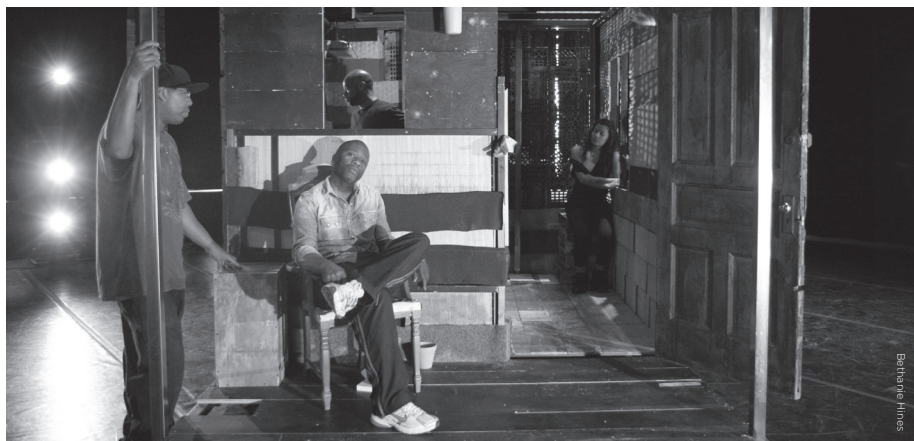




ANNENBERG CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

12/13 Season SEPT-JAN



Bethanie Hines

Marc Bamuthi Joseph/ The Living Word Project *red, black & GREEN: a blues*

Created by **Marc Bamuthi Joseph/The Living Word Project**

Direction **Michael John Garcés**

Set/Installation, Concept and Design **Theaster Gates**

Produced by **MAPP International Productions**

Media Design **David Szlasa**

Lighting Design **James Clotfelter**

Choreography **Stacey Printz**

Documentary Films **Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi**

Music Composition **Tommy Shepherd aka Emcee Soulati**

Costume Design **Mai-Lei Pecorari**

Sound Design **Gregory T. Kuhn**

Stage Management **Rebecca Cullars**

Photography **Bethanie Hines**

Performers **Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Traci Tolmaire,
Tommy Shepherd aka Emcee Soulati, Yaw**

Friday, September 21 @ 7:30 PM

Saturday, September 22 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

Program

This presentation begins promptly at show time. The first 30-minute segment of the program is interactive and will take place with members of the audience on stage (as space permits).

There will be no intermission.



red black & GREEN: a blues has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Philadelphia Theatre Initiative.



This performance is presented in partnership with Philadelphia Live Arts Festival.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Marc Bamuthi Joseph (Creator and Performer) is one of America's vital voices in performance, arts education and artistic curation. In the fall of 2007, Joseph graced the cover of *Smithsonian Magazine* after being named one of America's Top Young Innovators in the Arts and Sciences. He is the Artistic Director of the seven-part HBO documentary *Russell Simmons presents Brave New Voices* and an inaugural recipient of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship. He is the 2011 Alpert Award winner in Theatre and in April 2012, he was one of 21 artists to be named to the inaugural class of Doris Duke Artists. He currently serves as Director of Performing Arts at Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco.

After appearing on Broadway as a young actor, Joseph has developed several poetically-based works for the stage that have toured across the U.S., Europe, Asia and Africa. These include *Word Becomes Flesh*, *Scourge*, and *the break/s*, which co-premiered at the Humana Festival of New American Plays and the Walker Arts Center in the spring of 2008. His proudest work is with his family, raising his two children and spoiling two dogs with his incredible wife in Oakland, California. [Twitter.com/bamuthi](https://twitter.com/bamuthi)

Michael John Garcés (Director) is the Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theatre Company, a community-engaged ensemble in Los Angeles where he most recently directed *Café Vida* by Lisa Loomer, created in residence with Homeboy Industries. He is very pleased to be continuing the collaboration with Bamuthi which began with *the break/s*. Other recent directing credits include *Oedipus El Rey* by Luis Alfaro at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, where he is a company member and the 10th anniversary production of *N.E. 2nd Ave* by Teo Castellanos at the Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Other theatres at which he has directed include A Contemporary Theatre, The Humana Festival, The Guthrie Theatre, The Children's Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, Hartford Stage, Second Stage, INTAR, The Cherry Lane, The Atlantic Theatre Company and Repertorio Español. For Cornerstone, he also wrote *Los Illegals*, created in collaboration with communities of day laborers and domestic workers, which was published in *Theatre Magazine* (Yale School of Drama/Duke University Press). Garcés is a recipient of the Princess Grace Statue, the Alan Schneider Director Award and a TCG/New Generations Grant. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists.

Theaster Gates (Set/Installation Designer) is a Chicago-based artist whose practice covers performance and installation, urban planning and the traditional fine arts. His multi-platform work opens up challenging issues by presenting them, not as acute encounters, but as invitations to engage hard information creatively. Many of his works reuse deconstructed materials from formerly abandoned buildings on Chicago's South Side, encouraging people to see these discarded materials not only in the light of modernist art, but to reflect on cultural traditions that depend on scrap for survival. Recent performances, installations and exhibits include *The Listening Room* (Seattle Art Museum) and *An Epitaph for Civil Rights* (LAMOCA, Los Angeles). His work is currently featured in *Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art* (Smart Museum of Art, Chicago) and *40 Under 40* (Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.). Gates received an interdisciplinary Master's in Urban Planning, Ceramics and Religious Studies from Iowa State University in 2006. He is currently Director of Arts and Public Life and Artist in Residence at the University of Chicago.

David Szlaza (Media Designer) is a video artist, curator and producer. He is the recipient of the Gerbode Award, Future Aesthetics Artist Award and Lighting Artists in Dance Award for innovative use of video in performance. In his solo work and projects in collaboration, Szlaza creates investigative art to deconstruct and reconstruct popular narrative. Collaborators include Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Joanna Haigood, Rennie Harris, Hope Mohr, Deb Margolin, Bill Shannon, Michael John Garcés, Sara Shelton Mann and others. His work has been exhibited in theatres and galleries worldwide including Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the Walker Arts Center, MCA Chicago, the de Young Museum, the Humana Festival, Sydney Opera House, Oakland Art Gallery, Harare International Festival of the Arts and TSeKh Moscow. Davidszlaza.com

James Clotfelter (Lighting Designer) is committed to the creation of collaborative and socially conscious work for theatre and dance and has had the pleasure of collaborating with Marc Bamuthi Joseph since 2005. Clotfelter is an Artistic Associate with Pig Iron Theatre Company, the Resident Lighting Designer and Production Manager for Miller Rothlein (MIRO) and co-founder of the design laboratory, Mlab, which has realized numerous scenographic designs specifically tailored for efficient and sustainable touring. Recent collaborations include work with John Jasperse, Rennie Harris, Johannes Wieland, Sara Shelton Mann, Bill Shannon, David Szlasa, Thaddeus Phillips, Rainpan 43, eighth blackbird and Pete M. Wyer. Jcld.net

Stacey Printz (Choreographer) is Artistic Director of the Printz Dance Project (PDP). PDP has performed extensively in California and has toured all over the U.S. and internationally in Lithuania, Russia and Ireland. Printz has been commissioned to choreograph for many companies in California and has received awards from the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the W&F Hewlett Foundation and Fort Mason Foundation. Printz received sociology and dance degrees from UC Irvine. In addition to teaching at LINES Dance Center, she has been on faculty at St. Mary's College and Sonoma State University. She has taught master classes and workshops across the United States, as well as internationally in Switzerland, Italy, Amsterdam, Belgium, Russia, Lithuania and Ireland. Highly interested in collaborative experiences, Printz had the pleasure of working with Marc Bamuthi Joseph on *Scourge* and *the break/s*. Printzdance.org

Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi (Documentary Filmmaker) is a film director who has made his mark in the international documentary scene. A graduate of UC Berkeley, he received his MA degree from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Before graduation, he won the prestigious juried Student Filmmaker Award from the Pan-African Film Festival for his documentary *Inventos: Hip Hop Cubano*. In his second film *HomeGrown: Hip Life in Ghana*, he continued the theme of using music to provide insights to culture and socio/political issues. Currently, Jacobs-Fantauzzi's travels have taken him to Medellin, Colombia to work on his latest project, *Revolucion Sin Muertos (Revolution Without Death)* following youth in Comuna 13, Medellin, who are using hip hop to grow a peace movement. While working on his films, he also teaches video production at Castlemont High School in East Oakland and has spent the last three summers working with the youth of Belize. Recently, Jacobs-Fantauzzi was awarded a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts, and he is currently curating his 4th Annual Fist Up Film Festival. His dedication to craft is deeply connected to his commitment to social justice. FistUp.Tv

Tommy Shepherd (Composer and Performer) aka Emcee Soulati, is an actor, playwright, composer, educator, b-boy, rapper, drummer and beatboxer. Shepherd is co-founder of the live hip hop collective, Felonious: onelovehiphop, a resident company at Intersection for the Arts. Shepherd created the original music and performed in their recent project *Angry Black White Boy*. Shepherd is a Hybrid Resident Artist at Intersection, a member of Campo Santo and a performer with Erika Chong Shuch's ESP project. He acted in and created the score for *Nobody Move and Hamlet: Blood in the Brain* by Naomi Iizuka and created the sound design and score with Howard Wiley for *A Place To Stand*. He also acted, beatboxed and composed a live score with Scheherazade Stone for *Domino* by Campo Santo. In 2007, he created and performed his first one-act solo, *The MF in ME*. Shepherd was a commissioned artist, co-creator and performer of *Raw Dios* for Headrush Crew, which toured Berkeley, Denver and the famed El Teatro Campesino in San Juan Bautista. Shepherd has performed and toured internationally with Marc Bamuthi Joseph, collaborating on *Scourge* and *the break/s*.

Traci Tolmaire (Performer) is an actor, dancer and singer from Chicago. Her training in theatre arts and dance includes a BA in Theatre from Spelman College, Theatrical Studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts plus dance training at Sammy Dyer School of Theatre (Chicago), Joel Hall Dance Center, Lou Conte/Hubbard Street Dance Company and classes with master teachers Katherine Dunham and Savion Glover. Her theatrical credits include *Anansi the Spider* (Marin Theatre Company); *Rejoice!* (Lorraine Hansberry Theatre); *IPH... a translation of Iphigeneia at Aulis by Euripides* (Brava Theatre/African-American

Shakespeare Company); *In the Wake* by Lisa Kron (understudy, Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *Mirrors In Every Corner* directed by Marc Bamuthi Joseph (Intersection for the Arts/Campo Santo); Susan Lori Parks' *365 Days/365 Plays* series (Hartford Stage Company); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Fulton Opera House); and *Trouble in Mind* (Actor's Express). Tolmaire also worked as choreographer for Hartford Stage Company's production of *Gee's Bend*, Connecticut Critics Circle award winner for Best Ensemble and *Rejoice!* a holiday musical at Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. Tracitolmaire.com

Yaw (Performer) has performed on both theatrical and musical stages. As an actor, Yaw (pronounced YOWW) has had the privilege to work with such prolific playwrights as Ntozake Shange, Paul Carter Harrison and Robert O'Hara. In music, Yaw has shared the stage with the likes of Stevie Wonder, Roy Ayers, Floetry, Jaguar Wright, Kindred, Amel Larrieux and has backed up Eric Roberson and Liz Fields in several concerts. He is most recognized as the young singer who recently appeared as a feature on VH1's *Soul Cities*, a show produced by Nelson George that showcases singers in cities all over the country. He is currently featured on Eric Roberson's latest album, *Mister Nice Guy*.

Mai-Lei Pecorari (Costume Designer) is an independent costume designer and wardrobe stylist based in San Francisco and New York. She began her career as a designer while attending college at the University of Florida, where she received a BA in Costume Design. From there, she designed shows with Jomandi Productions and worked with neighboring theatres such as Virginia's Mill Mountain Theatre. These projects granted her the opportunity to work with a range of talented artists, such as choreographer Moustapha Bangoura of the Guinean Ballets, Chuck Davis, Artistic Director of *DanceAfrica* and Marc Bamuthi Joseph on *Scourge*. Since her move to the west coast, she has gained valuable experience as a costumer on film and video sets. Currently, her focus is on commercial and advertising productions, with clients including Gap Inc., Levi Strauss & Co., Adidas, New Balance and Apple. Pecorari's love of good design and creative expression is her motivation for working hard to create beautiful art. She is happy to be on board for a second time with the Living Word Project for *red, black & GREEN: a blues*.

Gregory T. Kuhn (Sound Designer and Production Manager) has been a multidisciplinary creator and collaborator in the performing and fine arts since 1986 as composer, sound designer and engineer, visual artist and designer. Since 1988 in the San Francisco Bay Area, he has collaborated on projects for theatre, multimedia, exhibition, dance and experimental and contemporary music. Recent recognition includes the 2007 Isadora Duncan Award for San Francisco Ballet's *Ballet Mori* (with Ken Goldberg and Randall Packer) and the 2008 Lucille Lortel Award for Unique Theatrical Experience for Rinde Eckert's *Horizon* (directed by David Schweizer). Ongoing activities include new works by Paul Dresner, Joan Jeanrenaud, Karla Kihlstedt, Margaret Jenkins, Joe Goode, Larry Reed, Wayne Vitale, Rafael Landea, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Eco Ensemble and Other Minds.

Rebecca Cullars (Stage Manager) worked on *the break/s* as Stage Manager and Lighting Director. Based in New York City, she has worked on The NYC Downtown Urban Theatre Festival as Stage Manager; *Fyvush Finkel Live*, *Two Brothers* and *Metamorphose* as Interim Production Manager, Video Supervisor and Master Electrician; *Perfect Fit* as Lighting Designer; *Nathan the Wise* as Assistant Lighting Designer; *Hip Hop Monologues: Inside the Life and Times of Jim Jones* as Stage Manager; *Cyclone and the Pig-Faced Lady* as Assistant Lighting Designer; and *Any Night* as Technical Director. She lights gospel acts at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts including Mary Mary, Tye Tribbett, Hezekiah Walker, Kirk Franklin, The Clark Sisters, JJ Hairston and Richard Smallwood.

Bethanie Hines (Photographer) moves through the world with her whole heart. She loves deeply and those on the other side of her lens feel the reverence she holds for life. Hines is committed to a mindfulness practice which connects her to moments that could easily be missed. Vulnerability, emotion, intimacy and connection to her subjects are evident. For Hines, less is more. Her work documents the perfection of who we are, reminding us of our wholeness, replacing stories with truth. Bethaniehines.com.

The Living Word Project (LWP) is the resident theatre company of Youth Speaks, committed to producing literary performance in the verse of our time. Aesthetically urban, pedagogically Freirean, LWP derives personally-performed narratives out of interdisciplinary collaboration. Though its methodology includes dance, music and film, the company's emphasis is spoken storytelling. LWP creates verse-based work that is spoken through the body, illustrated by visual and sonic scores and in communication with the important social issues and movements of the immediate moment. LWP is the theatre's connection from Shakespeare's quill to Kool Herc's turntables; from Martha Graham's cupped hand to Nelson Mandela's clenched fist: a new voice for a new politic. Producing Director, Joan Osato.

MAPP International Productions (Producer) is a nonprofit performing arts producing organization that develops sustainable environments for artists to create, premiere and perform contemporary performing arts projects and to use arts, humanities and dialogue to advance appreciation of diverse cultures and perspectives. Our curatorial vision leads us to seek out artists on the cutting edge of their disciplines—artists who lead the way in tackling complex subject matter and experimenting with form—whose works are the engine that continually push the cultural conversation forward in our society. MAPP advocates for vital artistic exchange across cultures and borders through sustained and evolving partnerships between artists, arts organizers, educational institutions, cultural organizations and public communities. We realize our mission through our interconnected programs—New Works, Artist-Public Dialogues and MAPP on Tour—and through our national and international programs, The America Project and The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium. Since its founding in 1994, MAPP has produced 30 acclaimed multidisciplinary performing arts projects created and performed by more than 300 artists and our productions have been seen in 42 U.S. states and 16 countries. MAPP has introduced the U.S. public to artists from 22 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia and the Caribbean. Mappinternational.org

PROGRAM NOTES

red, black & GREEN: a blues is co-commissioned by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at University of Houston, Walker Art Center and Lehigh University. It is also commissioned by The America Project, a program of MAPP International Productions with support from The Ford Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

red, black & GREEN: a blues is also made possible by the Contemporary Art Centers (CAC) network, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), with major support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. CAC is comprised of leading art centers and brings together performing arts curators to support collaboration and work across disciplines and is an initiative of NEFA's National Dance Project.

red, black & GREEN: a blues has received generous support from: The National Endowment for the Arts; The New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust; The MAP Fund, a program of Creative Capital supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation; East Bay Community Foundation, with matching support from United States Artists; Panta Rhea Foundation; and The Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Developmental residencies have been provided by Carolina Performing Arts at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Critical production support for *rbGb* is provided by the Technical Residency Program at Z Space.

red, black & GREEN: a blues has also received generous support from over 50 individuals throughout the country.

Delve deeper into *rbGb* with the following essays:

Object, Context & Voice: Theaster Gates' Practice in *red, black & GREEN: a blues*



A Rite to Heal essay by Shannon Jackson:



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