

SF CHRONICLE

"BATCO JUXTAPOSES
LANGSTON HUGHES
AND BEYONCÉ"

NOMINATED

ISADORA DUNCAN AWARD
BEST ORIGINAL MUSIC &
BEST CHOREOGRAPHY

DAILY CAL

"PROFOUNDLY MOVING,
BEAUTIFUL,
AWE-INSPIRING, &
THOUGHT-PROVOKING"



FEB 14 – 24, 2019
THU-SAT 8PM, SUN 2PM
THE BRAVA THEATER
2781 24TH STREET, SF

Concept & music *OTHELLO JEFFERSON*

Co-Creation & Direction *JAMIE YUEN-SHORE*

Choreography Direction *CHRISTINE CHUNG*

BATCO.

BRAVA
THEATER CENTER
2781 24TH ST @ YORK
BRAVA.ORG

**RETURNING AFTER
A SOLD OUT RUN**

SFBATCO.ORG

DIRECTOR'S NOTE BY JAMIE

BATCO co-founders, Marcelo and Rodney, and I participated in Park and Rec's Young People's Teen Musical Theater Company when we were in middle and high school. Throughout our formative years with the company, we were constantly inspired by our vocal director, Othello Jefferson, who brought passion and professionalism to our training. As BATCO has grown, we have repeatedly turned to Othello for musical direction. He has supported our artistic visions for many years and is responsible for imbuing us with many of the creative tools we draw upon to create our work. In December 2017, I finally asked Othello: "After 10+ years of you supporting our artistic projects, what project of yours can BATCO support?" Othello then told me about an idea he had, while reading to his young daughters, to put poems by poets of color to music. The book that inspired him was titled *I, Too, Sing America* after the poem "I, Too" by Langston Hughes. From this idea, we decided to put together a show of poems that presents the spectrum of the human experience authored by people of color. In finding and curating the poems for this piece, we thought carefully about the topics and themes we wanted to feature. We wanted to find works that resonated with us, and especially moments or ideas we don't often see on stage or hear in popular narratives. In considering the overall tone of the work, we recognized it would be inauthentic to create a piece about representation of people of color and ignore that the history and present condition of many people of color in this country includes marginalization and trauma. That being said, it would also be inauthentic to reduce the lives of black and brown people to only hardship, and not shine a light on the pride, ambition, romance, humor, grit, hubris, wonder, or ingenuity we seek to relate to and see mirrored in art. We therefore sought to present a broad and inclusive range of experiences and emotions. This piece represents a true collaboration of all of the artists you see on this stage and from the original production in July 2018. The opportunity to work with this family and present this piece again, to a greater audience, and has been magical. Thank you to the poets who have inspired us and let us use their work to tell this story.

CREATOR'S NOTE BY OTHELLO

In "I, Too, Sing America", you will see an example of what makes this country great: a diverse group of people (singers, poets, performers, artists, and dancers) who share their gifts and talents to collaboratively create a work that gives a snapshot of the experiences of people of color in America. Through the work of various artists and poets, you will see that no matter one's human condition, there is an undeniable connection that unites us more than it divides us. Let each song, movement, and quote remind us that each of us has the power to use our voice to share the story of our lives and ultimately declare that "I, Too, Sing America"! I would like to thank BATCO Co-founders Rodney and Marcelo and Director/Producer Jamie for giving this show an opportunity to come alive for you! I am incredibly grateful and very proud to have watched these individuals grow up and become the marvelous artists/ performers/ educators that they are today. Thank you to this incredible cast for their energy and ingenuity, for you have made this experience both an absolute joy and a privilege!

BATCO TEAM

CO-FOUNDER/CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Marcelo Javier Pereira
CO-FOUNDER/CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.
DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGER Isa Musni
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS' ASSISTANT April Chelsea Mosley
PRODUCTION MANAGER Claudio Silva
PRESS AGENT David Hyry & Associates
BOOKKEEPING Laura Goldin

I, TOO, SING AMERICA TEAM

CONCEPT AND MUSIC DIRECTION Othello Jefferson
DIRECTION, PRODUCTION, POEM SELECTION Jamie Yuen-Shore
CHOREOGRAPHY DIRECTION Christine Chung
STAGE MANAGEMENT Emily Hill
SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGN Claudio Silva
LIGHTBOARD OPERATOR Cathie Anderson
SOUND DESIGNER David Molina
GRAPHICS Sharyn Lee & Christine Chung

MISSION

The Bay Area Theater Company (BATCO) produces live theater that authentically reflects the experiences of the Bay Area's historically and currently marginalized communities. Our non-profit organization supports artists through creative development, full productions, and mentorships that aspire to engage a new generation of live theater supporters.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mecca Billings, Kate Stoia, Jamie Yuen-Shore,
 Nicola Bosco- Alvarez, Martina Rogers, Joanne Cohen, Elisabeth
 Roberts, Marcelo Javier Pereira, Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.

BATCO PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

Quinn Collaço, Esther Ajayi, April Chelsea Mosley, Claudio Silva,
 Camille Collaço, Christine Chung, Katrina McGraw,
 Aidaa Peerzada, Adam Maggio, Emily Hill

BATCO WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

Fern Ebeling & Raul Pereira, Sue & Blair Horst, Ruth Cox & Milton Chen, Martha Mangold, Joanne Fox, Julie & Candace Graham & Thille, Sandra Yuen & Larry Shore, Goldin Family, Donn Harris, Rhonda Forsyth, Barbara Bock & Mark Barmore, Nicola Bosco-Alvarez, Suzanne Herrero, Peter & Lauren Gaylord, Bradley J. Akin, Deborah Hoffman, Lauriann Sarubbi, Kyla Chapman, Loretta Guarino, Tess Marko

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Brava Theater, Fern Ebling & Raul Pereira, Francine Austin, Reagan Pritzker, SF State, Ute Releford & Rodney Jackson Sr., Oceal Ale House, Berkeley Rep

UP NEXT AT
BATCO



A New(tonian) Musical
 A Staged Reading at the Brava Theater March 17th & 18th only
 Created by Joel Chapman, Weston Gaylord, Matt Herrero, Jessica Hoffman, & Ken Savage

TITLE	AUTHOR	COMPOSER	VOCALISTS	CHOREO	DANCERS
<i>I, Too, Sing America: I</i>	Othello	Othello	All ft. Othello, Quinn, Tosh, Willie	Christine	All
<i>A Black Finger</i>	Angela Grimke		Camille	Alex	Jaavon, Mia
<i>Beehive</i>	Jean Toomer	Othello	Ensemble	Andy, Christine, Daniel	Andy, Daniel, Isa
<i>Wanting Memories</i>	Ysaye M. Barnwell	Ysaye M. Barnwell	All	Christine, Isa, Nina	Daniel, Isa, Malia, Nina
<i>Women</i>	Alice Walker	Maya, Sowah	Ensemble ft. Maya, Willie	Rolanda	
<i>In Daddy's Arms</i>	Folami Abiade	Othello	Chris, Marcus, Rodney, Tosh	Jaavon, Jamie	Jaavon
<i>Here For You</i>	Shantelle	Shantelle	Shantelle, Marcus	Isa	Isa, Jaavon
<i>First Mango</i>	Vince Gotera	Othello	All ft. Justin, Marcelo, Quinn	Jamie	All
<i>Accents</i>	Denise Froham	Marcelo, Marissa, Maya	Ensemble ft. Maya, Marcelo	Tayna	All ft. Tayna
<i>Once Barbie Chang Worked</i>	Victoria Chang	Othello	All ft. Addy	Christine	All ft. Nina
<i>Page 65 / Riding the subway is an adventure</i>	Frances Chung ¹	Othello	Addy	Julie, Nina	Christine, Nina
<i>We Real Cool</i>	Gwendolyn Brooks ²	Othello	Ensemble	Jamie	
<i>I, Too</i>	Langston Hughes	Othello	Ensemble ft. Rodney		
<i>Freedom</i>	Beyoncé	Arr. by Louis	All	Alex, Christine	All
<i>I'm Rooting for Everybody Black</i>	Cortney Lamar Charleston		Willie		
<i>Hip Hop</i>	Talib Kweli			Andy, Tosh	Andy, Tosh
<i>Three Thousand Lost Kisses</i>	Andrés Montoya	Marissa, Maya	Marissa, Maya	Alex, Christine	Christine, Mia
<i>I Gotta Find Peace of Mind</i>	Lauryn Hill	Lauryn Hill	Shantelle, Willie	Mia	Mia
<i>Quotes</i>	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Alok Vaid Menon James Baldwin ³ Junot Díaz Amy Tan Nina Simone		Niesha, Quinn, Chris, Marcelo, Sarah, Esther		
<i>To A Dark Girl</i>	Gwendolyn Bennett	Othello	Jocelyn		
<i>I, Too, Sing America: II</i>	Othello	Othello	All ft. Rodney	Jamie	All

I, TOO, SING AMERICA COMPANY

Esther Ajayi • Marissa Bergmann • Nick Biddle • Malia Byrne • Daniel Cancel • Christine Chung • Niesha Colbert • Camille Collaço
Quinn Collaço • Mia Diawara • Rodney Earl Jackson Jr. • Tayna Gonzalez Rivera • Willie Hercule • Sarah Jiang • Justin Marquez
Jaavon Martin • Addy Mendoza • Audy Mulia • Isa Musni • Andy Nguyen • Marcus J. Paige • Marcelo Javier Pereira • Chris Sackes
Tosh Santiago • Jocelyn Thompson • Stuart Upfill-Brown • Maya Vilaplana • Gus Wellin • Shantelle Williams • Nina Wu

COMPOSITIONS & ARRANGEMENTS

Othello Jefferson, Maya Vilaplana, Marissa Bergmann, Marcelo Javier Pereira, Louis Lagalante, Sowah Mensah, Shantelle Wiliams

BAND

Othello Jefferson, Kendra Kop, Joey Knox, Emmett Van Syke

CHOREOGRAPHY

Christine Chung, Alex Nana-Sinkam, Nina Wu, Julie Ni, Daniel Cancel, Isa Musni, Tayna Gonzalez Rivera, Andy Nguyen, Jaavon Martin, Jamie Yuen-Shore

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For more information and to make a donation, visit brava.org.