

**Utah Black Artists Collective and Salt Lake Acting Company  
Present the World Premiere of**



**Creative Team**

Script Curators  
**Franque Bains, Jayrod P.  
Garrett, Wynter Storm**  
Poster Graphic Design  
**Avery Franklin**

Director  
**Latoya Cameron**  
Stage Manager  
**Tahra Veasley**

Sound and Run Crew  
**Samme Jackman**

Set Designer  
**Erik Reichert**  
Lighting Designer  
**David Smith**

**UBLAC Artists**

**MUSIC**  
AMEA  
Pepper Rose  
Zaza Historia VanDyke

**DANCE**  
Diane Bahati  
Shakira Smith

**POETS**  
Andrea Hardeman  
Franque  
Wynter Storm  
Jayrod P. Garrett  
Ashley Finley

**VISUAL ARTISTS**  
Daney Lin  
Andrea G. Hardema  
**PANEL DISCUSSION  
MEDIATOR**  
Dr. LaShawn Williams

## **Artist Bios**

**AMEA®** - AMEA® is a captivating and multifaceted Recording Academy® singer, songwriter and producer. Immersing her audience in her mantra "Inspire Love Dream", she orchestrates a sensual experience with her bandmates for audiences of all sizes. From rocking out at The House of Blues in Dallas and Houston, to a bustling Millcreek Commons in Utah, AMEA® is a master of cultivating a high vibrational music experience. AMEA® has had her works featured in the Emmy® Award Winning series, *Washed* to consistent mainstream radio play across the UK. Not only does her voice stimulate peace but her DJing is sure to keep you on your feet and in love. Catch up with AMEA® at a venue near You!

**Andrea G. Hardeman** - Andrea G. Hardeman, M.S. is an expressive abstract artist, poet, and bestselling author. Creating a space that allows others to feel seen and see themselves more clearly is at the core of her every endeavor. It is in this spirit that she launched Healing Through Art Workshops in 2022, where participants achieve an emotional release. Andrea began writing poetry as a form of healing and emotional processing in 1998. Creative expression through poetry and painting is how she excavates her deepest joy, pain, hopes, and fears. She established her brand Papillon Skies in 2020. She has been featured in the 2023 NBA All-Star Players' Lounge, SLUG Magazine, the Adobe Blog, Voyage Utah!, and The Black Angle. She is also a member of UBLAC.

Andrea's work is currently on display in the France Davis Utah Black Archive, at Urban Arts Gallery, and at 9<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Book and Music Gallery in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has authored two collections of poetry, *love the journey: POETRY AND ARTWORK SELECTIONS* and *Queer*, in addition to a guided affirmation journal titled *Getting Grounded*. Visit Andrea on Instagram @papillonskies.

To see more of Andrea's art and read the story behind each piece visit [www.papillonskies.com](http://www.papillonskies.com).

**Ashley Finley** - Ashley Finley is a California native who is currently living in so-called Salt Lake City. She is a Black woman, a birth keeper, a medicine maker, a poet, an activist, and an educator. Her passion lies in the liberation of all colonized and oppressed people and in the facilitating of a return to sacred, ancestral knowledge that bloomed before colonization and capitalism. You can find her work in publications such as Torrey House Press's "A New World Coming", Slug Magazine, and "Contraception" Medical Journal, as well as TEDx Salt Lake City and Write About Now Poetry.

**Avery Franklin** - Avery Franklin - Avery Franklin is a Graphic Designer and Digital Illustrator, primarily specializing in character, apparel, and book design. \*Designed the Sankofa graphic\*

**Daney Lin** - Daney Lin was born in the heart of Murray, Utah. Whether it has been music, dancing, theatre, or painting, he has been surrounded by art his entire life. Residing in Salt Lake City, Utah, Lin is a visual arts teacher.

Through his primary medium of acrylic painting, art has allowed him to fully express himself and cope with mental illness, including anxiety, Depression, and ADHD. He is deeply influenced by Asian and Hip-Hop culture, which have impacted the way he visualizes the world.

Art is his way of sharing his life experiences and interpreting his surroundings. Lin truly believes art has saved his life and feels it can positively affect others in a similar way.

As he always says, "All I want to do is Create, Express, & Love." <https://lin-nelson.pixels.com/>

**Diane Bahati** - Diane Bahati is a second year student at the University of Utah pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor emphasis in Business Administration. Diane is a well known activist in Salt Lake City for leading peaceful protests and organizing Juneteenth events for the Salt Lake chapter. Diane is also a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, she moved here in 2006 with her family of 10. She has been dancing since she was two and will continue to dance through her career.

**Franque** - Franque is Southern California seeded and sprouted and grew up in a household where humor brought healing in the most unexpected ways. With all of that good sunshine on her skin and laughter in her bones, she's spent the last 15 years working in community organizing on projects rooted in helping folks heal through finding their voice, sharing their story, and connecting to the power of play. Receiving formal education at Claremont Graduate University she's earned a master's in mathematics and education. To nurture her passion for story and comedy, she's taken further coursework in poetry, storytelling, and improv theater and currently leads workshops infusing all three. Through connection with beloved community, she's honored to be a member of the Nubian Storytellers of Utah Leadership, serve on the board of the Utah Black Artist Collective, and work with community organizers in infusing healing into their work. You can find her most days cracking her goofy jokes because she's found that laughter is our greatest connector. What a wonderful world we can build, if we can just slow down and take a moment to laugh together.

**Jayrod P. Garrett** - believes that world peace is possible. A world where all people care about the safety and lives of others. To this end, he's dedicated his life to sharing stories that allow all of us to see each other better. Currently, he's nonbinary male graduate student seeking his MFA, a junior high teacher, and proud to say he's been in education for eleven years. He has poetry in anthologies published by the League of Utah Writers and is currently working on his first novel, *Breakers of War*. He dwells in Bountiful, Utah with his wife and two sons (who expect a new addition to their family in early May).

**Pepper Rose** - Pepper Rose is a singer songwriter from Salt Lake City, Utah. She started performing as a way to gain confidence and express herself as she worked towards her doctorate in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Though her degree is in the science of drugs, she found through performance that music and poetry are the best medicine. Pepper loves to explore all different types of musical styles from folk and indie rock in her personal music to hard rock and heavy metal in her band Spirit Machines. No matter what style she is singing, she uses poetic imagery along with piercing melodic lines to tell relatable stories that open the heart of listeners.

**Shakira Elise Smith** - Shakira Elise Smith has been an artistic director at Ngoma y'Africa Cultural Learning Center for over thirteen years. She uses her talents as a choreographer and dancer to create traditional West African and AfroDances for performances and classes all throughout Utah Valley. In 2021 she appeared on an NBC trivia game show called "The Wall" and successfully brought home \$90,000 which she promptly invested in mutual funds. Shakira is an experienced cardiac ICU nurse by trade, a Neuroscience graduate, Army wife, mother of two and recently she became a paid author specializing in afro-futuristic speculative fiction. She will be releasing an anthology through the League of Utah Writers next year.

**Wynter Storm** - A Queen of many crowns or hats..Wynter first and foremost is a Mother to their handsome baby boy Amias!! Wynter is the CEO and the Executive Director of Utah Black Artists Collective (UBLAC.)

She has been a Poet, and published author since the age of eight; having her first poem published in second grade. Wynter made her debut in the 2018-19 Salt Lake City Slam Poetry Season and made the team in the same year. She toured with the team for the year sharing her words state to state. She creates poems about justice, healing, love, self love, queerness, and the power to overcome.

Wynter is the 2021 UAF Indie Slam Champion

She has been featured on Write About Now Poetry.

She is the 2018 Ogden Pride Poetry Slam winner. And a member of the 2019 Salt Lake City Slam team where she went on to be a 2019 Salt Lake City Pride Finalist, 2019 Ogden Pride Finalist, a Rustbelt Team finalist; and a Southwest Shootout team finalist.

She has a chapbook "A Glimpse Into Surviving Wynters Storm"

She recently published and released "Black Rainbow Layers"

She is a featured artist in Beyond the Neon Anthology

**Zaza Historia VanDyke** - Zaza Historia VanDyke is a poc, trans femme, parent, performer, song writer and artist from Ogden Utah. You can find zaza anywhere she can be loud and proud with an instrument in hand, fronting her bands "something special" a soul filled multi-genre trio and "doomcupcake" the 90s alternative metal revival we have all been waiting for, zaza is sure to have something to move you/She's the girl at every campfire and party, singing and playing acoustic guitar, In fact, you'll be hard pressed to find Zaza without a guitar close by. Zaza's greatest inspirations are the people surrounding her in life, who've pushed her and supported her music, and her love of the world and atmosphere around her. Stay tuned for new music from all of her bands in the near future!

**Special thanks to our sponsors for this production:  
Salt Lake City Arts Council & National Endowment for the Arts**



[Sankofa, This Journey: Go Back and Get It](#) was produced by [Salt Lake Acting Company \(SLAC\)](#)  
in partnership with [Utah Black Artists Collective \(UBLAC\)](#)

