### Inheritance Theater Project Presents:



work by Jessi Ujazi

14

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6 pm KIPP Philosophers Academy Saturday, June 22, 2 pm Motion Picture & Television Fund

Sunday, June 23, 2024, 3 pm Skirball Cultural Center

KIPP: Philosophers Academy



Skirball Cultural Center MPTFICO MOTION PICTURE & TELEVISION FUND Caring is Infinite

## LOS ANGELES PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Click on an organization to learn more about their work.

Advot **BAR Center at the Beach Black Jewish Entertainment Alliance CAA** Foundation Challah & Soul **Central Avenue Church Community Coalition South LA Grand Arts High School** Haven Recording **Jewbian Princess KIPP Philosophers Academy Jewish Federation Los Angeles** LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell's Office Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) **Motion Picture & Television Fund Milken Community School** Partnership for Growth LA Sages & Seekers **Skirball Cultural Center Television City Studios** theater dybbuk

# **CREATIVE TEAM**

Co-Directors Writing Team

Local Liaison & Prod. Mgr Stage Manager Assistant Stage Manager Costume Designer Sound Designer Scenic & Props Designer Music Directors + Composers Music Collaborators Music Producer Poster Art Designer David H Parker & Zhailon Levingston Sarah Fanchon Cohen, Jamal Wade, Darian Dauchan Scout Wodehouse Sophi Joan Boylan Deven Streeton Catherine Moreno Malick Ceesay Leslie K. Gray Denise Manning & Ellie Kahn Kevin "KEO" Coulson, Emanuel Thomas Kevin Chubirka & Haven Recording Jessi Ujazi

## **PERFORMERS**

Angels

Eli Jah Jurnee DJ Vibes Various Jason Benefield, Rachel Frost, Cameryn Mitchell, Yehuda Nahari Scott Warren II Maci Alexis Elizabeth Anderson Darian Dauchan Sarah Fanchon Cohen

Additional Music Production: Dusty Sanders

Musicians: Chuck Lacy, Dusty Sanders Ellie Kahn, Scott Tipping Vocalists: Arnold Harper II, Ellie Kahn, Denise Manning, Dusty Sanders, Mark Robinson, Paula Aliya, Scott Patrick Wilson, Shayla Brielle G.

### **NATIONAL ITP STAFF**

Executive Director Director of Community Impact Artistic Director Director of Communication & Marketing Director of Development Dramaturgical Scholar in Residence Jon Adam Ross Ariel Warmflash Zhailon Levingston Nicole Dancel Zena Hinds Dr. Rebecca Schorsch

### **LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS**

Home is a privilege. Home is a birthright. Home is a pilgrimage.

Home is a

destination.

David read a passage from a short story they wrote for an audience on the evening of June 10th that addressed how we are in a holding pattern watching helplessly from behind our algorithms as Earth tilts on its axis toward fire; our bedroom floors collect the weight of anxiety and tears with no other place to escape; to breathe is an act of resistance.

We started this project in January by riding the shockwave of nobody in Los Angeles actually calling the city "home" for weeks. What does that beg except for us to write about it? And so our fearless writing team and cast toiled with "home" and how we tell that story with Los Angeles as a site of cultural alchemy, as a place nearly impregnable to contextualization without simply experiencing it as a local.

And we end this project with the opportunity for the Skirball and Patrisse Cullors' Bridging Histories series to interrogate beyond the closing of our show which questions will bring Black, Jewish, and Black-Jewish community closer to understanding. Principled struggle in N'Tanya Lee's words suggest that we accomplish this arduous task of unity "by asking questions and reading a text before we launch our counter-argument."

Consider this piece a home in itself for your questions to tighten the gaps; for your challenges to fill the gaps; for your epiphanies to reduce the gaps to rubble; for your revolutions to build anew.

- Zhailon & David

# **CAST BIOS**

Maci Alexis (Jah) Hailing from Houston, Texas, Maci Alexis embodies the essence of southern hospitality, infusing every room she enters with warmth and positivity. While pursuing her education at UCLA, she has distinguished herself through her performances in several notable productions, including her standout portrayal of Jasmine in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Fairview, in its first Los Angeles production. With a diverse range of acting experiences, from leading roles in plays like The Write Choice to captivating lead performances in film projects such as In Other Words and Orowa, Maci's talent shines both on stage and in front of the camera. Beyond her artistic pursuits, Maci is deeply committed to promoting intersectionality in the creative realm, drawing from her own experiences as a queer woman of color. Her involvement in Black studies and performance research, notably as a Bunche Fellows Researcher at UCLA, underscores her dedication to exploring the rich tapestry of identity and representation in theater and film. In her downtime, Maci channels her creative energy into various pursuits, whether it's exploring intimacy direction for theater and film, indulging in burlesque classes, crafting poetry, or writing her next screenplay. Maci Alexis exudes a blend of professionalism and approachability, embodying a spirit of inclusivity and creativity that is both inspiring and uplifting. Learn more about her and her work at Macialexis.com.

Elizabeth Anderson (Jurnee), a versatile talent, blends her roles as an award-winning actress, producer, and lupus foundation speaker with finesse. Born in Kaiserslautern, Germany, she accompanied her mother, a retired American Army Veteran, on journeys worldwide, nurturing her adventurous spirit and creative flair. From school productions to family gatherings, Elizabeth honed her craft, driven by a desire to captivate audiences. Her experiences fostered a passion for storytelling that challenges norms, inspiring viewers to embrace new perspectives. After studying Performing Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Elizabeth relocated to Los Angeles to pursue her dreams full-time. Today, she continues to make her mark in the entertainment industry, crafting compelling narratives and advocating for lupus awareness with her powerful voice.

Jason A Benefield (Angel Shy) Jason Adeniyi Ojudun Benefield born in Buffalo, New York, now living in Los Angeles. He is a poet, author, actor, singer, songwriter and speaker. Jason A. Benefield was raised by a family of talented speakers, a bishop and pastors. He has acted in a school play called. Kids. He has a one man show called. Shhhh Shut Up. Created two spoken word shows called, Brothas Speak and Speak On Sistas. Jason is currently teaching children literacy through poetry and helping them make more productive choices with their lives and in the lives of others. Is the author of a book, The Essential Pain and Peace of Life, The Journey of Unfolding Consciousness. Which helps people transform their pain into purpose.

Darian Dauchan (DJ Vybez, Writer) is an award winning actor, writer, poet, and musician who has appeared on both Broadway (Twentieth Century starring Alec Baldwin and Anne Heche) and Off Broadway theater (Classical Theatre of Harlem's Cherry Orchard starring Wendell Pierce). TV and Film credits include "Law and Order," Nickelodeon's "Bet the House" as Darian the SoundFX Guy, and the Lionsgate feature film Things Never Said. Darian is most known for The Brobot Johnson Project, an Afrofuturism, Sci Fi Hip Hop transmedia piece which won for Outstanding Comedy Series at the LA Web Festival and BEST soundtrack at the Escape Velocity Festival sponsored by the Museum of Science Fiction. The show The Brobot Johnson Experience is a critically acclaimed Ben Brantley New York Times Critics' Pick. More recently Darian was nominated for a Drama League award for Darian's piece Brobot PSA in the AFO Solo Short series, a contributing voiceover actor for the short doc Lynching Postcards by oscar nominated director Christine Turner, produced by Fireflight Films and MTV Studios which won the Image Award for Outstanding Short Form Special, and is a New Music USA grantee. Darian's also the narrator for the audiobook *Master Class on Being Human* and the recently released *The Black Practice of Disbelief* both published by Beacon Press. Darian's music *Doin' it Live* and *Ohm* can be found on all streaming platforms. www.dariandauchan.com www. brobotjohnson.com

Sarah Fanchon Cohen (Various, Writer) hopes you are feeling loved today. She is thrilled to return to the Inheritance Theater Project family and to this meaningful process.

A multidisciplinary educator, consultant and artist, Sarah loves connecting people and ideas. She is the creator and producer of over a dozen federally funded, international and domestic cultural diplomacy-focused theater / digital storytelling / youth development and teacher training projects. Sarah began her career as a Special Education and Spanish teacher in the South Bronx, NYC. She later lived in Bogotá, Colombia as a Fulbright scholar and Professor of English at a local university for bilingual teachers-in-training. A native of Chicago and a graduate of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Sarah then served as an Instructional Coach for teachers in a network of 32 high-needs schools within the CPS district and worked as an adjunct graduate professor of Special Education at National Louis University, before moving to Los Angeles in 2020 as a Policy Fellow at LAUSD's Office of Strategy. She has also spent time as an Artist-in-Residence at the Santa Fe Art Institute's Thematic Residency on Truth and Reconciliation and at the Hambidge Center. Sarah is currently a Senior Change Management Consultant at EY (more at sarahcohen.me).

Sarah wants to thank the people of Los Angeles for sharing their stories so generously. She also thanks her brother Adam for being her guiding light – reminding her to be kind to herself and others, to write, to listen closely, to share with an open heart, to learn and to connect.

Rachel Frost (Angel Smooth) is a Brazilian-American actor and director. She has always sought to highlight the interconnectedness of the modern world from a multi-disciplinary and intersectional approach. She is a graduate of the Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy and a recent graduate of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television with an emphasis in Acting and Directing. Acting credits include: Stage-Sofie Peterson in Platonov (Theatre Movement Bazaar), Rennie in The Most Massive Woman Wins (Hollywood Fringe), Olivia in Twelfth Night (UCLA), Alice in A List of Happenings (UCLA), Elizabeth Bennet in Pride and Prejudice (LACC), and Sarah in Levi! A New Musical (LACC). She is a two-time Irene Ryan Scholarship Award nominee, a Hugh Downs Performance for Television Award recipient, and an Amy Archerd Fellowship recipient.

Cameryn Mitchell (Angel Know it All) (she/ her) is a Los Angeles-based performer, currently studying Theater at UCLA with an Acting emphasis and Public Affairs Minor. This is Cameryn's first time working with Inheritance Theater Project and she's so excited to collaborate with such a wonderful team of creatives to help showcase a fraction of the vibrant city she calls home. Offstage, Cameryn is passionate about facilitating community for younger kids by giving campus tours as a UCLA CubTours quide and working as a summer camp counselor. She has been actively involved in theater for the past six years and was most recently Assistant Stage Manager for a student production of the jukebox musical, Head Over Heels!

Yehuda Nahari Halevi (Angel Naughty) is an Israeli actor, writer and a movement therapist. He has acted in Israeli movies, TV, and theater since 2008. Yehuda moved from Israel 2 years ago, and he is paving his path in the industry here. He is known internationally for his lead role, Yigal Amir, in the movie *INCITEMENT* (Amazon Prime), which won the best movie in the Israeli academy award in 2019. Recently he's been developing a script based on true stories of the NOVA festival massacre that took place on

Oct 7th. "I truly believe in peace, but real peace starts within. What actions need to be taken in order for us to remember that we are one big family?"

Scott Warren II (Eli) is a Baltimore raised and LA based multi-hyphenate artist. Scott received his B.A. in Acting (Theater) from the UCLA School of Theatre, Film, and Television. He is trained in both classical theater as well as acting for the screen. He is the Co-Founder and Creative Director of Magnum Opus Media, a film company dedicated to telling non-racialized stories through the lens of minorities. Through this company Scott has written, directed, and produced multiple short films, as well as documentaries and music videos. Outside of acting and filmmaking, Scott is a Hip-Hop artist and Spoken Word Poet. Through his music and poetry he aims to uplift and assist his people going through internal adversity and depression, find ways to feel seen, create healthy and loving coping mechanisms to heal, or temporarily escape from whatever stressful circumstances they may find themselves in.

If you would like to connect with Scott for any of your creative projects, you can email him iamscottwarren@gmail.com

# PRODUCTION BIOS

Sophi Joan Boylan (Stage Manager) she/ her, literally just graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Theater, Film, and Television. This is Sophi's first production with The Inheritance Theater Project and she is thrilled to be working alongside such passionate creatives. Her main focus has been in stage management and she is thrilled to continue this path post graduation. Outside of stage management, Sophi works as a barista and dabbles in improv comedy, graphic design, and writing. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Sophi is honored to pay tribute to her hometown and be part of this project. She would like to thank her whole family, her sister Erica, friends, colleagues, and everyone who made this production possible. Enjoy the show!

David H. Parker (Co-Director) they/them, is an award-winning director, playwright, poet, and cultural worker from Birmingham, AL, a blue island in the US South's sea of red. Intersectionality informs the base of their work, but the intersection of Blackness and Queerness is always at the top of their priorities. David is one of the incoming Co-Artistic Directors of Birmingham Black Repertory Theatre Collective; was among the Inaugural 2023 GLAAD Black Queer Creative Summit cohort; and just earned their Master's of Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles. Like last week. If you find vourself at a loss for how to react to the plights of the Palestinian, Congolese, and Sudanese people, you're not alone. Consider starting small by checking in on loved ones and communities you know you can lean on. Ask for help when you need it; ask someone else what help they might need and don't know how to ask for. Let these questions avalanche into action. Words have impact, and together we can be intentional with each one.

**Deven Streeton** (Assistant Stage Manager) is over the moon to be joining The Inheritance Theater Project for their production of *Guess Who's Coming to the (Juneteenth) Seder?* as the Assistant Stage Manager. This is her first show with the company, and as a Jewish Angeleno, she is excited to contribute to the storytelling and artistic vision of this thought-provoking piece. Collaborating with the talented cast and crew has been an inspiring journey, and Deven is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such an impactful project. Enjoy the show!

**Leslie K. Gray** (Scenic & Props Designer) is a second generation Los Angeles native and a theatre/visual artist/puppetry designer whose work has been seen most recently in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Pomona College, and Descanso Gardens. She co-directed *A* 

Walk with Little Amal for Deaf West Theatre last year and has been Artistic Director of Triumvirate Pi Theatre since 2003, creating and directing original productions at places such as The Electric Lodge, Highways Performance Space, and the Skirball Cultural Center. Her puppet show about the Japanese American Internment, "The Pink Dress", toured for years with the Music Center to schools across LA County and is a children's illustrated book. For more about Leslie's gallery work and installations please see haikupenguin.com or for the shows, tri-pi.org.

Malick Ceesay (Sound Designer) is a musician, playwright, and sound designer with intention on multidimensional storytelling for the stage. As a playwright, his most recent work SUPERAMERICA was workshopped and produced in UCLA TFT's New Play Festival. His other plays include Bloodsoil, circa 87 (Eugene O'Neill semi-finalist), Dynamite, Waiting in Vain, The Jazz Equation, and Sacrosanct. As a sound designer, his most notable work is FAIRVIEW with UCLA TFT and We The People with WACO Theatre Company. Malick's composition, design, and mixing credits include Snow in Atlantis, Def Poetics, Still Harvey Still, Antigone. and Tell Me I'm Gorgeous at the End of the World. Nationally, Malick has worked with theaters and other institutions such as Ambiance Theatre Company, AMDA College of Performing Arts, Full Circle Theatre, The Playwrights' Center, and Red Eye Theater. Malick holds an MFA in Playwriting from UCLA and a BA in Theater from Augsburg University. While at UCLA, he studied with Sylvan Oswald, Dominic Taylor, Leon Rothenberg, and Jonathan Snipes.

Jamal Wade (Writer) is a director, writer, choreographer, and performer based in Los Angeles. His journey began in high school as a dancer training on scholarship with the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre. During this time, honed his craft further performing in several staged productions with Debbie Allen, and training at the New Center for Creative Arts. Wade went on to continue training at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, where he earned his BFA in Dance Theatre. Upon graduation, Jamal became one of the founding members of Iris Company, an immersive dance theatre company based in Los Angeles. His professional work as a performer extended beyond the stage, appearing in commercials for brands like Chevy, Sprite, and Old Navy, and on tv shows such as "Animal Kingdom" and "Dear White People." As a choreographer and movement coach he has worked with artists including Josh Dean, Ambre, and Ari Lennox. His directorial work includes music videos for Lady London, Tinashe, and Willie Jones. Jamal strives to continue creating work with others who want to empower minorities and the underrepresented voices of the world.

**Emanuel Thomas** (Music Collaborator) is a Los Angeles born and based singer, songwriter, and producer. His journey begins in church where he was immersed in an environment of some of the most notable gospel artists and musicians worldwide. His unique and captivating sound reflects his gospel upbringing, the rich musical scene of leimert park, and la's overall underground music scene. Beyond the music, he is an active advocate for mental health awareness and LGBTQIA, partnering and supporting community initiatives.

Denise Manning (Co-Composer) AKA @ TheHalfPintLegend is a New-York Citybased Actor-vist, Comedian, and Musician. Denise was a 2023 Drama Desk Nominee for Outstanding Lead Performance as Amani in AMANI written by A.K. Payne & directed by Josiah Davis. She was co-composer, performer and member of the producing team on the 2023 Capital Emmy Award-Winning PBS documentary The InHEIRitance Project and her narrative performance in the short film The Roll Call: The Roots to Strange Fruit earned her a 2023 New York Emmy nomination. She is the 2021 winner of Songs for our City along with Ben Wexler for their original Song /Composition: "A Place for Me". Some of her favorite credits include: NYT Critic's Pick World Premiere and tour of What to Send Up When It Goes

*Down* written by Aleshea Harris & directed by Whitney White, 2022 Outfest Fusion Film Festival Official Selection *For the Boys* by Ellis Dawson & Mekhai Lee, Los Angeles Independent Shorts Awards Finalist *Keep This Far A Part* by Tyler English-Beckwith, *God is A Comedian*, a self-written and self-produced comedic short film and the 2021 Drama League nominated G.O.A.T by Ngozi Anyanwu. If you want to keep in touch, check out Denisemichellemanning.com for more!

**Catherine Moreno** (Costume Designer) is a third year Theater major, with an emphasis in costume design, and a Chicano and Central American Studies minor. Growing up, Catherine watched telenovelas religiously, igniting her passion for camp and kitsch. Catherine's character-first approach to costume design allows her to hone in on the tiny details that make clothes come to life! In her free time, Catherine loves to shop at vintage and archival stores, attend music festivals, and spend hours perusing books at her local library.

Kevin "Keo" Coulson (Music Collaborator) hailing from southern California, is a multifaceted talent in the creative industry. As a musician, director, and writer, he has honed his skills through a diverse array of experiences. After earning a degree in arts and entertainment management from Pace University, he founded "Brainchild," a creative agency dedicated to collaborating with artists and brands to produce captivating visuals, innovative products, and distinct artist identities. His passion for photography, music, and design fuels his creative endeavors. His work spans across various media, consistently pushing the boundaries of conventional artistry. Through "Brainchild," he is making a name for himself in the industry, crafting compelling narratives and striking visuals that resonate deeply with audiences. Looking ahead, he aims to direct more visual media, fully embrace his musicianship, and mentor emerging artists. His vision is not only to excel in his personal artistic journey but also to contribute to the growth and development of new talent in the creative community.

Ellie Kahn (Co-Composer) is a vocalist, music director, keyboardist, & coach in Chicago (hometown's in Jersey!). Ellie has written music for ITP's EXODUS series alongside her angel collabowrator, Denise, since 2021. She is a member of the music team for SIX the Musical (US+int'l), and of Chicago's newest Pride Festival band, Too Much Molly Band. Previous: Music Supervisor for 20+ productions onboard Norwegian Cruise Line; Fun Home (Paramount Theatre, IL), Just Between The All Of Us (Bloomington Playwrights Project, IN), Honky Tonk Angels (Summer Theatre of New Canaan, CT). Ellie is MD for multiple music improv troupes in Chicago (living her Laura Hall & Linda Taylor dreams). Love to the Kahns. @elliekahn #blacklivesmatter #protecttranskids

Scout Wodehouse (Local Liason & Production Manager) is a Los Angeles native with a background in theater, dance, choreography and education. She has utilized theater as a tool for community engagement in places around the world, including Washington, DC, New York City, London, Mauritius, London & amp; South Africa. One of Scout's most beloved roles is as a wife and mother to her two incredible kids, Penny and Theo. She is proud to have spent 10 years as a Public School educator around Los Angeles and holds a masters degree in Educational Theater for Colleges and Community from NYU Steinhardt School of Education.

### ITP would like to thank the following people and organizations for their incredible help in making this project come to fruition:

**Aaron Henne** Adeena Bleich Ashley August **Darren Streeton Deborah Marcus Devere Rogers** Elizabeth Gronquist Elly Katz Fredda Johnson Gabriel Mann Harry, Penny & Theo Wodehouse Ilana Ross & Adam Macy Jacob Cytryn Jill Lovell John Lavelle & Chloe Whiteford Jonah & Courtney Platt Julie & Marc Platt Larry Powell Lee Kasper Lukas Kanter Mani's Party Favors

Marlene Braga Mary Kohav Michael Feldman & Michael Rachlis The Props from Milken Community School Motion Picture Television Fund Naomi Ackerman Paul Irving Patrisse Cullors Rabbi Beau Shapiro Sarah Fanchon Cohen & Jake Novick Sarah Shulkind Sean Herstein Sirida Terk Stasi Cusack-Mercedez Steven Singer **Television City Studios** The patient partners and families of our national artist team Uzo Aduba

### Special thanks to our generous funding partners:

Skirball Cultural Center Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles The Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell The Covenant Foundation Good People Fund

## **RESOURCES AND PERSPECTIVES**

### JUNETEENTH:

A holiday commemorated on June 19 to commemorate the day in 1865 when the enslaved people in Texas were informed of their freedom.

**Other Names for June 19:** Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, and Black Independence Day.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX, and announced the end of the civil war and slavery. Although the Emancipation Proclamation came 2½ years earlier on January 1, 1863, many enslavers continued to hold people captive after the announcement, and Juneteenth became a symbolic date representing African-American freedom. Juneteenth became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021.

"Juneteenth is celebrated in a variety of ways throughout the United States and world, but consistent themes are an emphasis on family, freedom, activism, and resilience. Most communities celebrate with a feast centered around a barbeque... The color red is an important symbol of the sacrifices made in the past, and many people wear red and bring red side dishes to the feast, like red beans, watermelon, and red soda pop."

- Kelly Navies, Museum Specialist and Oral Historian, National Museum of African American History & Culture

"I remember a conversation I had with my great-grandmother, whose own mother had been enslaved as a child. I offered, in an old-soul kind of way, that it seemed to me that people were acting as if Juneteenth were no longer a big deal. Her eyes met mine. "It was a big deal to us," she said."

#### - Annette Gordon Reed

### **SEDER:**

#### A ritual meal celebrated by Jewish people to tell the story of the liberation of the Hebrews in ancient Egypt, as found in the book of Exodus.

The **seder**, the central ritual of Passover and the Hebrew word for 'order', is a carefully choreographed typically home-based meal. Symbolic foods are laid out on a set table along with ritual glasses of wine and water and the **matzah**, the unleavened "bread of affliction." The **haggadah** is the script for telling the

Passover story and discussing its symbols. The Seder is a ritual technology of texts and symbols to prompt questions and intergenerational connection; elders pass on traditions which younger generations question to discover and create old/new meanings.

"The set table invites expansiveness. On a night of questions, thoughtfully chosen objects placed on the table alongside more familiar ones can prompt new questions. On a night of storytelling, they can add layers of meaning. And on a night in which we are enjoined to see ourselves as coming out of Egypt, they suggest new ways of connecting to the Exodus." - Gail Twersky Reimer, Passover Companion, Hebrew College

### JUNETEENTH SEDER:

#### PRECEDENCE AND CREDIT

The first **Freedom Seder**, led and created by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, was inspired in the wake of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968. He saw Pharoah in the Jim Crow laws of the south and said this about his relationship with the hagaddah, the script for the seder ritual;

"Every year since I had learned to read, I had recited the passage that says, "In every generation, every human being is obligated to say, 'We ourselves, not our forebears only, go forth from slavery to freedom." Amazing!—not "every Jew," it says: "Every human being!"... In that Telling, the then ongoing, even now unfinished, struggle of Black America for freedom was interwoven with the ancient story of the Israelites' struggle to end their slavery under Pharaoh."

This project was first inspired by a Juneteenth Seder that was led by Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ) in New York in 2018. JFREJ explains the significance of the combination in this way:

"We memorialize the ending of chattel slavery in the way we remember our l iberation from Egypt because ritual is a form of collective embodied memory.... We come together carrying with us the ancient tools and technology of the Jews (passover, rituals, and remembering) while lovingly honoring the fierce spiritual soul of our Christian and secular family and ancestors who created and sustain the holiday of Juneteenth."

"Though I have been to many a Juneteenth cookout and celebration, Juneteenth is a newer version of Passover to me. I'd like to see us retell the story and create the opportunity to evaluate our current state of affairs as we do in the Jewish tradition. I'd love to see companies adopt it as an official holiday and offer ways to reflect on our past. This is a Passover that belongs to all Americans, if we choose to see it that way. As with all holidays, we should make it our own; embrace the lesson; and certainly not repeat the mistakes." - April Powers, JewbianPrincess.com

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Learn more about Juneteenth: <u>National Museum of African American History & Culture</u> <u>Globaljews.org</u> <u>NY Times "On Juneteenth, Freedom Came With Strings Attached"</u>

Learn more about Passover: My Jewish Learning

# **ITP X LOS ANGELES**

The Inheritance Theater Project makes art in and with communities to build relationships across divides. National artists spent the last 6 months collaborating with local artists and participants to create the brand new play that you are experiencing today!

Throughout this process we held creative salons, text studies, writers rooms and open rehearsals inspired by the question; what are the inherited and experienced narratives of Exodus in Black, Jewish, and Black Jewish communities in LA. So many Angelenos generously shared their time and insights with us and with each other, and helped contribute to the kind of understanding that enables longer-term, meaningful community relationships.

500+ participants 25 Public Playmaking Events 22 Local Collaborating Artists 21 Partner Organizations 3 Performances 1 City

We are grateful to the people and the city of Los Angeles.