

VINEYARD ENTERTAINMENT

presents

a play by

Y. AGUILERA. R. BABATUNDE,
M. BARBOSA, T. BARFIELD &
G. OBISESAN

FEAST

A YORUBA PROJECT

directed by
BIANCA LAVERNE JONES

starring

MUTIYAT ADE-SALU* MIKAYLA BARTHOLOMEW*
WUNMI FOWORA* DANIEL LUGO*
and DONOVAN WOODS*

JULY 11-14, 2019

HERE | NEW YORK

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Welcome!

Thank you for coming to *FEAST: A Yoruba Project*, a SubletSeries@HERE presentation. This program provides artists with discounted space and equipment, as well as technical support.

HERE also supports the work of artists at all stages in their careers through our HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), which develops and produces the work of our 10-13 resident artists, and Visiting Artist presentations for adult and family audiences. Please check out our other performances and events at HERE.org.

Like all the work at HERE, this SubletSeries@HERE presentation was curated based on the strength and uniqueness of the artist's vision.

We hope to see you HERE again soon.
Best,

Kristin

KRISTIN MARTING
Founding Artistic Director

ALSO AT HERE
SUBLETSERIES CO-OP
Check out the [full line-up](#):
NOW - SEP 1

HERE SUPPORT

HERE is extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of an important group of Foundations, Corporations, Government Agencies, Elected Officials, and dedicated individuals. We would not be HERE without them.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

HERE'S programming is made possible with Public Funds from: National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Office of the Mayor of New York, and Speaker Corey Johnson, the Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and New York State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick. We are extremely grateful for the support and advocacy of all of our dedicated elected officials: Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten R. Gillibrand, Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee of the City Council, and State Senator Brad M. Hoylman.

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HERE, in partnership with Resident Playwright Taylor Mac, is a participant in the Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with HowRound. HERE is a proud member of the Hudson Sq. Connection & Lower Manhattan Arts League & The National Opera America Center & TCG.

This production is a part of SubletSeries@HERE.
For tickets and information, visit here.org or call 212-647-0202.
Box office located at 145 Sixth Ave., NY, NY 10013.

PROGRAM CREDITS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MUTIYAT ADE-SALU

PLAYWRIGHTS

**YUNIOR AGUILERA (CUBA),
ROTIMI BABATUNDE (NIGERIA),
MARCOS BARBOSA (BRAZIL),
TANYA BARFIELD (UNITED STATES),
GBOLAHAN OBISESAN (UNITED KINGDOM)**

DIRECTOR BIANCA LAVERNE JONES

STAGE MANAGER BAYO*

**LIGHTING DESIGN ANTOINETTE TYNES
PROJECTION DESIGN LINWOOD BOOKER
DRAMATURGY DR. OTUN RASHEED
CHOREOGRAPHY KELLY S. WHITE
CASTING DIRECTOR & GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

**MUTIYAT ADE-SALU
PROPS BUYER ROSITA TIMM**

CAST

**DONOVAN WOODS* as Esu
MIKAYLA BARTHOLOMEW*+ as Yemoja
MUTIYAT ADE-SALU* as Oya
WUNMI FOWORA* as Osun
DANIEL LUGO* as Senhorzihno, et. al**

RECORDED DRUMMERS

**FRANK MALLOY IV, GABRIEL ROXBURY, &
OLANIYAN MAAZIMOYO**

+Bartholomew replaces Shiro Kihagi.

*Actors and stage manager appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association. Equity Approved Showcase.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

How long does it take to find oneself? Before we leave this earth, is anyone destined to see the full picture of who they were meant to be?

When I was first introduced to FEAST in 2016, I was recommended for the role of Oya and honored that I came in contact with a piece that would enable me to find some missing pieces to my Yoruba heritage. In addition, I realized that I had "cousins" of Yoruba descent all over the world: Cuba, Trinidad, Brazil, United States, and more! When I proposed the show to others for funding with little success, I decided to produce it on my own. From there, the support grew and so did the importance of revealing the beauty in the madness of how the Yoruba (and also African) diaspora came to be.

In spite of differences, there will always remain a common thread among the diaspora that can never be pulled out of the fabric of its humanity. The drums. The melodic intonation, The signifying with hands. The percussive speech. The soul. The same is true for many first generation Yoruba-Americans and have been so uninformed about what the Yoruba people created. I am honored that Olodumare (the supreme God in Yoruba belief) chose and equipped me to go on this journey. Thanks to Him, my Masters degree will not only be in my craft but also my destiny and my "Ase".

Thank you for journeying with me,

Mutiyat Adetokunbo Aderibigbe Salu

Partner

Brooklyn Moon Cafe is located in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn and serves American, Cafe, Coffee, Caribbean, and Southern cuisine.
Brooklyn Moon

745 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"The entire Yoruba culture comes down to your Ori. Your inner head - who you really are, whether you know it or not."

I read FEAST and was stunned by my strong feelings from the messages. The message I want the audience to walk away with is to "trust your inner head". Ori Ni Kan. This "feast" defines who you are. We are inviting you to examine your own "feast": potentiality versus your actuality. What happens to you when you are faced with your greatest obstacles? This play is the journey of the African diasporic people and how we have forgotten who we are. We dare to channel this story through the Orishas of Oya, Yemoja, Oshun and Esu. There is also a man that represents "They". The "They" that Michael Jackson talks about when he said "All I really know is that THEY don't really care about us". This production does not answer questions.

On this theatrical journey we have re-created this piece of historical, spiritual and metaphysical realness of the Black experience. Our dramaturg, Dr. Rasheed Otun, provided a Yoruba proverb, Yoruba people were "supposed to be shared throughout the world". And so, we land literally and metaphysically at a FEAST from Nigeria in Brazil, Cuba, America and London with lessons to learn and trials and tribulations to overcome...in order to trust our inner head.

Enjoy!

Bianca

Partner

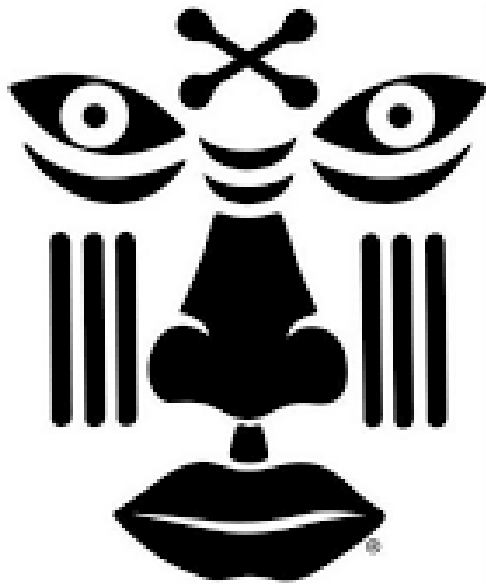
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THE CAST

// Oya //

MUTIYAT ADE-SALU* is a first-generation Yoruba-American and 3rd year candidate for the Masters in Acting at the University of Louisville. She previously performed the role of “Oya” in the 2016 staged reading of FEAST by The Segal Center and National Black Theatre. A native New Yorker and 2016 Miss Black New York Coed, Mutiyat had her first play, Sunny Came Home , produced by Fehinty African Theatre Ensemble and was their 2018 Playwright-in-Residence. This past year, she portrayed “Ruth” in A Raisin in the Sun and the lead role in Don’t Tell Me I Can’t Fly with the U of L Repertory Theatre Company. She has also appeared in Taming of the Shrew and Fabulation at U of L and some of her favorite theatre credits include the title role of Hedda Gabler, “Annette” in God of Carnage, “Cynthia” in Wine in the Wilderness. After portraying and touring the title role in Miss Ida B. Wells, she won honorable mention and received a standing ovation at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Learn more at www.meetmutiyat.com

// Yemoja //

MIKAYLA BARTHOLOMEW* (replacement for Shiro Kihagi) Recent credits include Babes in the Woods (Signature Theatre), A Doll’s House Part 2 (Maltz Jupiter Theatre), LORDES (The New Ohio Theatre), Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers (World Premiere), and The Cherry Orchard (Schaefer Theatre). Additionally, she works in partnership as an artist for the Broadway Advocacy Coalition & Columbia Law. There is something to being black, to being woman and to taking up space, so that those around you and after you may do the same. It is a form of activism that can never be denied. Film/TV The Gift That Aches”, “BIO” and “The Code” for CBS. This Southern (re)Belle received her BFA in Theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University. To her family, friends, God, Abrams Artists, AEA, and Bianca thank you endlessly.

www.mikaylabartholomew.com

THE CAST

// Osun //

WUNMI FOWORA* is a Brooklyn born actress raised in Central New Jersey. She considers herself a proud Nigerian- American as her parents are from Lagos, Nigeria. Wunmi has made her mark acting, producing and doing non profit work domestically in the US. Wunmi after leaving NYU Tisch School of the Arts, has been featured in a number of plays, cabarets, TV shows, indie films, web series, commercials, print ads, voice overs and has hosted in world renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall & Lincoln Center. She was the lead in the national tour of Freedom Train & has gone on to be a producer for such web series as “Addie & Addy” and “Living With Strangers” and just finished line producing her first social thriller film, The Black Banshee. Wunmi’s acting work has been acclaimed in Tribeca Film Festival, Picture Farm Film Festival, Auckland Film Festival (New Zealand) and more. Feel free to follow Wunmi’s acting journey on her IG: @nigeriansagi

// Senhorziho, John, Sean, Alan //

DANIEL LUGO* is a clown, mask performer, movement expert who has performed across the United States and Canada doing ensemble and experimental base theatre. Recent Credits: Jack in the Box and The Night Sky (Nylon Fusion Theatre Company), Ubu Roi (The Garage Theatre Company), Finishing The Suit (Ego Actus), Tempest (Cage Theatre), and The Father (Strindberg Rep). He studied physical and movement based theatre at The Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre, Florida Atlantic University, University of Kentucky, and Huntington College. He has used his training to create one man shows based on Shakespeare’s Sonnets and one character from the book called The Band Plays on dealing with AIDS. Daniel is a proud member of AEA.

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Host Partner

Vineyard Entertainment and FEAST were the June artist-in-residence at The Dream Center Harlem!



Sponsor

Taste Of Africa USA is a community based organization that is dedicated to promoting the best of African culture, cuisine and music. We are also dedicated to inspiring the best of humanity. One of our events (“Taste of Africa Event Series” sponsored by PANLA) showcases an array of delectable recipes from Africa by some of the most renowned artisans of African cuisine. We are also the producers of the NY African Restaurant Week.

www.tasteafricausa.com

THE CAST

// Esu //

DONOVAN WOODS* is thrilled to make New York debut as Esu in *Feast: A Yoruba Project!* His past roles include *Between the Lines* (Ryan), *A Raisin in the Sun* (George Murchison), *A Christmas Carol* (Topper) at Kansas City Repertory Theater, *The Brothers Size* (Oshoosi Size) at Unicorn Theater and *Hairspray* at Starlight Theatre. Donovan would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support, Bianca Jones for trusting him with this beautiful story, and to the cast and crew for their inspiring work on this story. Education: BM, Vocal Performance, Kansas State University. AEA member. www.donovantyrone.com

About Actors Equity Association

Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org



THE CREATIVES

// Executive Producer //

VINEYARD ENTERTAINMENT is a sole proprietorship created by actress, vocalist, playwright and current Master of Fine Arts candidate Mutiyat Ade-Salu. Since 2011, VE has covered music, theater, film and arts education across the United States. FEAST is Vineyard's first showcase production in New York. Vineyard previously produced a workshop performance of FEAST in Sao Paulo, Brazil in collaboration with Carcaca de Poeticas Negras and Escola de Superior de Celia Helena this past May.

// Director //

BIANCA LAVERNE JONES is a North Carolina born, New York based actor and director. Director: HIM, ME, HER, PRINCE, MICHAEL AND MARVIN by Mia Anderson (Quicksilver Theater), ARMED by James Anthony Tyler (Amoralist Theater Company); 48 HOURS IN HARLEM; LAMDA Showcase (Playwright's Horizon); Development Director: LOOKING THROUGH THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW by Evie Rhodes (Playroom Theater). Associate Director: Coming August 2019: THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN (Syracuse Stages, Baltimore Center Stage), A SMALL OAK TREE RUNS RED by LaKeithia Dalcoe (Billie Holiday Theater) directed by Harry Lennix. Assistant Director: BLKS by Aziza Barnes directed by Robert O'Hara; THE FIRST NOEL by Lelund Durond and Jason Michael Webb (Classical Theater of Harlem) directed by Steve Broadnax. Film: MOTHER'S MILK by Larry Powell; UNDERCOVER SIDE CHICK by Cherie Danielle. Readings: New Black Fest, New Federal Theater, Miranda Theater Company. London: Ambassador Theater (West End), Katzspace, Carne Theater. Bianca received acting training from University of NC School of the Arts, SUNY Purchase and Yale School of Drama. Awards: Best Direction for a One Act play from DC Black Theater Festival.

// Stage Manager //

BAYObeen around the block.....

Much Love, Peace & Blessings To All Involved With This Production.

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THE CREATIVES

// Lighting Designer //

ANTOINETTE TYNES is a veteran of the theatre in and out of New York. A graduate of Hampton Institute (University) with a degree in Speech and Drama and a member of United Scenic Artist, she stays busy being a Lighting Designer for the world. Presently, she's the Technical and Lighting Director for the Mount Vernon Gifted and Talented Arts Magnet school in the Mount Vernon, NY school district. She was the Recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design Award from the 2017 National Black Theatre Festival, AUDELCO winner for lighting design in 2015 for "Dutchman" Nominated for an Audelco award for lighting design in 2000 for New Federal Theatre's "James Baldwin, Soul On Fire" and in 2004 for "a'Diss Diss Dat Dat" and won her first award in 1993 for New Federal Theatre's "Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil." Most recently, "Yesterdays" An evening with Billie Holiday" at the Crossroads Theatre, the Hartford Stage Company and Joe's Pub in NYC, "A Few Good Men", "Breath Boom" both at The Gerald Lynch Theatre and Heiner Muller's "The Task" at the All-stars Project(Castillo Theatre). I would like to express my appreciation on having the opportunity to be a part of this production.

// Choreographer //

KELLY S. WHITE Born and raised in New Orleans, LA, Kelly Seph White is a performer, choreographer, researcher and dance educator. She holds a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a M.A. in Dance Education from New York University. Kelly has had the distinct honor to study under the great Jean Leon Destine, Baba Richard Gonzalez, Nia Love, Ron K. Brown, Nadia Dieudonne and Aussettua Amor Amenkum. She is also honored to have trained and performed at the American Dance Festival, Plaza Cuba, New Waves Trinidad, Bates Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow. Ms. White has performed with Ase Dance Theater Collective, Kumbuka African Drum and Dance Collective, Kwame Ross's Prophecy Dance Works and Nia Love's Blacksmith's Daughter. Her choreography has been performed in venues such as the 92nd Street Y, Psychotherapy Network Association Conference, Mixed Flava's Performance Series, Dance Africa Youth Performance, and Voices of Congo Square New Orleans where she also served as the Associate Director. In 2017, Kelly co-founded and is the Director of EVOLVE Diaspora where she creates weekend intensives and cultural immersion trips for professional dancers, researchers, scholars and educators to intensely study dances of the African Diaspora.

THE CREATIVES

// Projection Designer //

LINWOOD F. BOOKER is a ten-year USAF aircraft electrical systems specialist vet turned 30 year retired LIRR train maintenance foreman. A DJ, a musician, sound recording engineer (Logic), projection & sound designer (QLab), theater video & sound tech, videographer, video editor (Final Cut), photographer, Photoshop artist and non certified Mac Technician are a few of the titles he holds. Recent shows include Vivica A. Fox: Everyday I'm Hustlin; Bartersville; All Star Celebrity Comedy Celebration: Carl Payne; Force MD's: Up Close and Personal; Norman Conners; Friendship Express; Daughters of the Struggle: Ayanna Gregory; MLK Up Close & Personal: Michael Green; We Are One: Leon and the Peoples; Young Innocent and Black: Director Imani.

// Dramaturg //

DR. RASHEED ADEDOYIN ISMAILA OTUN, professionally known as Otun Rasheed lectures at the Department of Creative Arts, Faculty of Arts, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria. His areas of interest include Dramaturgy, Playwriting, Traditional and Contemporary African Drama. He was a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, University of Georgia, Athens, US from October 2012 to April, 2013. He is among the 2018 participants selected for the Andrew Mellon Fellowship sponsored annual summer programme at the School of Theater and Performance Research at Harvard University, Cambridge, Boston, USA. He is currently a Research Scholar at the Department of Theatre Arts, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, USA. He has written, published and directed several plays and has attended several conferences in Nigeria and abroad. His plays continue to enjoy attention in higher institutions while some of his stage plays are now in films made by Nollywood, the Nigerian film industry.

SPECIAL THANKS

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