



crown



**TWO
STRIKES
THEATRE
COLLECTIVE
PRESENTS**

**THIS CROWN
IS MINE**

**A VIRTUAL
PRODUCTION**

**A JOURNEY
THROUGH BLACK
HAIR**

TWOSTRIKESCOLLECTIVE.COM

MAY 2021



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Black femme-centric theatre

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Share, like, follow, and connect with TSTC



**PLAY
DEVELOPMENT
CHRISTEN
CROMWELL**



**PRODUCER
RACHEL D. WILSON**



**TECH DIRECTOR
ALADRIAN WETZEL**



**MARKETING ASST
JACQUAN KNOX**

Two Strikes Theatre Collective Mission

BLACK FEMME-CENTRIC
THEATRE

To create art that is unapologetically Black femme-centric, to upset the white patriarchal status quo, and to provide creative outlets for Black women in the Baltimore community to express themselves through art.





“

abirunbiade

'one who possesses a great
deal of hair which appears
like a crown on her head'

”

YORUBA PROVERB



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**SHARLENE
CLINTON**

**PLAYWRIGHT
DEBUT**



**FEATURING
MIA ROBINSON**

**FLAWLESS
BEAUTY**

**HAIR ACROSS THE
DIASPORA**

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NATURAL HAIR STORY

THE STRUGGLES OF
A BLACK HAIR
JOURNEY

JAKI GRIOT

PLAYWRIGHT/
ACTOR/DIRECTOR

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FIRST REHEARSAL

A CONVERSATION
ABOUT BLACK HAIR
ON STAGE

**AGYEIWAA
ASANTE**

PLAYWRIGHT



**FEATURING
LAUREN DAVIS**

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**LAKESHIA
FEREBEE**

**PLAYWRIGHT/
ACTOR/DIRECTOR**

**MY HAIR,
MY GLORY**

POETRY IN MOTION

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A close-up portrait of a woman with a red turban and a gold chain necklace. The word "crown" is written in a large, black, cursive font across the top of her head. A small yellow crown icon is positioned above the letter 'n'.

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A hairbrush with a wooden handle and metal bristles, positioned vertically on the left side of the cover.

**NAELIS
ERVIN**

**PLAYWRIGHT/
ACTOR/DIRECTOR**



**FEATURING
EBONY JACKSON**

**FAUX
LOCS**

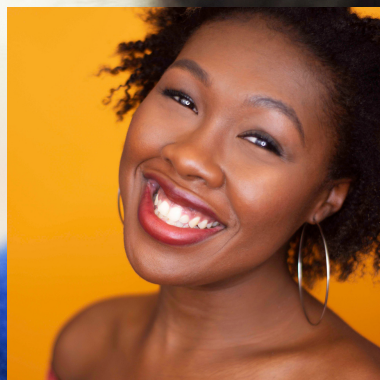
**NATURAL HAIR
AND DATING**

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SAYING GOODBYE

**LEAVING THE
NATURAL HAIR
MOVEMENT**



**FEATURING
CHARENCE HIGGINS**

**TAYLOR
LEIGH
LAMB**

PLAYWRIGHT



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**JASMINE
MITCHELL**

**PLAYWRIGHT/
DIRECTOR/ACTOR**

**BLACK HAIR
IS MUSIC**

**THE SOUNDS OF
WASH DAY**



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**ADVICE TO AN 80S
CHILD DEALING WITH
HER HAIR IN
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

**BLACK HAIR PHASES
& ACCEPTANCE**

**LISA
HILL-CORLEY**

**PLAYWRIGHT/
ACTOR**

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THE DREADED TRUTH A PERSONAL JOURNEY

**MARITA A.
MCKEE**

**PLAYWRIGHT
DEBUT/DIRECTOR**

**VIDEOGRAPHER/FILM EDITOR: MOSES RIVERS
ORIGINAL MUSIC: TAYLOR MIXON**

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**FEATURING
JAZZE A. LEWIS**

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**BELLE
GASKIN-
BURR**

PLAYWRIGHT / ACTOR / DIRECTOR

I LEARNED

**THE TOOLS FOR
HAIR ACCEPTANCE**

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**APRIL
AMARA**
PLAYWRIGHT



**FEATURING
ZIPPORAH BROWN**

HANG TIME
WIGS, WEDDINGS
AND FAMILY



crozen

**LAUREN
DAVIS**

PLAYWRIGHT /
ACTOR / DIRECTOR

**RANT
&**

HAIR AFFAIR

FRO-SCOUTS IN
NATURE

Playwright Bios

April Amara is an actor, director, and playwright based in the DMV area. Her plays have been performed at The University of Maryland, Theatre Alliance and the Kennedy Center. Most recently, she co-wrote Healthy Holly's Hidden Hideaway for Single Carrot Theatre in Baltimore. She is a graduate from the University of Maryland, College Park with a BA in English Literature and Theatre Performance and is thrilled to be working with Two Strikes Theatre Collective for the first time!

Agyeiwaa Asante is an Ghanaian- American theatre artist based in Maryland. Her plays include, SWIRL (Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage Festival 2017, Watermelon One- Act Festival- Best Production 2019), HELP WANTED (Silver Spring One Act Festival, Elemental Women Productions) and DAINTY (BOLD NYC's 2020 Festival). Most recently she was commissioned for UMD's NextNow Festival and Single Carrot Theatre and is the 2020 recipient of The Bret Adams and Paul Reisch Foundation's Ollie Award for emerging playwrights. She also works as a local assistant director. Agyeiwaa is the current Casting Director at Round House Theatre and a member of D.C. Dramatists. B.A. in Theatre from the University of Maryland.

Sharlene Michelle Clinton is a writer, singer-actor, dancer, costume designer and make-up artist. Sharlene has worked as the Costume Designer for several productions for the Fine and Performing Arts department of Morgan State University, Coppin Repertory Theatre, Fells Point Corner Theatre, The Strand Theatre, Single Carrot Theatre and other local theatres in the Baltimore Area. Sharlene has performed in the Opera Company of Philadelphia's premiere of Margaret Garner and 2007 production of Porgy and Bess and graced the stage in Theatre Morgan's production of The Wiz, Raisin, as Lena Younger, Black Nativity and the one-woman show, Big Momma an Em. She is also a member of the Carter Legacy Singers. Although she has been writing poetry and short stories since childhood, Sharlene stepped into a new role as a playwright in the fall of 2020 when she submitted her first 10-minute play to the "Brown Sugar Bake Off". Flawless Beauty is her first written work to be produced.

Lakeshia Ferebee is an emerging Baltimore artist who speaks about her identity as a black woman living and surviving in this world. Her work is personal and political. She wants to continue shaping her own narrative and holding the pen to HERstory. She is currently seeking her MFA degree in Theatre at Towson University.

Jaki Griot (she/they) is a Black queer artist who loves creating conversations about the Black experience.

Playwright Bios

An alumni of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Belle Gaskin-Burr has studied classical theater, Commedia Dell'arte, Dance and Film. Belle combines theater with history to teach children of all backgrounds about the world around them and as an actor she has performed all over the country in various styles of dramatic and comedic theater. You can follow her adventures via @BelleBurr on Twitter, check out her reviews and podcasts at Pop Culture Uncovered, catch her tour with the American Immersion Theater or join her at a show with the crew of Drop Three Sketch and Improv.

Taylor Leigh Lamb is a playwright from Virginia Beach, currently based in Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated from the University of Virginia in 2018. Her play *You Too?* was a part of the 21st Century Voices: Emerging Plays Festival at American Stage and METLab's Plays in Progress Festival. Other writing by Taylor has been featured in American Theatre, Theatre Design & Technology, Argot Magazine, and the Black Youth Project. She is also the Digital Media and Marketing Producer for the webseries *Black Enough*.

Marita A. McKee is pleased to be making her playwright debut with the Two Strikes Theatre Collective. As an Atlanta-based actor, creative and entrepreneur, she has performed in both original works and theatre classics including: *The XX Chromosome Genome Project* (Tour); *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Gwinnett Classic Theatre), *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Live Arts Theatre), and *Radium Girls* (The New Depot Players). Recently, Marita earned Best Feature Performer at the 2020 Georgia Theatre Conference for her portrayal of Ms. Sun in "No Child". Having over 15 years of experience in dance, choreography, and theatre production, Marita is always humbled and thankful for opportunities to pursue her passion for the performing arts.

Jasmine Mitchell is a multi-disciplinary artist-- most notably as a Writer, Director, Filmmaker, and Performer. She is a proud daughter of immigrants, from the beautiful island of Dominica. Jasmine is a graduate of University of Maryland, College Park, where she received her B.A. in Theatre. Her work centers faith-based stories that highlight the experience of Black women and Black families. Jasmine's received honorable mention from the KCACTF Stage Directors and Choreographers competition and performed as Agenes in the world premiere of *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*. Her Directing credits include: *American Idol: a Visual Poem*, *Blood Real Red*, *Same Power, Breath, Boom*, *Warriors of God*. In addition to serving on the media team and as Volunteer Fine Arts Director at her church, Jasmine is currently producing *Seawall*, which will be broadcast later this month and is workshopping her calypso-rap fusion musical, *RAPunzel*. You can find Jasmine on Instagram @smooth_jas, and can find more of her work at jasmineamitchell.com.

Special Thanks

THIS CROWN IS MINE
SUPPORTERS

Fells Point Corner Theatre, Kat Kaplan, Valerie Dowdle, Sebastian Sears, WOWD-LP Takoma Park, Chesapeake Family Life, Be Exposed Radio, Baltimore Center Stage, Black Women and Girls of Maryland, Lauren Davis, and David Shoemaker.



CHESAPEAKEFAMILYLIFE

What's Next

UPCOMING SHOWS THIS SEASON

In collaboration with Baltimore's Fells Point Corner Theatre, TSTC's Playwrights Collective will showcase developed works in a series of virtual staged readings and filmed creative content to celebrate Black women on Juneteenth.



Our second annual virtual play festival will once again accept play submissions from around the country. After an undeniable history of policing Black and Brown bodies, this year's recipe will invite playwrights to consider what it means to take ownership.



In the time of COVID-19 and reliance on the connectedness of social media, there have been countless reasons for Black women to get together and discuss the multitude of intersecting issues impacting our daily lives. This weekly podcast series will feature conversations between Black women about arts, race, and how their perspectives have been shaped by COVID-19.



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