

KENDRA J. ROSS WORKS PRESENTS

SANKOFA

RESIDENCY

CULMINATING PERFORMANCE



**A STORY OF PAST, PRESENT
AND FUTURE BEDSTUY TOLD
THROUGH DANCE**

LOVE THY
NEIGHBORS
AS THYSELF



**NOVEMBER 12
7:30PM**

**CUMBE: CENTER FOR AFRICAN
AND DIASPORA DANCE
1368 FULTON ST.**



SCAN ME

This is presented as the culminating work of the 2022 Create Change BedStuy Artist in Residence Program of the Laundromat Project in partnership with Bailey's Cafe and Cumbe: Center for African and Diaspora Dance. Creative Production by PMMDC

bit.ly/sankofashow

The Sankofa Residency

Culminating Performance

**Presented by The Laundromat Project
in partnership with
Cumbe Center for African Diaspora Dance & Bailey's Cafe**

**Saturday, November 12, 2022 7:30pm
Cumbe Center for African Diaspora Dance**

This is an immersive performance experience. Please feel free to engage with artists if they engage with you, or move to a space to view the work from a different perspective. Please note, the entire theater is a performance space, the performers will face all directions and move from all areas of the space. We invite you to move with them.

CREATIVE CREDITS

Creator, Choreographer, Performer	Kendra J. Ross
Director/Stage Manager	Wema Ragophala
Assistant Stage Manager	Moorea Walker
Creative Producer	Pia Monique Murray/PMMDC
Dancer/Collaborator	Dani Criss, The Artist
Dancer/Collaborator	Natasha Calixte
Aunt Cestor	Daromie Despinosse
Voices of Block	Jelani de Leon, Sewaa Codrington, Malcolm Melendez, Emilio Gittens, Sundiata Gittens, Justice Diata Cockfield, Kai Diata Giovanni, Ziedah Diata, Azali Harris- Bess, Mesu Ra Gittens "Slipping" and "U Don't Have To Call (Instrumental)" by Courtnie; "Original Compositions" by Wil Glover; "Positive Hip Hop" by Anton Vlasov
Music	
Soundscape/Projection	Zoe Karanfilian
Lighting Design	Omar Jaslin
Light Board Operator	Elizabeth Gonzalez
Set Design	Ava J. Tuitt, Natasha Calixte, Kendra J. Ross
Costume Styling	Kelly Wallace
Installation/Visual Art	Ziedah Diata

SANKOFA RESIDENCY PARTICIPANTS

Rodney Radio Deas; Herbert Sweat; Cheri Stokes; Marian Wright; Renay Baum Peggy Campbell; Nekia Wise; Linda De Jesus; Eric Tew; Gene Gray; Shirley Stevens; Patricia Bramoyle; Lumumba Akinwole-Bandele; Dr. Segun Shabaka; Lynette Lewis Rogers; Imani Nzingha; Brittany Grier; Khadija Tudor; Lauren Ricke; Semquessa Amgaza; Najee Omar; Stefani L. Zinerman; Marj Kleinman; Ayesha Williams; Tiara Austin; Andrea Gil; Ayesha Williams; Catherine Green-Johnson; Cheyenne Bostock

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bailey's Cafe; Black Owned Brooklyn; Bridge Street Development Corporation, Brooklyn Brownstoners, Cumbe Center for African Diaspora Dance, NYC District 36 Councilperson Chi Osse, NYS District 56 Assemblyperson Stefani Zinerman, The Laundromat Project

FUNDING CREDITS

The 2022 Sankofa Residency process was made possible through the Laundromat Project 2022 Create Change Artist in Residence Program in partnership with Bailey's Cafe and Cumbe: Center for African and Diaspora Dance. This project was also made possible through The Neighborhood Project with 651 ARTS in partnership with LifeWellness Center and The Laundromat Project through the Bed-Stuy Create and Connect Fund. Kendra J. Ross was a 2020-2021 Resident Artist of The Neighborhood Project and a 2022 BedStuy Create Change Artist in Residence with the Laundromat Project. The Sankofa Residency is also supported by GREEN / ARTS LIVE NYC which is made possible with support from New York Community Trust and Con Edison's Arts AI Fresco Series, administered by City Parks Foundation in collaboration with the Horticultural Society of New York, New Yorkers for Culture & Arts, NYC Department of Transportation, OpenCultureWORKS, and Street Lab. Creative production for Sankofa Residency provided by PMMDC.

THANK YOU

Joey Ball, miss al boogie, Ethel & Annie Mae's Soul Food Kitchen, BK Chef Danielle Moore, Jade Lord, Cassidy Reed, and Stefanie Siegel.

BIOS



Kendra J. Ross is a dancer, choreographer, and community organizer from Detroit, MI who now lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant, NY. As a performer, Kendra has traveled the world dancing for Urban Bush Women, DJ Kid Koala, MBDance, Andrea E. Woods/Soulouworks, Monstah Black, Afaliah Tribune, Moving Spirits Dance Company, Oyu Oro, Ase Dance Theater Collective and Movement of the People Dance Company. Her work has been featured as an Artist in Residence at Brooklyn Studios for Dance and The Neighborhood Project by 651Arts, BAX Space Grantee, Visiting Artist at Atlantic Center for the Arts, Ailey Citigroup Theater, Dixon Place, Actors Fund Theater, Florida A&M University and Museu de Arte in Bahia, Brazil. Kendra is currently the 2022 BedStuy Create Change Artist in Residence with the Laundromat Project. Kendra is also the Founder/Director of a BedStuy based art and community building platform called STooPS. www.thekendrajross.com



Wéma Ragophala is a director, performing artist, and activist born and raised in BedStuy, Brooklyn. She has a deep love for the intersection of art and community. Wéma directed *The Homecoming Queen*, *Grown Adorable Adult*, a hilarious Haitian-American coming of age story, and *In Her Memory*, a play healing from trauma in four generations of women in one family. Wéma also wrote, performed, and toured her solo performance work, *Roots*, *Rhythm*, and *Revolution*, nationally and abroad. Wéma is the founder of *Bridges: A Pan-African Arts Movement*, where she collaborated

with South African Artists on events like World Poetry Day, Women on the Word Festival, and Amplify! Youth in Arts in Action, creating a bridge for international arts exchange and community advocacy. She is the Executive Director of youth-led organization, IntegrateNYC, and an adjunct professor at the New School. Wéma thanks her husband, PitsiRa and her amazing children Malcolm and Maya for their tireless love and support.



Affectionately known as **Dani Criss, The Artist**; a multidisciplinary artist, cultural arts educator, and community organizer hailing from Durham, North Carolina, now based in Brooklyn, NY. Leading with a passionate perspective driven by her roots and studies of the African Diaspora, as well as the advancement of her people everywhere. Educating through the principles of the Diaspora, inspiring an appreciation, acceptance, and historical experience in each interaction; Using movement and knowledge as the source to obtain liberation while discovering ancestral connections within the liberative practices. An artistic educator in primary and higher education in New York, NY and surrounding areas. Check out www.danicriss.com for more information.



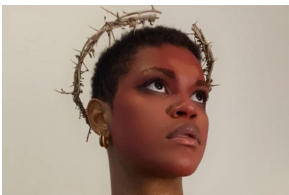
Natasha Calixte is a dancer, performance artist and project manager living in NYC. She has earned a degree in Arts Management from Purchase College. Natasha began studying dance as a teen, learning Modern, African and Diaspora dance techniques. Her movement practice is centered in these forms and continues to evolve. Natasha has gained experience in NYC's arts and cultural sector, leading organizations and clients in program, organizational management, and production. She intentionally collaborates with forward thinking businesses, artists and productions. Natasha hopes to continue making experimental dance works with collaborators and leading teams on creative projects.



Daromie is a native New Yorker with Haitian roots. She enjoys performing standup comedy, singing, acting, directing, producing, and dancing. Her one woman play *Grown Adorable Adult*, debuted prestigious United Solo Theatre Festival. She found her true passion working with children both domestically and abroad. She is also creative in the kitchen! Daromie launched *mmmmNutMilkllc*: unique none-dairy beverage solution (Pecan, Pumpkin and Hazelnut). Daromie's goal is to help bring stability to financially anemic countries.



Ziedah Diata is the artist behind the Sankofa Residency's two-panel participatory artwork, designed specifically to inspire and ignite the community engagement at the heart of the Residency. Ziedah creates public art experiences that are meant to be a living collaboration between the artist and community co-creators who may not consider themselves "artists." Ziedah's pieces invite the public to touch and transform the work with their reflections on social justice, healing, liberation and spirituality. A resident of Bed-Stuy for 15 years, Ziedah is a veteran artist at the annual STooPS Annual Bed-Stuy Art Crawl. She has created participatory art experiences at the Blue Note, as well as for many events curated by Bridges: A Pan-African Arts Movement and A New Black Arts Movement.



Born and raised in New York City, **Ava Tuitt** is a visual artist and writer based in Brooklyn, New York. A graduate from Purchase College with her B.F.A in Painting + Drawing her work focuses on the intersections of race, gender, religion and pop culture. Having collaborated with Queens Museum, NYC Parks, Facebook's "We The Culture" and others, her practice centers the visual uplifting of her intersectional community and the prioritizing of human care.