

# ON SUGARLAND

**BY**  
Aleshea Harris

**DIRECTED BY**  
Whitney White

**CHOREOGRAPHED BY**  
Raja Feather Kelly

<b>SCENIC DESIGN</b>	Adam Rigg
<b>COSTUME DESIGN</b>	Qween Jean
<b>LIGHTING DESIGN</b>	Amith Chandrashaker
<b>SOUND DESIGN &amp; CO-ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS</b>	Mikaal Sulaiman
<b>ORIGINAL MUSIC</b>	Starr Busby
<b>HAIR &amp; WIG DESIGN</b>	Earon Nealey
<b>FIGHT DIRECTION</b>	UnkleDave's Fight-House
<b>DRAMATURGY</b>	Lauren Whitehead
<b>CASTING</b>	Taylor Williams
<b>STAGE MANAGER</b>	Alfredo Macias

## **CAST**

<b>Stephanie Berry</b>	Evelyn
<b>Thomas Walter Booker</b>	The Rowdy
<b>Caleb Eberhardt</b>	Addis
<b>Xavier Scott Evans</b>	The Rowdy
<b>Mister Fitzgerald</b>	The Rowdy
<b>Josh Fulton</b>	The Rowdy
<b>Charisma Glasper</b>	The Rowdy
<b>Kai Heath</b>	The Rowdy
<b>Shemar Yanick Jonas</b>	The Rowdy
<b>Billy Eugene Jones</b>	Saul
<b>KiKi Layne</b>	Sadie
<b>Mariyea</b>	The Rowdy
<b>Lizan Mitchell</b>	Tisha
<b>Adeola Role</b>	Odella

*On Sugarland* is performed with one intermission.

*On Sugarland* is made possible by the generosity of The Roy Cockrum Foundation and the Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation.

Originally commissioned by Denver Center for the Performing Arts Theatre Company, Chris Coleman, Artistic Director.

Developed in part in Center Theatre Group's LA Writers' Workshop.

Developed in the New Strands Residency, a program of the American Conservatory Theater. Pam MacKinnon, Artistic Director / Jennifer Bielstein, Executive Director.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Our theater lives on the island of Manhattan.

Manhattan has always been a gathering and trading place for many Indigenous peoples, where Nations intersected from all four directions since time immemorial. It was a place to gather and sometimes to seek refuge during times of conflict and struggle. The staff and trustees of New York Theatre Workshop pay respect to all of their ancestors past, present, to their future generations.

We acknowledge that our theatre, and our work, is situated on the island of Manhattan (*Menohhannet* —On the Island), traditional lands of the Munsee Lenape, the Canarsie, Unkechaug, Matinecock, Shinnecock, Reckgawanc and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

We respect that many Indigenous people continue to live and work on this island and acknowledge their ongoing contributions to this area.

We encourage each of you to honor the Indigenous communities that first inhabited the land on which you're now standing.

We would like to thank **Safe Harbors NYC** for contributing to this statement.

## THE PROVENANCE

*New York Theatre Workshop strives to be both an active producing theatre, engaging in an ongoing conversation with our audiences, and a nurturing workshop, providing off-stage support to a diverse community of artists. Our workshop activities are designed to provide artists a space to experiment and are not open to the public. However, the development of the work we share with our audiences is an important part of the conversation around each production. To that end, we include information on the piece's provenance, or beginnings, in our programs.*

**On Sugarland** began when a fellow grad student asked playwright Aleshea Harris if she'd be interested in adapting Sophocle's *Philoctetes*. Intrigued by the play but not immediately able to find her way into it, the strong reception to her play *Is God Is*, which premiered at Soho Rep in 2018, emboldened Aleshea to look more expansively at the story and conjure a world that felt familiar and necessary to her. Although not autobiographical, the story is born from Aleshea's own experience growing up with a mother in the Army as well as research about the rich and complex history of Black soldiers in the United States.

Over a few years, Aleshea developed *On Sugarland* as part of a writers' group and in a series of workshops, culminating in a workshop to explore the text for the first time with frequent collaborator Whitney White in November 2019 at New York Theatre Workshop. NYTW first collaborated with Aleshea by supporting a reading of a new work in the winter of 2018 and came to know Whitney as the Associate Director for *Othello* and as a 2050 Directing Fellow. Shortly following the workshop of *On Sugarland* in 2019, NYTW began planning for a production in the winter of 2021.

While the initial plans were postponed due to COVID-19, both Aleshea & Whitney were Artistic Instigators during the 2020-2021 season, each creating singular projects with *Brother, Brother* and *Semblance*, respectively. As we looked to return to space, we eagerly recommitted to *On Sugarland*. Whitney & Aleshea built a creative team with many frequent NYTW collaborators and invited an extraordinary company of 14 performers to bring *On Sugarland* to life on 4th Street.

## COLLABORATING ARTISTS

### Aleshea Harris

Playwright

NYTW: *Brother, Brother*. PLAYS: *Brother, Brother* (dir. Shayok Misha Chowdhury at NYTW), *Is God Is* (dir. Taibi Magar at Soho Rep.), *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* (dir. by Whitney White at the Movement Theatre Company). AWARDS: Relentless Award, Obie Award, Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, Samuel French Next Step Award, Windham-Campbell Literary Prize, Steinberg Playwriting Award and the Hermitage Greenfield Prize. COMMISSIONS: CTG, MTC, Playwrights Horizons. RESIDENCIES: MacDowell, Hedgebrook, Djerassi, Hermitage Artist Retreat.

### Whitney White

Director

NYTW: *Semblance*. She is an Obie Award and Lilly Award-winning director, writer and musician originally from Chicago. She was recently a staff writer on Boots Riley's *I'm a Virgo* (Amazon). Recent credits: *The Amen Corner* (Shakespeare Theatre), *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (NYT Critics' Pick), Aleshea Harris's *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* (NYT Critics' Pick). She is part of the Rolex Protégé and Mentorship Arts Initiative. Whitney's five-part cycle deconstructing Shakespeare's women, music, and female ambition is currently in development with the American Repertory Theater.

### Raja Feather Kelly

Choreographer

NYTW: *Hurricane Diane*, *The House That Will Not Stand*. Most recent work: *A Strange Loop* (Obie Award winner and winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Drama), *Fairview* (winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama), *We're Gonna Die* (2St), *SUFFS* (New York Live Arts). Upcoming: *SUFFS* (Public Theater), *86th* (Diversionsary), *Lempicka* (LaJolla Playhouse), *A Strange Loop* (Lyceum).

### Stephanie Berry

Evelyn

NYTW debut. She is the 2021 recipient of The League of Professional Theatre Women's Lee Reynolds Award for her work using theater to illuminate the possibilities for social, cultural and political change. *The Garden* at La Jolla Playhouse, Older Ruby in the series "Fantasy Island". NYTW Usual Suspect.

### Thomas Walter Booker

The Rowdy

NYTW debut. Born and raised in Washington, DC, he is a recent graduate of the SUNY Purchase Acting Conservatory. TV/Film credits include "Blue Bloods" (Ozzie), "Giles" (Jay). Regional Theatre credits include *One Night in Miami* (Cassius). @walterbook97

### Caleb Eberhardt

Addis

NYTW debut. Broadway: *Choir Boy* (MTC). Off-Broadway: *Is God Is* (Soho Rep.), *Esai's Table* (Cherry Lane), Regional: *Choir Boy* (Alliance Theatre, Geffen Playhouse). Film: *Judas and the Black Messiah*, *The Subject*, *Chestnut* (upcoming), *Manodrome* (upcoming), TV: "Betty" (HBO). Caleb is a graduate of the SUNY Purchase Acting Conservatory.

### Xavier Scott Evans

The Rowdy

NYTW debut. Off-Broadway: *The Last of the Love Letters* (ATC). Regional: *The Royale*, *The Mystery of Love & Sex*. Film/TV: "Love Life", "FBI", *Bottom of the 9th*. Upcoming: *Paradise Highway*.

### Mister Fitzgerald

The Rowdy

NYTW Debut. Off-Broadway: *Blue Man Group*, *Rio Uphill*. Regional: *Rent*, *The Wiz*, *Electra*, *Raisin in The Sun*. He'll be starring in the upcoming film *The Last Deal* as Bobby. Film & TV: *Boogie*, *30 Weeks*, "Power Book II: Ghost", "FBI", "The Blacklist" and "Blue Bloods".

### Josh Fulton

The Rowdy

NYTW debut. Hillman Grad Writing Mentee 2021. Actors Theatre of Louisville: *Everybody Black*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Pipeline*. Other Theatre: *Scarfoot Lives* at Playwrights Center, *Death of the Republic* by Craig Lucas.

## **Charisma Glasper**

The Rowdy

NYTW debut. Television: "Gossip Girl" (2021), "Russian Doll", "Prodigal Son", "Succession"  
Film: *Mercury Afrogarde*. Installation(s): *What Time Took*; Chashama. Pronouns: She, They. Instagram: @chavisma

## **Kai Heath**

The Rowdy

NYTW debut. Off-Broadway theatre credits include *Messenger* (The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park). Regional credits: Hall in *Men on Boats* (Baltimore Center Stage); Averie in *Dot* (People's Light Theater), Rutgers Theater Company credits include: Falstaff in *Henry IV*, and Hotspur in *Henry IV: Part One* at Shakespeare's Globe. Instagram: @harlemkai

## **Shemar Yanick Jonas**

The Rowdy

NYTW debut. He is a Guyanese-American actor, writer, and director based in New York City. He can be seen on-screen making appearances on "Blue Bloods" (CBS), "Luke Cage" (Netflix), "Pause with Sam Jay" (HBO), and "The Equalizer" (CBS). Training: Moving Mountains (NYC Theatre program). Instagram: @kingshemar

## **Billy Eugene Jones**

Saul

NYTW debut. Broadway: *A Soldier's Play*, *The Book of Mormon*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The Big Knife*, *The Mountaintop*, *Passing Strange*, *Radio Golf*, and *Gem of the Ocean*. He is a graduate of Yale School of Drama.

## **KiKi Layne**

Sadie

NYTW debut. Theatre: *Octagon* (US Premiere, Jackalope Theatre), *Genesis* (Definition Theatre), *Good People* (Redtwist Theatre), *Letters Home* (Griffin Theatre), *Byhalia*, *Mississippi* (Definition Theatre). Select Film: *If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Coming 2 America*, *The Old Guard*, *Native Son*. Upcoming: *Don't Worry Darling*.

## **Mariyea**

The Rowdy

NYTW debut. They are a performer and drag artist, dedicated to sharing love and joy. Previous credits include *Untitled (1-5)*, at The Shed among others. They regularly host and perform in Drag throughout the city. You can catch them on Nerve Sundays at The Q Club in March. @mariyeaj #blacktranslivesmatter.

## **Lizan Mitchell**

Tisha

NYTW debut. Broadway: *Electra*, *Having Our Say*, *So Long on Lonely Street*. Off-Broadway: *Cullud Wattah*, *Passage*, *Brownsville Song*, *Cell*, *For Colored Girls*. Regional: *Skeleton Crew*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The House That Will Not Stand*. Film/TV: *Detroit*, "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "The Good Wife," *The Preacher's Wife*, and "The Wire."

## **Adeola Role**

Odella

NYTW debut. Broadway: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, and *Eclipsed*. Off-Broadway: *Office Hour* (The Public), and *Invisible Thread* (Second Stage). National Tours: *Eclipsed*. Regional: *Witness Uganda* (A.R.T), and *Lily's Revenge* (A.R.T). TV/ Film: "Blue Bloods", "The Last O.G.", "The Blacklist", "Pose".

## **Adam Rigg**

Scenic Design

NYTW: *The House That Will Not Stand*. Off-Broadway: *Cullud Wattah* (Public), *Is God Is* (Soho Rep), *Fefu And Her Friends* (TFANA), *Fabulation* (Signature Theater). Opera: *Breaking The Waves* (Opera Philadelphia), *Prism* (LA Opera). Upcoming: *Skin Of Our Teeth* (LCT), *Soft* (MCC), *The Listeners* (Norwegian National Opera). [www.adamriggdesign.com](http://www.adamriggdesign.com)

## **Qween Jean**

Costume Design

NYTW: *Semblance*. Recent theatre: *Black No More*, *I Need Space*, *Macbeth In Stride*, *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord*, *Siblings Play*, *Amen Corner*, *Rags Parkland*, *Good Grief*, *Othello*, and the acclaimed *What to Send Up*, *When it Goes Down*. MFA from NYU Tisch. Black Trans Lives Matter!

## **Amith Chandrashaker**

Lighting Design

NYTW: *Kristina Wong*, *Sweatshop Overlord*. The Public, Second Stage, TFANA, Playwrights Horizons, Signature Theater, Williamstown, Ars Nova, Soho Rep, Berkeley Rep, The Atlantic, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Omaha, Opera Colorado, The Atlanta Opera. Dance works by Alexander Ekman, Liz Gerring, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Rennie Harris, Recipient of the Drama Desk and Henry Hewes awards. Assistant Professor of Lighting at The University of Maryland.

## **Mikaal Sulaiman**

Sound Design & Co-Original Compositions

NYTW: *Sanctuary City*, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*. Broadway: *Thoughts of a Colored Man*. Off-Broadway: *Fairview* (Drama

Desk nom.), *Rags Parkland* (Drama Desk, Lortel, noms.), *Underground Railroad Game*, *Skittles The Broadway Musical*; Henry Hewes Award and CTG Sherwood Award; Head of Sound Design MFA program at Yale University. [www.mikaal.com](http://www.mikaal.com)

### **STARR Busby**

Original Music

NYTW debut. Receives all pronouns said with respect. Off-Broadway: *Octet* (Drama Desk Award Winner). Regional: *Moby Dick* (A.R.T.). 2021 Ars Nova Vision Resident. Latest EP and accompanying film *9 C u p s i n t h e M o o n* available for streaming, downloading and viewing via [www.starrbusby.onuniverse.com](http://www.starrbusby.onuniverse.com).

### **Earon Nealey**

Wig & Hair Design

NYTW debut. Broadway: *Sweat, Chicken and Biscuits* (Associate Makeup Designer). Other credits: *Nina Simone: Four Women* (Berkshire Theater), *Little Girl Blue* (Goodspeed Opera), *The Woman's Party* (Clubbed Thumb), *The Colored Museum* (Oakwood Secondary School), *Once On This Island* (Pioneer Theatre Company), *Little Women* (Dallas Theater Center), *Oklahoma, Patsy Cline* (Weston Playhouse), *Mojada* (The Public Theater).

### **UnkleDave's Fight-House**

Fight Direction

NYTW: *runboyrun & In Old Age*. Broadway: *Girl From The North Country*; *Escape To Margaritaville*; *The Great Society*; *Tuck Everlasting*; *An American In Paris*; *Disgraced*. Off-Broadway: *What To Send Up When It Goes Down*; *Halfway Bitches Go Straight To Heaven* (Drama Desk Nomination); *Oedipus El Rey* (Drama Desk Nomination). TV: "Annie Live!"

### **Lauren Whitehead**

Dramaturgy

NYTW debut. She is a writer, performer & dramaturg. She adapted *Between the World and Me* for stage and for television. She originated the lead role in *We Shall Not Be Moved*. She's been a Sundance Theater Lab Fellow and currently, she's a Professor of Drama at NYU. Instagram: @lady\_whitehead

### **Taylor Williams, CSA**

Casting

NYTW (selected): *Slave Play* (Broadway original and remount, CTG), *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Broadway, National Tour), *The House that Will Not Stand*, *Sanctuary City*. Virtual: *Ratatouille the TikTok Musical*. National Tour: Daniel Fish's *Oklahoma*. Upcoming: *Man Cave* (Page 73), *7 Minutes* (Waterwell), Sam Gold's *Three Sisters*. [www.taylorwilliams casting.com](http://www.taylorwilliams casting.com)

### **Alfredo Macias**

Stage Manager

NYTW: *Endlings*, *An Ordinary Muslim*, *Pinching Pennies w/ Penny Marshall, Brother, Brother*. Broadway: *Trouble in Mind*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Off-Broadway: *Winter's Tale*, *The Odyssey*, *Twelfth Night* (Public Theater); *Fucking A*, *Fires In The Mirror* (Signature Theatre); *The Way She Spoke* (audible theatre); *Nice Fish* (St. Ann's Warehouse). Regional: *SIX The Musical*, *Endlings*, *Arrabal!* (A.R.T.), *Miss You Like Hell* (La Jolla Playhouse).

### **Katie Ailinger**

Assistant Stage Manager

NYTW: *Kristina Wong*, *Sweatshop Overlord*. Credits include *The New Englanders*, *In The Body Of The World* (MTC); *The Pain of My Belligerence*, *The Thanksgiving Play* (Playwrights Horizons); *Nice Fish* (St. Ann's Warehouse); *Trans Scripts: The Women*, *Nice Fish*, *The Tempest*, *The Lily's Revenge*, *FUTURITY*, *Woody Sez* (A.R.T.).

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**Scenic Artist**

Sophia Costanzi

**Lighting Supervisor**

John Anselmo

**Light Board Programmer**

Evan Herman-Chin

**Light Board Operator**

Amanda Fitzgerald



The actors and stage managers  
employed in this production  
are members of Actors' Equity  
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Fitzgerald, Michael Fudge, Michael  
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Miranda Tremblay

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Mike Deyo

**Sound Board Operator**

Austin Pogrob

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The director and choreographer are  
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HanJie Chow

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Joan Marcus



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**SPECIAL THANKS**

Nataki Garrett, the late Doug Langworthy, Stacey Bell, Adventure We Can, Casey Stein

**NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP**

New York Theatre Workshop empowers visionary theatre-makers and brings their work to adventurous audiences through productions, artist workshops, and education and community engagement programs. We nurture pioneering new writers alongside powerhouse playwrights, engage inimitable genre-shaping directors, and support emerging artists in the earliest days of their careers. We've mounted over 150 productions from artists whose work has shaped our very idea of what theatre can be, including Jonathan Larson's *Rent*; Tony Kushner's *Slavs!* and *Homebody/Kabul*; Doug Wright's *Quills*; Claudia Shear's *Blown Sideways Through Life* and *Dirty Blonde*; Paul Rudnick's *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* and *Valhalla*; Martha Clarke's *Vienna: Lusthaus*; Will Power's *The Seven* and *Fetch Clay, Make Man*; Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forest*, *Far Away*, *A Number* and *Love and Information*; Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's *Aftermath*; Rick Elice's *Peter and the Starcatcher*; Glen Hansard, Markéta Irglová and Enda Walsh's *Once*; David Bowie and Enda Walsh's *Lazarus*; Dael Orlandersmith's *The Gimmick* and *Forever*; and eight acclaimed productions directed by Ivo van Hove. NYTW's productions have received a Pulitzer Prize, 25 Tony Awards, 2 Grammy Awards and assorted Obie, Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Awards. NYTW is represented on Broadway with Anaïs Mitchell's *Hadestown* developed with and directed by Rachel Chavkin and the upcoming *Sing Street*, based on the motion picture written and directed by John Carney, with a book by Enda Walsh, music and lyrics by Gary Clark & John Carney, directed by Rebecca Taichman. NYTW is also represented with the current National Tours of *Hadestown* and Heidi Schreck's *What the Constitution Means to Me*, directed by Oliver Butler.

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*New York Theatre Workshop acknowledges the  
 generous support of all individuals who have  
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## 4TH STREET BAR ASSOCIATION

New York Theatre Workshop's 4SBA members take advantage of exciting social and cultural experiences while supporting one of the City's leading Off-Broadway institutions. Members of the steering committee are noted in bold. *List reflects updates as of January 3, 2022.*

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We would like to especially acknowledge: **American Express, Con Edison, Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Roy Cockrum Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Leon Levy Foundation, The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Councilmember Carlina Rivera, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Select Equity Group Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, SHS Foundation, Tow Foundation, Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature** for their outstanding leadership in arts funding in New York City.



*New York Theatre Workshop is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*



*This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.*



## CATERING SPONSOR



## MATCHING GIFTS

NYTW extends its gratitude to the generous companies who match their employees' annual donations: **AllianceBernstein; Aon Foundation; Apple, Inc.; AXA Foundation; Blackrock; BNY Mellon; Chevron; Credit Suisse; Deutsche Bank Securities; Dolby; GE Foundation; Google; IBM Corporation; IAC; Johnson & Johnson; JP Morgan Chase; LinkedIn; Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC; Macy's; McKinsey & Company; Merck & Co.; Microsoft; NIKE; Palo Alto Networks; Pfizer Foundation; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Rockefeller Foundation; S&P Global; Select Equity Group, Inc.; Trail of Bits; Verizon; William Blair & Company; and Walt Disney Company Foundation.**

## LEGACY GIFTS

New York Theatre Workshop is grateful to the following individuals who have included NYTW in their estate plans. Their legacy gifts will be woven into the fabric of our community, supporting the next generation of theatre-makers and theatre-goers.

In Memory of Martha Usdin  
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# MAKE ART HAPPEN



Shaun Bengson, Reggie White, Dani Markham, Jo Lampert and Abigail Bengson in *Hundred Days*. Photo by Joan Marcus.

**Each year, New York Theatre Workshop supports nearly 2,000 artists through work both on and off stage.** None of this would be possible without our dedicated donors. Their generous support of our artists, audience and community is what helps bring vibrant programs and productions to life.

## REPEAT DEFENDERS

The Society of Repeat Defenders is made up of a committed and passionate group of donors who make annual gifts of \$1,500 or more! **Repeat Defenders have access to an intimate and engaged relationship with NYTW** through exclusive benefits including special acknowledgment in our programs. Most importantly, Repeat Defenders get the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts are helping us push the boundaries of what theatre can be and what it can do.

## 4TH STREET BAR ASSOCIATION

**The 4th Street Bar Association provides the best access to theatre for young supporters.** With organized 4SBA nights, members take advantage of exciting social and cultural experiences while supporting NYTW. Access is available at a variety of levels, providing numerous benefits including tickets and invitations to pre and post-show parties.

## MAKE ART POSSIBLE

Have you ever thought about supporting a specific production? Investing in an arts education program? Sponsoring the work of a specific artist? Learn about these opportunities—and more—for special gifts by contacting **Leah Cox at LeahC@nytw.org or 646-957-9573.**

# IT STARTS HERE

**Join today** at NYTW.org, call 646-957-9573 or email Leah Cox at LeahC@nytw.org.

# NYTW: BROADWAY & BEYOND

Two productions that originated at New York Theatre Workshop are now uptown and on tour where they continue to inspire and challenge audiences everywhere. Whether you caught them here, or you'll experience them for the first time elsewhere this year, we hope to see you there!



Amber Gray and Heidi Schreck. Photos by Joan Marcus.

## HADESTOWN

Music, lyrics and book by **ANAÏS MITCHELL**  
Developed with and directed by **RACHEL CHAVKIN**

**"HADESTOWN will be your next musical theater obsession."**

—*Vogue*

**SEE IT:** Visit [Hadestown.com](http://Hadestown.com) for info about the National Tour and Broadway run.

## WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

By **HEIDI SCHRECK**  
Directed by **OLIVER BUTLER**

**"It should play in every city in America."**

—*The New Yorker*

**SEE IT:** Visit [ConstitutionBroadway.com](http://ConstitutionBroadway.com) for info about the National Tour.

# UP NEXT AT NYTW

## DREAMING ZENZILE

May - July 2022



At her final concert, South African musical legend and activist **Miriam Makeba** delivers the performance of her life, raising the conscience and the consciousness of a people. But the ancestors are calling—transporting her through the music and fractured memories of her past on a spiritual journey of reconciliation. Written and performed by international music sensation **Somi Kakoma** and directed by NYTW Usual Suspect & former 2050 Fellow **Lileana Blain-Cruz**, this rolling world premiere production of *Dreaming Zenzile* brings together seven producers including Octopus Theatricals, National Black Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, McCarter Theatre Center, Arts Emerson, Apollo Theater and New York Theatre Workshop.

# OUR 2022/23 SEASON

## american (tele)visions



A long, long time ago—the '90s—in a Walmart far, far away, Erica, our Hero of Ages Lost, pushes her shopping cart—that most sacred ancient vessel of capitalism—through the aisles of a memory play. *american (tele)visions* is an explosive collision between the American Dream and the American Nightmare—the story of an undocumented Mexican family. With singular wit and pathos, NYTW Tow Playwright-in-Residence **Victor I. Cazares** creates an epic multiverse where time is fluid and the characters are refracted through literal televisions, imagined video games, endless Walmart aisles, and a double-wide torn in two. NYTW Usual Suspect **RubénVELO**, founding artistic director of Theater Mitu, directs the multi-media production which includes live performance, live camera feeds and pre-recorded video.

## THREE SISTERS



NYTW Usual Suspect and Tony Award winner **Sam Gold** (*Othello*) revisits **Chekhov** following his acclaimed 2012 production of *Uncle Vanya* that was heralded as “luminous” and “the most intimate and engaging exploration of Chekhov’s bleak comedy.” This new adaptation of *Three Sisters* is penned by Pulitzer Prize finalist **Claire Barron** (*Dance Nation*) and reunites Gold with two previous collaborators: *The Village Bike*’s **Greta Gerwig** (*Lady Bird*, *Frances Ha*) and *Hamlet*’s **Oscar Isaac** (*Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, *Inside Llewyn Davis*).

## MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG



Spanning three decades in the entertainment business, *Merrily We Roll Along* charts the turbulent relationship between composer Franklin Shepard and his two lifelong friends—writer Mary and lyricist & playwright Charley. An inventive, cult-classic ahead of its time, this musical features some of **Stephen Sondheim**’s most celebrated and personal songs with a book by **George Furth**. Directed by Olivier Award nominee **Maria Friedman** and choreographed by **Tim Jackson**, *Merrily We Roll Along* will star **Daniel Radcliffe** as Charley.

## HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF



After a sorority sister is raped, seven college students gather for a DIY self-defense workshop. They learn to use their bodies as weapons. They learn to fend off attackers. They learn “not to be a victim.” Self-defense becomes a channel for their rage, anxiety, confusion, trauma and desire—lots of desire. With sharp humor and brutal honesty, Liliانا Padilla’s *How to Defend Yourself* explores what we want, how to ask for it, and the violator and violated inside us all. Tony Award-winning NYTW Usual Suspect **Rachel Chavkin** (*Hadestown*), Susan Smith Blackburn finalist **Liliانا Padilla** (*Born 1000 Times*) and Helen Hayes Award winner **Steph Paul** (*The Last Match*) will co-direct the production.

## THE HALF-GOD OF RAINFALL



When Demi, the half Nigerian-mortal, half Greek-god, is angry, rain clouds gather. When he cries, rivers burst their banks. And the first time he takes a shot on a basketball court, the deities of the land wake up. From award-winning poet and playwright **Inua Ellams** (*Barber Shop Chronicles*) comes a new myth that spans continents and millennia.

Photo of Somi Kakoma by Chris Schwagga; Sam Gold by Matthew Murphy; Clare Barron by Marc J. Franklin; Tim Jackson by Pete Jones; Rachel Chavkin by Chad Batka; Steph Paul by Joe Mazza.

# SEE MORE FOR LESS!

A membership gets you in the door to see the entire season! Sign up online or give us a call and we’ll take care of the rest. We’ll reach out a few months before each show with reminders about your exclusive members-only booking period. Your member ticket is already paid for—you just choose your date and seat. Plans change? No problem—exchange your tickets for free anytime during the run so that NYTW fits into your schedule (not the other way around).

## THE CROSS-SEASON MEMBERSHIP

Enjoy seven exciting productions between now and the summer of 2023! Lock in the 2022/23 season, featuring the highly anticipated return of *Three Sisters* and the newly announced *Merrily We Roll Along*, and see this season’s *Dreaming Zenzile* all in one package!

## THE PREMIERE MEMBERSHIP

Have a tricky schedule or want the best seats? Take your experience at the Workshop to the next level and get first priority to all of our productions in the 2022/23 season along with this season’s *Dreaming Zenzile*. BONUS: Get access to select VIP events over the course of the season.

As a special thank you for seeing *On Sugarland*, use code **PROGRAM** at checkout for a limited-time offer on either of our cross-season membership options.

**Join today at NYTW.org.** Not sure which package is right for you? Contact Justin at [JustinJ@nytw.org](mailto:JustinJ@nytw.org) or call 646-793-3215. **Already a member?** Log into your account at [NYTW.org](http://NYTW.org) for exclusive access to renew your membership.

# SEE MORE ONLINE

Since April 2020, we've been offering a robust lineup of FREE classes and conversations to sustain a connection with you—our community. If you missed any of these events or want to go back for a second viewing, check out the online archive at [NYTW.org](https://www.nytw.org) or [Youtube.com/NYTheatreWorkshop79](https://www.youtube.com/NYTheatreWorkshop79).

## MASTERCLASSES

Go in depth with a master artist to study directing, acting, playwriting, design, teaching theatre online, cabaret performance, and more!

## FIRESIDE CHATS

Informal conversations with some of the incredible artists in our community.

## JAM SESSIONS

We know firsthand the joy of hearing music fill the theatre, so we asked some friends to take over our social media channels to bring some music to your homes.

## VIRTUALLY NEIGHBORS

Whether you're feeling lonely and isolated or you just have some extra time on your hands, we'd love to introduce you to someone else in the community who might also be looking for a little virtual connection.

## IN GOOD COMPANY

The belief in people coming together and being moved by a shared experience is central to what we love about the theatre; it occurred to us that joining in the preparation and enjoyment of a meal touches on the same emotional impulses—to reach, to connect, to inspire. Find recipe inspiration and more!

