



**THE KITCHEN**

CENTER FOR VIDEO, MUSIC, DANCE, PERFORMANCE, FILM, AND LITERATURE

**P R E S E N T S**

**URBAN**

**BUSH**

**WOMEN**

*April 29 to May 9, 1993*

## URBAN BUSH WOMEN

Artistic Director: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Choreography: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar in collaboration with the Company

### The Company

Terri Cousar  
Christine King  
E. Gaynell Sherrod  
Jawole Willa Jo Zollar  
Percussionist: Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn

Maia Claire Garrison  
Treva Offutt  
Valerie Winborne

### **LifeDance III . . . The Empress (Womb Wars)**

(New York Premiere)

Text: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar  
Performers: The Company  
Set Design: Helen Oji  
Costumes: Stefani Mar  
Lighting Design: Phil Sandström

*LifeDance III . . . The Empress (Womb Wars)* was commissioned by Penn State University, Center for the Performing Arts. *LifeDance III . . . The Empress (Womb Wars)* has received major support from The Rockefeller Foundation's Multi-Arts Production Fund.

—INTERMISSION—

### **Nyabinghi Dreamtime**

(work-in-progress)

Percussion Score Composed by Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn  
Vocal Score Composed and Developed through Improvisation by The Company with Ancient Vibrations; based on and including Traditional Songs from the Revival, Kumina, and Rastafarian Cultures.  
Recorded Voices of Urban Bush Women Arranged and Produced by Don Meissner  
Performed by The Company  
Percussion Score Performed by Ancient Vibrations (Ras Menelik, Teddy "Silas" Davis, Ira Williams)  
Costumes Hand Painted by Treva Offutt  
Lighting Design: Kristabelle Munson  
Vocal Coach: Bill Young

#### I. *Groundation*

Dance Solo Performed by Maia Claire Garrison  
Vocal Solo Performed by Valerie Winborne

II. *Let The Words of My Mouth and The Meditations of My Heart be Acceptable in Thy Sight — O Fari*  
Dance Solo Performed by Terri Cousar

III. *The Thirteenth Tribe Speaks Through I And I*  
Dance Solo I Performed by Valerie Winborne  
Dance Solo II Performed by Gaynell Sherrod  
Dance Solo III Performed by Christine King

IV. *A World Without End — Blessed Be*  
Dance Solo Performed by Treva Offutt

*Nyabinghi Dreamtime* is a work exploring the dynamics of spiritual states in relation to the Nyabinghi rural Rastafarian tradition in Jamaica. *Nyabinghi Dreamtime* utilizes traditional ceremonial music and chants. The movement, choreographed by Jawole Zollar, based on traditional forms, explores breath rhythms and the synchronicity of individuals in space.

Special thanks to The Suitcase Fund: A Project of Ideas and Means in Cross-Cultural Artist Relations, an initiative created by Dance Theater Workshop with major funding provided by The Rockefeller Foundation; and the Travel Grants Pilot, a joint project of the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts International.

A heartfelt shout out to Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn and all the people in Jamaica who shared their culture with us and a thank you to the ancestors for helping us to see the connections.

*Nyabinghi Dreamtime* is made possible, in part, with the support of the Live Music for Dance Program of the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust.

### **THE COMPANY**

**URBAN BUSH WOMEN** was established in 1984 by Artistic Director Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. Using contemporary idioms and inter-disciplinary forms, the company has created numerous dance/theater works rooted in the folklore and spiritual traditions of African-Americans. Through movement, live music, and the drama and wit of the spoken word, Urban Bush Women explores the struggle, growth, transformation, and survival of the human spirit and creates a powerful sense of community on stage that speaks to a broad audience. Urban Bush Women also seeks to foster cross-cultural exchange through educational seminars and workshops as well as developmental residencies.

**JAWOLE WILLA JO ZOLLAR (JAA-WO-LAY)** (Artistic Director) was born and raised in Kansas City, MO and was steeped from childhood in both sacred and secular aspects of popular Black culture. She began her dance training with Joseph Stevenson, a student of the legendary Katherine Dunham. She received a BA in Dance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and an MFA in Dance from Florida State University where she subsequently taught. In 1980, she emigrated to New York City to study with Dianne McIntyre at Sounds in Motion. Zollar has toured internationally and her work with Urban Bush Women has earned her three

Choreographer's Fellowships from the NEA and another from the New York Foundation for the Arts. *Shelter*, created by Zollar in 1987, was recently set on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and premiered in Kansas City in November 1992, and in New York at City Center in December. She received a 1992 New York Dance & Performance (a/k/a BESSIE) award for her collective work from *River Songs through Praise House*.

**TERRI COUSAR** has been with the company since its inception in 1984. Originally from Columbus, OH, she attended Ohio State University's Dance Department where she received a BFA in Dance. Her studies in New York include Afro-Haitian dance with Pat Hall-Smith and West African dance with Yousouff Kombassa.

**MAIA CLAIRE GARRISON** began her performance career as an acrobat with the Big Apple Circus at the age of ten. Her family then moved to Rome, Italy. There she was given years of training and inspiration from her mother Roberta, who is also a dancer and choreographer. Maia has also presented her own choreography in Dance Theater Workshop's "KUUMBA", curated by Janine Williams, as well as in the 1992 California festival "Black Choreographers Moving Toward the Twenty-First Century." She was last seen performing in collaboration with Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn in Aaron Davis Hall's "Rooted In Our Bones", curated by Donald Byrd. Maia graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in '91.

**CHRISTINE KING** joined the company in 1989. She is originally from Michigan and has been performing in New York City for the past ten years with a number of artists including Claire Porter, Trinket Monsod, Kaleidoscope Dancers, Amy Sue Rosen, and Black Pearl Dance Company. She has studied with Sara Sugihara, William Adair, Nancy Hutchins, and many other artists whom she gives many thanks for their encouragement and love. She holds a B.A. in Dance and has studied singing with Diane Barclay, Artie Sheppard and others, and enjoys exploring many types of vocal utilizations.

**TREVA OFFUTT**, a native Clevelander, is a recent graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, and hopes to combine visual and dance components in her career. She would like to thank many people for their support: above all her family and "The Women" for their love and encouragement; art critic Szymon Bojko for his eternal youth and cabaret soul; animator Amy Kravitz for her faith and vision; the people of Karamu and Jacob's Pillow for their patience and spirit; and to the memory of artist/guru Mahler Ryder for his focus and strength.

**E. GAYNELL SHERROD** is a native of Buffalo, NY. Formerly a member of Kariamu & Company in Buffalo as well as Philadelphia's Philadanco, Sherrod is currently an ED.E candidate at Temple University's Dance Department. She is a faculty fellowship scholar, teaches in the department, and is working on research in African derived dance techniques and performance arts.

**JUNIOR "GABU" WEDDERBURN** grew up drumming in Jamaica and started playing professionally at the age of 14. He began touring at an early age with the National Dance Theater Company of Jamaica throughout North and South America. He studied at the Folk Research Department of the Jamaican School of Music, and then founded the percussion-based band Dominion Percussion. Gabu has also recorded and toured with internationally recognized reggae artists in Jamaica and New York. He has lived in New York since 1984, where he formed Ancient Vibrations with a group of drummers, dancers, and singers. Most recently Gabu composed and recorded the musical score for "Shelter" for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre.

**VALERIE WINBORNE "OTUASINA"** is a native of Virginia. She remained that way until moving North to attend graduate school in New York. During and after completion of her M.A. in Dance/Movement Therapy, Valerie danced with many choreographers, including Ron Brown, Johanna Boyce, David Rousseve, and Janine Williams while also creating her own work. She gives thanks to those who have taught her along the way especially Marlies Yearby and her mentor Eija Celli. To dance with Urban Bush Women is a dream come true and she thanks her family, especially Wayne, and her friends for their unconditional support.

**ANCIENT VIBRATIONS** is an ensemble of drummers, dancers, and singers dedicated to keeping alive the African derived rhythms and chants of Jamaican folk religion. Founded in 1986 by Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn, the group performs music and dance that is reflective of Caribbean history. Ancient Vibrations is unique in its performance of traditional Jamaican rituals such as Kumina, Afro-Christian Pocomania, Koromanti, and Tambu. Their concentration on Nyabinghi, the primary influence of contemporary reggae music, reflects the commitment to preserving the Jamaican link with the original anti-colonial Nyabinghi movement in Africa. Ancient Vibrations has performed throughout New York City and the West Coast in a variety of venues, clubs, and festivals, including performances under the auspices of the World Music Institute and the American Museum of Natural History. In addition, Ancient Vibrations has worked with such greats as the Mighty Sparrow and the legendary Skapalites. Ancient Vibration would like to thank Urban Bush Women for their interest and for their understanding of Jamaican traditions and music.

**TEDDY "SILAS" DAVIS** (Musician) was born in Portland, Jamaica. His first exposure to drum was in the Revival Church. He performed with the Boys Drum Corp, the nationally acclaimed Dominion Percussion, and did Nyabinghi Drumming and studied Djembe with Master Drummers from Guinea. After arriving in New York, he became a founding member of Ancient Vibrations under the direction of Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn. I give thanks to Jah and to spread the word of Rastafari.

**FITZGERALD "RAS MENELIK" DACOSTA** (Musician), born in Jamaica, started his musical career at the age of seven. At fifteen he played professionally with "Up the People - Movement". At age twenty, he started to play with Soul Syndicate, Augustus Pablo, Heptone, Wackies, Lee Perry, Itopia, and Bob Marley. He gives thanks to the most high, Rastafari.

**IRA WILLIAMS** (Musician), born in Jamaica, started singing and playing the guitar at the age of six in church. Later he became a member of a folk singing group and started working professionally at the age of fourteen. It was at this time that he made his first recording. He finds great satisfaction in being a professional singer. It's a dream come true.

**STEFANI MAR** (Costume Designer) is an artist who has worked in different media including performance, sculpture, installation and has created public pieces which have been displayed in New York City parks. Currently, a work is on view at the CUNY Graduate Center. She has been the recipient of NYSCA Sponsored Project grants for self-initiated projects. Mar has previously designed costumes for Muna Tseng Dance Projects. This is her first effort for the Urban Bush Women.

**DON MEISSNER** (Composer) is a frequent collaborator with some of New York's most provocative and innovative theatre and dance artists. Most recently his compositions and sound design were featured in Ron Brown's *Combat Review/ Witches in Response* at P.S. 122 and the Joyce Theater. His music was also featured in David Rousseve's *Urban Scenes/Creole Dreams* in this season's Next Wave Festival at BAM. He has appeared on stage as composer/performer in the performance pieces of Laurie Carlos at Jacob's Pillow, the

National Black Arts Festival, for En Garde Arts, and the Walker Art Center. Other collaborations have been with Anita Gonzalez, Marlies Yearby, and playwright Leslie Lee at the American Place Theater. He has been an artist-in-residence at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, where he worked with Joan LaBarbara and Woody and Steina Vasulka.

**KRISTABELLE MUNSON** (Lighting Designer) is from Manila, the Philippines. Munson has created lighting for dance, theater, television, and opera in the Americas and Europe. She is a graduate of SUNY at Purchase. Recent projects include Jennifer Muller/The Works at the Joyce Theater, Ron Brown and Evidence at Performance Space 122, and visual design for Threadwaxing Space featuring concerts by Fundamental and John Lurie. Kristabelle wishes to thank the Urban Bush Women for a fruitful season.

**HELEN OJI** (Set Designer) is a painter and set designer. She has exhibited her work in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including museums and galleries such as the Museum of Modern Art, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, Nordjylands Kunstmuseum, Monique Knowlton, Sidney Janis, Artists Space, The Drawing Center, and Pelavin Editions. Her set design work includes *Peachfish*, *Re-Heat*, *Song of Lawino*, and *The Painted Tooth*. Oji has collaborated with Laurie Carlos, Jessica Hagedorn, Ching Valdes-Aran, and Valeria Vasilevski. *Womb Wars* is her third collaboration with Ms. Zollar

**PHIL SANDSTRÖM** (Lighting Designer) is the Production Manager and resident lighting designer at Dance Theater Workshop and a two time Bessie Award winner for lighting design. He has created the original lighting for hundreds of dance companies including Doug Elkins, Johanna Boyce, David Dorfman, Stephanie Skura, Christopher d'Amboise, Martha Bowers, CoDanceCo, Eric Barsness, Randy Warshaw, Jennifer Sargent, Ken Rinker, Lisa Kraus, Uory Wilson, Clarice Marshall, Danny Ezralow, Cydney Wilkes, Rachel Lampert, Pooh Kaye, Peter Anastos, Charlie Moulton, David Gordon, Ralph Lemon, Wendy Perron, Dorothy Jungels, Carol Clements, Gayle Tufts, Alice Kaltman, Roz Newman, Harry Streep, Jim Self, Barbara Allen, Fred Darsow, Melissa Fenley, Stephan Koplowitz, Victoria Marks and, from 1982-90, Mark Morris. His theater work includes *The Flying Karamazov Brothers*, *Fools Fire*, *The Ghost Writer*, *The Harlot's Curse*, *The Watchtower*, *Daniel Stein*, *Michael Smith*, *Mark Anderson*, *Bruce Schwartz*, *Power Boothe*, *Roadside Theater*, and *The Mildred Piece*.

Technical Staff for Urban Bush Women's Performances at The Kitchen:

*Lighting Director:* Kristabelle Munson      *Assistant to Ms. Munson:* Jeff Croiter  
*Sound Designer:* Don Meissner      *Wardrobe:* Susan Carrolan  
*Running Crew:* David Leslie and Karen Sherman  
*Electricians:* Kevin Cunningham and J. Christopher Potts

Urban Bush Women gratefully acknowledges the support of the American Festival New Work Fund, the Arts Forward Fund, AT&T Foundation, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Consolidated Edison, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, Dancing in the Streets' OnSITE, Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, the Greenwall Foundation, Jerome Foundation, the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, J.P. Morgan & Co. Incorporated, National Endowment for the Arts, The National Task Force on Presenting & Touring the Performing Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Philip Morris Companies Inc., The Rockefeller Foundation, Sara Lee Corporation, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Emma A. Sheaffer Charitable Trust, and the Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund.

Rehearsal space was provided, in part, by the Harkness Space Grant program at The Lawrence A. Wien Center for Dance and Theater. Video services provided by Character Generators.

Urban Bush Women would also like to give special thanks to Lauren Amazeen, JoAnn Fegalette-Jansen, Steve Rueff, and the staff at The Kitchen, Gayle Morgan, Suzanne Sato, Ken Foster, David R. White, Ann Rosenthal, Vanessa Palmer, Hattie Gossett, Gayle Fekete, Christina Jones, Scott Lundius, Don Meissner, Patsy Ricketts, L'Antoinette, Beth Herron, and the Zollar Family past and present.

#### URBAN BUSH WOMEN STAFF

Artistic Director: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar  
Lighting Director: Kristabelle Munson  
Managing Director: Laurie Uprichard  
Administrative Director: Rhoda Cerritelli  
Operations: Ain Gordon

Administrative Assistants: Lyndonna Dublin and Tonya Lockyer

#### URBAN BUSH WOMEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, President  
Ivan Sygoda, Treasurer  
Donald J. Moore, Secretary  
Terri Cousar, Brian Offutt, and Kathy Spahn

Information about Urban Bush Women's activities may be obtained from: Urban Bush Women, c/o St. Mark's Church, 131 East 10th Street, New York, NY 10003; (212) 777-4425; FAX (212) 529-2318.

#### For The Kitchen

JoAnn Fregalette Jansen, *Program Curator*      Stephen Rueff, *Production Manager*  
Sue Hamburger, *Technical Director*      John Maxwell Hobbs, *Facilities Manager*

#### THE KITCHEN GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS:

National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City, Department of Cultural Affairs, Film Bureau at Film/Video Arts, Artforum, The Birsh Foundation, The Bohlen Foundation, Bomb Magazine, The Ed Lee & Jean Campe Foundation, Inc., Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, The Cowles Charitable Trust Edwards Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Ford Foundation, Foundation for the Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc., The Howard Gilman Foundation, The Harkness Foundations for Dance, Knight Foundation, The Sydney & Frances Lewis Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Materials for the Arts, Meet the Composer, Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, The Overbrook Foundation, James E. Robison Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Tilles Foundation, Lila Acheson Wallace Theatre Fund, American Express Companies, AT&T Foundation, Capezio/Ballet Makers Dance Foundation, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Philip Morris Companies Inc., Republic National Bank, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, Wasserstein, Perella Foundation Trust, Weiss, Peck, and Greer Investments, Members of The Kitchen.