



Supporting Artists for Over Twenty Years

BRICKS

A CRITICAL BREAKS Work in Process

Charlene Jean

Hi-ARTS
September 16, 2023

BRICKS

A CRITICAL BREAKS Work in Process by Charlene Jean

Creator, Lyricist & Co-Composer, **Charlene Jean**
Director, **Chesray Dolpha**
Co-Composer, **Franklin Rankin**
Music Director/Arranger, **Rashad McPherson**
Line-Producer, **Eric Emauni**
Stage Manager, **Paul Andrews**

Band

Pianist, **Miles Wilkins**
Percussionist, **Ahmad Johnson**
Bassist, **Gervis Myles**

Cast

Lauren Gissentanna Colette
Myles Johnson D'Aija
Claudia Logan Mahali
Subiya Mboya Maelle
Ava McCoy Nina
Sunny Selah Odetta
Kevin Tappan Chiron

BRICKS is currently being developed in part with support by Hi-ARTS in partnership with En Garde Arts Uncommon Voices Program

En Garde Arts

En Garde Arts uses the city as its stage to offer accessible Theatre that explores the salient social issues of our time. We are an artist-centric company that supports playwrights, directors, composers and designers in creating new work from the ground up. We invite artists to think deeply about the stories they choose to tell and the physical sites where they belong. We meet audiences where they live and work, spark conversations that explore a range of perspectives, and build inclusive communities. En Garde Arts is planning to produce the fully mounted show in 2025. engardearts.org

Charlene Jean (they/them) is the creator, librettist, book writer and co-composer with Franklin Rankin of **BRICKS**, Playwright of **SHIT IN THE BLOOD: A BIOMYTHOGRAPHY OF RECIPES**, and Screenwriter of **KING AFUA**. Charlene is a New Georges JAMmer, an associated artist with En Garde Arts with multiyear dramaturgy and production support, and the inaugural Host of the 651 Arts/Billie Holiday Theatre's Song Salon Series. As a dramaturg: Nia Calloway's *Home/Body: A Ritual Party*, HERE Arts, 2023; Ungrateful Black Artist's (UGBA) *Dark Skin Support Group*, Public Theatre Emerging Writers Group; Alexander Perez's *The Bad In Each Other*, Playwrights Horizons; Matthew Keaton's *7 Actors, 1 Room*; and Camille Thomas's, *At God's Back*, Playwrights Horizons.

Our Mission

Founded in 2000 as the Hip-Hop Theater Festival and reemerging as Hi-ARTS in 2011, Hi-ARTS has been supporting artists for over twenty years. Through artistic support, civic engagement, and creative education, Hi-ARTS empowers Artists of the Global Majority to develop new work while creating a lasting impact on their communities.

CRITICAL BREAKS is a residency program that allows artists to take their ideas to the next stage through an intensive development process and public Work in Process.

SKY LAB is a residency for artists whose practices center community in the roots of its development, research, and consideration.

ONE WALL MOVEMENT commissions muralists, writers, and street artists in the installation of a large-scale public mural.

Journal 2 Journey is a pre-professional creative youth program developed in partnership and collaboration with Urban Word.

Land Acknowledgement

Hi-ARTS and El Barrio's Artspace PS109 are situated on the island of Manhattan (Mannahatta), on Munsee Lenape and Wappinger homeland. We pay respect to Munsee Lenape and Wappinger peoples, their ancestors, and their elders—past, present, and future. [Learn more about whose land you're on at native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca)

2023 Artists

theurbanX.org
SKY LAB

Sadah Espii Proctor
SKY LAB, *so long // adieu*

Charlene Jean
CRITICAL BREAKS, BRICKS

SoHumanity, Tanya Birl-Torres & Sasha Hutchings
CRITICAL BREAKS, *A Play in 3 Movements*

Zane Rodulfo
CRITICAL BREAKS, *zwi!*

Our Team

Aaron L. McKinney, Executive Director
Deborah Cowell, General Manager
Masud Grant, Development Manager
Nikhil Mahapatra, Development Associate

Joyous Pierce, Program Manager
Robyn Ayers, Program Associate
Eleanor Kipping, Marketing Manager
MJ Martinez, Marketing Associate



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hi-artsnyc.org
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Image credit: Sarang Sharma, Weeksville Heritage Center