

2018 BAM Next Wave Festival

JACK &, by Kaneza Schaal—an essay on the cost of America’s incarceration culture, Oct 17–20 at BAM Fisher

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

**JACK &
Kaneza Schaal**

In collaboration with Cornell Alston and Christopher Myers

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space) 321 Ashland Pl
Oct 17—20 at 7:30pm
Tickets: \$25

JACK & post-show cake reception and discussion
With Kaneza Schaal, Cornell Alston, and company
Oct 17—20, post-show
BAM Fisher Lower Lobby
Free

Master Class: Kaneza Schaal
Co-presented by BAM and Mark Morris Dance Group
Oct 9 at 10am, Mark Morris Dance Center (3 Lafayette Ave)
For theater makers of all experience levels
Price: \$25
Visit BAM.org/master-classes for more information and to register

Sept 6, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—In *JACK &*, theater artist Kaneza Schaal explores re-entry to society after prison and how internal life is rebuilt after trauma. The work stars Cornell Alston, whom Schaal first saw perform in the title role of August Wilson’s *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* at the all-male Fishkill Correctional Facility, where Alston was serving 33 years. In considering the toll of time in prison, the production focuses on the measure of inner life and dreaming given to the state. Schaal weaves together wide-ranging material—including the aspirational class stories of 1950’s sitcoms like *The Honeymooners* and *Amos & Andy*; minimalist

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paintings by artists such as Agnes Martin and Ellen Gallagher; John Canoe traditions; and entering-society ceremonies like Cotillion Balls—to create a portrait of a dream interrupted and resumed, exploring the markers of transition and transformation.

Schaal's work, presented as an essay, reflects on mass incarceration and the national debt we all pay for the carceral state. For Cornell Alston—who uses acting to work through his transition to civilian life—the piece is part of an ongoing personal process.

Prior to its New York premiere at BAM, the *JACK &* creative team will be presenting an excerpt and holding a workshop at the Hudson Valley Correctional Facility in partnership with LUMBERYARD in Catskill, NY, where they will make a presentation about the work. *JACK &* is part of a LUMBERYARD and BAM residency collaboration. In 2018–19, the piece will be presented at the TBA Festival at Portland Institute for Contemporary Arts in Portland, OR (September 7–9 at the Winningstad Theatre), REDCAT in Los Angeles (November 15–18), the Walker Arts Center Out There Festival (January 17–19, 2019), and New York Live Arts (April 17–27, 2019). Previously, *JACK &* premiered at Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, OH and toured to On the Boards in Seattle, WA and Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, IL.

Kaneza Schaal is a New York City-based theater artist. Her recent work *GO FORTH* premiered at Performance Space 122's COIL Festival and then showed at the Genocide Memorial Amphitheater in Kigali, Rwanda; LMCC's River-to-River Festival; Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans; Cairo International Contemporary Theater Festival in Egypt; and at her alma mater, Wesleyan University, CT. Schaal received a 2018 Ford Foundation Art For Justice Bearing Witness award, 2017 MAP Fund award, 2016 Creative Capital Award, and is an Aetna New Voices Fellow at Hartford Stage. *JACK &* was co-commissioned by PICA, Walker Arts Center, REDCAT, On the Boards, and Center for Contemporary Art Cincinnati and will show at Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and Brooklyn Academy of Music. Her new work in development, *CARTOGRAPHY*, was workshopped through New Victory Theater Lab, NYU Abu Dhabi, and the Kennedy Center's New Vision New Voices. Schaal's work has also been supported by Baryshnikov Arts Center, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Nathan Cummings Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Theater Communications Group, and a Princess Grace George C. Wolfe Award. Her work with The Wooster Group, Elevator Repair Service, Richard Maxwell/New York City Players, Claude Wampler, Jim Findlay, and Dean Moss has brought her to venues including Centre Pompidou, Royal Lyceum Theater Edinburgh, Whitney Museum, and MoMA. She was nominated for a 2018 Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer.

Cornell Alston was a long-time member of Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA), a non-profit organization that uses the arts to teach life skills to men and women both inside and outside of state correctional facilities. Alston served as the community outreach coordinator for RTA. He also led the Youth Empowerment Through the Arts Initiative, which RTA launched in Queens, NY in January, 2014. Alston has been a theater artist for over 20 years. He worked as a performer and collaborator with Kaneza Schaal on *Please, Bury Me* at the Baryshnikov Arts Center and *GO FORTH* during a Performance Space 122 RAMP residency. Other highlights of his performance career include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *12 Angry Men*, and playing the title role in August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

Christopher Myers is an artist and writer who lives in New York. He is widely acclaimed for his work with literature for young people, and is an accomplished fine artist who has lectured and exhibited internationally. His practice can be divided into two categories—interventions in historical narratives and work crafted with artisans from around the globe. Myers' work has been exhibited at PS1/MoMA, and included as part of Greater New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Prospect Biennial in New Orleans, and Contrasts Gallery in Shanghai. He has curated shows in Vietnam, designed theater that has travelled from New York's PS122 to the Genocide Memorial Theater in Kigali, Rwanda, and collaborated with Hank Willis Thomas on the short film *Am I Going Too Fast* which premiered at

Sundance. Myers participated in the Whitney Independent Studio Program. He has written essays that have been published by *The New York Times* and he is currently working on a book comparing global censorship methodologies. Throughout his career, Myers has given talks and workshops in Juvenile Detention Facilities around the US.

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Commissioned by LUMBERYARD Contemporary Performing Arts Center.

Credits

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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