



SOLA BAMIS: THE TUTORIAL PART III:  
THE STRANGE FRUIT LEMON TONER

APRIL 21 - 23, 2022

8:30pm

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

*We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.*

# SOLA BAMIS: THE TUTORIAL PART III: THE STRANGE FRUIT LEMON TONER

Written and Performed by Sola Bamis  
Directed by Ebony LikeDat Toliver  
Lighting Design by Chu-Hsuan Chang  
Music and Sound Design by Stephen Chesley  
Videography by Barbara Joas, Travone Evans  
Video Editing by Sola Bamis, Travone Evans  
Video Design by Sola Bamis  
Performance Coach: Eric B. Anthony  
Produced by Sola Bamis, Erin Washington  
By Still Brave Productions

Special thanks to to the ancestors, the bamishigbins, the okes, STILL BRAVE, toni morrison, lauryn hill, swv, chaka khan, mary j blige, secrett, iyanla vanzant, redcat, and especially sula

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

Part social media livestream event, film/video installation, solo performance, and theater piece, *The Tutorial* is an irreverent and heartfelt original work that deconstructs and reimagines Toni Morrison's first novel, *The Bluest Eye*. The work explores the idea of the self and the other while providing a digital litany for Black women's survival in the face of Neoliberalism, Big Tech, Hollywood colorism, xenophobia, and cultural genocide. Sola's multi-step skincare tutorial serves as an allegory to the processes of dehumanization that Black and Third World Women have faced, with the third step exploring the effects of Jim Crow on our psyche.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Sola Bamis** is an actress, writer, performance artist, and filmmaker committed to high-quality artmaking across media platforms. She also serves as the founder of Still Brave Productions, an entertainment production cooperative that specializes in the development, production, and curation of culturally enlightening projects for a global audience. Sola received her BA in Chemistry from the University of Miami and MFA in Acting from the California Institute of the Arts. She earned a SAG Award Nomination for Outstanding Performance By An Ensemble in a Drama Series for her work as Shirley on the final season of *Mad Men*, and appeared as Afeni Shakur, former Black Panther

Party member and mother of rapper, actor, and artist Tupac Shakur, in USA Network's *Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and Notorious B.I.G.* She has worked on the regional theatre world premieres of *Office Hour* by Julia Cho and *Legacy Land* by Stacey Rose, performed in countless readings of plays, and has also lent her voice talents to several video games and radio and television commercials.

Sola's filmmaking debut, *The Event*, shot in Nigeria, was an official selection of the 2018 BlackStar and San Francisco Black Film Festivals, and the script for her next project *Crocodile* placed finalist and semifinalist in the 2018 Film Daily Screenwriting and Atlanta Film Festival Screenplay Competitions. She has also written and presented her one-woman show *The Tutorial*, a multi-part solo piece and social media installation that incorporates the magic of transformative storytelling, performance art, and Revolutionary Theater to deliver a 28-day regimen for improved complexion, an explosive critique of Hollywood colorism, and a vital prescription for blk womyn's self-love and expression. Ms. Bamis produced and organized the Still Brave Short Film Showcase at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA as an opportunity for blk women to present their short film projects and discuss their work, processes, and identities as blk women filmmakers. Right now, she's somewhere in Los Angeles working on *The Tutorial*, developing projects for Still Brave, and reminding folks that yes, blac lives do still matter (she/we/ours).

Hailing from the DMV, **Ebony LikeDat Toliver** now resides in Los Angeles. For over seven years she has performed stand up comedy all over the country. She recently founded her production company, LikeDat Productions, to provide a platform for artists and entertainers from marginalized groups, mainly focusing on producing shows highlighting the talents of black women and members of the LGBTQ community.

**Stephen Chesley** is a singer, songwriter, sound designer, and storyteller from Maryland. His primary focus is artistic expression through sound and collaboration across discipline. Stephen is based out of Los Angeles and is currently a Music Coordinator at Paramount.

#### REDCAT TECHNICAL STAFF

Technical Director: Bill Ballou  
Ass. TD, Sound and Video: Pete Pace  
Ass. TD, Lighting Director: Chu-Hsuan Chang  
Lighting Programmer: Rachele Ekstrand

Deck: Jerrel Milan  
Stage Manager: Sarah Dawn Lowry  
Camera Operator: Emory Royston

## UPCOMING AT REDCAT

**Mark-n-Sparks: *The Most Beautiful Home...Maybe***

May 19 - 21, 2022

There is a mounting need for solutions to our national housing crises. Can art help us meet these challenges? *The Most Beautiful Home... Maybe* offers a nerdy and raucous vision for guaranteed housing. Hosted by chanteuse Zébra (a zebra), this multimedia, immersive performance juxtaposes housing data, Lyndon B. Johnson, and torch songs while time traveling through stories of Americans facing home insecurity, past and present. This interactive experience takes audiences on a fantastic sensurround journey to envision a future where everyone has a home. Created by Mark-n-Sparks (ashley sparks and Mark Valdez) and produced by the Mixed Blood Theatre of Minneapolis, *The Most Beautiful Home...Maybe* grew from conversations with housing advocates, activists, developers, government workers, renters, and people facing home insecurity. This performance is part of a multi-year, multi-platform experiment by Mark-n-Sparks to influence housing policy through art and dialogue.



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