

Immediate release:
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Brava presents

Manifesto

A call to arms, a spectacular reckoning



February 6 – 15, 2020

A solo show written and performed by **Rotimi Agbabiaka**
Directed by **Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe**

Brava Theater Center Studio
2781 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
brava.org

A call to arms! A spectacular reckoning! MANIFESTO is Rotimi Agbabiaka's latest solo play, in which you the audience, assisted by a cast of historical iconoclasts, will help a young artist fashion a manifesto for a 21st century theatre of liberation. In MANIFESTO, Rotimi Agbabiaka speaks, sings, and screams his way to an art form capable of taking on the unhinged forces of racist, fascist, capitalistic foolishness ... and winning. Come prepared to take a stand.

A sequel to the hit show, *Type/Caste*, MANIFESTO is a portrait of a young artist at a crossroads. When the entertainment industry extends a welcoming hand, this previously excluded queer, black actor must decide whether to pursue the trappings of mainstream success or remain an outsider artist on the road less traveled. While our protagonist ponders the role of theatre in a mad mad world, he is beset by a chorus of creative ancestors, which include James Baldwin,

Nina Simone, and Fela Kuti, the young artist is guided towards a visionary ambition of a manifesto.

PERFORMANCES

Thursday, Feb 6 at 8pm - Preview Performance*

Friday, Feb 7 at 8pm - Opening Night & After Party

Sunday, Feb 9 at 5pm

Monday, Feb 10 at 8pm*

Thursday, Feb 13 at 8pm

Friday, Feb 14 at 8pm

Saturday, Feb 15 at 8pm

TICKETS

\$25 in advance and at the door (no fees for online or in person purchases)

*Sliding scale tickets available for Thursday, February 6 preview performance and Monday, February 10.

Tickets available in advance at brava.org.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ROTIMI AGBABIAKA / WRITER & PERFORMER

Rotimi Agbabiaka is an actor, writer, director, and teacher who uses humor, glamor, and drama to challenge the status quo. Most recently, Rotimi originated the role of Salima in *House of Joy* (California Shakespeare Theatre) and the role of Cellphone in *If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must Be a Muhfucka* (Playwrights Horizons, NYC). Other acting credits include *Father Comes Home From The Wars ...* (Yale Rep, American Conservatory Theatre) Tom Waits' *Black Rider* (Shotgun Players), *Bootycandy* (Brava Theater, Theatre Bay Area award), originating the role of Boy in *runboyrun* (Magic Theatre), and several shows with the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe. Rotimi's solo play, *Homeless performance.*, won Best Solo Performance at the SF Fringe Festival and *Type/Caste*, Rotimi's next solo, premiered at the National Queer Arts Festival and received the Theatre Bay Area award for Outstanding Solo Production. Rotimi's latest solo, *MANIFESTO*, plays San Francisco's Brava Theater in February 2020. Rotimi also cowrote the play, *Seeing Red*, with Joan Holden and Ira Marlowe, receiving a TBA award nomination for Outstanding World Premiere Musical. Rotimi teaches acting, movement, and play creation to students from pre-

school through college and has presented work at museums (the deYoung), in parks (with We Players), on street corners (with Jess Curtis' GRAVITY), and on nightlife stages around the world. www.rotimionline.com

EDRIS COOPER-ANIFOWOSHE / DIRECTOR

Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe is an accomplished local and national director and founder of Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience, a resident company at Brava. As a director, Edris has worked nationally and internationally at Trinity Repertory Company, Capital Repertory, Southern Rep, Mark Taper Forum, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Woolly Mammoth, Curious Theatre, and Arts Theatre, Ibadan, Nigeria. Edris's Bay Area directing credits include the West Coast premieres of *Relativity* at the Magic Theatre, *The Old Settler* at TheaterWorks in Palo Alto, *Crying Holy* at Theatre Rhinoceros, and *Urban Zulu Mambo* and *Blue/Orange* at Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. At Brava with BACCE, Edris directed the West Coast premieres of *Sweet Maladies* by Zakiyyah Alexander (winner of TBA Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble), *In a Daughter's Eyes* by Oakland native A. Zell Williams, and *Bootycandy* and *An American Ma(u)l* by Robert O'Hara. She holds an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Iowa.

FUNDERS

Manifesto was commissioned by the Queer Cultural Center and received additional support from the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Photo by Cabure Bonugli of Shot In The City.