



**BAM and Playwrights Horizons, in association with The Movement Theatre Company, present Aleshea Harris’s groundbreaking piece *What to Send Up When It Goes Down*, Jun 20—Jul 11 in the BAM Fishman Space**

**A play-ritual of release and healing for Black people**

**General public tickets on sale Jun 15**

“It’s as though Harris had taken her artistic forebear’s Ntozake Shange’s loose-woven theatrical fabric and stretched into something tighter and crisper, capable of resounding like a struck drumhead.”— *Time Out New York*

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BAM and Playwrights Horizons in association with The Movement Theatre Company Present

***What to Send Up When It Goes Down***

By Aleshea Harris

Directed by Whitney White

Scenic design by Yu-Hsuan Chen

Costume design by Qween Jean

Lighting design by Cha See

Sound design by Sinan Refik Zafar

Original songs by Aleshea Harris

*What To Send Up When It Goes Down* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

**BAM Fisher** (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl.

Jun 20—Jul 11

All tickets \$25

**(Brooklyn, NY/June 3, 2021) — BAM and Playwrights Horizons** announce today the performance dates and updated location information for the spring presentation of **Aleshea Harris's *What to Send Up When It Goes Down***, directed by **Whitney White**. Previews begin June 20 in the Fishman Space at the BAM Fisher, and tickets go on sale on June 15.

The play was originally scheduled to take place at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. With expanding health and safety regulations permitting safer indoor performances, the location change provides an opportunity for an extension in the production schedule and expands performances for more patrons to attend. The proclaimed play/pageant/ritual/home-going/celebration, which includes audience participation, will be presented in the BAM Fisher— the organization’s intimate open space intended to respond to the creative needs of individual artists.

“With a safety plan in place, we’re thrilled to take the opportunity to invite audiences and artists back to our indoor stages in the BAM Fisher and extend the run of performances for this engagement,” said **BAM Artistic Director David Binder**. “We thank the artists and design teams for their wonderful work thus far and are excited to see their vision come to life in the BAM Fisher, where we can now showcase this important work to a larger audience. Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been an incredible collaborator, and we look forward to utilizing the groundwork laid here for a future project.”

Presented by BAM and Playwrights Horizons, in association with **The Movement Theatre Company**, the groundbreaking work is a play, a ritual, and a homegoing celebration that bears witness to the physical and spiritual deaths of Black people as a result of racist violence. Setting out to disrupt the pervasiveness of anti-Blackness and acknowledge the inherent value of Black people throughout history, this theatrical work blurs the boundaries between actors and audiences, offering a space for catharsis, discussion, reflection, and healing. This co-production will also have a staging at Playwrights Horizons in the fall.

*What to Send Up When It Goes Down* is written by Aleshea Harris with direction by Whitney White. Scenic design is by **Yu-Hsuan Chen**, costume design by **Qween Jean**, lighting design by **Cha See**, and sound design by Sinan Refik Zafar. Stage managers are **Genevieve Ortiz** and **Carolina Arboleda**. It is performed by **Alana Raquel Bowers, Rachel Christopher, Ugo Chukwu, Kalyne Coleman, Denise Manning, Javon Q. Minter, and Beau Thom**. [Press Image](#)

### **Performance Dates**

*What to Send Up When It Goes Down* begins June 20 and runs until July 11.

Sunday, June 20 at 7:30pm	Preview Performance
Tuesday, June 22 at 7:30pm	Preview Performance
Wednesday, June 23 at 7:30pm	Preview Performance
Thursday, June 24 at 7:30pm	Preview Performance (Invited Press)
Friday, June 25 at 7:30pm	Preview Performance (Invited Press)
Saturday, June 26 at 7:30pm	Preview Performance (Invited Press)
Sunday, June 27 at 7:30pm	Opening Performance
Tuesday, June 29 at 7:30pm	Performance
Wednesday, June 30 at 7:30pm	Performance
Thursday, July 1 at 7:30pm	Performance
Friday, July 2 at 7:30pm	Performance
Saturday, July 3 at 3:00pm & 7:30pm	Performances
Tuesday, July 6 at 7:30pm	Performance
Wednesday, July 7 at 7:30pm	Performance
Thursday, July 8 at 7:30pm	Performance
Friday, July 9 at 7:30pm	Performance

Saturday, July 10 at 3:00pm & 7:30pm  
Sunday, July 11 at 3:00pm

Performances  
Closing Performance

### **Health and Safety Protocol**

With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, and New York State's NY Forward, BAM is implementing a thorough plan to ensure a safe experience for the audience, artists, and staff. Safety protocols for audiences that extend from arrival, entry, and seating to performance, participation, and departure have been developed. Among these safety procedures are: safety questionnaire and contactless temperature checks upon entry; masks appropriately worn at all times regardless of vaccine status; a detailed and monitored system of audience flow to ensure artists, patrons, and staff are socially distanced at all times throughout the engagement; contactless ticket scanning; increased disinfection practices. Additionally, capacity in the Fishman Space will be reduced to 20% to allow all guests to remain socially distant. BAM encourages guests to review the new safety protocols prior to visiting.

### **Ticketing**

All seats are \$25 and sold as general admission in socially distanced pairs. Tickets will go on sale on June 15; details are available on [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

### **About the Artists**

**Aleshea Harris'** (Playwright) play *Is God Is* (directed by Taibi Magar at Soho Rep) won the 2016 Relentless Award, an OBIE Award for playwriting in 2017, the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award in 2019, and was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* (directed by Whitney White, produced by The Movement Theatre Company, a play-pageant-ritual response to anti-Blackness, had its critically-acclaimed NYC premiere in 2018. The play was featured in the April 2019 issue of *American Theatre Magazine* and received a rare special commendation from the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Harris was awarded a Windham-Campbell Literary Prize and the Mimi Steinberg Playwriting Award in 2020, and the Hermitage Greenfield Prize in 2021.

**Whitney White** is a director and musician based in New York. Recent: *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* by Alexis Scheer, WP Theater/Second Stage; *for all the women who thought they were Mad* by Zawe Ashton, Soho Rep; *A Human Being, of a Sort* by Jonathan Payne (starring Andre Braugher and Frank Wood), Williamstown Theatre Festival; *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* (*New York Times* Critics' Pick), Movement Theatre Company; *Jump*, PlayMakers Rep, NNPN Rolling World Premiere; *Canyon* (*LA Times* Critics' Choice), IAMA; *An Iliad*, Long Wharf; *Rita También Rita*, Juilliard; *Othello*, Trinity Rep; *Br'er Cotton*, Endstation. Her original musical *Definition* was part of the 2019 Sundance Theatre Lab, and her musical look at Macbeth, *Macbeth In Stride* was part of 2019 Under the Radar Festival (The Public Theater). Associate Directing: *Marvin's Room* (Broadway); *If I Forget* (Roundabout); *The Secret Life of Bees* (Atlantic Theater). Whitney is an Associate Artist at Roundabout and a current recipient of the Susan Stroman Directing Award. Past fellowships: 2050 NYTW Fellow, Ars Nova, Drama League, the Inaugural Roundabout Directing Fellowship, and Colt Coeur. Education/Training: BA, Northwestern; MFA Brown University/Trinity Rep.

**The Movement Theatre Company** creates an artistic social movement by developing and producing new works by artists of color. Under the leadership of David Mendizábal, Deadria Harrington, Eric Lockley, Ryan Dobrin, and Taylor Reynolds, their work engages a multicultural audience in a rich theatrical dialogue, enlightens communities to the important issues affecting our world, and empowers artists to celebrate the many sides of their unique voice. Founded in 2007, The Movement has established itself as an artistic staple in the New York theatre community and was awarded a 2019 OBIE-Award grant. They are passionate about using their platform to shift the status quo of American Theatre both on-stage and behind the scenes. As an organization run by producers of color, they are committed to highlighting artists of color that are exploding traditional theatrical forms.

Their 2018 production of *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* by Aleshea Harris, directed by Whitney White, received critical praise and recognition (*New York Times* Critics Pick / 2019 Drama Desk Award nomination), increased the visibility of Black people affected by racially motivated violence, and challenged the limitations of a theatrical experience. *What to Send Up* went on tour in 2019 and was presented at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in DC and American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge. It went on to be a part of The Public's Under the Radar Festival in January 2020 and is slated to be presented by Playwrights Horizons in their 2021/2022 season. Additional past production successes include *And She Would Stand Like This*, and *Look Upon Our Lowliness*, both by Harrison David Rivers; and their breakout *New York Times* lauded production of *Bintou* by Koffi Kwahulé, translated by Chantal Bilodeau. Past programming successes include their 1MOVE: DESIGNED BY initiative (2021 Drama League Award nomination), the Ladder Series touring production of *Hope Speaks* created by Jonathan McCrory; *Last Laugh* by Eric Lockley; *Think Before You Holla* created and devised by Taylor Reynolds; the workshop production of *Black Boy & The War* by Antoinette Nwandu; as well as numerous Harlem Nights events. For more information visit: [themovementtheatrecompany.org](http://themovementtheatrecompany.org)

**Playwrights Horizons** is dedicated to cultivating the most important American playwrights, composers, and lyricists, as well as developing and producing their bold new plays and musicals. Adam Greenfield became Artistic Director in 2020; Leslie Marcus has served as Managing Director since 1993. As it enters its 50th anniversary season, Playwrights builds upon its diverse and renowned body of work, counting 400 writers among its artistic roster. In addition to its onstage work each season, Playwrights' singular commitment to nurturing American theater artists guides all of the institution's multifaceted initiatives: our acclaimed New Works Lab, a robust commissioning program, an innovative curriculum at its Theater School, and more. Robert Moss founded Playwrights in 1971 and cemented the mission that continues to guide the institution today. André Bishop served as Artistic Director from 1981–1992. Don Scardino succeeded him and served until 1996. Tim Sanford, the organization's longest-serving Artistic Director, held the position from 1996-2020. Over its 50-year history, Playwrights has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including seven Pulitzer Prizes, 13 Tony Awards, and 47 Obie Awards.

**Brooklyn Academy of Music's** (BAM's) mission is to be a home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas. America's oldest performing arts institution, it is recognized internationally for innovative dance, music, and theater programming—including its renowned Next Wave Festival. BAM also features an acclaimed repertory film program, literary and visual art events, and extensive educational and humanities programs.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at [ctate@bam.org](mailto:ctate@bam.org)

For general information on the show [BAM.org/what-to-send](http://BAM.org/what-to-send)

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