in association with WATSON ARTS
presents
HISTORY/OURSTORY:
The Trail to Tulsa

Created and Directed by
James E. Reynolds
HISTORY/OURSTORY: The Trail to Tulsa

Created and Directed by
James E. Reynolds

Original Score and Musical Direction
Truth Bachman

Lighting Design
Jack Reynolds

Featuring
LeLand Gantt
Charley Hayward
Isabel Leight
Valois Mickens
Maya Sharpe
Henu Josephine Tarrant
Ching Valdes-Aran
Ariel Chung: Artistic Associate

There is a Balm in Gilead
Jessye Norman (soprano), Dalton Baldwin (piano)
Recorded: 1978-07-24

*The show runs 2 hours and 20 minutes, no intermission*
HISTORY/OURSTORY:
The Trail to Tulsa

Benefit Committee

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Julian Brizzi
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John DeNatale
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TRUTH BACHMAN (Original Score and Musical Direction) (they/them/their) is a composer, vocalist, and writer of socially-focused musicals. Described by the NYTimes as “musically and vocally rich”, they are praised for “golden-voiced”, “soulful vocals” (Vulture). Truth was recently featured in Teen Vogue. Bachman’s acclaimed Shapeshifters about LGBTQ+ superheroes, was developed at an ongoing residency at Joe’s Pub, The Delacorte Theatre, Musical Theatre Factory, UArts, and was the inaugural recipient of the Denovan Grant. The soundtrack will be released in 2022. FARMED: A Live Podcast Album, Bachman’s musical podcast concert, features interviews with grassroots leaders and a vocally percussive score for 25 voices. It was published in 2020. Truth has written and composed 10 full length musicals, and musically directed, supervised, or performed in nearly 100 off Broadway musicals and plays. Their short “Who Holds Us” recently debuted at NewFest. Truth is an artist in residence at La Mama ETC and a visiting artist at Princeton University with director Will Davis for the ‘21-22 season. Truth is an alum of New Dramatists Composer-Librettist Studio, Joe’s Pub Working Group, NYU Tisch, and received a 2021 Jerome Hill Fellowship award as a finalist in music. Truth’s latest work, Luna and The Starbodies, plays Joe’s Pub in May.

LELAND GANTT, last seen here as Pontius Pilot in The Last Days of Judas Iscariat, is thrilled to once again be on stage at La MaMa. LeLand’s credits span television and film, as well as regional, Off-Broadway and Broadway stages. His autobiographical one man show, RHAPSODY IN BLACK, resumes touring in February of 2022.

CHARLEY HAYWARD, an original member of the Great Jones Repertory Company, has performed nationally and internationally with numerous theater, modern dance, and marionette companies. He has been on Broadway, Off-Broadway, Lincoln Center’s Beaumont Theater, the Public Theater, the Spoleto Festival (Italy), in Parisian Cabaret (Le Lido), and has many film, television, commercial, and voice-over projects to his credit. Throughout, Hayward has photographed extensively, apprenticing for the past fifteen years with traditional silver-gelatin master-printer James Megargee here in New York, and has exhibited his prints both at the International Center of Photography and the Maine Media Workshop.
ISABEL LEIGHT is thrilled to be returning to La MaMa, where she was last seen as Astyanax in the 2019 remounting of The Trojan Women directed by Andre Serban and composed by Elizabeth Swados. She has appeared in Blue Bloods, Law and Order SVU, and starred in the short film I’ll Hide, You Seek. She is a singer/songwriter and is a huge Swifite and Selenator! Special thanks to Warren, Karen, Imogen, Judy, Josh, Francesca, Sydney, Lindsey and Lulu for supporting her. An extra special thanks to Jimmy Reynolds for including her in this incredible project.

VALOIS MARIE MICKENS, originally a fine visual artist, she has found acting more challenging and meaningful. Her great challenges started with Andrei Serban’s Fragments of a Trilogy in the 70’s to Ping Chong’s Chinoiserie, to Jeton Neziraj’s Balkan Bordello, coming to the U.S. in April, just to name a few. It has been quite a journey and I am loving it.

JAMES E. REYNOLDS (Creator/Director) is a writer and director whose work has appeared in national and New York City publications, including Sports Illustrated, MONEY, and the New York Observer. He was the lead researcher on the HBO Sports’s Peabody Award-winning documentary series, Journey of the African American Athlete, which explored the intersection of athletic accomplishment and social change. In 2019 La MaMa presented Reynolds’s HISTORY/OURSTORY, as part of the theater’s 1619 commemoration.

MAYA SHARPE Musician. Storyteller. Filmmaker. Creative Consultant. Maya Sharpe is a multi-passionate maker and thinker. Maya’s passion lies in exploring simplicity in humanity through composition. Using this tool to demonstrate there is more of a connection and love between everything than the politically derived disconnect and hatred.
HENU JOSEPHINE TARRANT (Rappahannock/Ho-Chunk/Kuna) is a lifetime Native NYC community member. A third generation New Yorker and second generation Jerseyite. All of which has had a huge influence on her very urban experience as a Native woman in the performing arts. She is a graduate of the American Musical & Dramatic Academy’s prestigious Musical Theater Program. She has attended the National Institute for Directing & Ensemble Creation, and the LABrynth Theater Intensive Ensemble. Her most recent works include 100 Years 100 Women: Restart Stages (Lincoln Center), Native Theatre: Where Are We Now? (Howlround.com), Misdemeanor Dreams (Abrons Arts, NY), Red Moon Blues (New York Theater Workshop NXT Door, NY) DOGFIGHT (Second Stage Theater, NY), Ajijaak On Turtle Island (The New Victory Theater, NY), and Don’t Feed The Indians-A Divine Comedy Pageant (La MaMa, NY) with Safe Harbors NYC. She also was a featured vocalist on the soundtrack of Dawnland (Composed by Jennifer Kriesberg). She is currently focused on serving as the interim Managing Director of Safe Harbors NYC, continuing to workshop her one-person show Red Moon Blues, and finishing her first EP SERPENT in 2022.

CHING VALDES-ARAN is a La MaMa Baby. She was part of the Great Jones Company. Awards: 2021 Ruth Maleczech Award, OBIE, FOX Foundation Fellowship, Asian Cultural Council Writing Fellowship, Ma-Yi Award for Artistic Excellence, New Dramatist Spenser Cherashore, Charles Bowden Award, PACCAL Award, Ilocano Association Award, U.S. Congressional Award in Arts & Culture.

WATSON ARTS is a resident company of La MaMa that was started by Mary Fulham in 1994, and dedicated to original work for the theater with a particular emphasis on women. While it continues to elevate the voices of women, Watson Arts has expanded its mission to include the work of culturally-diverse story-tellers and artists. We are excited to launch this new initiative with HISTORY/OURSTORY: The Trail to Tulsa.

Special Thanks to all who assisted with the production – Jean Garcia, and everyone at CultureHub, and the entire La MaMa team!
A full program with information on this production can be found on the HISTORY/OURSTORY: The Trail to Tulsa page of the La MaMa website.

In addition you can scan the QR code Poster located in the lobby for program as well.
La MaMa’s historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld
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December 9 - 12, 2021
Ellen Stewart Theatre

November 26 - December 12, 2021
La Galleria

Poetry Electric
The Naughty ‘n’ Nice List
December 13, 2021
The Downstairs

COMING SOON

La MaMa Kids
Winter Wonderland
December 18, 2021 at 2pm
The Downstairs

Christmas in Nickyland
December 18 - 19, 2021
The Downstairs

Coffeehouse Chronicles
Barbara Montgomery
December 19, 2021 at 2pm
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Experiments 21’
Tarrare; The Hungriest Man
December 20, 2021
La Galleria