

JACK &

Kaneza Schaal

In collaboration with
Cornell Alston and
Christopher Myers

DATES: OCT 17—20 at 7:30pm
LOCATION: BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)
RUN TIME: Approx 1hr 10mins
no intermission

Brooklyn Academy of Music

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JACK &

Created and directed by
Kaneza Schaal

Featuring
Cornell Alston

In collaboration with
Performers
Modesto Flako Jimenez
Rucyl Frison
Stacey Karen Robinson

Design
Christopher Myers

Sound
Rucyl Frison

Light
Megan Lang
Ashley Vellano

Text
Christopher Myers (PART I)
Christopher Myers and Jackie Sibblies
Drury (PART II)
Keisha (PART III)

Production supervisor
Clarissa Marie Ligon

Technical director
Cheyanne Williams

Producers
Rachel Silverman
Jane Jung

Contributing artists
Robert Chappelle
Daphne Gaines
Yahhkhem Hyman
April Matthis
Naomi Saito

JACK & is a project of Creative Capital, the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project, and The Map Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by the Contemporary Arts Center (Cincinnati) in partnership with On the Boards (Seattle), Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), REDCAT (Los Angeles), and NPN; a commission by Hartford Stage through the Aetna New Voices Fellowship; and with support from BRIClab, the Baryshnikov Arts Center, Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, and LUMBERYARD Center for Film and Performing Arts.

JACK & has upcoming performances at REDCAT (LA), November 16—18, 2018; The Walker Arts Center (Minneapolis), January 17—19, 2019; and New York Live Arts (NYC), April 17—27, 2019.

ABOUT JACK &

PART I : The Monologues
What had happened was...

Interlude A : time travel, 1977

PART II : The Sitcom
The Good Life...

Interlude B : time travel, 1977

PART III : The Cotillion
Goldfish with wings...

“Jack” works the night shift at an industrial bakery. He returns home to bake a cake for his wife “Jill.” “Jack” ends up whirling through a dance—part dream, part ritual—re-entering his own internal life. The performance draws on aspirational class stories like those in *The Honeymooners* and *Amos & Andy*; the paintings of Agnes Martin, Ellen Gallagher and Ruth Azawa; tigers in Harlem; real and imagined society-entering ceremonies like Cotillion balls; and markers of transition from John Canoe traditions to the mirroring and mimicry found in African-American dance pageantry of the late 19th century. The performance considers re-entry into society after prison; focusing not on the time one has served but the measure of one’s dreaming that is given to the state.



Cornell Alston Photo: Christopher Myers

Who's Who

KANEZA SCHAAL
Creator/Director

Kaneza Schaal is a New York City-based theater artist. Her recent work *GO FORTH* premiered at PS 122's COIL Festival and subsequently 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 performed at Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago prior to its BAM premiere. Her new work in development, *CARTOGRAPHY*, was workshopped through New Victory Theater Lab and NYU Abu Dhabi, and will premiere at the Kennedy Center in January 2019. 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, The Whitney Museum, and MoMA. She was nominated for a 2018 Bessie Award for outstanding performer.

CORNELL ALSTON
Performer

Cornell Alston is a long-time member of Rehabilitation Through the Arts, a not-for-profit that uses the arts as a springboard to teach life skills to individuals both inside and outside of state correctional facilities. He initiated the Youth Empowerment Through the Arts initiative that launched in Queens, NY, and he continues to work as an arts-in-education advocate. He is the recipient of a 2016 Creative Capital Award. Alston performed and collaborated with Kaneza Schaal on *PLEASE, BURY ME* at Baryshnikov Arts Center and *GO FORTH* during a RAMP residency at PS 122. Other performance highlights include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *12 Angry Men*, and the title role in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

RUCYL FRISON
Sound

Rucyl Frison is a sound and new media artist. Her work revolves around a live experimentation performance process, centering sound as a medium to represent the non-tactile concepts of time, emotion, identity, and physics. During her live performances she uses MIDI controllers, loopers, and effects processors, with accompanying visual vignettes composed of found footage and abstract personal video. As an original member of alternative hip-hop group The Goats and the experimental electronic group Saturn Never Sleeps, she has performed internationally at museums and festivals. She built a wearable audiovisual MIDI controller, the Chakakhantroller (2008),

for solo performance of electronic music, and the Sound Prism (2016), a solar-powered sonic installation that plays the frequencies of the color spectrum, currently installed at Organizmo Design Center in Bogotá, Colombia. Frison is working on her third solo record and a new performance piece, *Echo's Resolve*, a soundscape that uses complex delay processing to discuss the psycholinguistic effects of cultural miscommunication on humanity.

MODESTO FLAKO JIMENEZ
Performer

Modesto Flako Jimenez is a Dominican-born, Bushwick-raised theater maker, producer, and educator. The ATI best actor award winner for 2016, HOLA best ensemble award winner for 2015, and HOLA outstanding solo performer for 2017, Jimenez has been profiled in both *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is best known for original productions and three signature festivals—Ghetto Hors d'Oeuvres, One Catches Light, and Oye! Avant Garde Night!—produced with his company Oye Group. Jimenez has appeared on *TEDxBushwick*; *Early Shaker Spirituals* (The Wooster Group); *Last Night at the Palladium* (Bushwick Starr/3LD); *Yoleros* (Bushwick Starr/IATI Theater); *Conversations Pt. 1: How to Make It Black in America* (JACK); *Take Me Home* (3LD/Incubator Arts Project); Richard Maxwell's *Samara* (Soho Rep.); and *Oye For My Dear Brooklyn* (Abrons Art Center). Jimenez received the 2016 Princess Grace Award Honorarium in Theater. In 2018 he became the first Dominican-American lead artist in the Public Theater Under The Radar Festival.

JANE JUNG
Producer

Jane Jung is a manager and producer for individual artists, artist-led companies, and theater projects, currently working with Kaneza Schaal, Ping Chong + Company, and Gung Ho Projects. From 2014—17, she was managing director of The Civilians where she oversaw all administrative, fundraising, general management, and producing areas of the company. Previously, she was general manager at Ping Chong + Company from 2010—14. She has worked as a producer with Little Lord and the Women's Project and produced new work that was presented at the New Ohio Theater's Ice Factory Festival, the Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival, City Center Stage II, and the Bushwick Starr. She is a board member of Network of Ensemble Theaters and is on the Editorial Board of the Yale Theater Management Knowledge Base.

MEGAN LANG
Light

Megan Lang has designed lighting at BAM, La MaMa, Abrons Arts Center, EST, Under St. Mark's, the Wild Project, Dixon Place, 59E59, JACK, and Atlantic Stage 2, among others. Recent designs include *A Star Has Burnt My Eye* (2016 NWF, directed by Paul Lazar); *Riot Antigone* (La MaMa, directed by Seonjae Kim); and *Furry/La Furia!* (Bushwick Starr, directed by William Burke). She is the resident lighting designer for the Ubumuntu Arts Festival in Rwanda. Assistant/associate special effects work includes Sting's *The Last Ship, Our Lady of Kibeho*, and *An Act of God*. Lang received a BA from Fordham University.

CLARISSA MARIE LIGON
Production supervisor

Clarissa Marie Ligon is a stage manager, designer, and classically trained singer. She makes art because she believes it can change the world. Recent production work includes *Cruel Intentions The Musical* at le Poisson Rouge; *The Rise and Fall of Marcus Monroe* at Jeffrey and Paula Gural Theatre; *3/Fifths* at 3LD; Penny Arcade's *Longing Lasts Longer* at St. Ann's Warehouse; and *La Paloma Prisoner* at HI-Arts.

CHRISTOPHER MYERS
Design/Text

Christopher Myers is an artist and writer who lives in New York. While he is widely acclaimed for his work with literature for young people, he is also 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. Myers has curated shows in Vietnam, designed theater that has traveled from PS122 in New York City to the Genocide Memorial Theater in Kigali, Rwanda, and collaborated with Hank Willis Thomas on a short film, *Am I Going Too Fast*, which premiered at Sundance. Myers participated in the Whitney Independent Studio Program. His solo exhibition *Let the Mermaids flirt with me* is on view until October 27th at Fort Gansevoort Gallery in Manhattan.

STACEY KAREN ROBINSON
Performer

Stacey Karen Robinson is a multidisciplinary theater artist. She performed her new solo work, *You Never Can Always Sometimes Tell*, in NYC at JACK in March 2018. She developed the show with the support of a 2017 Process Space Residency from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and as a work-in-progress production at Salvage Vanguard Theater, TX. Her previous one woman show, *Quiet Frenzy*, was published in *solo / black / woman: scripts, interviews, and essays* (Northwestern University Press, 2014). Performance venues for *Quiet Frenzy* included JACK, the John L. Warfield Center for African & African-American Studies, Northwestern University, and the Wild Project. A Bronx native, she is a proud recipient of the BRIO, Bronx Recognizes Its Own Award for Playwriting, 2009. Robinson has appeared as an actress in many productions, including Daniel Alexander Jones' *DUAT* (Soho Rep.); Toshiki Okada's *Quiet Comfort* (Hoi Polloi); and Erik Ehn's *Her Speech* (Planet Connections—Playwrights for a Cause).

RACHEL SILVERMAN
Producer

Rachel Silverman is a New York City-based theater artist and producer. Silverman works on the artistic staff at New York Theatre Workshop where she is a curator and producer of workshops and artist development programs, NYTW's NEXT DOOR series for artists and companies producing their own work, and the 2050 Fellowship for early career directors and playwrights. Silverman served as festival producer for PreludeNYC in 2012 and 2013 and the associate producer of 13P for its final years. Other producing credits include 13P's Obie Award-winning *A Map of Virtue* and UglyRhino's site specific

What it Means to Disappear Here. She received a BA from Wesleyan University in theater and sociology.

ASHLEY VELLANO
Light

Ashley Vellano graduated from the University of Mississippi with a BFA in technical theater emphasis in lighting design and has been designing lights in New York City since 2008. She is one of the founding members of Kidz Theater in NYC, a company which provides a free professional training ground for young performers. Vellano has worked with Kaneza Schaal since 2014 and designed the lighting for *GO FORTH*.

CHEYANNE WILLIAMS
Technical director

Cheyenne Williams is a New York-based theater artist. Previous design and technical collaborations include assistant set designer (*Pay No Attention to the Girl*, Target Margin Theater, and *{mylingerieplay}*), Rattlestick Playwrights Theater); props designer (Big Green Theater Program and *Cute Activist*, Bushwick Starr); and technical director (Kaneza Schaal's *JACK &* and *CARTOGRAPHY*). Recent performance work includes workshop performances of Kaneza Schaal's *CARTOGRAPHY* at the New Victory Theater and Brooklyn College, as well as the East Coast premiere of *up your aesthetic*, a revised re-telling of the ancient Greek myths of the Amazons, at the DC fringe festival this past summer. Williams received a BA in theater from Wesleyan University.

Thanks!

Fortune Society: Jamie Maleszka, Jill Poklemba, Betty Rauch and John Runowicz; Miya Carey, Ama Codjoe, Lisa Dent, Charles Fenner, James Finch and Country Boy Bakery, Miranda Haymon, Daniel Alexander Jones, Thomas O. Kriegsmann, Eddy Kwon and My Cincinnati, Virginia Millhiser, Sam Miller, Manuel Miranda, Kamal Nassif, Steve Neil, Raquel Palmas, Jane Saks and Project&, Annie Sieg, Lily Whitsitt, and Cathy Zimmerman.

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