




EMPAC



**EPHRAIM
ASILI**
THE INHERITANCE:
WORK-IN-PROGRESS
FEATURING POET
SONIA SANCHEZ
**TUE
JAN 23
7 PM**



PHOTO BY: MICK BELLO / EMPAC

Ephraim Asili ***The Inheritance***

A WORK-IN-PROGRESS PERFORMANCE FEATURING:

Aurielle Akerele
Chris Jarell
Eric Lockley
Nyabel Lual
Nozipho McLean
Aniya Picou
Julian Rozzell
Timothy Trumpet

With Sonia Sanchez

CURATOR: VICTORIA BROOKS

COVER PHOTOS BY: MARIANA SANCHEZ

The Inheritance

Julian has just inherited his grandmother Elaine's house in West Philadelphia. Exploring the Black activist media and ephemera left behind, he starts to see this house as a kind of radical headquarters. With the help of his partner, Gwen, Julian decides to turn the house into an urban collective for activists of color. In time, the collective becomes invested in the probing issues including but not limited to Black Anarchism, Black Nationalism, Black Marxism, The Black Arts Movement, Pan Africanism, Black Lives Matter, the legacy of Barack Obama, the presidency of Donald Trump, and gentrification.

The story begins with the planning of the group's first collective attempt at engaging the community.



Ephraim Asili is in residence at EMPAC with a group of performers to develop the script for his feature-length film *The Inheritance*. The artist-filmmaker's first foray into working with an ensemble cast, this event will feature a live three-act performance, including scenes from the film and a reading by Philadelphia poet, activist, and scholar of the Black Arts Movement Sonia Sanchez.



PHOTO BY: MICK BELLO / EMPAC

CAST



Gwen
Nozipho McLean



Jamell
Timothy Trumpet



Janet
Aurielle Akerele



Julian
Eric Lockley



Old Head
Julian Rozzell



Patricia
Nyabel Lual



Rich
Chris Jarell



Stephanie
Aniya Picou



Sonya Sanchez

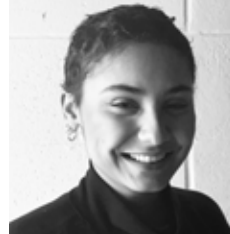
PRODUCTION



Ephraim Asili



Mariana Sanchez



Ehm West

Production Assistants : *Mariana Sanchez and Ehm West*

Technical Director : *Geoff Abbas*

Lighting Supervisor : *Dan Meltzer*

Set Design and Construction : *Bruce Bryne*

Audio Engineer : *Jeff Svatek*

Video Engineers : *Eric Brucker, Mick Bello, and Ryan Jenkins*

Production Technicians : *Carl Lewandowski and Mike Wells*

BIOGRAPHIES

AURIELLE AKERELE was born and raised in Chicago and is of Nigerian descent. Akerele is currently studying Human Rights with a concentration in African Studies, utilizing multimedia, critical theory, philosophy, humanities, science, and conceptual art to bring a sense of transparency to important cultural discourses. Akerele is also a practicing keyboardist and vocalist, invested in creating spaces for Black and Brown creatives.

EPHRAIM ASILI is a filmmaker, DJ, and interdisciplinary artist whose work concentrates on the African diaspora as a cultural force. Growing up in Philadelphia, Asili was a practicing DJ and musician. He later received a BFA in Film from Temple University and went on to receive an MFA in Film from the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College. He is currently based in Hudson, NY, where he continues both his career as a DJ and as a filmmaker and is a professor of film at Bard College. He has screened his work in venues such as the New York Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Milano Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, MoMA PS1, Whitney Museum of American Art and many more. His most recent project, a multimedia installation titled *Jazz Salt*, opened at the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum on January 13th. The installation features a newly recorded 30-minute cassette of sample tracks featuring the music and poetry of mid-20th century Black Americans confronting racial politics and injustice.

CHRIS JARELL is a comedian and actor raised in Philadelphia, PA. Jarell took to the stage to share his everyday experiences through humor and began his career as a comedian at 19 at the renowned Laff House in Philadelphia. After developing successfully as a stage performer, Jarell moved to New York City and began acting classes and continued comedy acts around the city. Jarell was soon signed to the Steinberg Management Company and went on to act in his first film, *Brotherly Love*, produced by Queen Latifah. Jarell has continued to thrive as an actor in recent television and film debuts, his latest endeavors including roles in the series *The Breaks* and Season 2 of *Atlanta* to be released in March of this year. Jarell is motivated to continue as a creative entertainer and explore the different opportunities that arise along the way.

NOZIPHO MCLEAN is a South African-American actress living in New York City. She is a graduate of the University of Cape Town, where she majored in psychology and sociology. Her interest in the arts compelled her to move to New York to pursue a career in acting. Shortly after graduation from the New York Film Academy, McLean was cast in roles on two CBS shows, *Bull* and *Madam Secretary*. She has since participated in the Sundance Lab as part of the Black Lady Authority theater piece. McLean is represented by Innovative Artists and Authentic Talent and Literary Management. She is thrilled and humbled to be a part of *The Inheritance*.

ANIYA PICOU is a fourth-year student at Bard College studying theater and performance. Although she plans to pursue an acting career after graduation, she hopes to bridge her passion for human rights and theater by implementing educational art programs in public schools. A Brooklyn native and public school attendee herself, Aniya hopes to provide students with a platform for self-expression and confidence-building outside of the classroom while increasing art accessibility in communities lacking resources.

MARIANA SANCHEZ is a Film and Electronic Arts student from Bogotá, Colombia. She is now in her fourth year at Bard College. Sanchez's interests include Latin American and Iberian studies, and film/media archiving and distribution. She hopes to work at the intersection between film preservation and education within her community, while continuing to work on her personal creative projects. Additionally, she would like to collaborate on interdisciplinary creative projects that bring communities together, such as *The Inheritance*.

SONIA SANCHEZ is a poet, mother, activist, professor and lecturer on Black Culture and Literature, Women's Liberation, Peace and Racial Justice. She is the recipient of numerous awards such as the Robert Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry and the Langston Hughes Poetry Award. One of the most important writers of the Black Arts Movement, Sanchez is the author of more than a dozen books of poetry. These include her work *Does your house have lions?*, which was nominated for both the NAACP Image and National Book Critics Circle Award, as well as *Homegirls & Handgrenades*, which won an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. Sanchez has lectured at more than 500 universities and colleges in the United States and has traveled extensively, reading her poetry in Africa, Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Nicaragua, the People's Republic of China, Norway, and Canada. She was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University, where she began teaching in 1977, and held the Laura Carnell Chair in English there until her retirement in 1999. She lives in Philadelphia and continues to be a strong cultural influence.

TIMOTHY TRUMPET is a second-year student at Bard College studying music and concentrating in jazz performance. Trumpet, coincidentally both his namesake and his instrument of choice, began playing music when he was 10, and his interest in music has extended to singing and music production. Trumpet was born in Colorado Springs and raised in Atlanta, GA. Acting and performance has always been a strong interest for Trumpet, but music continues to be his primary focus.

EHM WEST is a fourth-year student at Bard College studying Art History and concentrating in histories of the moving image. West is also a practicing artist who uses their own interests in digital media such as sound, video, and language to bear on contemporary civic movement and engagement. Interested in experimental methods, West hopes to continue working on projects such as *The Inheritance* that bridge collective experiences and creativity.

JULIAN ROZZELL is an actor and painter based in New York. He graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic arts in London, and now resides in New York City where he has performed in venues such as the Public Theater, the New York Theater Workshop, the Mark Taper Forum, and the Arden Theater, among others. Rozzell's artwork has been exhibited in Monkdogz Gallery in Chelsea, Culturefix, Under Minerva, and the Actors Theater of Louisville. He was a regular cast member in the Martin Scorsese series *Boardwalk Empire*, and was a founding member of Hipgnosis Theater company. Rozzell continues to be involved in theater and film projects across the board.

ERIC LOCKLEY is an artist and media maker invested in writing, producing, and acting in work that inspires communities of color to confidently move towards joy and unabashedly embrace possibility. He does this through comedy on stage and screen, as well as through his own projects. He is currently working on a short film, *The Jump*, and a one man play, *Asking For More*.

NYABEL LUAL is a South Sudanese-born actress and model best known for her bright, infectious smile and heart for her home country. As a child, she and her family lived in a refugee camp in Kenya before finally relocating to the US, where she pursued an education while volunteering, acting, and modeling part time. While her role on Oxygen network's *The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency* elevated her visibility, it was her degree in Business Administration and Management that truly prepared her for her future role: advocating for the South Sudanese people. Upon discovering that nearly 80-percent of her South Sudanese family had fallen victim to crimes of genocide, and the rest were struggling for survival in Ethiopian camps, Nyabel was compelled to action on their behalf. She teamed up with other South Sudanese activists in order to bring awareness to the American people and to the world about the ongoing crisis in South Sudan. Nyabel has co-founded Ulang County Youth, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization that provides children with much-needed school supplies and sports equipment. She is currently working to establish a nonprofit organization that will sponsor African orphans and displaced children as well.

STAFF

Geoff Abbas / Director for Stage Technologies
Aimeé R. Albright / Artist Services Specialist
Eric Ameres / Senior Research Engineer
Argeo Ascani / Curator, Music
Eileen Baumgartner / Graphic Designer
David Bebb / Senior Network Administrator
Peter Bellamy / Senior Systems Administrator
Michael Bello / Video Engineer
Victoria Brooks / Curator, Time-Based Visual Arts
Eric Brucker / Lead Video Engineer
Bruce Bryne / Master Carpenter
Michele Cassaro / Guest Services Coordinator
Gordon Clement / Media Systems Integrator
John Cook / Box Office Manager
David DeLaRosa / Desktop Support Analyst
Zhenelle Falk / Artist Services Administrator
Ashley Ferro-Murray / Associate Curator, Theater & Dance
Kimberly Gardner / Manager, Administrative Operations
Johannes Goebel / Director
Ian Hamelin / Project Manager
Ryan Jenkins / Senior Event Technician
Shannon Johnson / Design Director
Carl Lewandowski / Production Technician
Robin Massey / Senior Business Administrator
Daniel Meltzer / Master Electrician
Stephen McLaughlin / Senior Event Technician
Sharineka Phillips / Business Coordinator
Josh Potter / Marketing and Communications Manager
Avery Stempel / Front of House Manager
Kim Strosahl / Production Coordinator
Jeffrey Svatek / Audio Engineer
Todd Vos / Lead Audio Engineer
Michael Wells / Production Technician