



NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2020

DAVIA SPAIN, SIMONE MOORE, ALEX ALPHARAOH

OCTOBER 8 - 10, 2020

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.

NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2020

DAVIA SPAIN: *THIS IS FOR DAVIA*

Created and Performed by Davia Spain

Directed by Samantha Shay

Music by Davia Spain, Matias Anaya, Veronica Jane, Bapari, Masao

Special thanks to Olivia Jack

Musician and performance artist Davia Spain takes a deep dive into a journey of self-actualization. She asserts that there is a connection between self-love and ecological justice. Is it ever a good time to say 'enough is enough'? As the Earth begins its process of breaking up with humans, are we too being forced to look at the cycles we need to break? Will returning to our bodies, our memory, our true power heal our festering wounds; ergo, easing life in 2020? Will the destruction of "life as we know it" lead to a better existence for us all? Spain hopes that by harnessing creative energy she can transmute chaotic energy and find peace in this storm.

Davia Spain is a musician, filmmaker, and performance artist creating work that harnesses art as a form of personal and communal healing. She connects her foundation in chamber music with her fascination for all types of electronic music making a beautiful concoction that is both old and new, hard and soft, sweet and bitter. The rigor of classical training in voice, dance, and acting combined with the experimental spirit of underground performance art scenes gave Spain the tools to create works that are equally visceral and thought provoking. The ideological currents of her work are rooted in Afro-futurist theories of time and space prompting Spain to reimagine the past, make predictions of the future, and pull possible outcomes into the present. Recently she previewed music from her debut album *Dawning* at Berkeley Art Museum, and The Broad.

— B R I E F P A U S E —

SIMONE MOORE: *THE DIVORCE COMEDY: A SPIRITUAL STUDY*

Written and Performed by Simone Moore

Directed by Desean Terry

Choreographed by Eclipse

Special thanks to Isis Pickens, Arthur Jafa, Barron Claiborne, Atheel El Malik, Melinda Nugent, Christian, Eric Trules, Ntare Mwine, Cris Kreckler, Keiana Richard, Sola Bamis, Ivy Chou, Dr. Ezra Morton

Actress and writer Simone Moore's The Divorce Comedy is an exploration into the absurdity, isolation, and loss of identity of an Afro-Jamaican immigrant woman's experience in marriage and divorce. With an original short by cinematographer Arthur Jafa, this excerpt of her one-woman show incorporates video, photography by Barron Claiborne, Afro-Caribbean dance, singing, reggae DJ-ing, and text that conjures the Dance-Hall Queen vs. Proper Church Lady archetypes

present in Jamaican culture, indicts colorism within the Caribbean community, rings the alarm bell on our current mental state, and doles out her grandmother's method for healing the Diasporic soul.

Simone Moore is an artist, writer, and actress in film, TV, and stage. Recently seen on stage as a resilient and complex Betty in Dionna Michelle Daniel's *Gunshot Medley*; Queen Gertrude, *Hamlet*; Tish James, *In the Footprint* with The Civilians Theater Company in New York (critical acclaim *The New York Times*); Helena in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, and she received critical acclaim for her turn as Sylvia in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* by the *Los Angeles Times*. Born in Montego Bay, Jamaica and raised in Brooklyn, New York City, Simone received her MFA at the University of California at San Diego where she studied under master teachers and directors such as Des McAnuff, Tina Landau, Fiona Shaw, Darko Tresnjak and Lisa Harrow of the RSC. She completed studies at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France.

Desean Terry is an actor, director, and educator. Directing credits include *Gunshot Medley: Part 1* by Dionna Michelle Daniel, *In The Blood* by Susan Lori Parks, *Blues for Mister Charlie* by James Baldwin, and more. As an actor, he has numerous film, television, and theatre credits including his series regular role on *The Morning Show* opposite Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon. He is Co-Artistic Director of Collaborative Artists Bloc. He teaches scene study at the Graham Shiels Studios in Hollywood and CSULB.

— BRIEF PAUSE —

ALEX ALPHARAOH: O-DOGG: AN ANGELENO TAKE ON OTHELLO

Written by Alex Alpharaoh

Directed by Brisa Areli Muñoz

Assistant Directed by Aileen Alfaro

Stage Managed by Cristina "Crispy" Carillo-Dono

Videography by Johanna Campbell Case & Maliyamungu Muhande

Sound by Ben Weber

Editing by Johanna Campbell Case

Additional Support by Liz Ross

Performed by Alex Alpharaoh, Brenda Banda, Wali Habib, Amaka Izuchi, JJ Joo,

Hester Jean Lee, Bruce Lemon, Jr., Jean Murillo, Matias Ponce, Graciela Rodriguez

Special thanks to Liz Ross, Luis Kelly-Duarte, Johnny Young, Marcelo Olivas, Sierra Santana,

Peter James Smith, Julianna Stephanie Ojeda

Performance artist Alex Alpharaoh's bold reimaging of Shakespeare's *Othello* is set in Los Angeles' Koreatown during the '92' Uprising. O-Dogg, the Afro-Latino leader of LOKs Crew is preparing to leave the street life behind with his new bride, Desireé Park. When the riots begin, his Father-In-Law's liquor store becomes threatened. Jay, the owner of Jay's Liquor refuses to spray "Black Owned" on his boarded windows in spite of O-Dogg pleading. When Eye-G discovers that O-Dogg is handing LOK to Cash-O, Eye-G sets a deadly plan into motion.

Alex Alphaaraoh is a nationally recognized, award winning actor, writer, spoken word poet, solo performer, and teaching artist from Los Angeles, CA. Prior to Covid-19, he was on national tour with his autobiographical solo show *WET: A DACAdmented Journey*, a story about what it means to be an American in every sense of the word except on paper. Alex is the recipient of the LADCC 2018 Solo Performance of the Year award for his work on *WET*. As a formerly undocumented citizen, Alphaaraoh believes in the transformative power of sharing one's truth and vulnerability, especially in the face of adversity. Alphaaraoh is the founder of SP!T: Spoken Word Theatre, which focuses on telling stories about Los Angeles by fusing street culture with acting, Spoken Word, and dynamic movement. Alphaaraoh has been acting professionally for over a decade and has been a lyricist for over 25 years. He is currently in the process of writing his first memoir.

REDCAT PRODUCTION STAFF

Steven D. Lavine Executive Director of REDCAT & Vice President for Cultural Partnerships: João Ribas
Deputy Executive Director & Curator: Edgar Miramontes

Technical Director: Bill Ballou
Associate Technical Director, Sound and Video: Pete Pace
Resident Video Systems Design: Pete Pace
Associate Technical Director, Lighting Director: Matthew Johns
Resident Lighting Design: Matthew Johns

Production Stage Coordinator: Cate Cundiff
Audio Engineer: Zach Crumrine
Camera Operator: Anthony Storniolo
Lighting Programmer: Shannon Barondeau
Assistant. Stage Manager: Dan Stevens

Facilities Management, COVID-19 Compliance Officer: Jacques Boudreau
Production Coordinator: Hyesung li
Administrative Coordinator: Rolando Rodriguez

The New Original Works Festival is made possible by generous support from members of the REDCAT Circle and REDCAT Council.

KCRW is the Official Radio Sponsor of REDCAT.

