

Art by Paul Lewin



JULY 13–15 NY PREMIERE

**OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S
PARABLE
OF THE SOWER**

**An Opera by Toshi Reagon &
Bernice Johnson Reagon**

LincolnCenter.org/Parable

Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower

Created by Toshi Reagon & Bernice Johnson Reagon

Co-Directed by Signe HarriDay & Eric Ting

Music and Lyrics by Toshi Reagon & Bernice Johnson Reagon

With

Abby Dobson, Afi Bijou, Alex Koi, Alina Carson, Be Steadwell, Evie Schuckman, Isaiah Stanley, Jared Wayne Gladly, Josette Newsam, Marie Tattie Aqeel, Noah Virgile, Shelley Nicole, and Toussaint Jeanlouis

Orchestra

Chogyi, Fred Cash, Jr., Bobbie Bird, Monique Brook Roberts, and Malachi Brown

Music Direction

Toshi Reagon

Choreography

Millicent Johnni

Scenic Designer

Arnulfo Maldonado

Costume Designer

Dede M. Ayite

Lighting Designer

Christopher Kuhl

Audio Systems

John Kemp

Art Installation

Abigail Deville

Movement Director

Yasmine Lee

Production Stage Manager

Chris De Camillis

Production Manager/Lighting Director

Jojo Franjoine

Assistant Stage Manager

Caroline Pastore

Associate Tour Producer

Sami Pyne

Tour Producer

ArKtype/Thomas O. Kriegsmann

Company Manager

Shannon Molly Flynn

Lead Sound Engineer

Alex Dakoglou

Assistant Production Manager

Henry Muller

Lighting Director

Devin Cameron

Produced by Wise Reagon Arts

Consultant Shanta Thake

Based on the novels Parable of the Sower and Parable of the Talents by Octavia E. Butler.

Courtesy of the estate of Octavia E. Butler.

Originally commissioned by The Public Theater, and Co-commissioned by The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi. World Premiere at The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi November 9, 2017. It is made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower was developed with support by The Public Theater and during a residency at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York, NY. Additional support provided by the Apollo's Salon Series Program. Fiscally sponsored by Cal Shakes.

Originally Produced by Wise Reagon Arts LLC and Meiyin Wang

Learn more about the Parable of the Sower collaborators and journey at www.parableopera.com.

SETTING:

Part 1: The walled community of Robledo, a suburb of Los Angeles, CA, in the near future.

Part 2: Later, on the road north.

PERFORMERS:

Talents: Helga Davis, Shelley Nicole, Toshi Reagon

Part 1

Lauren Olamina	Marie Tatti Aqeel
Rev. Olamina	Jared Wayne Gladly
Keith Olamina	Isaiah Stanley
Cory Olamina	Afi Bijou
Harry Balter	Noah Virgile
Richard Moss	Toussaint Jeanlouis
Zahra Moss	Alina Carson
Joanne Garfield	Be Steadwell
Tracy Dunn	Alex Koi
Mrs. Sims	Josette Newsam
Mrs. Hsu	Evie Schuckman

Part 2

The Ancestor	Josette Newsam
Grayson Mora	Isaiah Stanley
Lauren Olamina	Marie Tatti Aqeel
Harry Balter	Noah Virgile
Zahra Moss	Alina Carson
Travis Douglas	Jared Wayne Gladly
Gloria Natividad Douglas	Afi Bijou
Jillian Gilchrist	Alex Koi
Allison Gilchrist	Be Steadwell
Emery Tanaka Solis	Evie Schuckman
Taylor Franklin Bankole	Toussaint Jeanlouis

ORCHESTRA:

Percussion	Bobbie Bird
Bass/Band Leader	Fred Cash, Jr.
Cello	Malachi Brown
Violin	Monique Brook Roberts
Guitar & Keyboard	Chogyi

PROGRAM NOTE

Tonight we are in exploration of family. The one you are born into—the one you choose—the one you find—the one that finds you.

Sometime in the future, we meet Lauren Olamina, a 15-year-old girl living inside the remnants of a walled community kept secure by a locked gate. This is a community being held together by her father's will and vision. A community that did not choose to be together, but is forced to work together because of the massive deterioration of the world around them: a widening economic gap, privatization of what were once public resources, rampant corporate take-over, 21st century sharecropping, drugs, violence and an overwhelming disregard for life. All these things chip away at what little sense of security Lauren feels. She comes to know that she is not safe behind that wall. She comes to know that the God of her father is not her God. And so, even as she prepares to leave, she begins to create her own religion: Earthseed—The Books of the Living.

When the wall comes down, Lauren loses her family. She leaves home with a few old maps, and starts out on an unknown journey north out of the suburbs of Los Angeles, passing as a man with two wounded friends at her side, gathering more along the way. Finding love, finding comrades. Teaching Earthseed.

*All that you touch
you Change.
All that you Change
Changes you.
The only lasting truth
is Change.
God
is Change.*

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

TOSHI REAGON | she/her (Librettist, Composer, Music Director) is a talented and versatile singer, composer, musician, curator and producer with a profound ear for sonic Americana—from folk to funk, from blues to rock. While her expansive career has landed her at Carnegie Hall, the Paris Opera House and Madison Square Garden, you can just as easily find Toshi turning out at a music festival, intimate venue or local club. She has collaborated with many artists including Carl Hancock Rux, Ani DiFranco, Lenny Kravitz, Elvis Costello and Nona Hendryx. As a composer, she has worked with Katori Hall, Urban Bush Women and The Jane Comfort Dance Co., among others. She is currently touring Bessie Award-winning The Blues Project with tap dancer Michelle Dorrance and Dorrance Dance. She founded WORD*ROCK*&SWORD, a community festival that takes place throughout New York City every September. Together with her mother Bernice Johnson Reagon, she has created two operas with director Robert Wilson, *The Temptation of St. Anthony* and *Zinnias, The Life of Clementine Hunter*. Toshi co-composed music for two Peabody Award-winning films and received a NYFA Award for Music Composition, the 2010 OutMusic Heritage Award and The Black Lily Music and Film Festival Award for Outstanding Performance. She is a National Women's History Month honoree and was named a 2015 Art of Change Fellow by the Ford Foundation.

BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON | she/her (Librettist, Composer) is a scholar, singer/songleader, activist. For over half a century she has been a profound contributor to African American and American culture. Born in Southwest Georgia, her singing style and traditional repertoire is grounded in her experiences in church, school and political activism. As a composer, she has created a narrative of her social and political activism through her songs and larger compositions. She performed as a member of the SNCC Freedom Singers during the sixties; she founded an all-women a cappella ensemble, The Harambee Singers, during the Black Cultural Movement; she founded and led the internationally acclaimed Sweet Honey in the Rock for thirty years until retirement. Paralleling her work in music, Reagon is one of the leading authorities in African American Cultural History. She is a recipient of the Heinz Award for Arts and Humanities, a MacArthur Fellowship and the Presidential Medal and Charles E. Frankel Prize for Contributions to the Public Understanding of Humanities.

OCTAVIA ESTELLE BUTLER | she/her (Author, June 22, 1947–February 24, 2006) was a renowned African American author, recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Grant and a PEN Lifetime Achievement Award for her body of work. Born in Pasadena in 1947, she was raised by her mother (a housemaid) and her grandmother. The author of many award-winning novels, including *PARABLE OF THE SOWER* (1993), a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, and *PARABLE OF THE TALENTS* (1995) winner of the Nebula Award for the best science fiction novel published that year, she was way ahead of her time: though the MacArthur Grant made life easier in later years, she struggled for decades when her dystopian novels exploring themes of Black injustice, global warming, women's rights and political disparity were, to say the least, not in commercial demand. During these years of obscurity Butler, always an early riser, woke at 2 a.m. every day to write, and then went to work as a telemarketer, potato chip inspector, and dishwasher, among other things. At the time of her death in 2006, interest in her books was beginning to rise, and in recent years, her work has become timely and hugely popular among all kinds of readers. Sales overall have increased worldwide, her work is taught in over 200 colleges and universities nationwide; and a graphic novel adaptation of her book *KINDRED* was a #1 New York Times Bestseller in 2017. In media, her novel *DAWN* is being developed for television by Ava DuVernay ("*Selma*"; "*A Wrinkle In Time*") and other works are also in production. Currently, an opera by Toshi Reagon based on Butler's novel *PARABLE OF THE SOWER* is part of The Public Theater "Under the Radar" festival and will be touring worldwide in 2018.

ERIC TING | he/they (Co-Director) Mr. Ting is an Obie Award-winning director. Recent directing credits include the world premieres of Lloyd Suh's *The Far Country* (Atlantic Theater Co) and Bina's *Six Apples* (Alliance, Children's Theater Co); Marcus Gardley's *Lear* (Cal Shakes, co-director); and *Between Two Knees by the 1491s* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). New York: Manhattan Theatre Club, Public Theater Under the Radar, BAM Next Wave, Soho Rep. Regional: Long Wharf Theatre, Hartford Stage, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Philadelphia Theatre Co, Cincinnati Playhouse, Goodman, Victory Gardens, Denver Center, CTG, ACT, Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. International: Singapore, France, UAE, Holland, Canada, Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bali. Upcoming: Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *The Comeuppance* (Signature Theater).

SIGNE V. HARRIDAY | she/her (Co-Director) is Artistic Producing Director at Pillsbury House + Theatre in Minneapolis. Signe is a community organizer, fierce visionary, and powerful storyteller who crafts theatre that awakens our individual and collective humanity. As an artist engaged deeply in cooperative development, community-centered program creation, and leadership consulting, Signe fosters social justice in action across sectors. As a director, multidisciplinary artist, activist, and facilitator, she uses theatre as a catalyst to ask questions about who we are and who we are in relation to each other. Co-founder of Million Artist Movement, a collective of artists committed to Black liberation. Co-founder of the award-winning synchronized swimming team, The Subversive Sirens. Founder of Rootsprings Coop, a retreat center for BIPOC artists/activists/healers in MN. Core team member of REP Community Partners. Signe earned her MFA in Acting at the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard and Moscow Art Theatre. signeharriday.com

MILLCENT JOHNNIE | she/her (Choreographer) Johnnie served as an Associate Artistic Director of Brooklyn based dance company Urban Bush Women. Choreographed the original *Parable of the Sower* workshop (New York City Opera). Off-Broadway: *Ameriville*, *Party People* (The Public Theater). Other theater credits include *Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter* (Montclair Peak Performances), *Symphony for the Dance Floor* (Brooklyn Academy of Music), *The Love Project* (National Black Theater Festival), *The Hip Hop Project* (Krannert Performing Arts Center), *The Shipment*, *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Südwestafrika, Between the Years 1884–1915* (UnderMain Theater), *The Burning* (Contemporary Arts Center) and immersive/site responsive theater: *Cry You One* (Mondo Bizarro and Art Spot Productions). Johnnie directed and choreographed *RENT* (Ferndale Repertory Theater), *West Side Story* (University Kwazulu Natal, South Africa), *Bamaboula: Musician's Brew* (Cleo Parker Robinson 45th Anniversary Tour), and *Cubamor The Musical* (Village Theater). She has received numerous awards and nominations for her work including a United States Artist nomination for dance, the Prague International Dance Festival Award, Times-Standard Beti's Choice Award, Theatre Bay Area Award and Vivian Robinson/Avdelco nomination for outstanding choreography. She choreographed the feature film *Scary Movie 5*, served as a choreographer for Disney's *Frozen: Live at the Hyperion* and more recently performed in the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Brazil. Johnnie is a visiting assistant professor in dance at Florida State University.

YASMINE LEE | she/her (Movement Director) is a dance & movement-centered artist who has worked across concert dance, theater, film, television, ceremonies & music videos in over 40 countries. She is Georgie's Mama 24/7. Select credits include Upcoming: *Megalopolis* (Francis Ford Coppola), *Maggie: A New Musical* (Theater Aquarius), *Let The Right One In* (Berkeley Rep), *Disco Show* (Caesar's Palace). Now Playing: *A Beautiful Noise* (Broadway), *Harry Potter And The Cursed Child* (Broadway & Toronto). Past: *Made For Love* (HBOMax), *Social!* with David Byrne (Park Ave Armory); *Sweeney Todd* (Barrow

Street Theater); Wild Goose Dreams (The Public Theater); Katy Perry for SNL (NBC); The Crucible (dir: Ivo van Hove); The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Nighttime (dir: Marianne Eliot); Once (dir: John Tiffany); RENT (dir: Michael Greif). Opening & closing Ceremonies World Expo '20 (Dubai); Opening Ceremonies XXII Winter Olympic Games (Sochi), Knives In Hens (59E59), Tender Napalm (59E59), PEARL (Lincoln Center), My Name's Not Indian Joe (Davenport Theater); Issey Miyake product launch (Louvre Museum); AMICI Di Maria Di Felipe (Canale 5 Italia), Across The Universe (dir: Julie Taymor), Dunham Technique Video (Commissioned by US Library of Congress/Archived at Smithsonian Institute), Joan Peter's Dance Company, MOMIX, Earl Mosely's Diversity of Dance (Founding Member).

PERFORMERS BIOGRAPHIES

AFI BIJOU | **she/her** can be seen on her 3rd season in her role as Sister Marny on "Godfather of Harlem" (MGM+). Her credits include "Law & Order" (NBC); "The Night of" (HBO); Insecure (HBO). Broadway: Fela!; Holler If You Hear Me; Once On This Island and many off-Broadway and regional productions such as "Blood Quilt" (Arena Stage); "An Octoroon" (Berkeley Rep); "Good Goods" (Yale Rep). It's been a few seasons and so it feels good to be back live.

ALEX KOI | **she/her** is a Brooklyn-based vocalist, composer/producer, and improvising musician. She heads her eponymous solo project and is the vocalist and co-composer for the art rock band saajtak. She has performed with musicians, visual artists, and dancers alike including Shara Nova, Theo Bleckmann, Chris Bruce, Morley Kamen, Nathan Thatcher, Joo Won Park, Eleonore Oppenheim, Nicole Mannarino and Ragnar Kjartansson. Notable performances have included those at the Guggenheim Museum, Joe's Pub, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Toronto Jazz Festival, Detroit Institute of Arts, and more. She has dedicated her artistic practice to exploring rainbows of musical possibilities as influenced by her interest in improvisation, electronic music, theater and experimentalism. IG: @isalexkoi

ALINA CARSON | **she/they** is a Musical Theatre trained performance artist, dancer and actor from Baltimore, Maryland. She attended Baltimore's Arena Players before relocating to New York where she spent three years as a company member of the Harlem Repertory Theatre. Some of her past production's include Midsummer Moon with the Virginia Stage Company, Raisin in the Sun with Harlem Rep, and The Disco Oasis Central Park. Alina is based in Brooklyn and is currently finishing her debut recorded album '*Get a Little Lost.*' She has also appeared in many film projects such as *Nanny* by Nikyatu Jusu, *Class* by Enzo Cellucci and Hank Azaria, and *@DatingZoe* by Adi Riesenbergl and Jess Dunn. She feels extremely fortunate to be a vessel for Octavia Butler's prophetic storytelling, and would like to give a special thanks to her beloved Aunt and acting mentor Lisa Carson!

BE STEADWELL | **she/they/he** is a queer pop composer and storyteller from Washington DC. She composes her songs on stage using looping, vocal layering and beat boxing. Her original music features earnest lyricism, and affirming queer content. Be's goal as a musician is to make other black girlies, introverts and weirdos feel seen and loved. Be earned a BA in Black Studies from Oberlin College and an MFA in film from Howard University in 2014. Her thesis film Vow of Silence screened in film festivals around the world, including Black Star, HBO's OutFest, The Schomburg Center and Inside Out Toronto. In 2019, Be composed the music for The Alvin Ailey Dance Company's production of "the gone". Later that year, Be wrote and directed A Letter to My Ex, the musical. A Letter to My Ex imagines a queer black woman's experience in the aftermath of a breakup. In 2021 Be released her latest album- Succulent.

EVIE SCHUCKMAN | **they/them** is an actor, playwright, and visual storyteller with roots in South Florida, Chengdu, China, and now New York City. They hold a BFA in Musical Theatre from Boston Conservatory at Berklee, with an emphasis in Devising/Solo Performance. Evie is fascinated by the art of transformation. A resident company member at theatre incubator Mercury Store in Gowanus, Brooklyn, they spend most of their time building innovative devised theatre and new plays within a collaborative ensemble setting. (Recent related duties include: feeding miniature bread loaves to puppets, performing an exorcism, disappearing behind a door, and sapphic witchcraft in recitative.) Evie has developed works with companies across New York City, including Ars Nova and MCC Theater, where they were most recently seen in a workshop production of a new musical directed by Whitney White. Their pride is in their history, and the legacy of those who have come before them—trans, disabled, immigrant, neurodiverse elders... and those who have just joined us. Welcome. Love to Andrew and Lisa. To Mom and Dad: it really is all for you. @evieschu www.evieschu.com

ISAIAH STANLEY | **he/him** is an actor based in Brooklyn. Most recently seen as Hamlet as part of Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival's Willpower tour, Isaiah is so grateful to be back with the Parable family to tell this story. Biggest thanks to my family and friends who support me daily, and to this most incredible company. Thank you for being here! @isaiahstanley

JARED WAYNE GLADLY (he/him) is a Houston born/ Harlem based actor, singer, host, and voice over artist. After completing his studies at NYU's Tisch Program, he launched his professional career at the world famous Apollo Theater in a production of Dreamgirls. Since that production, his talent has been seen on stages around the country and abroad in productions of the Parable of the Sower, Frozen, Book of Mormon, Broadway Bounty Hunter, and Ain't Too Proud. Outside of his theatrical career, Mr. Gladly partners with The Soapbox Presents- a local community arts initiative for black and brown expression, performs with corporate bands around the NY tri-state area, volunteers with the FCBC Food Pantry in Harlem, and voices the character of Barry for a string of Cricket Wireless ads. Jared was last seen on Broadway in Disney's Aladdin. To keep up with the journey follow Jared on IG: @jaredwaynegladly

JOSETTE NEWSAM | **she/her** is a New York native who has performed solo and background on the Today Show, Live with Regis and Kelly, and Live with Kelly and Michael. She has performed voice-overs for NBC Universal. She has also performed lead, background vocals and recordings with amazing artists such as Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, Melba Moore, Lou Reed, Macy Gray, and Angelique Kidjo, Nona Hendricks, Billy Bragg, Taina Asili, Norm Lewis and the incomparable Ben E. King. She's played in renowned musicals such as "Ain't Misbehavin' (Nell), "Ragtime" (Sarah), Gustave Flaubert's "The Temptation of St. Anthony (Chorus), "Zinnias" (Mama) and Toshi Reagon's musical adaptation of Octavia Butler's "Parable of the Sower" (Mrs. Simms). She is currently a vocalist with Toshi Reagon's "Big Lovely".

MARIE TATTIANA AQEEL | **she/her** or Marie Tatti is a performance artist and nature enthusiast originally from Washington DC. She is an alumnus of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in DC and the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in NJ. Her performance credits include Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower: the Opera created by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon; Millennium Stage at the John F. Kennedy Center; and A Letter to My Ex the Musical by Be Steadwell. Marie Tatti currently resides in the mountains of Central Virginia where she enjoys working on her premiere studio recording album, being outdoors, and engaging in circle singing and ceremonial arts. More information can be found on her website at www.tattianaaqeel.com.

HELGA DAVIS | **she/her** is a vocalist and performance artist and was principal actor in the 25th-anniversary international revival of Robert Wilson and Philip Glass's seminal opera Einstein on the Beach. She is artist in residence at National Sawdust and is a teaching artist with Youth Corps at the Park Avenue Armory. She is host of the eponymous podcast HELGA on WQXR, winner of the 2019 Greenfield Prize in composition, 2019 Alpert Award finalist, and the 2018-21 visiting curator for the performing arts at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Her new artistic venture is the study and application of CONDUCTION, a method of spontaneous composition developed by Lawrence Douglas "Butch" Morris.

NOAH VIRGILE | **they/them** is an artist and performer based in NYC. Favorite theatrical credits include: SAM in The Day You Begin (Kennedy Center), HARRY BALTER in Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower (National Tour); The Royal Family of Broadway (Barrington Stage Company); TWEEDLE DUM in Alice (Wheelock Family Theatre); JASON WILLETTE in Rabbit Hole (The Umbrella Stage Company); Follies (Astoria Performing Arts Center). www.noahvirgile.com - @noahvirgile

SHELLEY NICOLE | **she/her** is a transformational healer using the power of love and the energetic magic of music to shift the world. She is songwriter, vocalist, composer, actress and founder of the band Shelley Nicole's blaKbüshe, which has released three albums, she who bleeds..., The Quick & Dirty EP and I Am American produced by Grammy winning Living Colour guitarist, Vernon Reid. Her music, forged from rock, funk and soul's connective tissue, empowers women to reclaim their cultural identity, and personal agency. As a featured member of the Burnt Sugar Arkestra, Shelley has performed around the globe and graced a multitude of stages including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, The Apollo Theater, Afropunk, Son d'hiver, SF Jazz and the Hammer Museum. In Feb. 2020 Shelley presented "Punanny Politixx: Hindsight is 2020" at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center to critical acclaim. She continues to play a key role in Nia O. Witherspoon's "Priestess of Twerk" and is excited to return to "Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower Opera."

TOUSSAINT JEANLOUIS | **he/him** is an Actor and Teaching Artist. Originally from Houston, Texas, he attended Arizona State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Theater with a Concentration in Acting and continued to California Institute of the Arts, earning a Master of Fine Arts in Acting. He currently lives in New York City, where his last performance was in the Pulitzer Prize-winning 'Hot Wing King' by Katori Hall at the Signature Theatre.

ORCHESTRA

BOBBIE BIRD | **he/him (Percussion)** is a multi-instrumentalist/producer & singer/songwriter. His last self-produced internationally critically-acclaimed record entitled Long Live the Duke & The King landed him a hit song "Shine on You" in Ireland. He has been an active member of BIGLovely for over a decade and has produced Toshi Reagon's record, There and Back Again. Alongside Loik Dury, he scored the film Paris by Cedric Klapisch; the soundtrack went on to be the number-one-selling record for two weeks in France. His early songwriting and production can be heard in the Band Drugs' The Prescription for Mis-America, featuring Parliament/Funkadelic's George Clinton, Garry Shider & Clip Payne. He has spent the past year composing for Microsoft and X-Box and has co-written the theme song for Cedric Klapisch's latest film Back to Burgundy. Bobby will be touring with his band Lazlo Bane this year. Lazlo Banes song "I'm no Superman" is the theme song for the hit show, Scrubs. Bobby is also currently developing groundbreaking behavioral products for his dog training Business - LEW BURKE'S DOG TRAINING (a family tradition of excellence) ext. 1967. He's also working on a documentary about his father Lew Burke whose work with his wonder dogs was featured on Johnny Carson's tonight show, Merv Griffin & Mike Douglas to name a few. Look out for songs soon to be released from his brand new band -Bobby Wrong & The Spare Change Orchestra.

FRED CASH JR | he/him (Bass) is a native of Chicago, Fred has been touring with Toshi Reagon's BIGLovely since 1998. Cash attended the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. He has worked with such artists as Jean-Paul Bourelly, India Arie, and Jerry Butler.

MONIQUE BROOKS ROBERTS | she/her (Violin) is a violinist hailing from Louisville, KY. Monique has had a busy and fulfilling career, having performed and recorded for many notable artists including Christina Aguilera, Lizzo, Alicia Keys, Common, Jill Scott, Mos Def, Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin, J. Cole, Shawn Mendes, Mumu Fresh and many more. She was also a touring member of the Philadelphia String Quartet for 7 years. She has performed with the Soulful Symphony Orchestra, Gateways Festival Orchestra, Harlem Symphony Orchestra, and Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey where she sat Principal Second. She has also featured on live television on multiple occasions, appearing on the Grammys, VH1 Storytellers, NPR's Tiny Desk, CBS Late Show With David Letterman, Late Show with Stephen Colbert, the MTV Video Music Awards, and the BET Honors. Monique has played at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, the John F. Kennedy Center, Radio City Music Hall, The Kimmel Center, Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, the world famous Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, Russia, the Theater at Madison Square Garden, The Newport Jazz Festival, The Willingboro Jazz Festival and plenty more. She currently performs and tours with Rootstock Republic, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Toshi Reagan and as a solo artist.

KARMA (CHOGYI) MARCO | he/him (Guitar) is a multi instrumentalist songwriter and producer from Woodstock NY. When not working on his own music, he is a member of both 420 Funk Mob and Omar Hakim & Rachel Z's band, Ozmosys. Karma is also the only second guitar player in history to play with Bad Brains, supporting legendary Doctor Know. This is his third tour with Parable, a rather appropriate carriage forward of his lineage, as the grandson of Richie Havens.

MALACHI BROWN | he/him (Cellist) is a cellist and composer born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia. He has studied music composition and cello performance at Old Dominion University and Ithaca College. He is an advocate for collaboration between art mediums and is always eager to tackle a new project if it means adding his own touch. Malachi has composed for the concert stage, animation, and film thus far in his career. He incorporates many combinations of styles in his music but is always rooted in a type of neo-romantic sound. Since 2020, Malachi has composed for four films, and has won multiple awards for And Don't Forget I Love You which has premiered at five film festivals. Awards include: Official Selection at Oxford Film Festival, Official Selection at Indie Memphis Film Festival, and Programmer's Selection at Huntington Beach Cultural Cinema Showcase, with a signed certificate of Top Choice Documentary Short by the Mayor of Huntington Beach. Malachi is working on two films projected to release in early 2024, including an animated short. In addition to composing and cello, Malachi acts in theatre and film. He has also discovered scriptwriting, accompanying his blossoming skill in filmmaking. He currently resides in New York City.

CREATIVE TEAM

ARUNULFO MALDONADO | he/him (Scenic Designer) Broadway: A Strange Loop (Tony Nominee); Topdog/Underdog; Trouble In Mind. Off-Broadway: Shhhh (Atlantic); The Coast Starlight (Lincoln Center Theater); Nollywood Dreams, School Girls... (MCC); The New Englanders, Sugar in Our Wounds [Lucille Lortel Award] (MTC); Dance Nation, Wish You Were Here (Playwrights Horizons); To My Girls (Second Stage); A Case For The Existence of God, Fires in the Mirror, My Broken Language (Signature). Regional: Alley Theatre, Berkeley Rep, CTG, Guthrie, Steppenwolf, Woolly Mammoth, among others. International Tour: The Magnetic Fields: 50 Song Memoir. 2020 Obie Sustained Excellence in Set Design, Princess Grace Fabergé Theater Award, Henry Hewes Design Award nominee. IG: arnulfo.maldonado.design arnulfomaldonado.com

DEDE AYITE | she/her (Costume Designer) is a two-time Tony award nominated costume designer working in theater, opera and film. She recently designed *X, The Life and Times of Malcolm X* for Detroit Opera. Her most recent Broadway credits include *Topdog Underdog*, *American Buffalo*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *A Soldier's Play*, *Slave Play* and *American Son*. Her select Off-Broadway credits include *Richard III*, *Merry Wives (The Public Theater)*; *Seven Deadly Sins (Tectonic)*; *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark, (Signature)*; *Nollywood Dreams, School Girls... (MCC)*; *Bella: An American Tall Tale (Playwrights Horizons)*; *Toni Stone (Roundabout)*. Regionally, Ayite's work has appeared at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Steppenwolf, Arena Stage and more. She has worked in television with Netflix, Comedy Central, and FOX Shortcoms. Ayite earned her MFA at the Yale School of Drama and has received a TDF/Kitty Leech Young Master Award, Obie, Drama Desk, Henry Hewes, Lucille Lortel, Helen Hayes, Theatre Bay Area, and Jeff Awards.

CHRISTOPHER KUHL | he/him (Lighting Design) Recent work includes: *Dog Days (Los Angeles Opera)*; *The Object Lesson (BAM, Edinburgh Festival, Sydney Festival)*; *The Source (San Francisco Opera, REDCAT, BAM)*; *The Institute of Memory (The Public Theater, T:BA Festival)*; *Straight White Men (Young Jean Lee's Theatre Company, The Public Theatre, Kaai Theater, Centre Pompidou)*, *The Elephant Room (St. Ann's Warehouse)*; *ABACUS (BAM, Sundance Film Festival, EMPAC)*. He has received two Bessie Awards, two Ovation awards and a Sherwood, Drammy, and Horton, award. He is originally from New Mexico and a graduate of CalArts.

JOHN KEMP | he/him (Audio Systems Design) is a sound designer, audio engineer, and musician. Productions include *Straight White Men (2018 Helen Hayes / Assoc.)* and *Oh, Hello On Broadway (2016 The Lyceum / Assoc.)*. Engineering credits include *Shakespeare in The Park's Julius Caesar (2017)*, *Here Lies Love (2014)*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson (2009)*. He also co-wrote music for the movie, *One Angry Man (2010)*, which enjoyed a (thankfully) limited release and is the holder of his single IMDB credit. He currently serves as the Audio and Media Director at NYU Tisch Undergraduate Drama.

ABIGAIL DEVILLE | she/her (Art Installation) Abigail DeVille (b. 1981, New York, NY) received her MFA from Yale University 2011 and her BFA from the Fashion Institute of Technology in 2007. DeVille has exhibited a constellation of site-specific installations in the United States and Europe. Her most recent exhibitions include *No Space Hidden (Shelter) ICA LA, Los Angeles, CA (2017)*, *20/20: The Studio Museum in Harlem and Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA (2017)*, *A Picture of the Universe in Clock Time, Momentum 9, Moss, Norway (2017)*, *Magnetic Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today, Kemper Museum, Kansas City, MO (2017)*, *Harlem: Found Ways. Cooper Gallery at Hutchins Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (2017)* *Urban Planning: Contemporary Art and the City 1967-2017, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, MO (2017)* *Chaos or Community? Michel Rein, Brussels, BE (2017)*, *The Intersectional Self, The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, New York, NY (2017)*. DeVille has designed sets for theatrical productions—at venues such as the Stratford Festival (2014), directed by Peter Sellers, Harlem Stage (2016), La MaMa (2015), JACK (2014-16), and Joe's Pub (2014) directed by Charlotte Brathwaite. She has received honors—2014-15 fellowship at The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, 2015 Creative Capital grantee and received a 2015 OBIE Award for design. DeVille is the 2017-18 Chuck Close Henry W and Marion T Mitchell Rome Prize fellow.

HENRY MULLER | he/him (Assistant Production Manager) is a Chicago-based freelance lighting designer, programmer, and technician. Henry received his bachelor's from Northwestern University in 2022, where he studied theatrical design & psychology. While his focus is in lighting, he has also worked as a stage manager, production manager, sound designer, and musician. He would like to thank his friends, family, & dogs.

JOJO A. FRANJOINE | they/them (Production Manager/Lighting Director) synchronizes energy to create visual landscapes. Jojo founded elektralite.space a collective of queer artists, designers, and problem solvers striving to discover potent truth of expression. Jojo believes in finding punctum - the unexpected extra. Jojo is sensitive - they ask questions, research, rethink, and re-design. Thru a unique collaborative process, Jojo ensures simple yet aerobic visual synthesis. elektralite.space works in a wide range of project flavours. From theatre, dance, opera, music, fashion, tv/broadcast, architecture, and light installations, Jojo creates a style and visual identity unique to each story. View more of Jojo's work: www.elektralite.space - [@elektralite.space](https://twitter.com/elektralite.space)

CHRIS DE CAMILLIS (Stage Management) Broadway: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Misery*, *It's Only a Play*, *The Glass Menagerie*. Off- Broadway: *The Rape of the Sabine Women* by Grace B. Mathias (Playwrights Realm); *Building the Wall* (New World Stages), *The Total Bent* (Public), *Much Ado About Nothing* (NYSF/DELACORTE); *Pride's Crossing* (Lincoln Center), *SLAVS!* (NYTW), *Oliver Twist* (TFANA), *Raised in Captivity* (The Vineyard). Regional: American Repertory Theater; Artistic Coordinator and Resident Stage Manager 1998-2013.

CAROLINE PASTORE | she/her (Assistant Stage Manager / Wardrobe) is a NYC-based Stage Manager who graduated from SUNY Purchase's Theatre/Design Technology program where she studied Stage Management. Past credits include: The Cape Playhouse's productions of *The Fantasticks* (Production Stage Manager), *An American in Paris* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Lady Day...* (Asst. Production Manager), *Once* (ASM), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (ASM), Kaneza Studio's *Cartography* (Sub Stage Manager) and VT Stage's *MAYTAG Virgin*. Caroline would like to dedicate her work to her dear friend, Ari Bourke, for continuously inspiring her work as an artist.

ELOIA PETERSON | she/her (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Minnesotan by heart, New Yorker by location, and Stage Manager by training. Eloia primarily worked as a Production Assistant at The Public Theater until all theater was canceled (#2020) and now has returned more often in the role of Assistant Stage Manager. In between projects, you can find her making and drinking coffee around the city. The Public: *The Low Road*, *White Noise*, *Mojada*, *A Bright Room Called Day*, *The Visitor*, *Fat Ham*, *Plays For The Plague* Year Off-Broadway: *The Endlings* (NYTW). Regional: *The Folks At Home* (Baltimore Center Stage). BA in Theatre: Northwestern University.

ALEX DAKOGLU | he/him (Sound Engineer) born and raised in Philadelphia, has been involved in music since elementary school, starting with 6 yrs of piano, and eventually playing guitar in bands for many years. In 1993, he started working as a live sound mixer. In 2004, a couple years after receiving a BM in jazz guitar from the University Of The Arts, Alex moved to Los Angeles, and quickly became head sound mixer at the House Of Blues on Sunset strip. He mixed just about every musical genre weekly, and with many well-known musical acts in his 7 years there before shifting his career to the road. Today, Alex has mixed concerts in venues such as Madison Square Garden, Sydney Opera House, and Radio City Music Hall, with symphony orchestras, bands, and artists. Currently, Alex once again lives in Philadelphia and tours with long-time clients/artists such as Idina Menzel, Herb Alpert, Toshi Reagon, while also sound designing and mixing for musical theater.

SHANNON MOLLY FLYNN | she/her (Company Manager) is a director, producer, and writer in NYC. Shannon's passion and empathy for the human spirit are what inspired her wild love affair with the theatre. She splits her time between the non-profit sector, currently sitting as the Founding Artistic

Director of Normal Ave, and the NYC nightlife, producing concerts and shows at Joe's Pub, 54 Below, The Cutting Room, Green Room, and The Duplex. Director of Sons of the Prophet and The Dream of the Burning Boy at Normal Ave, as well as numerous readings and workshops of new plays. Producer of the world premiere of Lily Houghton's *of the woman came the beginning of sin and through her we all die* and Kayla Martine's *Indoor Person*. Shannon believes good humans make good artists and fiercely defends a human-first approach to every aspect of her work. Flynn is book half of writing duo Pearlstein and Flynn. Check out their new musical, WAKE YOU UP. (IG: @shanmofly) shannonmollyflynn.com

SAMI PYNE | she/her (Associate Producer, Arktype) is the associate producer at Arktype, one of the world's leading supporters of new, experimental work. She is also an NYC-based independent producer passionate about decluttering and demystifying the production process for creators. Sami's had the pleasure of working with companies such as 600 Highwaymen, The Arts & Climate Initiative, The Exponential Festival, Clubbed Thumb, New York Theatre Workshop, Aeon's Sophia Club, The Martin E. Segal Center, Signature Theatre, Park Avenue Armory, The Play Company (PlayCo), The Tank, The New Ohio, Theatre Development Fund (TDF), and HERE Arts Center. Shenandoah Conservatory BFA, 2017. Graduate of the Columbia University Theatre Management & Producing MFA program, 2020. Operations Committee leader of the Creative & Independent Producers Alliance. Fellow of WP Theater's 2022-2024 Producers Lab. www.samipyne.com & www.arktype.org for more info.

Arktype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann | he/him (Tour Producer) specializes in new work development and touring worldwide. His past work includes projects with Kaneza Schaal, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Daniel Fish, Victoria Thiérree-Chaplin, Yael Farber, Anna Deavere Smith, Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar, Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, Peter Sellars, Julie Taymor, John Cameron Mitchell and Tony Taccone. Recent premieres include 600 HIGHWAYMEN's A THOUSAND WAYS, nora chipaumire's NEHANDA, Sam Green's 32 SOUNDS w/ JD Samson, Bryce Dessner's TRIPTYCH (EYES OF ONE ON ANOTHER) directed by Kaneza Schaal, John Cameron Mitchell's THE ORIGIN OF LOVE, Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers' CARTOGRAPHY, Sam Green & Kronos Quartet's A THOUSAND THOUGHTS, Big Dance Theater / Mikhail Baryshnikov's MAN IN A CASE, and Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater's NOT BY BREAD ALONE. Ongoing collaborations include 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Sam Green, Timothy White Eagle, Andrew Schneider, Big Dance Theater, Toshi Reagon, and Compagnia T.P.O. Upcoming premieres include Justin Peck & Sufjan Stevens' ILLINOIS and Scott Shepherd's THIS IGNORANT PRESENT. He is a founding member of CIPA (The Creative & Independent Producer Alliance). More information at arktype.org

WISE REAGON ARTS is an independent production company engaged in creating and cultivating art/work/life/song/action-centering congregational gatherings. Founded in 2018 by Toshi Reagon to produce the opera Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower (Co-produced with Meying Wang), Toshi created the Parable Path to move with and beyond the experience of the ritual singing of Octavia's story. The Parable Path is inspired by the journeys in the Parable novels that very much reflect the state of our current world. So, we work together on the issues that we are facing seeing the unique expertise that each of us has to problem solve. Being in collaboration and facing our right now and future together. Realigning ourselves with the planet's resources. Wise Reagon Arts newest work titled, You're Having Too Much Fun So We're Gonna Have To Kill You looks at the era of Disco and the journey to its global dominance. The death ritual to shut it down and the relentlessness of a beat that would not die. We would like to thank Indigo Arts Alliance, Maine Humanities Council, Bowdoin College, The McKeen Center, and all the mighty individuals and organizations that we have been in action and conversation with. Look for more #parablepathMaine gatherings throughout the year and beyond.