' Green Book," NBT's 24/25 season, *The Pilgrimage: The Journey Back Home*, invites our community on a journey to examine the critical choices we must make to craft the kind of home we want for the future. A year when NBT continues the focus of its own new home, currently under construction on 125th and 5th, this season invites everyone to imagine what it means to create, imagine and navigate through spaces to discover one's belonging. In *KINGS... COME HOME*, we tackle migration.

This feels so timely, as the America we knew is not the America we currently reside in. As the New York City we know, shifts and changes its policy, mandates and focus, we have to seek out a salve to better understand how to meet this current moment WHOLE and not broken. How we claim and polish our sacred crown. The offering of *KINGS... COME HOME* examines all these pressure points to provide a perspective on this topic from an international, Black diasporic perspective. Drawing the wealth of experience, history and community that is composed in Amsterdam, produced by our producing partner KipRepublic, the North American Premiere of this work gives us a glimpse into our possible shared plight to find HOME in foreign lands that we find ourselves in.

We hope that you will take the time to check out our dramaturgical deck, *Royalty: The Power of Coming Home*, which helps to set the backdrop of the social impact of this work. Additionally, we invite you to join us for our AfterWords, post-show curated town halls, to have an open conversation about the work together. This is a time to be communal more than ever, where we need to stretch to find the hand of another human being. A time when we need to find the language to describe how we are feeling, what action we will take, and to generate bonds with people of shared and differing views.

Thank you for investing in the partnership of NBT, Kip Republic, The Apollo and New York Theatre Workshop and arriving at this place. We will see you on the other side of this journey and/or at another production.

In the spirit of LOVE and Light.



Jonathan McCrory  
Executive Artistic Director

# DIRECTORS & PRODUCERS NOTE

*KINGS...COME HOME* is more than a performance; it is a gathering, a return, and a declaration. Kings, as in builders of community.

From the very beginning, this project has been dear to our hearts—not just for the story it tells, but for the space it has created: one of connection and collective power. We called our rehearsal space *the village* because that's exactly what it became—a place where everyone, both physically present and in spirit, is welcome. The voices of our ancestors, our peers, and those who came before us reverberate through this work.

Our collaboration with The National Black Theatre is a meeting of legacy and vision, a dream long in the making. It is a bond woven through shared purpose, a conversation between past and future, held in the language of art and community. We look forward to many more years of nurturing this connection, amplifying our voices, and creating work that speaks to and from the depths of who we are.

*KINGS...COME HOME* lives in the aftermath of displacement, where forced departures and the longing to return still shape the present. In a world marked by rupture and refusal, the play bears witness—refusing silence, refusing amnesia. It insists on telling stories that trouble the order of things, that mourn and mend, that affirm the right to remember and reimagine home.

We are honored and deeply grateful to share this work with you. Thank you for witnessing.

With love,  
Ira, Winne & Team KIP

# DIRECTORS, CAST & WRITERS



Ira Kip



Winston "Winne" Bergwijn



Rubiën Vyent



Ayesha Jordan



Daniël Pando



Revé Terborg



Melvin Aroma



Saron Tesfahuney



Giovanni Pisas



Smita James



Veronique Efomi



Munganyende

# CAST

## Ayesha Jordan

Ayesha Jordan is a multidisciplinary performance-based artist and creator. She is a 2024–2025 Princeton Hodder Fellow, supporting the development of *Shasta Geaux Pop presents: Shasta Greaux Crops*. Her research explores applied permaculture, regenerative community and ecosystem formation, event curation, and how these processes inform and intersect with performance methodologies. Her recent works include the Gather (g)Round series. Other works include *Shasta Geaux Pop: Blended Therapy (The Shed's Up Close)* and Shasta Geaux Pop performances at The High Line, Under the Radar Festival, Amsterdam's Right About Now Festival, and La Jolla Playhouse's WOW Festival. Additional projects include *Come See My Double D's* (JACK NY), *Enter & Exit: Family Reunion*, *Enter & Exit: Playing House*, and *Living Room Dance Breaks*.

Jordan has collaborated with Charlotte Brathwaite, Justin Hicks, Jo Collura, Tuçe Yasak, and David Sainté. Acting credits include *Eclipsed* (dir. Liesl Tommy), as well as works by Eisa Davis, Aya Ogawa, Geoff Sobelle, Brandon Jacob-Jenkins, Cakeface, and Jay Scheib.

## Daniël Pando

Daniël Pando, known artistically as Daliss, is a multifaceted performer blending music, theater, and fashion into his creative identity. Currently studying at the Herman Brood Academy, he has been making music since 2020. His work is deeply influenced by early 2000s Hip Hop, R&B, Gospel, and Soul, genres that shape his distinctive sound and artistic vision.

Beyond his music career, Daliss is also a dedicated social worker and a sought-after model, having collaborated with brands such as Daily Paper, Bijenkorf, Vogue, and Go-Britain. His versatility extends to the stage, where he has performed at renowned venues like Paradiso, Tivoli, Melkweg, and 013, captivating audiences with his energy and storytelling. His breakout single, "Niet Spelen," showcases his ability to merge personal narratives with rhythm and soul. Whether through music, performance, or visual expression, Daliss is an artist ready to make a lasting impact—one song, one show, and one story at a time.

## Giovanni Pisas

Giovanni Pisas is a professional dancer and movement artist, blending urban and contemporary dance with storytelling. He graduated from the Urban/Contemporary (JMD) program at the Academy of Theatre and Dance in 2019 and has performed with companies such as Dalton Jansen Choreography, Wij Zijn Dox, Backbone, Kip Republic, and the National Black Theatre.

Known as "The Floor Philosopher" in the contemporary and hip-hop scenes, Giovanni blends breakdancing's raw power with modern dance's introspective grace. His viral freestyle routine Spin Cycle Serenade, performed in a laundromat, turned an everyday chore into an emotional journey. Currently, Giovanni is working on *The Chronicles of Pop & Flow*, a three-hour dance epic blending hip-hop and contemporary styles to explore the question: "Can you Dougie your way to inner peace?" Giovanni continues to redefine dance, merging technique with emotional expression in every performance.

## Melvin Aroma

Born and raised in Rotterdam, Melvin Aroma is a versatile performer who brings depth, emotion, and musicality to the stage. A graduate of the Drama & Contemporary Music Theatre program in Amsterdam, he has collaborated with various theater companies, continuously exploring new ways to tell stories that resonate.

# CAST

With a voice that can stir the soul, Melvin has a gift for tapping into the emotional core of a performance, fully immersing himself in the moment. Whether through spoken word, song, or movement, he creates experiences that transcend the stage, forging a deep connection with his audience. Always seeking new challenges, Melvin embraces storytelling as an evolving art form, blending theater and music to push creative boundaries. His artistry is rooted in authenticity, bringing a rich, dynamic presence to every role he embodies.

## Revé Terborg

Revé Terborg is a versatile performer, choreographer, and movement artist with a global career. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Jazz & Showmusical Dance from the Amsterdam University of the Arts in 2011, she toured internationally, collaborating with renowned choreographers like Ira Kip, Wim Vandekeybus, Keren Levi, and Nicole Beutler. Her dynamic stage presence and artistic expression have made her a prominent figure in the world of contemporary dance.

In addition to her dance career, Revé is an experienced DJ and Dance Coach, creating Energy Systema, a unique methodology that merges music and movement to uplift and transform energy. Through dance classes, immersive parties, and her DJ sets, she empowers others to reconnect with their natural energy and express their fullest potential. Her work blends artistry and empowerment, making movement a transformative tool for self-expression and personal growth.

## Rubiën Vyent

Rubiën Vyent (b. 1988, Netherlands), an artist of Surinamese heritage, is known for her versatility in acting, singing, and dancing. With formal training in performing arts and extensive hands-on experience, she has developed a distinctive style that blends emotional depth with bold storytelling.

Rubiën's work spans theater, film, and international campaigns, where she is recognized for her authentic and compelling presence. As a Movement Director and workshop facilitator, she brings a thoughtful and collaborative approach to creative projects, emphasizing connection and self-expression. Passionate about creating relatable stories, Rubiën strives to ensure that audiences can see themselves reflected in her work. Guided by her motto, "Dreams increase in value when you act on them," she is committed to turning vision into action and fostering community through art.

## Saron Tesfahuney

Saron Tesfahuney is a theatermaker, educator, and cultural artist focused on Afrocentric storytelling and community empowerment. Born in Eritrea, she arrived in the Netherlands as a refugee at 14, mastering the language and earning degrees in Social Work and Artist Educator in Theater from the University of Arts in Arnhem.

As a theatermaker, Saron challenges traditional narratives, embracing the African proverb: "Until the lion learns how to write, every story will glorify the hunter." She creates performances that reclaim silenced histories and overlooked perspectives. Her latest work reimagines the Eritrean coffee ceremony as a ritual that disrupts colonial narratives. Saron is also the co-founder of Café Liffna in Utrecht, a cultural space fostering connection, healing, and exchange. Through storytelling, ritual, and community, she blends expertise in social work, the arts, and entrepreneurship to empower others and honor African heritage.

# CREATIVE TEAM

## Ira Kip, Conceiver/Director

Ira Kip is a storyteller, theater director, and writer committed to amplifying voices from the communities she is part of. In 2011, she wrote her first play, *She Baltimore*, addressing domestic violence within the LGBTQ community. The play premiered in Baltimore before touring Washington D.C., New York, and Amsterdam. In 2015, she directed Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, staging performances in prisons and correctional facilities to foster connection and dialogue on violence against women. Continuing her exploration of gender and power dynamics, she reimaged Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* in 2017, creating *Shrew Her*, a bold reinterpretation that examined domestic violence within the LGBTQ community. In 2019, she wrote *Riot or Revolution*, a play investigating the 1969 workers' strike at the Shell company in Curaçao, reclaiming Caribbean narratives and shedding light on the intersection of labor, resistance, and colonial histories.

At her core, Ira Kip is a community builder, using theater as a space for dialogue, reflection, and transformation. She believes that as a theater artist, she carries the responsibility to engage in critical conversations and address the issues that shape our world. Her work consistently centers Black voices and represents her Caribbean roots, ensuring that the stories she tells reflect the resilience, complexity, and beauty of the communities she belongs to and holds close to her heart.

## Winston 'Winne' Bergwijn, Co-Director

Winston 'Winne' Bergwijn started rapping in English, initially under the name Static, until his friends encouraged him to rap in Dutch. With his group D.C.O., he performed at various locations in Rotterdam. In 2005, Winne suddenly became known to a wider audience when his track "Top 3 MC," produced by Kapitein Mo, was released on the internet. A few months later, the track "Pomp Die Shit!" was released on the compilation album *What's da Flavor?!*, which left its mark on the Dutch hip hop scene. In 2006, he was signed by the label TopNotch. In 2007, he released his debut EP *Onoverwinnelijk*, which included the tracks "Top 3 MC," "Pomp die Shit!" and "Begrijp me niet verkeerd." He has won the State Award in 2008 for the best music video of that year. In 2009, he followed up with his debut studio album *Winne Zonder Strijd*. The album contained the live and internet hits "W.I.N.N.E.," "Alles Wat Ik Wil" featuring GMB, and "Lotgenoot." The same year he released the compilation mixtape *So So Lobi*, in collaboration with Patta. In 2011, he was seen with Henny Vrienten of Doe Maar in an episode of *Ali B op volle toeren*.

## Ilgin Abeln, Dramaturg

Ilgin Abeln is a Dutch-Turkish theatermaker based in Amsterdam. She graduated in 2007 and has since established herself as a versatile force in the theater world—working as a theater maker, acting teacher, and dramaturg. Known for her interdisciplinary visual and site-specific performances, Ilgin collaborates with actors, musicians, physical performers, and dancers to craft immersive theatrical experiences. Her work frequently explores themes of migration, biculturalism, nationalism, and cultural identity, reflecting her deep engagement with intercultural dialogue. With an extensive international career, she has worked on projects across France, Brazil, Sudan, Curaçao, and Turkey. Ilgin's dedication to innovative storytelling and artistic exploration continues to inspire audiences and collaborators alike.

## Faizah Grootens, Choreographer

Born and raised in Curaçao, Faizah Grootens is an accomplished choreographer, dancer, and educator. A graduate of the Amsterdam School of the Arts and the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba, Faizah has collaborated with renowned organizations such as Holland Dance Festival, Korzo Theater, Het Zuidelijk Toneel, Herman van Veen, Laleget Danza (Mexico), and Taller Coreográfico Unam (Mexico).



# CREATIVE TEAM

Her work has been showcased nationally and internationally at prestigious events and venues, including Julidans, CaDance Festival, Kalamata Dance Festival, Oriente Occidente, and in theaters and museums across the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, Curaçao, Aruba, and more.

## **Nina Haanappel, Assistant Director**

Nina Haanappel, born and raised in Amsterdam, is a theater maker and educator with a passion for uncovering the hidden stories in everyday life. Her love for theater is deeply rooted in her desire to explore the untold narratives of ordinary people. She draws her greatest inspiration from the city around her—the people who live there, the fast pace of life, and the countless stories waiting to be discovered. To Nina, the city is an inexhaustible source of creative energy, where people move, interact, and love, each carrying their unique stories.

## **Amel-Che Mica Parkinson, Assistant Choreographer**

Amel-Che Mica Parkinson, 23, is a rising talent in the world of dance and choreography. As one of the choreographers for *Kings... Come Home*, Amel is making her stage debut—a milestone in her career that she describes as a great honor. Currently, in her final year of the Dance Teacher program at the Amsterdam University of the Arts, she graduated in 2021 from the Lucia Marthas Institute for Performing Arts as a versatile dancer.

A born performer with a passion for both dancing and singing, Amel has dreamed of bringing her talents to New York City. That dream will come true in 2025 when she takes her work as choreographer for *Kings... Come Home* to the iconic Apollo Theater. For Amel, the opportunity to work on this production is both thrilling and deeply fulfilling, marking the beginning of an exciting journey in her artistic career. With a combination of passion, dedication, and boundless enthusiasm, Amel looks forward to seeing what the future holds as she brings her vision to life on stage.

## **Munganyende, Writer**

Munganyende is a Kigali born author and playwright. They are a visiting Professor at ArtEZ academy of the arts, where they examine the performance of sound and culture as a mode of knowledge production. Munganyende is a writer of poetry, fiction and non-fiction and organizes womanist interventions that center the perspectives of Black women and refugee daughters using literature, performance art and visual culture. She served as the chairwoman of the photography prize at the National museum for Photography. Her work has received numerous accolades, including the Unesco Prize for Literature. She was named amongst VOGUE's Voices for change.

Munganyende has participated in residencies in Cape Town (The Zanele Muholi Institute) and currently Dakar (KENU). In 2024 they were part of the LOATAD Black Atlantic residency program in Accra. Munganyende practices between Dakar and Amsterdam. Her debut novel will be published by Pluim Publishers.

## **Veronique Efomi, Writer**

Veronique Efomi is a poet, writer, and songwriter whose work delves into themes of freedom, vulnerability, relationships, and transience. Nominated for the Gelderse Bokaal in 2023 by Het Cultuurfonds, she has made a significant impact on the cultural scene. In 2024, she released her third album, *Herder*, blending poetry and music.

# CREATIVE TEAM

Veronique's creations, often true stories with unexpected twists and layers of meaning, merge words and sound to create immersive experiences. Her albums are "musical poetry collections" that engage multiple senses and encourage reflection. Veronique is also a published author, with her debut book, *Rijker Dan De Koning*, a collection of autobiographical stories and poems written in a contemporary, flowing rhythm. Through her work, Veronique crafts narratives that challenge, move, and inspire.

## Smita James, Writer

Smita James (born 1983, Nijkerk, The Netherlands) is a Surinamese-Dutch writer, poet, and performance artist. Since 2002, she has performed on notable stages like Re-definition and Poetry International, emerging from the Dutch underground spoken word scene. Her work explores identity, metaphysics, and the Afro- and Indo-Caribbean diaspora. Smita has contributed to several publications, including *Hardop* and *Atlas of Remembrance*. She also collaborates with artists across disciplines, creating interdisciplinary art in the form of music, theater, dance, and film.

As a Poetic Designer, Smita uses her texts as a foundation for audiovisual art installations, voice-overs, music, theater, dance, and film. Her work continuously expands the possibilities of poetic storytelling, blending tradition with innovation to challenge and inspire.

## Neldrick Martis, Sound Designer

A multidisciplinary creative with over 20 years of experience in the music industry. A graduate of HKU in Sound Design, he specialises in production, mixing, and mastering, delivering high-quality sound tailored for both artists and brands. Beyond music, Neldrick has built a successful career as a photographer and videographer, working with global brands. His international touring experience as a MC with TUJAMO—one of Germany's most prominent EDM exports—has further refined his ability to create impactful moments for a global audience. His unique advantage lies in seamlessly integrating audio and visuals. He understands what works and how to make it stand out.

## Earlnaël Bitoria, Lighting Designer

Earlnaël Bitoria is a passionate lighting technician and designer with a deep love for crafting immersive visual experiences in theater, film, and live events. With expertise in both technical execution and artistic design, Earlnaël has worked on a diverse range of productions, bringing stories to life through innovative lighting concepts and precise execution. Whether designing dramatic stage atmospheres or enhancing cinematic visuals, Earlnaël's keen eye for detail and dedication to the craft ensure each production shines at its best.

## Eddy van der Laan, Scenographer

Eddy van der Laan, a standout graduate of the Utrecht School of the Arts (2005), is a leading designer in costume, stage, and lighting. He rose to fame as part of the celebrated duo Clement & Sanôu and made a splash at the Dutch National Opera and Ballet with "Waiting for Miss Monroe." In 2020, he launched Atelier Clement for solo projects. His impressive collaborations and exhibition designs at venues like the Van Gogh Museum highlight his creativity. Eddy also innovates sustainable living with Rotor Home, featuring stylish tiny houses.

## Esmeralda Tan, Costume Designer

Esmeralda Tan is an accomplished costume designer and stylist from Amsterdam, celebrated for her editorial storytelling and minimalist styling. Her work, influenced by her Dutch mother and Surinamese father, explores cultural identity and expression.

# CREATIVE TEAM

A strong advocate for inclusivity, Esmeralda mentors young talents and champions equality in the creative industry. As a costume designer she enhances visual storytelling in theater, crafting costumes that elevate the narrative and emotional experience. Her work uniquely blends personal narratives with cultural relevance, continuously pushing creative boundaries.

## **Lynnée Denise, Music and Cultural Curation**

Lynnée Denise's work reflects underground cultural movements, the 1980s, migration studies, theories of escape, and electronic music of the African Diaspora. Denise coined the phrase "DJ Scholarship" to re-position the role of the DJ from a party purveyor to an archivist, cultural custodian, and information specialist of music with critical value. Through interactive workshops, lectures, and presentations at universities, conferences, and performance venues, Denise harnesses music as a medium for vital public dialogue on how to transform how music of the Black Atlantic is understood in its social context and beyond entertainment. Denise lives and works between Amsterdam and London.

## **Michael Lampe, Composer**

Michael Lampe, also known as Fellow, is a visionary composer from Aruba whose work bridges tradition and innovation. Drawing from his Caribbean roots, Michael crafts immersive soundscapes that blend folkloric rhythms with contemporary elements, creating a unique voice that defies conventional genres. Known for his ability to evoke deep emotion and tell compelling stories through music, his compositions reflect a rich tapestry of culture, identity, and exploration. Whether for theater, film, or standalone works, Michael's music resonates with a timeless and transformative energy.

# NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE

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# KIP RE PUB LIC

Founded by Ira Kip and Ayra Kip, KIP Republic is an Amsterdam-based, internationally operating creative agency dedicated to storytelling through the production and curation of cultural art projects and events. By fostering conversation, critical analysis, and community building, the agency creates work that spans multiple artistic disciplines, with a strong focus on cultural identity, heritage, and history. Collaborating with artists, cultural leaders, and change-makers, KIP Republic pushes the boundaries of creative expression and social impact.

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# APOLLO

The legendary Apollo—the performing arts center and soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging artists and launching legends. Since its founding, The Apollo has served as a center of innovation and a creative catalyst for Harlem, the city of New York, and the world. In 2024, The Apollo opened The Apollo Stages at the Victoria, marking the first ever expansion of The Apollo in its 90-year history.

Since introducing the first Amateur Night contests in 1934, The Apollo has served as a testing ground for new artists working across a variety of art forms and has ushered in the emergence of many new musical genres. Among the countless legendary performers who launched their careers at The Apollo are Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Luther Vandross, H.E.R. D'Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Jazmine Sullivan, Machine Gun Kelly, and Miri Ben Ari; and The Apollo's forward-looking artistic vision continues to build on this legacy.

For more information about The Apollo, visit [www.ApolloTheater.org](http://www.ApolloTheater.org).

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# APOLLO

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# APOLLO

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**Rebecca Cutino**, Production Supervisor

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# NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP

NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP empowers visionary artists and brings their work to adventurous audiences through productions, workshops and education and community engagement programs. We've produced more than 190 projects from artists whose work has shaped our very idea of what theatre can be, including Jonathan Larson's *Rent*; Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul*; Doug Wright's *Quills*; Claudia Shear's *Dirty Blonde*; Rick Elice's *Peter and the Starcatcher*; Glen Hansard, Markéta Irglová and Enda Walsh's *Once*; and David Bowie and Enda Walsh's *Lazarus*. Enabling our artists to push boundaries generates work like Nathan Alan Davis's Nat Turner in Jerusalem, Anaïs Michell's *Hadestown*, Mfoniso Udofia's *Ufot Family Cycle*, Heidi Schreck's *What the Constitution Means to Me*, Jeremy O. Harris's *Slave Play*, Kristina Wong's *Kristina Wong, Seatshop Overlord* and Moisés Kaufman and Amanda Gronich's *Here There Are Blueberries*. NYTW productions have received a Pulitzer Prize, 29 Tony Awards, 2 Grammy Awards and numerous Obie, Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Awards. Visit [NYTW.org](http://NYTW.org) for more!

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DRAMATURGICAL DECK

# royalty

THE POWER OF COMING HOME

*sovereignty*  
(noun) Freedom from external control.

*culture*  
(noun) Culture is a concept that encompasses the social behavior, institutions, and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities, attitudes, and habits of the individuals in these groups. Culture often originates from or is attributed to a specific region or location.

*immigrant*  
(noun) Immigration is the international movement of people to a destination country of which they are not usual residents or where they do not possess nationality in order to settle as permanent residents.

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE  
DRAMATURGICAL DECK**

*motherland*  
(noun) a country regarded as a place of origin for a person or group of people.

*migrant*  
(noun) Migrants are considered temporary residents often individuals who move from their homes but can either stay within the borders of their home countries or migrate internationally.

**NATIONAL  
BLACK  
THEATRE**

24/25 THEATRICAL SEASON  
**THE PILGRIMAGE**  
*A Journey Back Home*

# MORE ON NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE

**NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE** (NBT) is a Tony Award-winning and Emmy Award-nominated institution founded in 1968 by the late visionary artist Dr. Barbara Ann Teer. The nation's first revenue-generating Black arts complex, NBT is the longest-running Black theatre in New York City, one of the oldest theatres founded and consistently operated by a woman of color in the nation, and has been included in the permanent collection of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. NBT's core mission is to produce transformational theatre that helps to shift the inaccuracies around African Americans' cultural identity by telling authentic stories of Black lives. As an alternative learning environment, NBT uses theatre arts as a means to educate, enrich, entertain, empower and inform the national conscience around current social issues impacting our communities.

Under the leadership of Sade Lythcott, CEO, and Jonathan McCrory, Executive Artistic Director, NBT helps re-shape a more inclusive American theatre field by providing an artistically rigorous and culturally sensitive space for artists of color to experiment, develop and present new work. NBT has worked with trailblazing artists from Nona Hendryx to Jeremy O. Harris, and most recently, has helped launch the careers of Dominique Morisseau, Radha Blank, Mfoniso Udofia, Saheem Ali, Lee Edward Colston II, and Ebony Noelle Golden.



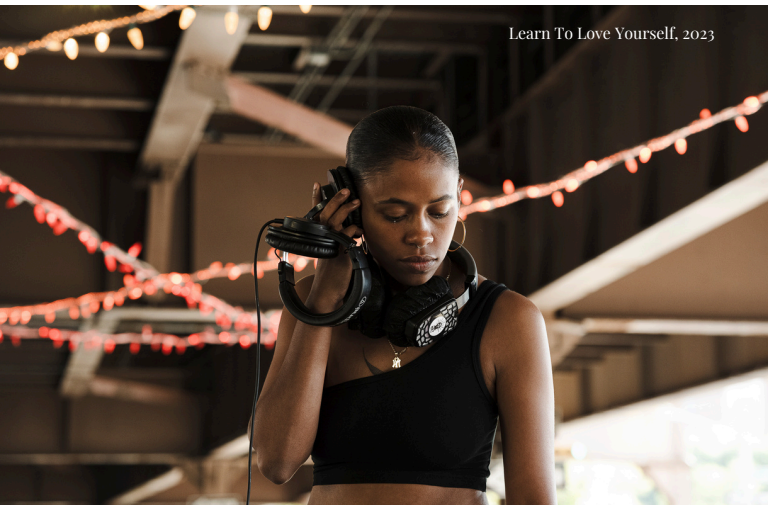
# MORE ON NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE

NBT's cultural production remains unparalleled as they incubated Obie Award-winning companies like The Movement Theatre Company and Harlem's 48 Hours. NBT welcomes more than 90,000 visitors annually, has produced 300+ original works, has won countless awards such as 2 Obie awards, 58 AUDELCO Awards, and a CEBA Award of Merit, and has been nominated for multiple Drama Desk awards. Located in the heart of Harlem, NBT is embarking on a historic major capital redevelopment project that will transform the current property into a 21st-century destination for Black culture through theatre.

NBT is supported by grants from Booth Ferris Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Ford Foundation, New York Community Trust, Shubert Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation, City Council of New York, City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and private donations.

**Follow NBT on Facebook ([@NationalBlackTheatre](#)) and Instagram ([@NatBlackTheatre](#)).**

Learn To Love Yourself, 2023



National Black Theatre's programs are made possible by our brilliant funders:



## **NBT Additional Institutional Funding**

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