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Email: [edris@brava.org](mailto:edris@brava.org)

Web: [brava.org](http://brava.org)

Brava! for Women in the Arts celebrates Soul Power with three events



- Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience brings the noise with the provocative and thought-provoking satirical play, ***An American Ma(u)l***.
- Rhodessa Jones and The Medea Project invite us to align with the moment and be our best selves in the soul seeking, ***When Did Your Hands Become a Weapon?***
- These works are preceded by Soulovely – dance party & screening of Janelle Monáe’s Afrofuturistic (and soul stirring) “emotion picture” ***Dirty Computer***.

Brava is excited to offer these three works that examine and confront our challenges as a community and as a nation. Events are detailed below:

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Brava presents a **Soulovely** special edition dance party & screening of Janelle Monáe’s **Dirty Computer**

Vibe along to Janelle Monáe when Brava screens her hit visual album, *Dirty Computer*, on the big screen! Come decked out in your hottest pynk and party with **Soulovely’s** Aima the Dreamer, DJ Lady Ryan & DJ Emancipacion. The Brava bar will be serving up specialty cocktails, and the dance floor will be hopin.

Saturday, September 22

7pm – Screening of *Dirty Computer*

8pm – Soulovely special edition dance party

Tickets: \$17 - \$25 sliding scale

All proceeds benefit the programs and mission of Brava! for Women in the Arts.

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Brava in association with Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience

**An American Ma(u)l**

Written by Robert O'Hara

Directed by Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe

October 18 – November 11, 2018

Brava Theater Center Studio

America is on the brink of economic disaster. But the newly-elected prez has a plan! Dr. Eli Whitney IV has invented a new form of cotton that will revolutionize the garment industry, but there's one small snag – it needs to be handpicked. And the president knows just who to press into service to pick it!

Robert O'Hara's hilarious and scathing political satire explores the eerily timely proposition of what happens to an America in the face of an administration and a populous that will resort to drastic measures, like the revocation of our most treasured freedoms and protections, to save a failing economy. *An American Ma(u)l* turns its lens on two families, the Jeffersons and the Washingtons, as they struggle to survive in a "new" racially divided America.

Performances

Thursday, October 18 – 8pm (preview)

Friday, October 19 – 8pm (preview)

Saturday, October 20 – 8pm (opening night & after party)

Sunday, October 21 – 3pm

Monday, October 22 – 8pm (industry night)

Friday, October 26 – 8pm

Saturday, October 27 – 8pm

Sunday, October 28 – 3pm

Saturday, November 3 – 8pm

Sunday, November 4 – 3pm

Friday, November 9 – 8pm

Saturday, November 10 – 8pm

Sunday, November 11 – 3pm

Tickets

Thursday, October 18 & Friday, October 19 previews – Pay what you can

The rest of the run - \$15 to \$25 sliding scale

## About BACCE

Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience has presented critically acclaimed and award-winning ensemble theatre at Brava since 2013. A multi-ethnic, multi-generational ensemble, BACCE, presents alternative new work by, for and about Black people. In addition, to its theatre work, BACCE is the creator of the So Soul San Francisco Black Art Salons that new and developing work by Bay Area Black artists. BACCE is led by Producing Artistic Director and nationally acclaimed theater artist, Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe.

*An American Ma(u)l* received funding from the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation and the Kenneth Rainin Foundation.

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Brava in association with Cultural Odyssey present

### **When Did Your Hands Become a Weapon?**

A collaboration between Rhodessa Jones with Women's HIV Program UCSF & The Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women

October 25 – November 4, 2018

*When Did Your Hands Become a Weapon?* heralds the beginning of Cultural Odyssey's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. Developed far before the #MeToo movement, *When Did Your Hands Become a Weapon?* is a prescient call to action in perfect alignment with the issues surrounding the widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment of women. This project is a major departure from previous theatrical spectacles focusing on these issues, heralding a new model of care that allows women to heal from past abuse and prevent further trauma.

#### Performances

Thursday, October 25 – 8pm

Friday, October 26 – 8pm

Saturday, October 27 – 8pm (Special Gala Performance)

Sunday, October 28 – 3pm

Thursday, November 1 – 8pm

Saturday, November 3 – 3pm & 8pm

Sunday, November 4 – 3pm

#### Tickets

Thursdays (pay what you can): \$0, \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25

Friday, Saturday, Sunday: \$15, \$20, \$25

Saturday, October 27 Gala Performance: \$25, \$35, \$50

#### About the Medea Project

In 1989, while conducting exercise classes at the San Francisco County Jail, Rhodessa Jones and prison officials observed that African American and Latina women inmates were more likely to honestly confront their personal problems by telling autobiographical stories than through traditional counseling techniques. Based on this observation, Rhodessa, together with representatives of the Sheriff's Department and the San Francisco Health Department founded The MEDEA Project in 1990 to explore whether an arts-based approach could reduce recidivism and divert women from the criminal justice system. Since that auspicious beginning THE MEDEA PROJECT has become a model for transforming and rehabilitating female inmates and working with ex — inmates as well as HIV positive women utilizing the performing arts.

#### About Rhodessa Jones

Rhodessa Jones is Co-Artistic Director of the acclaimed San Francisco performance company Cultural Odyssey. She is an actress, teacher, director, and writer. Ms. Jones is also the Director of the award-winning Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women and HIV Circle, which is a performance workshop designed to achieve personal and social transformation with incarcerated women and women living with HIV. During fall 2017 and winter 2018 Rhodessa was a Frank H. T. Rhodes Visiting Professor at CORNELL UNIVERSITY and a MONTGOMERY FELLOW at DARTMOUTH COLLEGE conducting lectures and workshops at these prestigious institutions. In December 2016 Rhodessa received a THEATRE BAY AREA LEGACY AWARD presented to individuals that have made “extraordinary contributions to the Bay Area theatre community.” In 2014 she received The Sui Generis Foundation Achievement Award for “one of a kind” contributions which benefit society in unique ways.”

*When Did Your Hands Become a Weapon?* was made possible in part by grants from The Creative Work Fund, (a program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund that is also supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), The National Endowment for the Arts, and The Fleishhacker Foundation.