

Y
B
C
A

PAUL S. FLORES

WE HAVE IRÉ



WELCOME TO YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Our organization was founded in 1993 as a citizen institution that would be home to the diverse local arts community while serving to connect the Bay Area to the world. YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. We believe that culture—a collection of art, traditions, values, human experiences, and stories—is what enables us to act with imagination and creativity, to act socially, politically, and with conviction. Culture instigates change in the world.

We believe that more and different kinds of people need to be defining culture today and that more people need to have access to cultural experiences that are relevant to their lives and their communities. We need new definitions and new experiences that bring people together regardless of their differences in order to make the inclusive and equitable culture we need today. We believe that the arts should be on the front line of change and that cultural institutions exist to spur and support big societal movements. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, we are committed to kindling inclusive culture that cultivates empathy, awakens personal and societal transformation, and reaches for a world fueled by inspiration. The need has never been stronger than now, and there is no better place than YBCA to answer the call. We are so glad that you are here. We are grateful for your cultural participation, and we hope you will come back and enjoy all that YBCA has to offer.

Warmly,

DEBORAH CULLINAN
CEO of YERBA BUENA
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



PAUL S. FLORES WE HAVE IRÉ

Paul S. Flores – Playwright/Producer/CHRISTIAN

Rosalba Rolón – Director/Dramaturg

Yosvany Terry – Composer/Musician

Dj Leydis – DJ/Sound Designer

Ramón Ramos Alayo – Choreographer/MONCHI

Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi – Video/Photography/
Documentation

Christin Eve Cato – NENÉ

Denmis Savigne Bain – JONY

Maximiliano Urruzmendi – Light Design

Tanya Orellana – Set Design

Leyma Lopez – Assistant Director/Stage Manager

Haldun Morgan – Production Manager/Tech
Director

MUSICIANS: **Josh Jones** (drums) **Giulio Cetto**

(bass) **Javi Santiago** (Piano)

DANCERS: **Delvis Savigne Friñon**, **Edisnel**

Rodriguez, **Julianna Cressman**

We Have Iré is a Co-Commission of the National Performance Network Creation & Development Fund with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Pregones Theater, MACLA-San Jose, Miami Light Project, GALA Hispanic Theater, MECA-Houston and the National Performance Network. Co-produced by Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater.

THANK YOU to Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Thank you Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Isabel Yrigoyen, Deborah Cullinan, Voleine Amilcar and all the YBCA staff. You are all so dedicated and generous to support this project.

THANK YOU to our funders: Creative Capital 2019, MAP Fund 2017, Creative Work Fund 2017, Center for Cultural Innovation 2017-18, Doris Duke Performing Arts Awards, Pregones Theater, Casita Maria. We Have Iré is a Co-Commission of the National Performance Network Creation & Development Fund with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Pregones Theater, MACLA-San Jose, Miami Light Project, GALA Hispanic Theater, MECA-Houston and the National Performance Network.

THANK YOU to Southwest Airlines.

THANK YOU to our Individual Donors: Adela C. Arellano, Amy Drazen, Arlene Biala, Armando Castellano, Ashley Smiley, Bivett Brackett, Bobby Lefebre, Dina Gil Fariás, Erika Padilla, Freddy Merlos, Gabriel Patterson, Gina Chavira, Jenifer Andrea Porras, Joan Osato, John Avalo, Katie Aliferis, Kevin Smokler, Liliana Herrera, Lizbett Calleros, Maria Laboy, Maribel Alvarez, Maxine Chernoff, Mia Perez, Patricia Flores-Magallanes, Richard Ayers, DJ Sake-1, Sofia Navarro, Tanya Saunders, Wendolyn Aragon, Yesenia Sanchez, Gilda Gonzales, Dave Cone, Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez, Donna Amador, Desiree Almendra, Ray Diaz, Maria Martinez, Marisa Chibas, Josh Freund, Nataly Ortiz, Guadalupe Flores, Elizabeth Santos, Kata Miletich, Ruben Lizardo.

THANK YOU to all of our families for your sacrifice and your love.

A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PERFORMING ARTS



ISABEL YRIGOYEN

Lately the news media focuses its attention disproportionately on Central American immigrants who struggle to cross the border, seeking asylum and fleeing poverty and violence.

There are so many immigrant stories to tell. Those getting less attention are the success stories of immigrants living in the United States. The story you will see tonight is about Afro-Cuban artists who left Cuba to pursue their dreams, and how they found their niche and built new lives.

You better believe it wasn't easy getting here, and it isn't easy even after one has landed in "America." Tonight's work reveals the complexities of being Black, immigrant, female, and bilingual while at the same time celebrating how these artists bring joy whenever they get together to share

their talents—a very typical characteristic of Cuban culture. It doesn't matter how hard life gets; Cubans know how to relate and laugh off the tragedies by making fun of themselves and with each other, and using the gifts of song, dance, and ritual to achieve equilibrium and well-being.

This is a powerful and affirming moment for these immigrant Afro-Cuban artists who are living the lives they choose and thriving as artists. Their choices led them far from home, and achieving their goals required major sacrifices and risks. The hardship and pain of leaving one's country are never forgotten. They stay inside you, and the longing for home never goes away. I know this myself, as I also left Cuba when I was a little girl. Once you have lived outside your home country for a while, though, you begin to operate in two worlds. Perspectives change, and eventually you become a transnational citizen. You don't completely fit there or here. So you create your own sanctuary wherever you go.

Writer and playwright Paul S. Flores is a conduit for these stories and serves as provocateur, fulfilling his dream of immersing himself in Cuban culture through this project both in real life and through his own character in the play, "Christian." His Cuban grandmother raised him and influenced him with a longing to learn more about Cuba—to connect with the language, the culture, and *la cubanía*, which is part of his found identity. Being able to express your creativity freely and share it with your community and others is a blessing. Hence the title of the play: *We Have Iré*. Iré means "blessing" in the Santería religion, itself derived from the Yoruba religion. These artists have been blessed with their talent *y de buena onda*. *Iré ashé!*

ARTIST STATEMENT BY PAUL S. FLORES

Iré is Lucumí (Yoruba) for the good fortune we experience when our lives are in balance. We are blessed with positive energy when we are in tune with nature, when we are fulfilling our purpose, when we are spiritually in line with our destiny. This takes practice and work to maintain. The opposite of *iré* is *osogbo*, or the difficulty one encounters when life is unbalanced and off track with one's destiny.

Lucumí is the practice of Yoruban (African) language and spiritual traditions in Cuba. If you spend time in the Cuban community in the San Francisco Bay Area, you will undoubtedly hear songs celebrating Yoruban orishas like Yemayá (goddess of the ocean) and Oshun (goddess of fertility and the river). Some of the most talented Cuban musicians and dancers in the world live, practice, and perform in San Francisco. Yet many have never publicly told their stories of how they became artists, or how they arrived in the United States. I wanted to tell true stories of Afro-Cuban immigrant artists and celebrate their lives. With the support of Marc Bamuthi Joseph, former Chief of Program and Pedagogy at YBCA, I invited musician Yosvany Terry, dancer Ramón Ramos Alayo, and DJ Leydis to create a musical theater project exploring transnational Cuban artists.

We Have Iré is also my personal story about my connection to Cuba, where my family is from. On my research trips there, I collaborated with documentary filmmaker Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi to record our interviews and adventures in Santiago, Camaguey, and La Habana. *We Have Iré* is a multimedia musical theater project that benefits from the expertise, accomplishment, and *iré* of all the collaborators. The strength of the work stems from this unique ensemble of artists from different disciplines.

Latinx theater is growing in the United States. However, Black Latinx experiences

WE ARE BLESSED IN THE BAY AREA TO BE SURROUNDED BY SO MANY CUBAN ARTISTS AND EXPERIENCE THE JOY THAT EMITS WHENEVER THEY SHARE THEIR RICH TRADITIONS

are still not represented equally on stage. It's true there are not many Afro-Latinx actors and playwrights living in the Bay Area, and even fewer who act, sing, and dance. So I invited dancer Ramón Ramos to tell his own story. He has never acted before. Now his premiere performance will be acting out his own life on stage.

In fact, all the characters you see tonight represent the four principal artists, including myself. You will be witnessing our true stories. We have brought in two actors to play DJ Leydis and Yosvany as alter egos Nené and Jony. Lucky for us, we are being directed by the best. Rosalba Rolón of Pregones Theater has been directing successful bilingual musical theater in New York, Puerto Rico, and all over the world for forty years. There was no one else I could work with to achieve this experimental bilingual combination of theater, spoken word, live jazz, hip-hop, dance, and film.

We are blessed in the Bay Area to be surrounded by so many Cuban artists and experience the joy that reverberates when they share their rich traditions. *Aché* to all the ancestors who walk with us and continue to bless us with *iré*.

ARTIST PROFILES

PAUL S. FLORES

Shaped by his experiences growing up near the Mexican border, Paul S. Flores (Christian) creates plays and oral narratives that touch on the complexities of the immigrant story and spur societal movements. Flores' last play, *On the Hill: I Am Alex Nieto*, brought together San Francisco communities divided by gentrification and police violence. He performed for the first time in Cuba in 2001, and has presented multiple times in Havana, Mexico, and El Salvador.



ROSALBA ROLÓN

Rosalba Rolón is artistic director at Pregones + Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, a New York company focused on original musical theater and plays rooted in Puerto Rican/Latino cultures. With Pregones she has toured to more than five hundred US cities and eighteen countries. Favoring the art of stage adaptation in ensemble settings, her work includes *Harlem Hellfighters on a Latin Beat*, *Dancing in My Cockroach Killers*, and *The Red Rose*, among others.



YOSVANY TERRY

Since his arrival in New York in 1999, Cuban saxophonist, percussionist, and composer Yosvany Terry has been making a difference in contemporary music with his innovative work, a unique confluence of Cuban roots music and jazz. He recently received the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival commission for the suite *Noches de Parranda* and the Harlem Stage commission to write the music for the opera *Makandal*.



DJ LEYDIS

Born and raised in Cuba, DJ Leydis combines contemporary hits with a distinct fusion of Latin flavors, R&B classics, and roots reggae. She was involved in the inception of the Cuban hip-hop movement, and has organized some of Cuba's most respected events and programs. She co-founded Omegas Kilay, a Havana-based hip-hop theater collective, and co-created Cuba's first all-female DJ mixtape. She has worked with Erykah Badu, Questlove of the Roots, and other iconic US artists.



RAMÓN RAMOS ALAYO

Ramón Ramos Alayo (Monchi) is a dancer, teacher, and choreographer, and the founder and artistic director of Alayo Dance Company and CubaCaribe. As the principal dancer with Danza del Caribe and Narciso Medina Contemporary Dance Company, he has performed in Cuba, Europe, Canada, Belize, and the United States. Since moving to California he has performed with Robert Henry Johnson, Kim Epifano, Sara Shelton Mann, Joanna Haigood/Zaccho Dance, and Robert Moses' Kin.



CHRISTIN EVE CATO

Christin Eve Cato (Nené) is a native New Yorker with a background in performing arts and production. Currently pursuing an MFA in playwriting at Indiana University, she is a graduate of Fordham University and Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and the Performing Arts. Cato is affiliated with the New York theater companies Pregones/PRTT (ensemble member), INTAR Theatre (UNIT 52 ensemble member), and the hip-hop theater company Rhymes Over Beats (producing member).



DENMIS BAIN SAVIGNE

Denmis Bain Savigne (Jony) is originally from Santiago de Cuba. He has expertise in Afro-Cuban dance, folklore, ballet, jazz, modern dance, contemporary ballet, hip-hop, and singing. He is a principal dancer for Havana Nights Dance Company, and has choreographed for Kenny Ortega, Siegfried and Roy, Emilio Estefan, Manuel Mendive, Havana Nights Dance Company, and the Latin Grammys. He owns the Cuban Rhythm and Rumba dance studio in Vallejo, California.



ELI JACOBS-FANTAUZZI

Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi is an award-winning filmmaker and currently directs *FistUp*. TV, a production company that documents people's stories from around the world as a way to expand community awareness around social responsibility and cultural identity. His work has circulated through *Free Speech TV*, the Teaching Channel, PBS, and *Vibe* magazine. His dedication to his craft is deeply connected to his commitment to social justice and belief in the transformative power of film.



YBCA DONORS

THANK YOU TO YBCA CONTRIBUTORS!
YBCA gratefully acknowledges
contributions of \$500 or more received
between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

Institutions

Bloomberg Philanthropies
California Arts Council
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
The James Irvine Foundation
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows Program
National Endowment for the Arts
Panta Rhea Foundation
Surdna Foundation
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Institutions

Salesforce.com

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Institutions

The Creative Work Fund, a program of the
Walter and Elise Haas Fund also supported
by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Cushman & Wakefield
Walter & Elise Haas Fund
The Kimball Foundation
Kevin King and Meridee Moore
Koret Foundation
The MAP Fund, supported by the
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and
the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Meyer Sound
The Bernard Osher Foundation
Kenneth Rainin Foundation
Theatre Communications Group
Verizon
Wells Fargo Foundation
Yerba Buena Community Benefit District
Anonymous

Individuals

Nicola Miner and Robert Mailer Anderson
David Joseph Weber and Renu Agrawal
Anonymous (2)

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Institutions

Dolby Laboratories
Grosvenor Americas
The Sato Foundation
Zellerbach Family Foundation

Individuals

Peter Bransten and Leela de Souza Bransten
Jennifer C. Haas Fund
Mark Miles
Ned Topham
Rachel and Ned Topham
Karen H. Wickre Fund
Zak Williams
Anonymous (2)

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Institutions

Abundance Foundation
Heron Arts
HMS Associates
Macy's
The MCJ Amelior Foundation
New England Foundation for the Arts' National
Dance Project and National Theater Project, with
lead funding from The Doris Duke Charitable
Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Tencue

Individuals

Ana Athanasu Family Trust
Sara and Roy Bahat
Beard Family
Mrs. Mary L. Bianco
Alex Boulton
Carla and David Crane
Randi and Bob Fisher
Arline Klatte and Jonathan Ennis
Erik Mayo
Eileen and Peter Michael
Amir Mortazavi
Rekha Patel
Leslie and Merle Rabine
Meg Spriggs
Jocelyn and Paul Startz
Amanda Weil
Anonymous

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Institutions

Plant Construction Company, L.P.
Gaia Fund
La Mar Cebichería Peruana
Rena Bransten Gallery
SITELAB urban studio
Turner Construction

Individuals

Berit Ashla and Aron Cramer
Rena G. Bransten
M. Quinn Delaney and Wayne Jordan
John Elberling
Ann and Gordon Getty
Elna Moore Hall, Ph.D.
James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen
Shannon Jackson
Kevin Johnson and Karen Jenkins-Johnson
Michael Korcuska
Catalina Ruiz-Healy and Jonathan Kevles
MOCA Foundation
Mrs. George R. Moscone
Corinne Sklar

Srinija Srinivasan
Roselyne C. Swig
Mitchell and Kristen Yawitz

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Institutions

Adobe Matching Gifts Program
Ennead Architects
Facebook Artist in Residence Program
Jessica Silverman Gallery
Pacific Market International, LLC
The Shalleck Collaborative, Inc.
Stanford University
Studio O+A
Studio VARA

Individuals

Verda Alexander and Primo Orpilla
Jonathan and Fran Axelrad
John Bankston and Robert C. Goodman
Michelle Branch and Dale Cook
Trish Bransten and David Gallagher
Heidy Braverman and David Skinner
Victoire and Owsley Brown
Jeff and Lourdes Chang
David Cost and Kate Stechschulte
Deborah Cullinan and Kevin Cunz
Penelope Douglas and Jim Harrigan
Jennifer and Matias Duarte
Amy T. Eliot
Gloria and Saul Feldman
Matthew Goudeau
Wayne Hazzard
Helmut Wolfgang Schumann Foundation
Renuka Kher and Sandeep Solanki
Richard Laiderman and Jung-Wha Song
Joonho Lee and Kiyoungh Nam
Alvin and Rosanne Levitt
Ashley and Antonio Lucio
Michael Manning and Glenn McCoy
Derrick Mapp
Bruce McDougal and Daniel Rey
Nancy and Steven Oliver
Lisa Olson and Thomas Lau
Jan and Howard Oringer
Dr. Michael and Mrs. Jocelyne Penn
Maggie and Tony Pico
Samia Rashed
Rebecca and Alan Ross
Nicole and Alexander Rossi
Diane Sanchez
John Sanger
Yvonne & Angelo Sangiacomo Family Foundation
Scott, Jon, Maggie, and Val
in honor of Deborah Cullinan
The Selvage Fund at
the East Bay Community Foundation
Vicki Shipkowitz
Steve Smart and Javier Barreto
The Spalding Family Foundation
Anthony St. George and Joel Evans
Marc and Megara Vogl
Harvey and Leslie Wagner Foundation
Charles and Cheryl Ward
Nicole Ward-Parr
Feifei Xue
Robel Yemiru and Alison Duncan

Forest and Jane Young
Anonymous (3)

\$500 - \$999

Institutions

Anglim Gilbert Gallery
Auerbach Pollock Friedlander | Auerbach Glasgow
The Cultivist
Doran & Associates
Google Matching Gifts

Individuals

Jerry Bailey
Terry Juan Bates
Darryl Carbonaro
Michaela Cassidy
Yvette Chalom and Paul Fogel
Wayee Chu
Stuart and Barbara Cianos
Fahrettin Cirit
Austin Conkey
Tom DeCaigny
Francesca Eastman and Edward Goodstein
Colin Eykamp
Marcia Feitel
Rebecca Follo
Kenneth J. Foster and Nayan Shah
Ed Gilbert
Brian Gross and Dana Hart-Stone
Thomas E. Horn
Priya H. Kamani
Ed and Peggy Kavounas
Maureen and James Knoll
D.J. Kurtze
Nancy Levinson
Lawrence Li and Philip Tran
David Liff
Laura Livoti
Merissa Mann
Connie and Haig Mardikian
Jessica Marshall
Jennifer Mei and Dr. Hanmin Liu
Mark Mullen and Julie Campbell
Jim Newman and Jane Ivory
K. Oberhaus and L. Gathers
Mathieu Reeves
Ted Russell
Malia Simonds
Barbara Sklar
Neal Strickberger and Melissa Alexander
Djinnaya Stroud and Jason Bradford
Lava Thomas and Peter Danzig
Avery Ucker and Sophia Poirier
Sarah and David Woodward
Johann Zimmern and Sharon Lepper
in memory of Christian Zimmern
Anonymous

GIFTS IN-KIND

111 Minna Gallery	KQED
Austerity Wines	Line 39 Wines
Fort Point Beer Co.	The New York Times
Ronald W. Garrity	Zola
Ketel One Vodka	

THANK YOU TO YBCA FUNDERS!

We Have Iré is made possible in part by The Creative Work Fund, a program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund that also is supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Thank you to our Community partner, Cuba Caribe, for co-hosting the 50 Cent Tabernacle, and all of the public programs associated with the production.



YBCA Programs are made possible in part by Bloomberg Philanthropies and The James Irvine Foundation, with additional funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Grosvenor, and YBCA Members.



YBCA Performances are made possible in part by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Panta Rhea Foundation, with additional funding from Surdna Foundation, Salesforce.com, New England Foundation for the Arts, and Zellerbach Family Foundation.



Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

YBCA CONTRIBUTORS

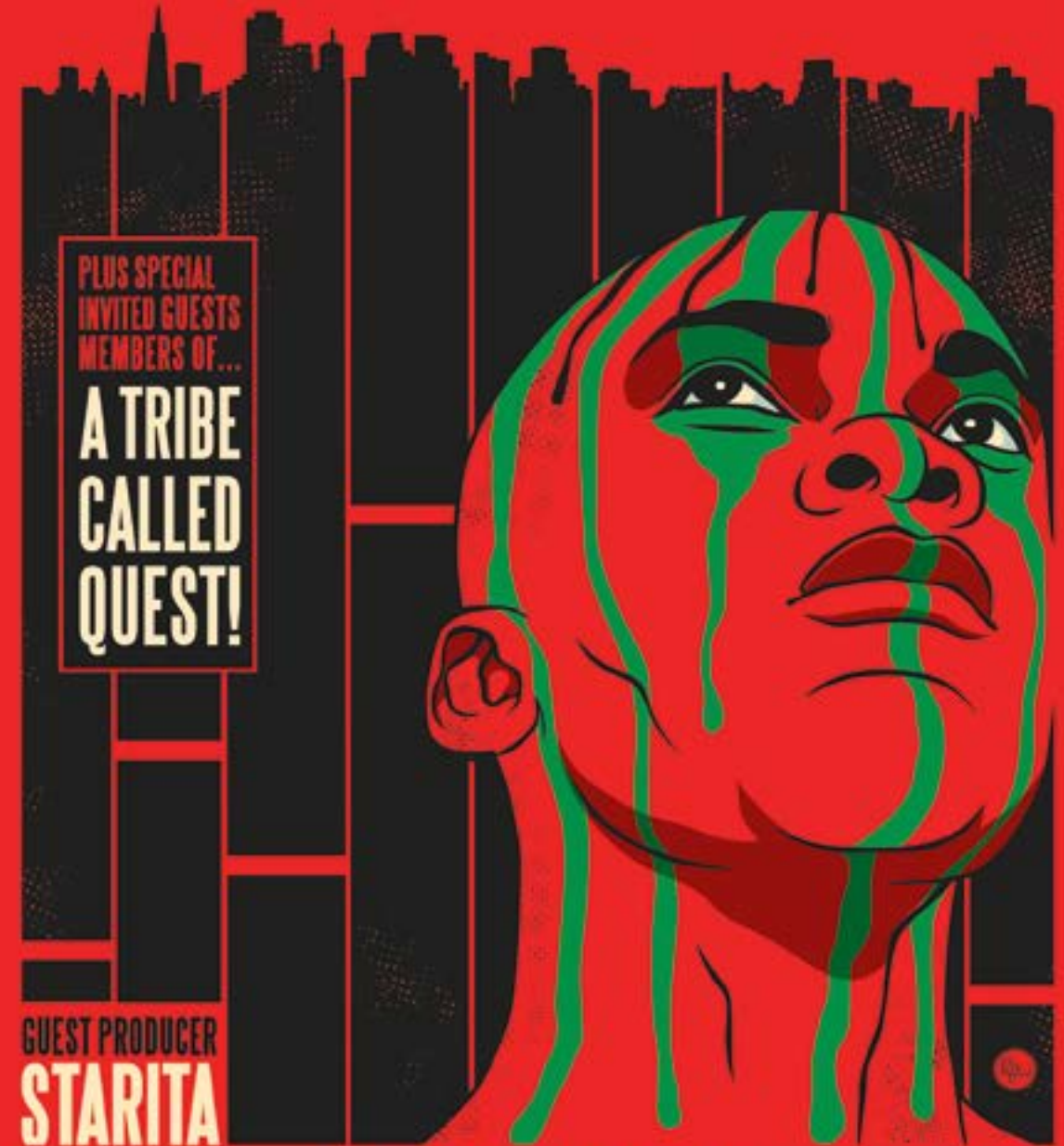
Marc Bamuthi Joseph, *Curator, Former Chief of Program & Pedagogy*
Isabel Yrigoyen, *Interim Director of Performing Arts*
Claire Shoun, *Performing Arts Programs Manager*
Jodi Cobalt, *Director of Production*
Chris Griffin, *Sr. Production Manager*
Cori Lucas, *Production Manager*
Minerva Ramirez, *Assistant Production Manager*
Cedric Lathan, *Head Technician*
Greg Wilson, *Head Technician*
Mike Starobin, *Head Technician*

2018-2019 YBCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erik Mayo, *Chair*
Sara Fenske Bahat
Heidi Braverman
Jeff Chang
Dale Cook
Amy Eliot
Ana Teresa Fernández
Renuka Kher
D.J. Kurtze
Nancy Levinson
Laura Livoti
Mark Miles
Amir Mortazavi
Rekha Patel
Catalina Ruiz-Healy
Diane Sanchez
Corinne Sklar
Meg Spriggs
Jocelyn Lamm Startz
Marc Vogl
Dave Weber
Amanda Weil
Karen Wickre
Zak Williams

Emeritus
Helen Sause

YBCA & UNDERCOVER PRESENT



A TRIBUTE TO A TRIBE CALLED QUEST'S
MIDNIGHT MARAUDERS

YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS • MAY 16-18 • 2019 • 7:30PM

TICKETS AT YBCA.ORG

MAY 10-12, 2019
YBCA FORUM

YBCA.ORG

YERBA BUENA
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS

Photo By Tommy Lau

