



Clarice Presents

QUEENS OF SHEBA • JESSICA L. HAGAN

Friday, February 2—
Sunday, February 4, 2024

KOGOD THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

Clarice Presents

QUEENS OF SHEBA • JESSICA L. HAGAN

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNDER THE RADAR

Presented by Nouveau Riche and Soho Theatre

Written by Jessica L. Hagan

Adapted by Ryan Calais Cameron

Directed by Jessica Kaliisa

Cast: Paisley Billings, Déja J Bowens, Jadesola Odunjo & Muki Zubis

Producer for Nouveau Riche: Sarah Verghese

Producers for Soho Theatre: David Luff and Maddie Wilson

Communications & Marketing: Yasmin Mehboob-Khan

Stage Manager: Marie Angelique St Hill

Vocal Coach: Theo Llewellyn

Movement Director: Yami Löfvenberg

Voice & Movement Coach: Greta Mendez

Associate Director: Abigail 'Töpia' Adebayo

Original Movement Director: Yassmin V Foster

Production Dramatherapist: Wabriya King

Queens of Sheba is supported by Factory International and Arts Council England. Factory International is the organization behind Manchester International Festival (MIF) and the landmark new cultural space, Aviva Studios. Helping to put Manchester on the map as a global destination for arts, music and culture, Factory International invites the world's most exciting artists to invent tomorrow together. Proudly international in spirit and practice, Factory International works with venues, festivals and companies worldwide to bring together the most exciting artists on the planet. Teaming up with local, national and international partners, it produces and premieres major new work, promoting a culture of sharing and collaboration.

The Clarice is thrilled to present these performances of Search Party in partnership with New York's celebrated UNDER THE RADAR festival. After the renewed theater and performance festival runs at venues throughout Manhattan in January 2024, RADAR will extend its reach beyond New York City with its On the Road program—with The Clarice as one of its stops. The performance is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**THE MORRIS & GWENDOLYN
CAFTRITZ FOUNDATION**

“A furious, poetic riposte to ‘misogynoir’—the place where racism and sexism intersect for black women”

–The UK Standard

The four powerful Black women that form the beating heart of Jessica L. Hagan’s knowingly sharp and riotously funny choreopoem *Queens of Sheba* demand respect and, with every story told, they earn it. A spiritual successor to Ntozake Shange’s *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*, *Queens of Sheba* incisively calls out and lances the constellation of racist, sexist and colorist micro- and macro-aggressions that its characters encounter: the music and the misogyny, the dancing and the drinking, the women and, of course, the (white) men. Turned away from a nightclub for being “too Black”, the Queens navigate the minefields of misogynoir, seeking power among the songs of Tina Turner and Diana Ross and Aretha Franklin, finding elevation in sisterhood, sweet relief in the riot of laughter and the shedding of tears. Playful, intellectually rigorous, packed with righteous fury and genuine soul, *Queens of Sheba* is a unique meditation on Black Women’s identity, suffering and joy.

“Gives insight to the black female experience, but is fundamentally about speaking one’s own truth.”

–The Guardian

Engagement on Campus and the Community

Cast members from *Queens of Sheba* visited classes this week in the UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and in the UMD Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. They answered questions about the process of putting the piece together and how the piece has evolved since its premiere last year. The artists will also be part of “The Crowning: Queens of Sheba Disco Party” a free event featuring DC’s own DJ MIM following Saturday’s performance.

POST-PERFORMANCE CONVERSATION ON FRI, FEB 2!

Join us for a post-show Q&A with cast members following our performance on Friday, February 2! The Q&A will be moderated by UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies faculty member Fatima Quander.



Jessica Hagan is a Ghanaian-British writer who heavily explores themes of identity, displacement and misogynoir in her work. Her debut play, *Queens of Sheba*, co-written with Ryan Calais Cameron, won the Untapped Award 2018. The play went to Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2018 and had a successful sold-out 4 week run with 4 and 5 star reviews across the board and won The Stage Award 2018. Jessica is a spoken word artist and spends her time in both London and Ghana. In Ghana, she works with emerging playwrights through workshopping and is a grant maker for creative organizations across the continent.

Ryan Calais Cameron is an award-winning writer, actor and theatre Maker. For Nouveau Riche, Ryan has written *Queens of Sheba* (co-written with Jessica Hagan) and *Typical* (starring Richard Blackwood), sell-out hits at Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2018 and 2019 respectively, winning The Stage Edinburgh Fringe Award. Ryan was the winner of Best Director (*For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy*) at the Black British Awards 2022. Ryan has been chosen as one of “The Stage 25” 2022 list of future stars of the UK theater industry.

Nouveau Riche is a multi award-winning creative movement, headed by a team of professional performing artists and producers. Our objective is to discover, nurture and produce unique stories with a keen scope on work that is both educational and entertaining. Nouveau Riche have set out to create and nurture new writing that is thought provoking, challenging and culturally inclusive. The most common theme in our work is that we tend to depart from traditional Western storytelling, experimenting with fresh, contemporary, and unconventional methods.

UNDER THE RADAR (RADAR) is a festival celebrating new theater and performance works from both around the world and down the street—taking place in New York City. Produced and programmed by 13 different venues in collaboration with RADAR, Under the Radar 2024 addressed a city, a country, and the world with the voices of innovative multidisciplinary artists speaking to their time. The festival stands for transparency, equity and equal collaboration in the development of new live works. It represents global citizenship, innovation and a platform for those whose voices have yet to be heard.

This performance is part of Under the Radar On the Road, which increases the impact and scope of RADAR programming by collaborating with performing arts centers across America. This year, On the Road partners at PS21 in Chatham, NY; The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center in College Park at the University of Maryland; and at the Oklahoma City Repertory Theater in Oklahoma City will extend the performance dates and provide additional audiences for Under the Radar programs including *Queens of Sheba*, *Search Party* and *Hamlet | Toilet*. We greatly appreciate these organizations' support in spreading the creative force of Under the Radar beyond the immediate New York City area.



CLARICE PRESENTS SPRING 2024

MUSIC

JAZZ JAM WITH THE HALL CP

Wed, Jan 31 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Feb 28 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Mar 27 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Apr 24 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Join our monthly jazz jam sessions led by D.C.-based saxophonist Elijah Balbed! The house band will play a set starting at 7:30PM. Bring your instrument! After enjoying their set, you'll have a chance to call a tune! Participation in our jazz jams is free—no tickets required and all levels welcome.

COMEDY

Fri, Jan 26 • 8PM

TIG NOTARO

The Emmy and GRAMMY-nominated stand-up comedian, writer, radio contributor and actor, as well as a favorite on numerous talk shows, including “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” and “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon” hosts a comedy show at The Clarice.

THEATER

Fri, Jan 26–Sat, Jan 27

INUA ELLAMS: SEARCH PARTY

In partnership with the UNDER THE RADAR Festival

Pick a word, any word. Prompted by audience suggestion and open conversation, Ellams searches through his archive, unearths refined or raw gold and presents his treasure in a spontaneous performance.

THEATER

Fri, Feb 2–Sun, Feb 4

QUEENS OF SHEBA • JESSICA L. HAGAN

In partnership with UNDER THE RADAR Festival

Turned away from a nightclub for being “too Black”, the Queens navigate the minefields of misogynoir, seeking power among the songs of Tina Turner and Diana Ross and Aretha Franklin, finding elevation in sisterhood, sweet relief in the riot of laughter and the shedding of tears.

MUSIC

Thu, Feb 1 • 8PM

EL LABERINTO DEL COCO

Always performing with a unique blend of sizzling musical ideas, the band is an Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba Fusion ensemble.

DANCE

Thu, Feb 8 • 7:30PM

MUSIC FROM THE SOLE:

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO STAY

Music From The Sole celebrates tap's roots in the African diaspora and its connections to Afro-Brazilian dance and music and its lineage to forms like house dance and “passinho” (Brazilian funk).

MUSIC

Fri, Feb 9 • 8PM

MARY HALVORSON: AMARYLLIS

Guitarist and composer Mary Halvorson, “a singular talent” (Jazz Times), brings her sextet in a showcase of her many musical influences—from jazz to experimental.

MUSIC

Fri, Feb 16 • 8PM

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:

MARIN ALSOP & TIME FOR THREE

Marin Alsop, BSO Music Director Laureate and National Orchestral Institute + Festival Music Director at The Clarice, reunites with composer Kevin Puts to present his dazzling concerto for the improvising/vocalizing/barn-burning/genre-crossing talents of the GRAMMY Award-winning string trio Time for Three. Rounding out the concert are Haydn's “Fiery Symphony” and Ravel's perennial *Daphnis et Chloé* suite.

MUSIC

Sun, Feb 25 • 3PM

MICHELLE CANN, PIANO

Lauded as “technically fearless with...an enormous, rich sound” (La Scena Musicale), pianist Michelle Cann performs a program of works by Maurice Ravel, Franz Liszt and Florence Price.

MUSIC

Sat, Mar 2 • 8PM

BRIAN MARSELLA'S GATOS DO SUL

Pianist and composer Brian Marsella's Gatos do Sul (southern cats) channels Brazilian idioms such as samba, maracatu, baio and choro through a kaleidoscopic lens of modern jazz.

MUSIC

Thu, Mar 14 • 8PM

MESHHELL NDEGEOCELLO

A bass player above all else, Meshell Ndegeocello brings her warm, melodic groove to the stage. Join us as the D.C. area native sojourns into soul, R&B, jazz, hip-hop and rock—all bound by the search for love, justice, respect and resolution.

CLARICE PRESENTS SPRING 2024

MUSIC

Fri, Mar 15 • 8PM

**BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & UMD
CONCERT CHOIR: ORFF'S CARMINA BURANA**

Prepare to be blown away by *Carmina Burana*, a rapturous and unsparing invitation to live life to the fullest, featuring BSO Music Director Jonathon Heyward, an all-star cast of operatic soloists and the UMD Concert Choir.

MUSIC

Fri, Apr 5 • 8PM

**ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL, ALICIA
HALL MORAN & GABRIELA MARTINEZ:
DIAMETRICALLY COMPOSED**

"Diametrically Composed" is a collection of newly commissioned works featuring flute, voice and piano exploring the duality of being a mother and an artist.

MUSIC

Fri, Apr 12 • 8PM

**YING QUARTET & XAVIER FOLEY,
DOUBLE BASS**

Now in its third decade, the Grammy Award-winning Ying Quartet has established itself as an ensemble of the highest musical qualifications. They are renowned for combining brilliantly communicative performances with a fearlessly imaginative view of chamber music in today's world.

MUSIC

Sat, Apr 13 • 8PM

**ALARM WILL SOUND:
MUSIC FOR 18 MUSICIANS**

With a long history of presenting works by seminal 20th-century icon Steve Reich, Alarm Will Sound returns to The Clarice to play the Pulitzer Prize winner's *Music for 18 Musicians*, one of the most influential minimalist works of all time.

MUSIC, THEATER, DANCE, ARTS & CRAFTS

Sat, Apr 27 • 10AM

MARYLAND DAY 2024

This annual campus-wide open house features artistic and creative performances, experiences and activities at The Clarice, and across the University of Maryland campus.

MUSIC

Sun, May 5 • 3PM

TESLA QUARTET: MUSICA UNIVERSALIS

The idea that the movements of heavenly bodies created universal harmonies—*musica universalis*—was both a scientific and spiritual belief propounded by great thinkers from Pythagoras to Kepler. In this program, the "technically superb" (The Strad) Tesla Quartet plays music about the universe intertwined with poetry about outer space.

FAMILY

Sun, May 11 • 9:30AM & 11:30AM

COMPAGNIA TPO: FARFALLE

In a brilliantly staged story, *Farfalle* loosely follows the life cycle of a butterfly—from egg to caterpillar. In this intimate, family-friendly show, each member of the audience participates in a variety of ways—from composing songs and lullabies to using parts of their bodies to embrace the five senses.

MUSIC

June 2024

**NATIONAL ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE +
FESTIVAL**

The National Orchestral Institute + Festival returns to The Clarice for another summer of thrilling orchestral performances in June 2024! Join us for a month of awe-inspiring music-making by the NOI Philharmonic and our extraordinary conductors, insightful masterclasses and open rehearsals plus our lively SPARK! dialogues.

Tickets go on sale in Spring 2024.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT [THECLARICE.UMD.EDU](https://www.theclarice.umd.edu) OR [301.405.ARTS!](tel:301405ARTS)

SAFETY FIRST!

Your safety is paramount! For your own safety, look for your nearest exit. In case of an emergency, walk, do not run, to that exit. Please follow all instructions provided by Clarice staff and emergency first responders.

PHOTO & VIDEO

PLEASE NOTE, PHOTO AND VIDEO RECORDING OF THIS PERFORMANCE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.