

CARL HANCOCK RUX: *POESIA NEGRA*

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California Institute of the Arts

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CARL HANCOCK RUX: POESIA NEGRA

Written by Carl Hancock Rux

Featuring Carl Hancock Rux, Gina Belafonte & Deborah Joy Winans

Directed by Carl Hancock Rux (with Maureen Huskey)

Carl Hancock Rux is a published poet, essayist, novelist and playwright. His plays and performance works for theater have been produced and or commissioned throughout the United States and internationally at venues including The Joseph Papp Public Theater, the Robert E. Fischer Center for the Performing Arts, PS 122, the Kitchen, HERE Arts Center, New Victory Theater, Lincoln center (Serious Fun & Outdoors Festival), Aaron Davis Hall, the BAM Harvey Theater (Next Wave Festival), REDCAT (Los Angeles), Mass MOCA (Mass.), the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas (Seattle, Washington), Theater X (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), University of Ghana at Legon (West Africa), Ebenezer Experimental Theater Festival (Sweden) Maison des Arts (Creteil, France), and the Victoria Theater (Singapore) among others. Plays include *Geneva Cottrell*, *Waiting for the Dog to Die*, *Mycenaeon*, *Chapter & Verse*, *The No Black Male Show*, *Smoke*, *Lilies & Jade*, *Singing In the Womb of Angels*, *Yanga*, *Song of Sad Young Men* and the libretto for two operas: *The Blackamoor Angel* and *Makandal*.

As a radio journalist he has been a guest commentator on WNYC and for XM radio's *The Bob Edward's Show*, as well as co-writer and host of National Public Radio's *Walt Whitman: Songs of Myself*, winner of the New York Press Club Journalism Award for Entertainment News. As a recording artist he has recorded three cd's: *Rux Revue* (Sony 550), *Apothecary Rx (Giant Step)* and *Good Bread Alley* ("Thirsty Ear").

Rux is the subject of *Carl Hancock Rux, Coming of Age*, (Larry Clamage/Richard Maniscalco for Voice of America) recipient of the CINE Golden Eagle award for television documentary. Carl Hancock Rux has written for (and performed with) several dance companies including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Urban Bush Women, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co., Jane Comfort & Co., and created the title role in the Robert Wilson/Bernice Johnson Reagon opera *The Temptation of Saint Anthony* which had its world premiere at the Paris Opera (Garnier).

Mr. Rux is the recipient of the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts Prize, and the Besie Schomburg Award, the Village Voice Literary Prize, Fresh Poet Award, National Endowment for the Arts/Theater Communication Group Playwright in Residence fellowship, NEA Leadership Initiatives Meet the Composer Grant, the Kitchen Theater Artist Award, Rockefeller Map grant, Creative Capital Artist grant, New York Foundation for the Arts Gregory Millard fellowship, NYFA Prize, Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) Arts & Artists in Progress Award and was short-listed for the United Artist Fellowship. He is the author of the Village Voice Literary prize winning collection of poetry *Pagan Operetta* (Fly By Night Press/ Autonomedia), the novel *Asphalt* (Simon & Schuster) and the OBIE award winning play *Talk* (TCG). He is currently completing a book of essays, *Emancipation Day: The Forgotten History of African American New York* and a novel, *Prolapsis*. Mr. Rux is the former Head of the Writing for Performing Dept. at CalArts (2006-09); taught at University of Iowa (MFA Creative Writing) and is currently teaching at Brown University.

Born and raised in New York City, **Gina Belafonte** (Woman) is a graduate of Fine Arts from the State University of New York College at Purchase. She enjoys a career as an actress, producer, and documentary film maker. Gina had the great fortune to travel internationally at a young age, setting the stage for her dedication to all human beings and defending their inherent right to justice. She has been residing in Los Angeles for 20 years where she is a devoted wife, mother and active member of many significant community-based endeavors, volunteering and supporting in an executive capacity for social causes, urban organizations, youth foundations and a host of civic responsibilities. This marks her second production with Carl and she is excited to be working with him again.

Deborah Joy Winans (Woman) received her BA from Wayne State University where she appeared at the Bonstelle Theater in a production of *Adventures of A Black Girl In Search of God* directed by Aku Godogo. She studied acting with the Bolshoi Russian Theater Company in Moscow and recently received her MFA in the acting program at CalArts where she worked with directors Laurie Carlos and Carl Hancock Rux. She is proud to be making her professional theatrical debut at REDCAT.

Maureen Huskey (co-director) is an award-winning theater director based in Los Angeles since 2007. Her work reflects a strong commitment to pursuing a wide range of material, performance styles, cross-disciplinary collaborations, and audience-performer relationships. Huskey's work with Red Dive earned her a Bessie Award and her original theater projects in New York have been supported by numerous foundations and residencies including the Jerome Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, New Dance Alliance, The Brooklyn Arts Exchange and the New York State Council for the Arts, among others. Her directing and collaborative work with dancers and performance artists has been presented throughout New York as well as festivals in Chicago, San Francisco and Vienna, Austria. She has taught at several colleges and universities, holds an MFA in theater directing from California Institute of the Arts, a B.A. from Western State College in Colorado, and as a Rotary Fellow she received a Diploma with Merit in Drama from the University of Kent at Canterbury in England.

Pablo N. Molina (Production Design) is a Los Angeles and NYC based video, lighting and sound artist who specializes in the experimental exploration of interactive media constructs in live performances and installations, custom software development, and in finding creative uses for emerging technologies. During the last year he collaborated with Bob Bonniol on the design of a large scale interactive video installation piece for the new headquarters of Microsoft's Entertainment and Devices Division in Redmond, and with Lars Jan on the groundbreaking development of *[AB] [AC] [US] The New Presentation* at The Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media & Performing Arts Center. His recent animated video content is prominently featured in Linkin Park, Nickelback, and Creed's world concert tours. He has contributed his multidisciplinary skills to many theatrical, music, and dance works performed at prominent venues such as EMPAC, REDCAT, BAM, PICA, The Wexner Center, COSI, The Hangar Theater, Beta Level, and the Katmandu International Theater Festival. He is a founding member of the Mira Kingsley led Yes Tiger Collective and an associate artist with MODE Studios in Seattle and Early Morning Opera in Los Angeles. Pablo serves on the faculty for the new Video for Performance MFA specialization at the California Institute of the Arts.

Christian Epps (Lighting Design) is an award winning lighting designer working in the fields of theater, major motion pictures, broadcast television, music videos and special events. Theatre credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Tambourines to Glory* among others. Film credits include work for directors Spike Lee, Hype Williams, and Nick Castle on numerous films including *Belly*, *Girl 6*, *Clockers*, *Crooklyn*, *X*, *Mo' Better Blues*, Music video credits include lighting design for Michael Jackson, P. Diddy, Notorious B.I.G., Whitney Houston, Queen Latifah, Branford Marsalis, Me'Shell N'degeocello, and many others, among others. Television credits include *President Clinton Live at the White House*, *United Jewish Community Hosts Al Gore*, the Centennial Olympic Games, The Black Movie Awards, John Leguizamo's *Freak* (live on Broadway) for HBO; *The Stellar Awards*, *Man Made Movie* and *The Source Awards* for Turner Broadcasting System; *106 Park*, *Comic View* for Black Entertainment Television; and Jamie Foxx's *Laffapalooza* and *The Tom Joyner Show* for Showtime. He has also been commissioned to work with Nike, McDonald's, Sprite, among others and had lit numerous events at the Carnegie Hall, the Kodak Theater, the Kennedy Center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Apollo and the White House as well as on theaters in eight countries and three continents. He is a graduate in lighting design from Howard University (B.A.) and was awarded a scholarship in Lighting Design at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Mr. Epps is the recipient of the 2007 LA Drama Critics Circle Career Achievement award, the 2009 Backstage West Award, and the 2009 NAACP Theater Award.

Graham Parker (Add'l. Video Editing) is a conceptual artist/writer born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1970. He studied at Manchester University and is also an alumni of both the studio, architecture and urbanism programs of the Whitney Museum ISP. He is director of floating ip (formerly a project space in Manchester, UK and recently an occasional imprint operating from New York). He has written for *Art Monthly*, *Time Out New York*, *Contemporary*, *Art Review*,

New Theatre Quarterly, *Circa*, and *Springerin*. Parker has contributed numerous monograph essays and commentaries for other artists and institutions ranging from PS1 to the Tate Gallery group.

Berlin Alexanderplatz (Music) is a DJ from Oberhausen, Germany. He has toured throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia and Africa. Production credits and remixes include: Lauryn Hill, Max Richter, Carl Hancock Rux, Joni Mitchell, KRS-1 and Lady Gaga. He lives in Amsterdam.

*Song credit; *Don't Go to Strangers*, written by Redd Evans, Arthur Kent, Dave Mann, ©1954, EMI Music Publishing.

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Portrait of Jason (dir. by Shirley Clarke, 1968) shown by permission, all rights reserved;

James Baldwin: Nobody Knows My Name (1989) shown by permission, all rights reserved;

The Quiet One (1948) directed by Sidney Meyers (1948) shown by permission, all rights reserved

Poesia Negra contains portions of texts initially presented at The Kitchen in New York (as *Pagan Operetta*, written by Carl Hancock Rux, directed by Talvin Wilks); further developed at the Penumbra Theater in St. Paul, Minn. with additional staging by Carl Hancock Rux and dramaturgy by Laurie Carlos; presented at the Joseph Papp Public Theater/ Joe's Pub and a national tour by the Foundry Theatre (as *The No Black Male Show*, written & directed by Carl Hancock Rux with lighting by James Overstreet, slide installation by Felicia Megginson, staging movement by Valerie Winbourne, and original music by Helga Davis and Jason Finkelman).

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For more information visit www.carlhancockrux.com

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