



REDCAT

**MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH/THE LIVING
WORD PROJECT**

RED, BLACK & GREEN: A BLUES

JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 3, 2013

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH/THE LIVING WORD PROJECT

RED, BLACK & GREEN: A BLUES

Created by Marc Bamuthi Joseph/The Living Word Project

Directed by Michael John Garcés

Set/Installation Concept and Design by Theaster Gates

Produced by MAPP International Productions

Media Design by David Szlasa

Lighting Design by James Clotfelter

Choreography by Stacey Printz

Documentary Films by Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi

Music composed by Tommy Shepherd aka Emcee Soulati

Costume Design by Mai-Lei Pecorari

Sound Design and Production Management by Gregory T. Kuhn

Lighting and Stage Management by Matthew E. Jones

Photography by Bethanie Hines

Performed by: Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Traci Tolmaire, Tommy Shepherd aka Emcee Soulati, and Yaw

FUNDING CREDITS

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red, black & GREEN: a blues is co-commissioned by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at University of Houston, Walker Art Center, and Lehigh University. It is also commissioned by The America Project, a program of MAPP International Productions with support from The Ford Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

red, black & GREEN: a blues is also made possible by the Contemporary Art Centers (CAC) network, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), with major support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. CAC is comprised of leading art centers and brings together performing arts curators to support collaboration and work across disciplines, and is an initiative of NEFA's National Dance Project.

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The author wishes to dedicate this piece to Kanoelani Connor and Hodari Davis. Love is life, and life is living..

BIOGRAPHIES

Marc Bamuthi Joseph (Creator and Performer) is one of America's vital voices in performance, arts education, and artistic curation. In the Fall of 2007, Bamuthi graced the cover of Smithsonian Magazine after being named one of America's Top Young Innovators in the Arts and Sciences. He is the artistic director of the 7-part HBO documentary "Russell Simmons presents Brave New Voices" and an inaugural recipient of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship, which annually recognizes 50 of the country's "greatest living artists". He is the 2011 Alpert Award winner in Theater and in April 2012, he was one of 21 artists to be named to the inaugural class of Doris Duke Artists. He currently serves as Director of Performing Arts at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

After appearing on Broadway as a young actor, Joseph has developed several poetically based works for the stage that have toured across the U.S., Europe, and Africa. These include *Word Becomes Flesh*, *Scourge*, and *the break/s*, which co-premiered at the Humana Festival of New American Plays and the Walker Arts Center in the spring of 2008. Joseph's *Word Becomes Flesh* was re-mounted in December 2010 as part of the National Endowment for the Arts' "American Masterpieces" initiative, and will tour throughout North America and Hawaii through 2013. In addition, Joseph wrote the commissioned libretto, *Home in 7* for the Atlanta Ballet in 2011, and directed Dennis Kim's *Tree City Legends* at Intersection for the Arts in 2012.

A gifted and nationally acclaimed educator and essayist, he has lectured at more than 200 colleges and universities, been a popular commentator on National Public Radio, and has carried adjunct professorships at Stanford University, Lehigh University, Mills College, and the University of Wisconsin. He is Artistic Director Emeritus of Youth Speaks, where he mentored young writers and curated the Living Word Festival and Left Coast Leaning, and co-founder of Life is Living, a national series of one day festivals designed to activate under-resourced parks and affirm peaceful urban life through hip hop arts and focused environmental action. His proudest work is with his family, raising his two children and spoiling two dogs with his incredible wife in Oakland, California. twitter.com/bamuthi

COLLABORATORS

Michael John Garcés (Director) is the artistic director of Cornerstone Theater Company, a community-engaged ensemble in Los Angeles where he most recently directed *Café Vida* by Lisa Loomer, created in residence with Homeboy Industries. He is very pleased to be continuing the collaboration with Bamuthi which began with *the break/s*. Other recent directing credits include, *Oedipus El Rey* by Luis Alfaro at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, where he is a company member and the 10th anniversary production of *N.E. 2nd Ave* by Teo Castellanos at the Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Other theatres at which he has directed include A Contemporary Theatre, The Humana Festival, The Guthrie Theatre, The Children's Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, Hartford Stage, Second Stage, INTAR, The Cherry Lane, The Atlantic Theater Company and Repertorio Español. For Cornerstone he also wrote *Los Illegals*, created in collaboration with communities of day laborers and domestic workers, and which was published in *Theatre Magazine* (Yale School of Drama/Duke University Press). Garcés is a recipient of the Princess Grace Statue, the Alan Schneider Director Award, and a TCG/New Generations Grant, and an alumnus of New Dramatists.

Theaster Gates (Set/Installation Designer) is a Chicago-based artist whose practice covers performance and installation, urban planning, and the traditional fine arts. His multi-platform work opens up challenging issues by presenting them, not as acute encounters, but as invitations to engage hard information creatively. Many of his works reuse deconstructed materials from formerly abandoned buildings on Chicago's south side, encouraging people to see these discarded materials not only in the light of Modernist Art, but to reflect on cultural traditions that depend on scrap for survival. Recent performances, installations, and exhibits include *The Listening Room* (Seattle

Art Museum), and *An Epitaph for Civil Rights* (LAMOCA, Los Angeles) and *Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art* (Smart Museum of Art, Chicago). His work is currently featured in *40 Under 40* (Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.). Gates received an interdisciplinary Master's in Urban Planning, Ceramics, and Religious Studies from Iowa State University in 2006. He is currently Director of Arts and Public Life and Artist in Residence at the University of Chicago.

David Szlasa (Media Designer) is a video artist, curator and producer. He is the recipient of the Gerbode Award, Future Aesthetics Artist Award, and Lighting Artists in Dance Award for innovative use of video in performance. In his solo work and projects in collaboration, Szlasa creates investigative art to deconstruct and reconstruct popular narrative. Collaborators include Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Joanna Haigood, Rennie Harris, Hope Mohr, Deb Margolin, Bill Shannon, Michael John Garcés, Sara Shelton Mann, and others. His work has been exhibited in theaters and galleries worldwide including Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the Walker Art Center, MCA Chicago, the de Young Museum, The Humana Festival, Sydney Opera House, Oakland Art Gallery, Harare International Festival of the Arts, and TSeKh Moscow. davidszlasa.com

James Clotfelter (Lighting Designer) is committed to the creation of collaborative and socially conscious work for theatre and dance. Beginning in 2005, his continued collaborations with Marc Bamuthi Joseph have helped inspire the pursuit of a performance style that can be sustained outside of the traditional venue. He is an Artistic Associate with Pig Iron Theatre Company, the Resident Lighting Designer and Production Manager for Miller Rothlein, and co-founder of the design laboratory, Mlab, which has realized numerous production designs specifically tailored for efficient and sustainable touring. Recent collaborations include work with John Jasperse, Rennie Harris, Johannes Wieland, Sara Shelton Mann, Bill Shannon, Thaddeus Phillips, Rainpan 43, and eighth blackbird. James is currently pursuing an MFA in Transdisciplinary Design at Parsons The New School for Design. jclld.net

Stacey Printz (Choreographer) is artistic director of the Printz Dance Project (PDP). PDP has performed extensively in California and has toured all over the U.S., and internationally in Lithuania, Russia and Ireland. Printz has been commissioned to choreograph for many companies in California and has received awards from the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the W&F Hewlett Foundation and Fort Mason Foundation and more. Printz received sociology and dance degrees from UC Irvine. In addition to teaching at LINES Dance Center, she has been on faculty at St. Mary's College and Sonoma State University. She has taught master classes and workshops across the United States, as well as internationally in Switzerland, Italy, Amsterdam, Belgium, Russia, Lithuania and Ireland. Highly interested in collaborative experiences, Printz had the pleasure of working with Marc Bamuthi Joseph on *Scourge* and *the break/s*. printzdance.org

Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi (Documentary Filmmaker) is a film director who has made his mark in the international documentary scene. A graduate of UC Berkeley, he received his MA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Before graduation, he won the prestigious juried Student Filmmaker Award from the Pan-African Film Festival for his documentary *Inventos: Hip Hop Cubano*. In his second film *HomeGrown: Hip Life in Ghana*, he continued the theme of using music to provide insights to culture and socio/political issues. Currently Jacobs-Fantauzzi's travels have taken him to Medellin, Colombia to work on his latest project, *Revolucion Sin Muertos (Revolution Without Death)* following youth in Comuna 13, Medellin, who are using Hip Hop to grow a Peace Movement. While working on his films he also teaches video production at Castlemont High School in East Oakland and has spent the last three summers working with the youth of Belize. Recently, Jacobs-Fantauzzi was awarded a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts for a series entitled "Breaking the Paradigm: The Reciprocal Relationship Between Traditional Cultural Artforms and Contemporary Hip Hop" and he also curates the annual Fist Up Film Festival. His dedication to craft is deeply connected to his commitment to social justice. FistUp.Tv

Tommy Shepherd (Composer & Performer) aka Emcee Soulati, is an actor, playwright, composer, educator, b-boy, rapper, drummer, and beatboxer. Tommy is co-founder of the live hip hop collective, Felonious: onelovehiphop, a resident company at Intersection for the Arts. Shepherd created the original music and performed in their recent project *Angry Black White Boy*. Shepherd is a Hybrid Resident Artist at Intersection, a member of Campo Santo, and a performer with Erika Chong Shuch's ESP project. He acted in and created the score for *Nobody Move* and *Hamlet: Blood in the Brain* by Naomi Iizuka; and created the sound design and score with Howard Wiley for *A Place To Stand*. He also acted, beatboxed, and composed a live score with Scheherazade Stone for *Domino* by Campo Santo. In 2007 he created and performed his first one act solo, *The MF in ME*. Shepherd was a commissioned artist, co-creator and performer of *Raw Dios* for headrush crew, which toured Berkeley, Denver and to the famed El Teatro Campesino in San Juan Bautista. Shepherd has performed and toured internationally with Marc Bamuthi Joseph, collaborating on *Scourge* and *the break/s*.

Traci Tolmaire (Performer) is an actor, dancer, and singer from Chicago. Her training in theatre arts and dance include a BA in Theatre from Spelman College, theatrical studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and dance training at Sammy Dyer School of Theatre (Chicago), Joel Hall Dance Center, Lou Conte/Hubbard Street Dance Company, and classes with master teachers Katherine Dunham and Savion Glover. Her theatrical credits include *Anansi the Spider* (Marin Theatre Company); *Rejoice!* (Lorraine Hansberry Theatre); *IPH...* a translation of Iphigeneia at Aulis by Euripides (Brava Theater/African-American Shakespeare Company); *In the Wake* by Lisa Kron (understudy, Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *Mirrors In Every Corner* directed by Marc Bamuthi Joseph (Intersection for the Arts/Campo Santo); Susan Lori Parks' *365 Days/365 Plays* series (Hartford Stage Company); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor*

Dreamcoat (Fulton Opera House); and *Trouble in Mind* (Actor's Express). Tolmaire also worked as choreographer for Hartford Stage Company's production of *Gee's Bend*, Connecticut Critics Circle award winner for best ensemble, and *Rejoice!* a holiday musical at Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. She is currently pursuing her artistic career in New York. tracitolmaire.com

Yaw (Performer) has performed on both theatrical and musical stages. As an actor Yaw (pronounced YOWW) has had the privilege to work with such prolific playwrights as Ntozake Shange, Paul Carter Harrison and Robert O'Hara. In music Yaw has shared the stage with the likes of Stevie Wonder, Roy Ayers, Floetry, Jaguar Wright, Kindred, Amel Larrieux and has backed up Eric Roberson and Liz Fields in several concerts. He is most recognized as the young singer who recently appeared as a feature on VH1's *Soul Cities*, a show produced by Nelson George that showcases singers in cities all over the country. Currently he is featured on Eric Roberson's latest album, *Mister Nice Guy*.

Mai-Lei Pecorari (Costume Designer) is an independent costume designer and wardrobe stylist based in San Francisco and New York. She began her career as a designer while attending college at the University of Florida, where she received a BA in Costume Design. From there, she designed shows with Jomandi Productions and worked with neighboring theaters such as Virginia's Mill Mountain Theater. These projects granted her the opportunity to work with a range of talented artists, such as choreographer Moustapha Bangoura of the Guinean Ballets, Chuck Davis, artistic director of *DanceAfrica*, and Marc Bamuthi Joseph on *Scourge*. Since her move to the west coast, she has gained valuable experience as a costumer on film and video sets. Currently, her focus is on commercial and advertising productions, with clients ranging from the Gap Inc., Levi Strauss & Co., Adidas, New Balance and Apple.

Gregory T. Kuhn (Sound Designer & Production Manager) is a multidisciplinary creator and collaborator in the performing and fine arts since 1986 as composer, sound designer and engineer, visual artist and designer. He has collaborated on a great diversity of projects for theater, multimedia, exhibition, dance, and experimental and contemporary music performances. Recent recognition includes the 2007 Isadora Duncan Award for S.F. Ballet's *Ballet Mori* (with Ken Goldberg and Randall Packer), and the 2008 Lucille Lortel Award for Unique Theatrical Experience for Rinde Eckert's *Horizon* (directed by David Schweizer). Ongoing activities include new works by Paul Dresner, Joan Jeanrenaud, Karla Kihlstedt, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Margaret Jenkins, Joe Goode, Larry Reed, Wayne Vitale, Traveling Jewish Theater, the S.F. Contemporary Music Players, Cabrillo Festival for Contemporary Music, S.F. International Arts Festival, and Other Minds.

Matthew E. Jones (Lighting and Stage Manager) is a lab instructor at Ex'pression College for Digital Arts in Emeryville California. He teaches mainly in the Motion Graphics and Interactive Audio programs, with a special focus on audio/visual synthesis via what he calls "visual alchemy." As a technology consultant, his work has helped dozens of operas,

symphonies, world class music ensembles, aerialists, modern dance troupes, anarchists, and all the forms between. More of his design work can be seen on the VJ label website, <http://www.vizwrap.net>

Bethanie Hines (Photographer) moves through the world with her whole heart. She loves deeply and those on the other side of her lens feel the reverence she holds for life. Hines is committed to a mindfulness practice which connects her to moments that could easily be missed. Vulnerability, emotion, intimacy, and connection to her subjects are evident. For Hines, less is more. Her work documents the perfection of who we are, reminding us of our wholeness, replacing stories with truth. www.bethaniehines.com

The Living Word Project (LWP) is the resident theater company of Youth Speaks, committed to producing literary performance in the verse of our time. Aesthetically urban, pedagogically Freirean, LWP derives personal performed narratives out of interdisciplinary collaboration. Though its methodology includes dance, music, and film, the company's emphasis is spoken storytelling. LWP creates verse-based work that is spoken through the body, illustrated by visual and sonic scores, and in communication with the important social issues and movements of the immediate moment. LWP is the theater's connection from Shakespeare's quill to Kool Herc's turntables; from Martha Graham's cupped hand to Nelson Mandela's clenched fist: a new voice for a new politic. Producing Director, Joan Osato.

MAPP International Productions is a nonprofit producing and touring organization dedicated to engaging audiences through contemporary performing arts projects and artistic experiences that offer fresh interpretations of social issues and forge connections between the artist and the community. Established in 1994 by Ann Rosenthal, and co-directed with Cathy Zimmerman since 1998, MAPP International is recognized for producing nontraditional artists who tackle complex subject matter, experiment with form and push the cultural conversation forward in society. Since its founding MAPP International has produced 33 productions involving more than 300 artists in 42 U.S. states and 16 countries. MAPP International has also introduced the U.S. public to artists from 25 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and the Caribbean. Current programs include New Works, Artist-Public Dialogues, MAPP on Tour, The America Project and The Africa Contemporary Art Consortium. The common goal of these programs is to promote artistic and community engagement, and the exchange of ideas on a local, national and international stage. www.mappinternational.org

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