



**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe, BRAVA Marketing Associate

Phone: (415) 641-7657 x8

Fax: (866) 641-7684

Email: edris@brava.org

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Brava! For Women in the Arts  
&  
Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience  
present  
the West Coast Premiere of

**In A Daughter's Eyes**  
by **A. Zell Williams**

**WHAT:** West Coast Premiere of **In A Daughter's Eyes**, a new play by A. Zell Williams

**WHO:** Cast: Britney Frazier & Lisa Porter/Director: Edris Cooper –Anifowoshe/produced by Brava! For Women in the Arts and Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience

**WHERE:** Brava Theater Center, 2781-24th Street at York, San Francisco, CA 94110

**WHEN:** June 29– July 14, 2013, previews June 27 & 28<sup>th</sup>; Thursdays-Sat 8pm, Sundays 3pm

**TICKETS:** \$15

In A. Zell Williams' intense two-hander, the daughter of an Oakland Black Panther - who sits on Death Row for the murder of an Oakland Police Officer - is locked in room and in conflict with the daughter of the murdered officer in an effort to heal their open wounds. As the negotiations intensify in familiar ways, the sins of the fathers are visited upon the daughters as they battle to protect their father's names.



**In A Daughter's Eyes** is the recipient of the 2011 National New Play Network's Smith Award and had its World Premiere at Philadelphia's InterAct Theatre Company. Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience is excited to bring this new work by a local writer to the Bay Area.

### **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

**Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe** is founder (along with the late great Lester Jones) of Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience which grew out of the ground-breaking performance space, Sugar Shack Performance Gallery & Cultural Experience in the Lower Haight. Edris is an award-winning director, actor and writer. She has directed at Trinity Repertory Company; Magic Theatre; TheatreWorks in Palo Alto; Curious Theater in Denver; WaterTower Theatre in Dallas where she is a two time Rabin nominee; Mark Taper Forum, Southern Rep in New Orleans and Alabama Shakespeare, among others. A one-time performer with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Edris has performed at many regional and independent theaters and for more than a decade was a lead artist for Rhodessa Jones' *The Medea Project*; *Theatre for Incarcerated Women*. Edris' original solo performances have been seen at Northwestern University, the University of Illinois and the University of Florida in Gainesville in San Francisco at AfroSolo Festival, Intersection For the Arts and other small independent venues, including her own Sugar Shack Performance Gallery and Cultural Center in the LowerHaight (1991-1993). Internationally, Edris has performed in Ibadan, Nigeria and Berlin, Germany and presented scholarship on performance in Mexico, the UK and the Netherlands. Her 2010 performance of *Adventures of A Black Girl In Search of Academic Clarity and Inclusion* was presented as part of the solo/black/women festival at Northwestern University, is being created as a video game and will be published in an anthology by Northwestern University Press later this year.

### **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

**A. Zell Williams (Playwright)** has won Philadelphia Theatre Company's Terrence McNally Award, Marin Theatre Company's David Calicchio Emerging American Playwright Prize, the

National New Play Network's Smith Prize for Political Theatre, New York University's Rita & Burton Goldberg Playwriting Prize, and Reverie Productions' Next Generation Playwright's Award. He has been nominated for the Williamstown Theatre Festival's L. Arnold Weissberger Award by Playwrights' Horizon and the Playwright of New York (PoNY) Fellowship by Oskar Eustis of the Public Theater. He was a finalist for the Yale Drama Series for Emerging Playwrights, Aurora Theatre's Global Age Project Award, Kitchen Dog Theatre's New Works Festival, and the Van Lier Fellowship at the Lark Play Development Center, as well as a semifinalist for the Princess Grace Award, the Ashland New Play Festival (Ashland, OR), Centre Stage Theatre's New Works Festival, (Greenville, SC,) and Victory Gardens Theatre's Ignition Festival. Zell holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Santa Clara University and an MFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He is the National New Play Network Playwright-in-Residence at Philadelphia's InterAct Theatre Company and a member of both The Civilians' R&D Group and Ars Nova's Play Group. For more on his work, visit [www.AZellWill.com](http://www.AZellWill.com).

### **ABOUT THE ACTORS**

**Britney Frazier** (Raheema Salaam) Britney Frazier received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatrical Performance from San Francisco State in the Spring of 2013. She has performed with Shotgun Players in *Bulrushes* as Vera, Intersection for the Arts' preview of *Mirrors in Every Corner* as Row, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's production of *Fabulation* as Stephanie and most recently in *The Voyage* with Shotgun Players again, as Miss Chamberline and Katya. Brit can also be seen performing with the *Femikazes* which is a Berkeley based, all female sketch comedy troupe. In 2012, Brit was co-creator in a collaboration between Cal Shakes, Intersection for the Arts' and Campo Santo's Artists Training Program (*The Triangle Lab*), exploring the roots, avenues and confines of storytelling with one ear to the streets. In the summer of 2012, Brit was honored to join forces assistant directing *Jip; His Story*, with Bay Area, theatrical visionary, Ellen Sebastian Chang at the San Francisco Marsh Theatre. Currently, Britney is an Artistic Associate at the San Francisco Playhouse where she produced a staged reading festival of new works in Feb. and March of 2013 called, "*Our Voices, Our Stories*". featuring over twenty plays written by local African American and female playwrights. Britney made her

directorial and playwrighting debut in the February festival at the SF Playhouse, directing the workshop performance of *Love Balm for my SpiritChild* by local playwright Arielle Julia Brown and with a staged reading of her own original one-act, *Obeah*. Britney is a member of Actors Equity Association.

**Lisa Anne Porter** (Kathryn Tilman) Lisa Anne Porter is a professional actress, director and voiceover talent, as well as a professional voice/dialect coach, a voice/acting/text professor and a designated Linklater voice instructor. Lisa has performed with numerous repertory companies and Shakespeare festivals throughout the country including the American Conservatory Theatre, California Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare/Santa Cruz, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Geva Theatre Center, Shakespeare Festival/LA, Shakespeare & Company, Sacramento Theatre Company, the Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Interact Theatre Company, and Boston Theatreworks. She is a member of the Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company where she played Laertes in *HAMLET* and Buckingham in *RICHARD III*. She also co-directed and starred in their touring show *A WILL OF ONE'S OWN*. She has a B.A. in Theatre and American Studies from Wesleyan University and an M.F.A. from the American Conservatory Theatre. Lisa is on the faculty of Shakespeare & Company, the MFA program and Summer Training Congress at the American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theatre and the Academy of Art University.

**BLACK ARTIST CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL EXPERIENCE (BACCE)**

Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe founded BACCE in 2002 with Lester Jones and a company of actors - including June Lomena, Michael Carreiro, Peter Macon, Rico Anderson and Tanya Mayo, to produce new plays by, for and about Black people. The company has produced and presented work by Keith Josef Adkins, Pearl Cleage, Robert Alexander and Robert O'Hara. It is an artist run and artist led collective that is reforming after a 10 year hiatus. Current company members include Brit Frazier, Algiin Ford, Kehinde Koyejo, AeJay Mitchell and David Skillman. The company plans to produce at least three more new plays at the Brava Theater Center including Robert O'Hara's *Booty Candy* and Julie Hebert's *Tree*.



## **BRAVA! FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS**

Brava! For Women in the Arts celebrates its 26th year as a professional arts organization dedicated to cultivating the artistic expression of women, youth, LGBT, people of color and other unheard voices through the ownership and operation of Brava Theater Center. BRAVA's producing history includes award-winning premieres by Diana Son, Eve Ensler, Debbie Swisher, Reno, Cherylene Lee, Suzan-Lori Parks, Culture Clash, Joan Holden, Anne Galjour, Elizabeth Summers, Kate Rigg, Dan Guerrero, and Mabou Mines, as well as works by internationally known playwrights like Jesusa Rodriguez and Liliana Felipe of Mexico, Jorge Drexler of Uruguay, and Ojos de Brujo and Ismael Serrano of Spain. BRAVA's current artistic programming includes traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures and professional dance productions - making BRAVA one of the most eclectic and multi-faceted arts venues in the Bay Area. BRAVA's resident youth programs include the long standing SF Running crew which pairs youth with professional mentors and hands on opportunities for technical theatre training; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, traditional and contemporary dance training for youth, Famooly Productions Salsa Band workshops and Loco Bloco dance and drum ensemble. Brava is committed to providing affordable space for artistic development and presentation and quality professional arts training for underserved youth in the San Francisco community.