

Directed by  
Elizabeth Carter

Concept by  
Jamie Zimmer

Book by  
Michael Gene  
Sullivan

Based upon  
the life, music,  
writing of  
Betty Reid  
Soskin

**SFBATCO.**

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA THEATRE COMPANY

#ThankYou10



**March 29 - April 13, 2024**  
**Z Space, San Francisco**

San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Co presents  
the World Premiere of

**Sign My Name  
to**

**Freedom**

*The Unheard Songs of Betty Reid Soskin*





***Welcome!***



Welcome to another exhilarating production from San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company! *Sign My Name to Freedom* marks SFBATCO's first ever commissioned book musical; it also proudly stands as our first production to be developed through our New Roots Theatre Festival, all the way to its World Premiere production. Over the past four years, we've poured countless hours into honing every aspect of this production – from the script and music, to choreography, to aerial storytelling. Along this journey we've been incredibly fortunate to regularly collaborate with the iconic Ms. Betty Reid Soskin and her family, hoping to tell the story in a manner as authentic and dynamic as its main character.

Bringing Ms. Soskin's life and music to the stage is both an honor and a career highlight for us as Artistic and Managing Directors, and her story perfectly embodies SFBATCO's vision. A true trailblazer in the spirit of Rosie the Riveter, Ms. Soskin exemplifies resilience and courage – qualities that resonate deeply with the Bay Area ethos. Her journey, which serves as a beacon for Black Americans, women, and people of color around the world, is masterfully captured in the writing of playwright Michael Gene Sullivan.

Our extraordinary creative team of Bay Area artists, including Elizabeth Carter, Angie Doctor, Daniel Savio, Laura Elaine Ellis, Mikiko Uesugi, Tiersa Nureyev, Claudio Silva, Joanna Haigood, and many others, have poured their hearts and souls into crafting *Sign My Name to Freedom*. Together, they are ensuring that this production will be an unforgettable experience for audiences across the San Francisco Bay Area as we celebrate our organization's 10-year anniversary.

This production encapsulates everything that SFBATCO has stood for over the past decade: telling uniquely Bay Area stories while investing in and celebrating People of the Global Majority. We are beyond excited to share it with all of you today. Thank you for joining us on this incredible journey and for investing in the local arts community.

**Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.**, Artistic Director and Co-Founder  
**Adam Maggio**, Managing Director

Sign My Name  
to **Freedom.**







## Welcome!

Photo: Alexa "LexMex" Treviño



When I was first asked to direct *Sign My Name To Freedom*, I was thrilled and daunted. Then I heard the songs that poured out of Betty. I know there was a magic to them and curiosity hooked me. How very Betty, to let curiosity lead me! How do you tell the 100+ year story of Betty Reid Soskin in one evening? What had started as a beautiful seed has now grown into a beautiful musical full of history through her voice.

Our History. I can relate to feeling my life has had many faces over time. We all have many different selves. Many of us learned about Betty the Park Ranger, but Betty didn't start out aiming to be a Park Ranger. She was a little Creole girl who moved to Oakland and made a home here, built a Black business, had a family, spoke out and served her community. Girl. Mother. Activist. Ranger. She didn't plan where she was going, but rather met each opportunity or need in her path. In each moment her life shifted. Betty meets The Moment.

Betty's story is a story for us to see ourselves through. How can we live a life of questioning and showing up? How can we speak what needs to be said? How can we be in the present moment and still carry history with us? How can we lovingly bring our old selves along on the journey of our own becoming? How can we meet the Moment?

This is what I will take with me.

**Elizabeth Carter**, Director

"Blessed" is the word that comes to mind when I think about my involvement in this project. Betty's songs & recorded performances were in a box buried deep in her closet since the end of her musical career over 50 years ago, one time making it to the curb to almost be thrown out. Betty decided that was not the fate her music would meet and instead recently allowed for others to unearth her discography, making me one of the first singers to perform her songs. My great friends Bryan Gibel and Marcus Shelby assisted in fostering a bridge between Betty and I, giving me the opportunity to dream up the concept for this show in 2020. Over the last six years (my entire adulthood), I have been dedicating myself to bringing Betty's story & music to the forefront of the world at large. I believe Betty's music is the voice of reason the world so desperately needs right now.

**Jamie Zimmer**, Concept Creator



San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company  
presents

*Sign My Name  
to* **Freedom**

The Unheard Songs of Betty Reid Soskin

**Cast**

Betty Reid Soskin .....	Cathleen Riddley*
Revolutionary Betty .....	Lucca Troutman
Married Betty .....	Aidaa Peerzada
Little Betty .....	Tierra Allen
Renee .....	Jasmine Milan Williams*
Dancer/Ensemble .....	Jeremy Brooks Marc Cunanan Chappelle Markaila Dyson Ahja Henry
Aerialist/Dancer .....	William Brewton Fowler Jr. Nina Sawant Veronica Blair
Dance Captain .....	Ahja Henry

**Understudies**

Betty Reid Soskin .....	Andrea Brembry*
Revolutionary Betty and Renee .....	Mikki Johnson
Married Betty and Little Betty .....	Chanel Tilghman*

**Creative Team**

Playwright .....	Michael Gene Sullivan
Concept Creator .....	Jamie Zimmer
Director .....	Elizabeth Carter
Music Supervisor, Vocal Director, and Arranger .....	Angie Doctor
Music Director, Arranger, and Additional Music Composition .....	Daniel Savio
Choreographer .....	laura elaine ellis
Aerial Choreographer .....	Joanna Haigood
Fight Choreographer .....	Dani O'Dea
Scenic Designer .....	Mikiko Uesugi^
Costume Designer .....	Tiersa Nureyev
Lighting Designer .....	Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo
Sound Designer .....	Jules Indelicato
Production Manager, Props Master .....	Jack Dobens
Stage Manager .....	Lisa De Leeuw*

Z Space, 450 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-626-0453 • [boxoffice@zspace.org](mailto:boxoffice@zspace.org)

The performance lasts approximately two hours thirty minutes with a fifteen minute intermission.



Assistant Stage Manager .....	April Ballesteros*
Hair and Makeup Consultant .....	Amber Julian
Assistant Costumer .....	Mallory McDaniel
Assistant Seamstress .....	Marjorie Nureyev
Scenic Construction .....	Colm Mc Nally
Lead Rigger .....	Dave Freitag
Performance Rigger .....	Scott Cameron
Performance .....	Sean Cotton
Painter .....	Adeline Smith
A1 .....	Taylor Gonzalez
A1 (Substitute) .....	Jules Indelicato
ASL Interpreters .....	Nanette Ekuia Dadzie, Shonnese Grant
Z Space Lead Production Technician .....	Daniel Hall
Production Interns .....	MiLisa "Mercy" Coleman, Channel Drawn, Rickey Lopp Jr.
Playbill Production .....	thirdact.services
Public Relations .....	Kevin Kopjak, Prismatic Communications

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association. This theater operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.



Content Warning: This performance contains depictions of violence against an elder, mentions of illness and death, historical racism, and some strong language.

Noise & Lighting Warning: Loud sound effects and flash lighting effects will be used during this performance.

## **SFBATCO Staff**

Co-Founder, Artistic Director .....	Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.
Managing Director .....	Adam Maggio
Director of Operations & Design .....	Christine Chung
General Manager .....	Alex Jones
Literary and Outreach Manager .....	Aidaa Peerzada
Technical Director .....	Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo
Associate Producer .....	Phaedra Tillery-Boughton
Marketing Associate .....	Vanessa Louis-Jean

## **SFBATCO Board of Directors**

President .....	Lillian Kim Murphy
Vice President .....	Kendall Luck Laidlaw
Treasurer .....	Jordan Amann
Secretary .....	Judith McRae
Board Members .....	Elisabeth Roberts, Maddie Vilhauer, Nicki Litvak-Rosenberg, Kate Stoia, Brian Bell, Sirron Norris, Elena Norberg Brown, Theo Ellington, Rodney Earl Jackson Jr., Adam Maggio





## ***Songs***

### Act I

Overture.....	The Band
"I Wonder"* .....	Little Betty, Betty
"Renescence"*** .....	Betty, Little Betty
"Brown-Skinned Heart".....	Married Betty
"Wind Song".....	Married Betty
"A Woman Am I"*** .....	Married Betty, Revolutionary Betty

### Act II

Entr'acte.....	The Band
"Ebony the Night".....	Revolutionary Betty
"Sign My Name To Freedom".....	Betty, Revolutionary Betty
"Ballad of the Oakland Induction Center" **** .....	Revolutionary Betty, Betty, Married Betty, Little Betty, Company
"Little Boy Black"**** .....	Betty, Revolutionary Betty, Little Betty, Married Betty
"To Each Of Me"**** .....	Betty, Revolutionary Betty, Little Betty, Married Betty

## ***The Band***

Conductor/Keyboards.....	Daniel Savio
Drums .....	Jason Young
Bass .....	Guinevere Q
Alto Saxophone/Guitar/Toy Piano .....	Breakfast

Music and lyrics by Betty Reid Soskin

Musical arrangements by Angie Doctor and Daniel Savio

\*Music by Mabel Wayne (PD), lyrics by Betty Reid Soskin, arrangement by Daniel Savio

\*\*Original music by Daniel Savio, poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay

\*\*\*Original music by Daniel Savio, lyrics by Betty Reid Soskin

\*\*\*\*Vocal arrangement by Angie Doctor



## ***Our Mission***

SFBATCO engages artists and audiences through live theatre productions, creative development, and community service initiatives that resonate with SF Bay Area perspectives. The organization provides a platform for People of the Global Majority, and inspires both new audiences and theatre innovators.

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## ***Our Vision***

SFBATCO envisions a San Francisco Bay Area where the participation in live theatre is essential, accessible, and exhilarating; where artists are valued for their creativity as well as their role in sparking societal change; and where a multitude of cultural experiences are equitably represented.

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## ***Our History***

SFBATCO is celebrating 10 years of inclusive, authentic, and exhilarating live theatre. SFBATCO was founded in 2014 by Rodney Earl Jackson, Jr. and Marcelo Javier. Since its founding, the organization has enjoyed residencies at the African American Art and Culture Complex (AAACC) and Brava Theater Center. SFBATCO engages artists and audiences through live theatre productions, creative development, and community service initiatives that resonate with SF Bay Area perspectives. The organization provides a platform for People of the Global Majority, and inspires both new audiences and theatre innovators.

San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company, 2781 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110  
415.484.8566 • info@sfbatco.org

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## ***Land Acknowledgment***

SFBATCO acknowledges that we are located on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, and recognize them as the original stewards of this land. We recognize that we are guests here and that our art is presented in their traditional homeland. We offer our work with respect to the Ancestors, Elders past and present, and the Relatives of the Ramaytush Community. We call on our community in helping us empower and uplift the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

The Association of Ramaytush Ohlone • Native Arts & Culture Foundation • First Peoples Fund

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## ***Donate***

Donate today at [sfbatco.org/donate](https://sfbatco.org/donate)

As a tax exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization, all gifts made to SFBATCO are tax deductible.



## Sponsors



CWF



## Special Thanks

Z Space (for a week of technical residency), Lorraine Hansberry Theater, Rosie the Riveter Trust, American Conservatory Theater, Zaccho Dance Theater, California Lawyers for the Arts, Booker T. Washington Community Center, Elisa French, Peggy Gyulai, Clayton Shelvin, Milton Chen and Ruth Cox, AAACC, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, SFSU, Benji Young, Khalil from Oscar's Photo Lab, Nancy Dobens, and our Arts Ambassadors and Volunteers

Thank you to all the artists who have been a part of the development of "Sign My Name to Freedom: The Unheard Songs of Betty Reid Soskin"

Pam Drummer-Williams, Anisa Henry, Monique Hightower-Gaskin, Christian Jimenez, Flo Dabokemp, Marjorie Fraser, Stella Nureyev-Hilburn, Linnani Simpson, Mauressa Nailah Perkins, Marcelo Javier, Carla Pantoja, Ciara D'Onofrio, Brenda Palaby, Anthony Chan, Leilani Neal, Phoenix Anderson, Dazaun Soleyn, Velina Brown

Thank you to our Marketing Partners:

Brava Theater Center • Z Space • SFJAZZ • San Francisco Symphony  
Richmond Museum of History • SF International Arts Festival • Berkeley Repertory Theatre  
"Sign My Name to Freedom" Documentary Team

## #ThankYou10 Donors

**Diamond Level:** Ruth Cox and Milton Chen • Tom and Mila Tuttle  
Rick Maggio and Martha Mangold • Scott and Elisabeth Roberts • Anonymous

**Gold Level:** Lillian Kim Murphy

**Ruby Level:** Moya Verzhbinsky • Judith McRae

**Silver Level:** Jordan Amann

We're celebrating 10 years this year!

Donate today and join our special #ThankYou10 campaign at [sfbatco.org/thankyou10](http://sfbatco.org/thankyou10)







## **SFBATCO Team**

**Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.** (he/him) is the THRILLED Artistic Director & Co-Founder of The San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company (SFBATCO), now in its 10th year! He made his Broadway debut in "The Book of Mormon" the same summer he began the venture of SFBATCO. In his 33 years of life, he has been blessed to grace international stages, participate in workshop/development processes for major plays and pre-Broadway shows (such as "Toni Stone" and "Ain't Too Proud"), and bring his artistic insights, creative experiences, and fresh ideas to his home theatre company: SFBATCO. A native of San Francisco, he cultivated his love and foundation for the performing arts, particularly theatre, through public city organizations such as SFartsEd, San Francisco Recreation & Park's YPTMTC, and the Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts, where he graduated from the theatre department. He proudly holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama, and he acknowledges the incredible support of the SFBATCO staff and board, who champion his vision and creative voice in the Bay Area. Additional theatre credits include Berkeley Repertory's "Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations", SFBATCO's "I, Too, Sing America" and "Toni Stone" co-produced by Arena Stage and American Conservatory Theatre.



**Adam Maggio** (he/him) is the Managing Director at SFBATCO. Born and raised in San Francisco, he worked in NYC and regionally as an actor and director before transitioning to producing. He's worked as an artist with companies including NYMF, Berkeley Rep, Connecticut Rep, and the Arsht Center, and has held administrative/producing positions at Mile Square Theatre and En Garde Arts.



**Alex Jones** (he/him) is the General Manager at SFBATCO. Alex is a Juilliard dance graduate and was a visiting scholar at Stanford Center for Design Research. He led innovation efforts at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts as their Experience Design Specialist and led programmatic efforts in creativity and innovation at San Francisco Unified School District and SF's Office of Economic and Workforce Development. He is a trustee at the African American Shakespeare Company, a graduate of the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts in SF, and has worked professionally as a dancer, actor, and composer.



**Christine Chung** (she/they) is the Director of Operations & Design at SFBATCO. Christine works in a variety of creative spaces focused on breaking barriers to access, exposure, and sustainability in the arts and storytelling landscapes. She focuses her work in non-profit theatre & performing arts, documentary short films, film festivals, and experiential immersive design. Her recent affiliations include First Look Institute, Field of Vision, IF/Then Shorts, SXSW, SFFILM, Revolutionary Love Project, and African Voices. She received a 2019 Theatre Bay Area Award for Outstanding Choreography for SFBATCO's flagship show "I, Too, Sing America".



**Aidaa Peerzada** (she/her) is a theatre maker who grew up between Baltimore, MD and Lahore, Pakistan. She was a 2020 recipient of the Theatre Bay Area Directors Residency with SFBATCO. Aidaa has performed with Marin Theatre, Word For Word, Pittsburgh Public, Illinois Shakespeare, Utah Shakespeare Steppenwolf, and American Players Theatre.



**Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo** (he/him) is from Santiago Chile. He works with SFBATCO to create art that represent the diverse community of the Bay Area and addressing social issues relevant to his community. During the summer of 2020 Claudio joined the JCHS community as their new Theatre Technical Director.





**Phaedra Tillery Boughton** (she/her) is the Associate Producer at SFBATCO and a 2022-2023 Theatre Bay Area Arts Leadership Residency Recipient. She is an actor, director, playwright, casting associate, and arts advocate. She has worked with Hillbarn Theater on Clybourne Park (Director); Ain't Misbehavin' (Armelia McQueen/Assistant Director); 1940s Radio Hour (Geneva); The Color Purple; and To Kill a Mockingbird. Other credits: Caroline or Change and Little Shop of Horrors (Ray Of Light Theatre); Newsies (Woodminster); Tarzan (PAP), and Avenue Q (NCTC). IG: @phaedratboughton



**Vanessa Louis-Jean** (she/they) is the Marketing Associate for SFBATCO. While she is originally from South Carolina, she currently resides in San Francisco finishing her degree in International Business at the University of San Francisco. At a young age, Vanessa found herself connected to working for mission-driven companies and initiatives. She loves finding innovative ways that will positively impact the future. With past experiences working on creative mission driven projects, she believes that artistic mediums have the power to cultivate the change we are looking to see in our world. By being at SFBATCO, she is able to combine her passions of community organizing and entertainment to create digital marketing assets for the people to be seen, heard, and understood and represent SFBATCO's mission.



## **Creative Team, Cast, Crew**



**Ahja Henry** (she/her) is a San Francisco native interdisciplinary artist and dancer. She has been dancing for 14 years, with a background in ballet, contemporary, jazz, African, and Hip-Hop. Within the past 5 years, she has developed a passion for African Diasporic dance and the barriers it breaks within Western dance forms. There is incredible power in being able to use your body to tell a story, a talent in which she constantly celebrates, especially when surrounded by other dancers of color. She currently trains and performs in a variety of dance styles as she works toward a career as a full time dancer and artist. She is immensely grateful to be a part of the SFBATCO family and excited to perform in a show that celebrates the history of Black artists.



**Aidaa Peerzada** (she/her) is a theatre maker who grew up between Baltimore, Maryland, and Lahore, Pakistan. Regional performance credits include Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre, Word For Word, Pittsburgh Public, Illinois Shakespeare, Utah Shakespeare, Steppenwolf and American Players Theatre. She has called the Bay home since a TBA residency made her part of the SFBATCO team, where she leads audience outreach and artistic development projects like SFBATCO's Creators Lab. Her plays have been developed at Catalyst (C3T), Prop Thr, Northern Sky Theatre, SFBATCO, and currently with the Playwrights Foundation. Aidaa studied at the Baltimore School for the Arts and received her BFA in Drama from Carnegie Mellon. Aidaapeerzada.com



**Amber Julian** (she/her) is a Bay Area based performance artist, hair stylist/consultant, and community event organizer of over 20 years. She specializes in natural curly styles, coloring, and cuts for theater productions and private clients. She strongly believes in the importance of intentionality, connection and care within her client relationships. Her experience as a professional dancer and passion for authentic and ancestral afro diasporic expression fully aligns with and fuels her work in the world.

**Andrea Brembry** (she/her) is a Bay Area actress/singer who has performed in numerous musicals and theater productions throughout the Bay Area. Some of her more notable performances have been in *Aint Mizbehavin'*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Seven Guitars*, *All Shook Up*, and *Dance on Widows' Row*. Her latest performance was in the reading of the new play *Every Saturday Night*.







**Angie Doctor** (she/her) has been a part of the SF Bay Area vocal music community since 1995. As an Artist-Teacher, she is a vocal coach, clinician, and director for school music ensembles and solo singers. Professionally, she has been a background singer for groups such as The Manhattans, Deneice Williams, Heatwave, Gene Chandler, Barbara Lewis, Billy Paul, and many others, studio singer and voice-over talent, and was the latest and last Girl member of the wackiest of a cappella quartets, The Bobs. In addition, she has been singer and soloist for music projects with Suffjan Stevens, Sweet Honey in the Rock, John Zorn, Meredith Monk, performing at venues that include Zellerbach in Berkeley, Carnegie Hall and the Philharmonie Berlin; and performed with Bobby McFerrin in performances of his recording "VOCABularieS" in San Francisco and at Lincoln Center, and a featured soloist on the Grammy-nominated recording of Leonard Bernstein's "Mass" (Harmonia Mundi), conducted by Kent Nagano.



**April Ballesteros** (she/her) is an actor, director, educator, and stage manager. She is the Associate Artistic Director of Theatre Cultura and Artistic Learning Programs Manager at the California Shakespeare Theater. She has worked with SF Playhouse, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Playground SF, and Shotgun Players, to name a few. She earned a BA in Theatre Arts from California State University, East Bay and hails from East Los Angeles. With every project she does, she hopes to empower and uplift BIPOC voices.



**Breakfast** teaches music and writes songs. He's a member of brass band Mission Delirium and slam rock band The Wyatt Act, and he played with the SF Mime Troupe in 2023.



**Cathleen Riddley** began her career at the Community Playhouse in Des Moines, Iowa (playing Jiminy Cricket in Pinocchio at the ripe old age of 8,) where she discovered that a life in the arts was what her heart wanted. Since then, she has become a multiple award-winning San Francisco Bay Area (and beyond) actor who has been seen at most local theaters at one time or another. Cathleen is an Associate Artist at Marin Shakespeare Company, as well as a company member with Shotgun Players and PlayGround. She is a certified ASL Interpreter, has an MA in Sociology from UPenn, and is passionate about social, disability, and language justice.



**Chanel Tilghman** originally hails from the Bay Area, and holds a BA in Communication and minors in Theatre and Music Industry from the University of Southern California. Regional credits: *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy; American Conservatory Theater), *The Life You Gave Me* (Woman; Boise Contemporary Theater), *A Christmas Carol* (Belle; Center REPeratory Company), and Paul Gordon's *Pride and Prejudice* (Kitty; TheatreWorks Silicon Valley). Other notable productions include *Matilda*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Mamma Mia!* (Berkeley Playhouse); *Kinky Boots* (Ray of Light Productions); and *Passing Strange* (Shotgun Players). Chanel is also a seasoned teaching artist, educating K-12 youth in theatre arts across the greater Bay Area.



**Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo** (he/him) is originally from Santiago, Chile. He studied at Loyola University Maryland. He is Technical Director for SFBATCO and works with many companies, with specific care to create works that represent the diverse community of the Bay Area and addressing social issues relevant to his community. In 2023, Claudio had the opportunity to join the Urban School of San Francisco as their new Director of Technical Theater.



**Dani O'Dea** (she/her) is a West Coast based fight/intimacy director & stage combat instructor and has been with the Society of American Fight Directors for 15 years. Dani's career began while she was a BFA student at New York University, assisting Fightmaster David Brimmer On & Off Broadway and with his semester coursework. Since relocating, some of her Bay Area credits include work with American Conservatory Theatre,







TheatreWorks, San Francisco Opera, New Conservatory Theatre Company, & more. Dani has also been choreographing and stunt performing in motion capture for almost 10 years, most notably at 2K Games.

**Daniel Savio** (he/him) started his professional theater career with the Tony-winning political musical theater company the San Francisco Mime Troupe playing keyboards during their 2006 and 2007 tours. He was co-composer/lyricist, with SFMT vet Bruce Barthol, of the play FSM ('14, Stagebridge Senior Theater), written by fellow SFMT vet Joan Holden. He returned to the Mime Troupe band in 2015 and has been with the company ever since. In 2020 he became the Troupe's resident Composer/Lyricist and most recently wrote lyrics and music for the Troupe's 2023 musical Breakdown. Daniel has been musical director of numerous community and children's productions at theaters in the North and East Bay. In 2024 Daniel will be musical director of the Marin Mountain Play's production of Kinky Boots. Daniel has a BA in Music from the University of California at Santa Cruz.



**Edith Castorena** is passionate about Chicana feminism, theater, magical realism, and communication across the Pluriverse. Precise writer, editor, actor, strategist and theorist. Lover of community and creative practice. Incredibly grateful for all of their SF family & friends & fellow artists.



**Elizabeth Carter** (she/her) is a SF Bay Area theatremaker who most recently directed *Wolf Play* for Shotgun Players. Her recent regional directing credits include *Confederates* (St. Louis Rep), *Steel Magnolias* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), and past productions *Every 28 Hours Plays* and *A Place To Belong* (A.C.T Conservatory), *Stoop Stories* (Aurora Theatre Co.) and associate director on *the ripple the wave that carried me home* (Berkeley Rep/Goodman Theatre) and assistant director *How I Learned What I Learned* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). She directed the ground breaking 2020 virtual *King Lear*, (SF Shakespeare Festival), *Feel the Spirit* (Shotgun Players/Colt Cover NYC). Her directorial film debut *Bottled Spirits* won Best Narrative at the London Pan African Film Festival. She is a recipient of the Bridging the Gap Grant and is a 2019 alum of Director's Lab West. Elizabeth was the inaugural SDCF Lloyd Richards New Futures Resident Director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and a 2023 Lucas Arts Fellow.



**Guinevere Q** (they/them) is a musician, organizer, published poet, journeyman installer in Local 510 Sign & Display Union, and graduate of the University of San Francisco. In addition to singing and playing bass in The Wyatt Act and SUNQ, Guinevere Q produces original electronic music. Q has had the privilege of performing in many prestigious venues and festivals, including the San Francisco Arts Festival, Emerald City Comic Con at the Seattle Convention Center, the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University, Haight Street Fair, and many more. Guinevere has had the honor of playing with incredibly inspiring musicians, including Grammy Award winning Fantastic Negrito, David Kendrick of DEVO, Randy Jones (the Cowboy) of The Village People, and, most recently, the Tony Award Winning San Francisco Mime Troupe.



**Jack Dobens** (he/him) is marking a production debut in the Bay Area! Originally from the east coast, Jack studied theater and film design at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. From there, Jack has worked on numerous productions for both stage and screen including acting as scenic assistants for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Broadway), and *West Side Story* (Broadway), as well as acting as art director for the feature film *Shiva Baby*. Jack is a lover of music, photography, design, and telling stories that help to bring people and communities closer together.



**Jamie Zimmer** (they/them) is the original conceptualist for *Sign My Name to Freedom* and is currently serving as a vocal coach in the East Bay. Jamie performs frequently as the lead vocalist in Mild Universe, a psychedelic dance band from SF and has appeared in *Twelfth Night* at the SF Playhouse. This SFArtsEd, SFJAZZ HSA/MNB, LJYE, SOTA, and CJC alumna was one of the winners of Jazz Search West 2017 and remains one of the





Bay Area's most sought after creative leaders. Thank you Betty for inspiring me and for giving me permission to breathe life into your songs once again. @jamiizeema

**Jasmine Milan Williams** (she/her) is a Multidisciplinary artist who uses art as a vessel for change; collaborating with BIPOC artists and organizations to tell bold stories that shine light on Black and Queer Liberations. She's so excited to be making her SFBATCO debut and honored to tell the story and recount the history of Ms. Betty Reid Soskin. She thanks her family and friends for always encouraging her to follow her dreams and standing behind an artist that works to change the world through art! Follow my journey at: [Jasminemilan.com](http://Jasminemilan.com) "It's an Artist Duty to Reflect the Times" - Nina Simone.



**Jason Young**, aka Young Sun, is a Bay Area native who has recorded over a dozen albums as a singer and multi-instrumentalist. He has toured with stage-show-focused bands, such as The Wyatt Act, SUNQ, Doctor Striker, and Revolushn. Young Sun has performed with many notable musicians, including members of DEVO and Village People. Young Sun's original compositions were nominated for a Theater Bay Area Award for his work as composer and drummer in the play "Shiner" with FaultLine Theater. Young Sun joined The San Francisco Mime Troupe in 2022 with the musicals "Back To The Way Things Were" and "Breakdown" in 2023.



**Jeremy Brooks** (he/him) is a multi-disciplinary artist and resident of Deep East Oakland. He graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Social Welfare and Minors in Dance Performance Studies and Public Policy. He is a dance and singing artist in PUSH Dance Company based in San Francisco. His movement background includes African Dance, Modern, Capoeira, Jazz, and Hip-Hop. His early years performing began with Dance A Vision, directed by Carla Service. He expanded his artistry via The Berkeley Dance Project, the Alliance for California Traditional Arts Apprenticeship, the Hip Hop Artist Resident in Training Program, and the Malcolm X Jazz Festival.



**Joanna Haigood** (she/her) has been creating work that uses natural, architectural and cultural environments as points of departure for movement exploration and narrative since 1980. Her stages have included grain terminals, a clock tower, the pope's palace, military forts, and a mile of urban neighborhood streets in the South Bronx. Her work has been commissioned by many arts institutions, including Dancing in the Streets, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Dancers' Group, Walker Arts Center, the Exploratorium Museum, the National Black Arts Festival, and Festival d'Avignon. She has also been honored with the Guggenheim Fellowship, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, the United States Artist Fellowship, New York Bessie Award and a Doris Duke Artist Award. She has had the privilege to mentor many extraordinary young artists internationally at the National École des Arts du Cirque in France, the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in England, Spelman College, the Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University, the San Francisco Circus Center and at Zaccho Studio.



**Jules Indelicato** (they/them), a dynamic force in San Francisco's live sound and creative design scene, seamlessly intertwines the roles of Musician, Live Engineer, and Sound Designer. With extensive design credits in the Bay Area, Jules's recent notable projects include "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" with Shotgun Players, "The Rocky Horror Show" with Ray of Light at Oasis, and "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" with Lower Bottom Playaz. Passionate about crafting immersive soundscapes, Jules brings over 15 years of music industry experience to the stage. Now, Jules is thrilled to bring their expertise to SFBATCO for the first time, coming full circle in the city where they were born and raised.



**laura elaine ellis** (she/her) performs and tours with Dimensions Dance Theater and Flyaway Productions and has danced in works for choreographers Emily Keeler, Donald McKayle, Garth Fagan, Deborah Vaughan, Joan Lazarus, Anne Bluethenthal, Kim Epifano, and Robert Moses. She is co-founder of the award-winning Black Choreographers Festival: Here &







Now. She has served 30 years on faculty for the Theatre & Dance Dept., Cal State University, East Bay and for the Arts Dept at the Athenian School. In addition to her work on SFArtsED / SFBATCO's productions of *Ragtime* (2017), *West Side Story* (2019), and SFBATCO's *Sign My Name to Freedom* - work-in-progress (2021), Ms. Ellis has staged productions for Open Opera, Festival Opera, George Coates Performance Group, Douglass Morrison Theater, Theatre Rhinoceros, and Shotgun Players. In 2022, she shared an artistic residency and collaboration with Tiersa Nureyev, at MSP/ SFArtsED Gallery on the premiere of a site-specific work, *ruminations*. [re] visited., featuring Dimensions Dance Theater. *ruminations*. [re] visited was also presented at Brava Theater as part of SFBATCO's New Roots Festival (2002).



**Lisa De Leeuw** (she/her) has a BFA in Theatre Arts Education from University of Arizona. Lisa has worked at many different Bay Area theatre companies including Opera San Jose', San Jose Rep, Theatretworks Silicon Valley, Marin Theatre Company, Silicon Valley Shakespeare, and Bus Barn Stage Company.



**Lucca Troutman** (she/they), an electro-acoustic composer, director, and performer, earned her BA in Psychology and Music from Smith College and her MA in Composition from Mills College in Oakland. Although this is her first time working with SBATCO, she regularly performs throughout the Bay Area and was recently featured in *Ruthless* at NCTC, *Fun Home* at Berkeley Playhouse, *Little Shop of Horrors* at TheatreWorks and *Digital Milk* at CounterPulse with her multidisciplinary ensemble, Driven Arts Collective. Outside of performing, Lucca teaches and creates eclectic art while spending quality time in nature with her affable dogs, Ama and Valo.



**Mallory McDaniel** (she/her) is thrilled to be returning to SFBATCO. She graduated from California College of the Arts in 2019, with a degree in Fashion Design. Her previous costume credits include - Private (SFBATCO), *Halie: The Mahalia Jackson Story* and *In the Evening by the Moonlight* (Lorraine Hansberry Theater), *Annie*, *Newsies* and *Little Mermaid* (SF Players), *Into the Woods* (Mountain Play) and *Kinky Boots*, *Heather*, *Les Miserable*, and *Chorus Line* (Throckmorton Theater). When not costuming, she alternates between teaching art/costuming and working as a textile artist.



**Marc Cunanan Chappelle** (he/him) is an Oakland, CA-based dancer from Sacramento, CA. He is an Artist at PUSH Dance Company and Embodiment Project. He performed in AsiaSF's 25th anniversary performance at SF Pride (2023) and with Bill Hopkins' Celebrity House Band in Cabo San Lucas, MX (2023). At Stanford University, he performed in Ronnie Reddick's "Show Up to Show Out," Raissa Simpson's "FALL/FLIGHT," amara labor-smith's "Glory" (2023), Columbae House's "F--ck the Man" (2022, 2018), Dv8's "EnCounter Culture" (2022, 2019, 2018), as well as TAPS' "Carry On We Must," (2021) and "Groundplan," (2018).



**Markaila Dyson** (she/they) was recently in Berkeley Playhouse's *Kinky Boots* (Ensemble/Lauren US) and Ray of Light's *Caroline, or Change* (Emmie Thibodeaux). Being raised in San Francisco, Markaila was lucky enough to explore various avenues of theater within the city. She received her training from Ruth Asawa School of the Arts and worked with the San Francisco Arts Education Project. Markaila is always happy to reunite with SFBATCO to bring more inclusive concepts to the stage.

**Michael Gene Sullivan** (he/him) is an award-winning Actor/Writer/Director, Resident Playwright: The San Francisco Mime Troupe, The Playwrights Foundation, The Djerassi Arts Center (2017), Guggenheim Fellowship (2022). Michael has written over 30 plays, and has taught playwriting at the American Conservatory Theatre, SFMT's Young California Writers Project, and has guest lectured or taught workshops at Yale, Stanford, Dartmouth, and USC. Michael's stage adaptation of George Orwell's 1984 has been translated into five languages and has been performed in fourteen countries on five continents, and his play *The Great Khan* premiered at San Francisco Playhouse, San Diego Rep. and Chicago's Red Twist Theatre.









**Mikiko Uesugi** (she/her) is a scenic designer based in San Francisco. Recent credits include: *Citizen*, *Home for Word for Word*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* for Ross Valley Players, *The Nightingale & Erwartung* for West Edge Opera, *Colonialism is Terrible, but Pho is Delicious*, *Wives for Aurora Theater*, *Monument*, or *Four Sisters* for Magic Theatre. She has designed for Shotgun Players, Crowded Fire, Theater Works, ACT M.F.A Program, Berkeley Repertory Theater, among others. She is a resident artist at Golden Thread Productions, a recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Designers and The Isadora Duncan Dance Award.



**Mikki Johnson** (she/he) is a Bay Area native and studied Theatre Arts (with the concentration of Acting and Musical Theater) at California State East Bay. He has recently been seen onstage in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with the Berkeley Shakespeare Company and perviously in "Blood at the Root" & "1984" at California State East Bay. Mikki is very passionate about voice artistry and amplifying BIPOC and LGBTQ+ presence in the theater and entertainment world.



**Milisa Coleman** (they/them) is a Black queer writer, photographer, and artist from Cleveland, OH; based in Oakland, CA. They have exhibited their work in solo exhibitions, group performances, and works in media production. Their poetry has appeared in various literary journals. They hold a BA in Digital Media from Cleveland State University.



**Nanette Ekua Dadzie** (she/her) has been a sign language interpreter since birth. Her parents joke that her first words were "It's a girl." Nanette has been professionally interpreting since the age of 13. She has interpreted almost anything that involves communication between people. Being a high school drama kid, Nanette continued her love of theater in college where she received a BFA in acting from the University of California Santa Barbara. Interpreting theater is an exciting amalgamation of passion and skill for her.



**Nina Sawant** (she/they) is a circus artist, choreographer, and costume designer in Oakland, California. She has been inspiring audiences for more than 18 years with her evocative performances and imaginative costumes. While earning a BA in Choreography from the University of South Florida, Nina performed in *KaTonga*, a Broadway-style musical at Busch Gardens Tampa. There she was introduced to circus arts by fellow cast mate Vitaliy Krymskyi. She went on to tour with Vitaliy and his family in Ukraine, and has since performed across the US and Europe. Nina is a founding member of Dahlias Entertainment and Hypothetical Circus, and performs locally for Zaccho Dance Theater, Vespertine Circus, Sweet Can Productions, and Misfit Cabaret.



**Sandra Picard** is a costume designer and technician trained in the heart of Paris at Esmod Fashion school. She has been working at Kings Dominion Virginia for the past four years, and recently made the bold decision to join the vibrant theatrical community of San Francisco. Among the multitude of shows and theme park events she has worked on, her credits include *HEADS WILL ROLL* (Draper/stitcher and dresser), *LET'S GET WILD* (Draper/stitcher and dresser), *BLACK WIDOWS* (Dresser), *CONJURE THE NIGHT* (Dresser) *CHARLIE'S CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR* (Dresser) and *TINKERS* (Dresser).



**Shonnese Grant** (she/her) comes to performance interpreting by way of a life-long and profound love for the beauty and complexity of American Sign Language. Raised in Palo Alto, California, she returned to her North Carolina roots for her college education and received a Bachelor's degree in African-American studies and Political Science from Duke University. She then went on to receive a Master's degree in Deaf Education from Boston University and made Boston her home until returning to the Bay Area in August of 2023. Shonnese has over 12 years of experience interpreting theater and considers each opportunity an honor



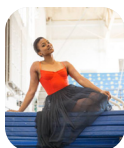
**Taylor Gonzalez** (he/him) is a sound designer and audio engineer who grew up in Oakland CA. He first started in music at the age of 16 influenced by the culture of his home town, he shortly after began working in theater and was able to match the two interests together. He is a collective member with the San Francisco Mime Troupe and lead audio engineer for the company. When he is not touring with SFMT he is producing concerts at their building in the Mission. Taylor is very excited to be joining the team with SFBATCO for this amazing show!



**Tierra Allen** (she/they) performed in *House/Full of Blackwomxn: This Too Shall Pass* (Deep Waters Dance Theater), *Josephine's Feast* (Campo Santo/Magic Theater), and *Babes in Ho-Land* (Shotgun Players). She's won an Isadora Duncan "Izzie" Dance Award, earned award nominations from the Theatre Bay Area, directed for 3Girls Theater, Playwrights Foundation, and PlayGround, and choreographed for the National Queer Arts Festival, Spectrum Queer Media, and TheatreFIRST. Their speculative abolitionist short film *THE REMEMBERING TIME* screened at the 18th International Queer Women of Color Film Festival. Listen to her podcast *THE REAL WORK: A PODCAST ABOUT THEATER CULTURE AND TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE*, co-produced with We Rise Production, on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



**Tiersa Nureyev** (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist, designer and costumer for film, theater, and dance. She is the co-founder of the fashion accessory design studio Stella Fluorescent, and has been a teaching artist with the San Francisco Arts Education Project (SFArtsED) since 2006. Tiersa is a recipient of a NEA-funded residency via SFArtsED at the Minnesota Street Project; and is currently producing *Soft Spaces For Hard Times: A Community Quilting Project* funded by the SF Arts Commission. This project engages San Francisco youth in the creation of a monumental textile collage that will culminate September of 2024 in an immersive installation.



**Veronica Blair** (she/her) is an accomplished aerialist, choreographer, and circus researcher. She is the recipient of the 2021 Gerbode Foundation's Choreographers Award, the 2020 American Circus Educators Award for Innovation, and the Community Impact at the inaugural International Circus Awards for her work on the Uncle Junior Project, a multimedia archive spotlighting People of African descent in American circus. Under the same project, Veronica curated a live exhibition titled "Entrapment to Entertainment: A Celebration of Black People in American Circus" in 2013. Her impactful work has earned her invitations to speak at the Smithsonian, San Francisco International Arts Festival, and facilitate panel discussions engaging conversations about institutional barriers, individual biases, and abuse prevention in the circus industry as part of the Circus and Changing Realities series in partnership with CircusTalk.com.



**William Brewton Fowler Jr.** (he/him) is a christian dancer and choreographer from Augusta, Ga. He has been a guest artist with Gallim Dance, Company SBB, and Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre. While a company member with Oakland Ballet Company, he choreographed a piece titled *I'll love you from here*. He co-choreographed a duet with Frankie Peterson for Black Choreographer's Festival while dancing with Gregory Dawson's company, DawsonDanceSF. Recently he performed with TinyPistol during their BAMPFA installation under the direction of Maurya Kerr. Currently, He is working with Zaccho Dance Theatre lead by Joanna Haigood. This is William's first performance with SFBATCO and he's excited to be involved in this historic production.

# #ThankYou10

Celebrating 10 YEARS of inclusive,  
authentic, exhilarating live theatre



## Can you believe it? SFBATCO turns 10 years old this year!

In 2014, 24 year-old cofounders Rodney Earl Jackson, Jr. and Marcelo Javier set out to create a theater company that champions voices often overlooked in the industry and invests in a creative community that is inclusive, authentic, and exhilarating. A decade later, SFBATCO is doing exactly that...and thriving!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has been a part of our journey. We can't wait to celebrate all year long with you with an exciting year which includes the world premiere of *Sign My Name to Freedom*, a revamped *I, Too, Sing America* at Grace Cathedral, and our 4th New Roots Theatre Festival. Additionally, we'll be streaming releases of some old fan-favorites, and throwing a festive birthday gala in September.

To ensure SFBATCO's success for another 10 years, we've set a goal to raise \$250,000 from individuals—more than double our previous record. This will allow us to continue developing new work, while keeping ticket sales low and deepening our relationship to Bay Area communities.

**Will you join us? Donate to our #ThankYou10 campaign today at [sfbatco.org/donate](https://sfbatco.org/donate).**



# UP NEXT AT SFBATCO

## I, TOO, SING AMERICA

June 13-15  
Grace Cathedral



## 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY GALA

September 20  
Verdi Club, SF



## NEW ROOTS THEATRE FEST

November 15-17  
Brava Theater Center, SF

