



**WEDNESDAY SEP 2 | 7pm to
SUNDAY SEP 6 | 7pm, 2020**

A tale of two brothers: one a classical pianist and the other a jazz bassist. One a Christian and the other a Muslim. One living in freedom and the other in jail.

Separated by bars, can the brothers reconcile their differences through the language they know best: Music?

Inspired by a true New York story, this play is an irrepressible journey through faith, family, melody and time.



URBAN STAGES

Frances Hill, Founder/Artistic Director | Antoinette Mullins, Development and Literary Director Olga Devyatisilnaya, Company Manager/Financial Admin | Ilanna Saltzman, Outreach Program Director | Kim T. Sharp, Technical Director | Bara Swain, Literary Projects Consultant | Vincent Scott, Special Projects Producer | Sue Matsuki & Tom Toce, Musical Theater Producers

PRESENTS

BARS AND MEASURES

BY IDRIS GOODWIN

DIRECTED BY KRISTAN SEEMEL

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JUSTIN ELLINGTON

EDITED BY RYAN BELOCK

FEATURING

SHABAZZ GREEN, RODERICK LAWRENCE,
ABRAHAM MAKANY, SALMA SHAW

FRANCES HILL PRODUCER

VINCENT SCOTT ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

KIM T SHARP TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

JOE TRENTACOSTA PUBLIC RELATIONS



From The Desk of The Artistic Director, Frances Hill

Urban Stages welcomes Idris Goodwin's play *Bars and Measures* to our stage. We have been following Goodwin since we held a reading of his dark comedy *Blackacademics* in 2015. His three-character play *Hype Man* was also a particular favorite of mine last year. Mr. Goodwin has a gift of bringing music into his plays almost as another character. It is a pleasure to produce a playwright who creates well-defined and complexed characters and explores diverse ideas that spring to life on stage.

CAST

BilalShabazz Green

Eric.....Roderick Lawrence

Wes & various roles.....Abraham Makany

Sylvia & various roles.....Salma Shaw

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright.....IDRIS GOODWIN

Director.....KRISTAN SEEMEL

Composer.....JUSTIN ELLINGTON

Producer.....Frances Hill

Associate Producer.....Vincent Scott

Editor.....Ryan Belock

Sound Designer.....David Lawson

Technical Director.....Kim T. Sharp

Production AssistantMadeleine Burrow

Music Coach.....Cleve Douglass

URBAN STAGES

STAFF

Founder/Artistic Director.....Frances Hill

Development and Literary Director.....Antoinette Mullins

Company Manager/Financial Admin.....Olga Devyatisilnaya

Outreach Program Director.....Ilanna Saltzman

Technical Director.....Kim T. Sharp

Literary Projects Consultant.....Bara Swain

Special Projects Producer.....Vincent Scott

Musical Theater Producers.....Sue Matsuki & Tom Toce

Press Rep.....Joe Trentacosta, JT Public Relations

Social Media.....Disnie Sebastien

CAST



SHABAZZ GREEN (Bilal): New York Credits: Philosophy for Gangsters (Beckett Theatre); Intruder: The Musical (Hudson Guild). Regional Credits: Oklahoma (Denver Center for the Performing Arts); Topdog/Underdog, Sister Act: The Musical (Lake Dillon Theatre Company); Hands on a Hardbody (Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center); To Kill a Mockingbird (Greenbrier Valley Theatre); The Ballad of Trayvon Martin (New Freedom Theatre); Little Rock (Passage Theatre);

Humbug (Premiere Stages). Film: Romance in the Digital Age.

@shabazzgreen , www.shabazzgreen.com FEAR NOT!



RODERICK LAWRENCE (Eric): Big love to the creative team, my cast & crew for embracing me in taking this journey with them, and to Idris for writing such a powerful piece. The Credits: Television: Comedy Centrals *Broad City*, Film: *What The Heart Wants* (coming 2019), *IMMUNE* (MIFF BEST SHORT) Nat. Tour: *The Lion King* (SIMBA U/S). NYC/LA: GUY in *ONCE* the Musical (Pioneer Theatre Company), OTHELLO in John Leguizamo's *Othello: The Remix*, Bebe Winans ALT in *Born For This: The Bebe Winans Story*, *August Rush: The Musical*, YOUTH in *Passing*

Strange (Playhouse Square). Love to God, Mom, Pops, Evan, Shelby, Granny, Auntie Cindy and Buff, Cousins, Vicky B, Camille, Sandy and my entire team over at HCKR! Baldwin Wallace Music Theatre. Arrest the killers of Breonna Taylor. @rodericklaw



Abraham Makany- Broadway: *The Lehman Trilogy* (Nederlander Theatre) **Regional Theatre:** *Noura* (MarinTheatre Company), *The Corpse Washer* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). **Off-Broadway:** *Bars and Measures* (Urban Stages); *Trial of an American President* (Theatre Row); *Waterwell's Hamlet* (The Sheen Center); *Kandahar to Canada* (Ensemble Studio Theatre); *Job* (The Flea Theater); *The Brig* (The Living Theatre). **Television:** *Orange is the New Black*, *Gotham*, *BlueBloods*, *The*

Blacklist, *Homeland*, *Blindspot*, *The Americans*, *Deception*, *Person of Interest*, *HAPPYish*, *Wyatt Cenac's Problem Areas*. Born in Houston, TX, Abraham trained at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts. Fight for love always. IG: @abmakany



Salma Shaw (Sylvia): A two-time Helen Hayes Award recipient, Salma is thrilled to reprise her role in *Bars and Measures* at Urban Stages, where she also sang in *Winter Rhythms*. She is currently producing a short film starring Roderick Lawrence and writing a second. Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway: *Bars & Measures*; *Acquittal*; *This Time*; *A Muslim in the Midst*. Selected readings: *Monsoon Wedding*; *Rain & Zoe Save the World*; *Ocean in a Teacup*; *In a Sea*

of Faces; *Bak Chang*; *MAYA*; *Hamlet*; *Bollywood Kitchen*. Selected TV: *For Life*; *Main Justice*; *FBI*; *The Blacklist*; *Blue Bloods*; *L&O:SVU*. Stanford and Harvard graduate. Proud member of AEA, SAG•AFTRA and Equity (UK). IG: @salma.shaw; Web: salmashaw.com

CREATIVE TEAM

IDRIS GOODWIN (Playwright) is an award-winning playwright, break beat poet, and Producing Artistic Director of Louisville's StageOne Family Theater. Goodwin uses story to inspire and incite new audiences across culture and generation. His plays include *And In This Corner Cassius Clay*, *This Is Modern Art* co-written with Kevin Coval, *How We Got On* and *Hype Man*: a break beat play. He's been honored to receive commissions and developmental support from institutions like The Kennedy Center/ New Voices New Visions, The Eugene O'Neill Conference, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, and Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor Residency. He's currently writing *Scarfoot Lives*, a new play co-commissioned by Arena Stage's Power Play Program and The Playwright Center's McKnight Fellowship. In addition to the forthcoming poetry collection *Can I Kick It?*, he's had several publications with Haymarket Books including *Inauguration* and *Human Highlight: Ode To Dominique Wilkins*. A frequent public speaker at conferences and educational spaces, Idris is one of the leading voices in his field, committed to using art to cultivate more diverse and equitable spaces. Visit Idris on the web and social media.

KRISTAN SEEMEL (Director) grew up in the theater working on new plays, serving as dramaturg on a score of premiere productions and developmental workshops in Portland, Oregon where he worked for almost a decade. He is passionate about new writing and his directing projects include the recent premieres of *HYPE MAN* by Idris Goodwin, *Mary-Kate Olsen is in Love* by Mallery Avidon and *The Electric Lighthouse* by Ed Himes (all at The Flea). Other new plays Kristan has directed include *MUTT* by Lava Alapai (Many Hats Collective) and *The Verspiary* by Matthew Zrebski (Stark Raving Theatre) as well as NW regional premieres of Carlos Murillo's *Mimesophobia* (Sand & Glass Productions), *The Long Christmas*

Ride Home by Paula Vogel (TheatreVertigo) and Mac Wellman's A Murder of Crows (defunkt theatre). Kristan also assisted on the recent Flea premieres of NSangou Njikam's Syncing Ink and A. R. Gurney's Ajax. Recent favorite revivals include Bad Penny by Mac Wellman (The Flea), Brecht & Weill's The Threepenny Opera and Hamlet (CoHo Productions). Kristan's staging of Gertrude Stein's Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights (defunkt theatre) garnered him a Portland Dramatic Critics Circle award for Outstanding Direction. In New York, Kristan has developed new plays at Playwrights Horizons/Clubbed Thumb (Superlab), the Lark and Target Margin Theater. He is an Associate Artist at Tribeca's own Flea Theater and a graduate of the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn San Andres (President), Mik Chwalek (Vice President), Thomas Hehman (Treasurer), Peggy O'Brien (Secretary), Eileen Begg, Sandy Berger, Mary Churchill, April Gow, Frances Hill, Francine Pascal, Martha Sproule, Tom Toce and Craig Horsley

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS

AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS

SAG-AFTRA

through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

And

Bars and Measures was commissioned by and world premiered at B Street Theatre, Sacramento, CA in August 2015 as part of an NNPN rolling world premiere and produced at Prop Theater Chicago, IL June 2016, Jungle Theater Minneapolis, MN August 2016 and Boston Court, Pasadena, CA Sept 2016. Bars and Measures received development at Tricklock Company / Theater Without Borders Conference, New Mexico Jan 2015 and New Black Fest at The Lark Playwriting Center, New York March 2015.

Blue Gardenia

Composed by Bob Russell and Lester Lee

Published by Music Sales Corporation (ASCAP) and

Warner Chappell Music (ASCAP) in the US

Used by Permission. All Rights Reserved.

Bars and Measures was commissioned by and world premiered at B Street Theatre, Sacramento, CA in August 2015



