

JABARI DREAMS OF FREEDOM - Company Credits

NAMBI E. KELLEY (Playwright)

DANIEL CARLTON (Director)

JOE PLUMMER (Musical Director)

LEO LEI (Sound and Media Designer/Editor)

DAVID LANDER (Lighting Designer)

JACK DANIEL WOODS (Scenic/PM)

YU'SEPH CORNISH (Costume Designer)

FIRST WOMAN INC. (Producer)

Named for the East African creation story from which playwright Nambi E. Kelley's first name comes, First Woman Inc. is proud to present the digital incarnate of Jabari Dreams of Freedom as its inaugural production. Previous work for young audiences penned by Nambi E. Kelley include: *So Journey To The Truth* (co-written with Daniel Carlton, Syracuse Stage, Regional Tour), *Ain't No Black In A Rainbow* (TheatreWorks USA, national tour 2021-22), *Hero: The Boy From Troy* (Pittsburgh CLO, music by Joe Plummer, regional tour 2022), *Jabari Dreams of Freedom* (Chicago Children's Theatre) *The Blue Shadow* (Lifeline Theatre, music by Joe Plummer) *Peace To The Fourth Power* (HealthWorks Theatre, National Tour), and *The Tale of Nambi and Kintu* (St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre, Regional Tour). Current young audience commissions include: *Hero: The Boy From Troy* (Pittsburgh CLO, music by Joe Plummer) and *This Ability* (cowritten with Daniel Carlton, Chicago Children's Theatre). FW's Founder Nambi E. Kelley served as curriculum director and actor for LATT Children's Theatre in South Korea where she toured singing in Korean and English while creating interactive English immersion theatrical lessons for family audiences. She is currently in residence at The New Victory Theatre in New York City as a member of the LabWorks BIPOC Cohort, and is the recipient of Ben & Jerry's Peacemaker of the Year Award for her work on *Peace To The Fourth Power*, a violence prevention play for teens.

CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE (Original commissioning theatre)

Founded in 2005, the critically acclaimed Chicago Children's Theatre focuses on the production of first-rate children's theatre, with top writing, performing, and directorial talent and high-quality design and production expertise. In 2017, Chicago Children's Theatre became the first theater for young audiences in the nation to win a National Theatre Award from the American Theatre Wing, creators of the Tony Awards. Led by Artistic Director Jacqueline Russell, Chicago Children's Theatre has built its national reputation due to its focus on diverse, new work, producing 20 world premieres in the last 15 years. These productions enjoyed successful inaugural runs in Chicago, many followed by productions at theaters across the U.S. CCT opened its first permanent home in the West Loop in 2017 in a

former police station. Chicago Children's Theatre also produces The Red Kite Project, a multi-sensory interactive theatre program tailored specifically to the needs of children on the autism spectrum. www.chicagochildrenstheatre.org.

NEW VICTORY LABWORKS:

Established in 2012, New Victory® LabWorks explores, devises and reimagines what theater for families can be by supporting New York-based artists of all disciplines in making works that challenge preconceptions commonly held about theater for young audiences. In an effort to diversify the field of performing arts for young audiences and the productions seen on stages across the nation, New Victory LabWorks supports adventurous performing arts for family audiences that amplify a multitude of voices. We commit to welcoming and uplifting BIPOC artists who identify as LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC artists who identify as disabled. New Victory LabWorks artists receive funding, professional development, networking and community support. By connecting artists with New Victory Member families and education partners to garner invaluable responses and feedback from kids, New Victory LabWorks invites artists to hone their craft, expand their skills, make contacts in the field, take artistic risks and make bold choices with their work. www.newvictory.org/about/labworks/

