

7 STAGES

2021 - 2022

YEAR IN REVIEW

We'd like to take a moment to share some of the highlights of our recent 43rd season. Thank you for joining us when you were able. You are the entire reason we do it.

7 Stages is no stranger to digging into the messy topics that often divide us. As this season honored the work of US Poet Laureate and Mvskoke (Muscogee Creek Nation) Artist Joy Harjo and her book, *An American Sunrise*, we engaged in vital conversations that, at times, were uncomfortable. For over 40 years our space has occupied the unceded land of the Creek and Muskogee people. This year's work has taught us about that land and led us to direct action. We have implemented a \$1 per ticket Land Use Fee for all tickets sold to our events. These funds are donated directly to Indigenous organizations doing the work. It is our responsibility to reflect on our history, to confront our own complacency in colonialism, and to learn ways we can all better care for our earth and each other.

Our 43rd season offered brave stories and platforms to connect and create necessary pathways towards healing. This is a critical time to leverage our unique moment in history to create post-pandemic culture that honors the past, acknowledges pain, fear, and inequity, and ultimately sets us all up for sunrises that brighten our future.



July 31, 2021

Youth Creates: *Artificial Insanity*

Directed by Destiny Renee
and Frank Siera

In a dystopian future, your hologram can experience life for you while you sit back and relax in your comfortable home... if you can afford one!

The 19th year of our Youth Creates program challenged us, then brought us together when we needed it the most. “YC”, as we call it, took a hybrid approach in 2021 to safely collaborate with students in Holland. The fruit of those efforts was *Artificial Insanity*, a play on stage and screen performed simultaneously in Atlanta, GA, USA and Hoofddorp, the Netherlands.



“ I saw the impact that Youth Creates left on our students in a time of uncertainty and chaos. But these wonderful young artists fought their way through and created an original production that truly demonstrated the direction in which they believe humanity is headed. Listening to the youth may be the only thing that helps us create a better tomorrow! ”

- Destiny Renee,
7 Stages Education Director

November 6-14, 2021

Lucy Juggles: A Performance of Circus, Self, and Other

Directed by Elizabeth Dinkova and Marium Khalid

In this outdoor production at L5P Center for Arts and Community, Lucy Eden used her street performance experience to stage a one-woman show, where she wove circus, humor, poetry, and personal narrative to explore identity, gender, and our capacity for transformation.

Lucy Eden is a veteran Atlanta performance artist, unicyclist, juggler and transgender visibility advocate. With a background in street performance, her passion for bringing circus arts to pedestrian spaces has been life-long.



“ We are grateful to call Lucy a member of the 7 Stages family.

We all share a commitment in deepening this relationship through the ongoing development of new work and new methods of collaboration.”

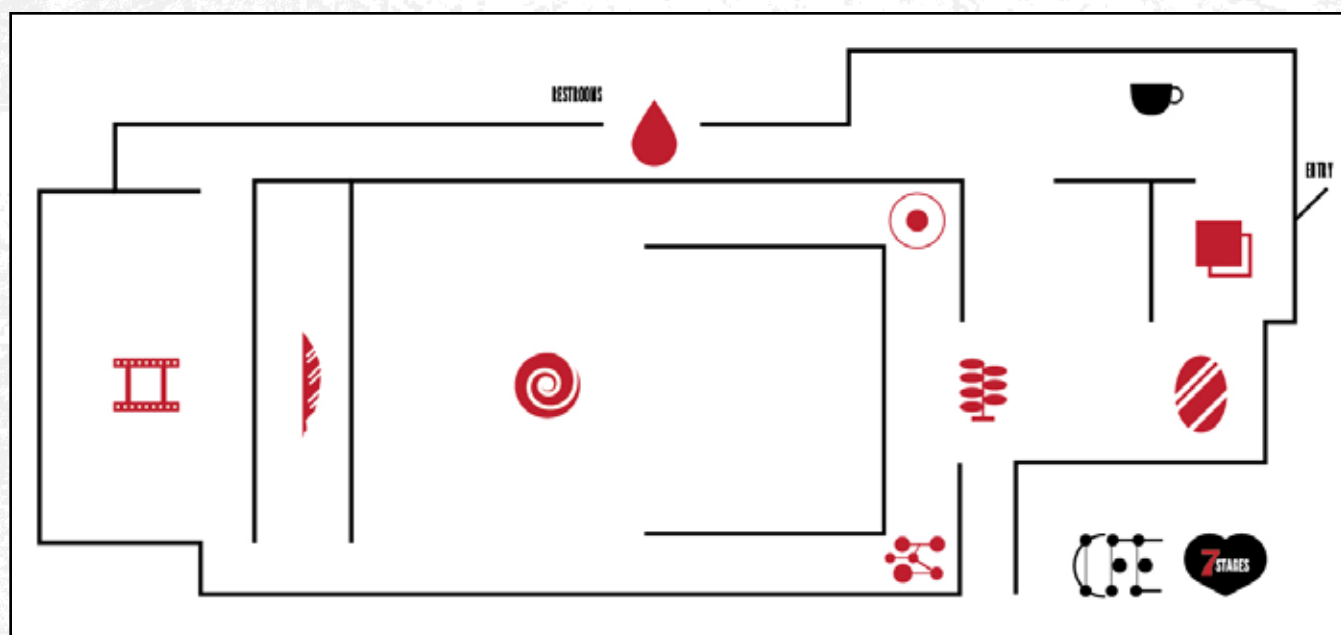
- Heidi S Howard,
7 Stages Artistic Director

December 9-12, 2021

Curious Future Encounters

This four-day festival brought together artists of many disciplines, providing a platform for boundary-pushing works with a focus on interactive elements, allowing them to explore all of the beauty and terror of our imagined future.

We envisioned the future through live performances and installations by D. Woods, Stephanie Kohler, Diego Serna, Jillian Mitchell and company Kit Modus, Nadya Zeitlin, Mariposas Rebeldes, The Radical Archive of Preservation, and short films by Mark Blane, JJ Watson, James Proctor, Lauren Vick, Nina Marinov, Full Radius Dance, Celeste Miller, Embodied Social Justice, and Sean Dorsey.



CURIOUS FUTURE ENCOUNTERS

DECEMBER

**9-12
2021**

7 STAGES

1105

**EUCLID AVE
ATLANTA, GA 30307**



“ The work and the art this year brought out a beautifully diverse audience. I witnessed a great deal of healing for artists and audience. ”

- Marium Khalid,
7 Stages Associate Artistic Director

Service Saturdays - monthly

The main goals of our Service Saturdays are to examine our role, ask what is essential, and connect with the needs of our community with service and creativity. This year, we held 10 of these events, with a long-term goal of one each month.

We have partnered with Lifesouth Blood Donation Centers, Turtle Island Trading, New Georgia Project, Just a Touch, Mariposas Rebeldes, the Atlanta Green Theatre Alliance and more to offer resources and opportunities to people in our community.



SERVICE SATURDAY

PROVIDING COMPLIMENTARY

FOOD + BOOKS

HEALTH + SAFETY RESOURCES

“ Service Saturdays were born out of a necessity to connect with our community during a time when vital needs were not being met. We gathered up as many resources as we could to serve our community in any way possible. They continue to vary from month to month but the result is always the same. People leave with hope and new-found inspiration for ways that they can give back! ”

- Destiny Renee,
7 Stages Education Director

March 13, 2022

**The Children's School & 7 Stages
present *Into the Woods Jr.***

7 Stages has hosted The Children's School for several years now, as their space does not allow for large cast productions.

Their fearless leader Christy Robinson, the founder of the school theatre program *Players*, has produced shows with them for almost 20 years and in 2020 made the choice to join forces with 7 Stages!

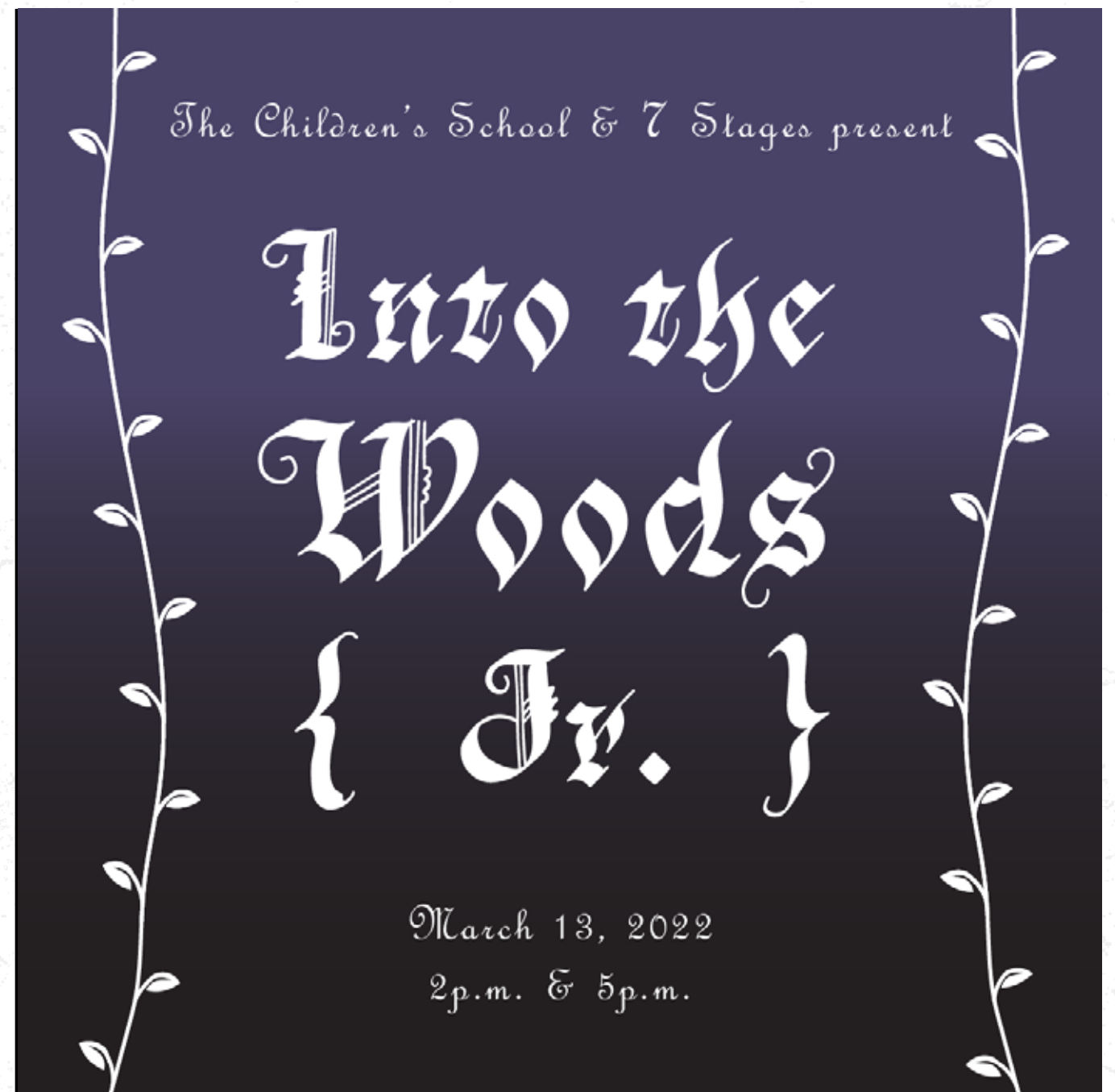


The Children's School

Nurture the Amazing

X

7 STAGES



“ Ultimately, a love for theatre and finally being able to get back into the swing of things really drove everyone involved to create an amazing production.”

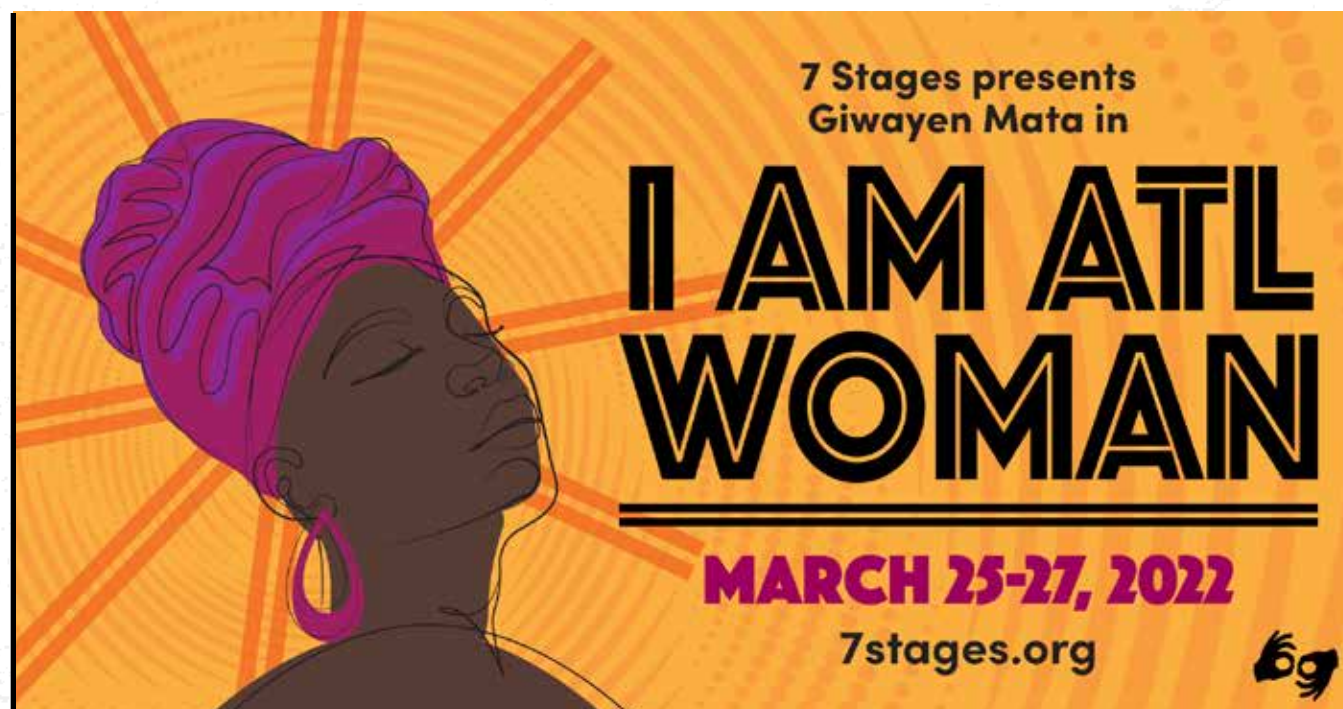
- Destiny Renee,
7 Stages Education Director

March 25-27, 2022

Giwayen Mata in *I Am ATL Woman*

Directed by Tambra Omiyale Harris

By specializing in the dances, rhythms and songs of the African Diaspora and interacting with them in a contemporary American context, Giwayen Mata unites audiences in an atmosphere of strength and positivity while addressing the struggles and triumphs of black women.



“ *I AM ATL Woman* is Giwayen Mata’s premier performance work dedicated to the actual lived experiences of our native Atlanta company members and audience members alike, who in addition to being southern women, have also grown up in families with significant African diasporic identities, thus providing a lens that is consistent with the company’s 29 year image of Africa via the dance and the drum. ”

- Tambra Omiyale Harris,
Giwayen Mata Artistic Director



Art of Activism

Our Art of Activism events bring together community experts, artists and patrons for powerful conversations.

Throughout the year, community members gather to discuss the social justice, othering, and the prevalence of intolerance. Conversations are often related to a specific 7 Stages production, but always cover topics of the utmost social importance and relevance.

This year, these conversations have taken place online, allowing people to connect all over the world.



ART OF ACTIVISM

INTERSECTIONS: WOMANHOOD, BLACKNESS, AND...



FREE VIRTUAL CELEBRATION & DIALOGUE

March 28, 2022 • 7:00pm

REGISTER ONLINE AT [7STAGES.ORG](https://7stages.org)

March 28, 2022 - *Intersections: Womanhood, Blackness, and...*

This dialogue, centered on the themes of *I AM ATL Woman*, included experts such as Julie B. Johnson of Moving Our Stories, Yolanda Owens, owner of iwi fresh and Race and Equity, educator C. Yemanja Kennedy-Shaheed, with Giwayen Mata Co-Founder Sarahn Henderson, and Artistic Director Tambra Omiyale Harris.

April 30 & May 1, 2022

What Are You?

with Art on the Atlanta Beltline

By Nicolette Emanuelle

What Are You? is an exploration of what it means to be mixed-race in America. Leading artist Nicolette Emanuelle began questioning why she had been asked “what are you?” for most of her life, leading to a deep exploration of how racial identity can imbue both a sense of community and feeling like an outcast.

This iteration of What Are You? Was presented on the Atlanta Beltline as an interactive performance, confronting audiences with some difficult and ridiculous questions on the spot.



“ The beauty of it all is that we are people and our diverse experiences have made us into who we are today. ”

- Nicolette Emanuelle,
What Are You?
Creator, Performer
& 7 Stages Artistic Associate

May 9, 2022

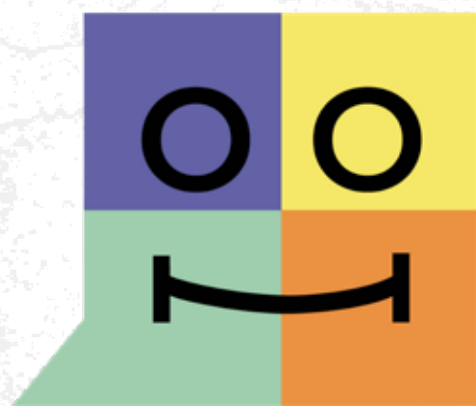
CALF

Out of Hand Theater

Directed by Nikki Young

On May 9, Out of Hand Theater and Georgia Justice Project presented *CALF* by Leviticus Jelks, featuring Marlon Burnley, with music composition and sound design by Eugene H. Russell IV.

CALF follows Bull Willis upon release from prison, as he tries to build a new life and meet his son.



OUT OF HAND



This presentation at 7 Stages was Out of Hand's only *CALF* show at a theatre this season.

Their focus is providing engaging performances in homes, and this production passed through many Atlanta homes before reaching our Mainstage.

May 28, 2022

Human Sunrise Festival

In the stillness of history, certain dark experiences have been ignored for the ease of moving forward.

We must choose to either illuminate all of our past or stay in the stagnation of our silence.

Human Sunrise Festival was the culminating event for our 2022 NEA and Arts Midwest sponsored Big Read programming.

7 Stages invited artists from a variety of backgrounds and practices to honor the work of US Poet Laureate and Mvskoke (Muscogee Creek Nation) Artist, Joy Harjo. Her collection of poetry, *An American Sunrise*, prompted vital conversations and fierce artistic responses in this one-day festival.



MAY 28, 2022 FROM 3-7 P.M. AT 7 STAGES
COMPLIMENTARY • OUTDOOR/INDOOR FESTIVAL • ONE DAY ONLY!

“ We have been working with this text for a full year, touching over 400 lives with Joy’s poetry and asking them to artistically respond with their own truths. I know for sure we did it justice! ”

- Destiny Renee,
7 Stages Education Director

Thanks to our sponsors and partners for making all of this possible!



FULTON COUNTY
arts & culture



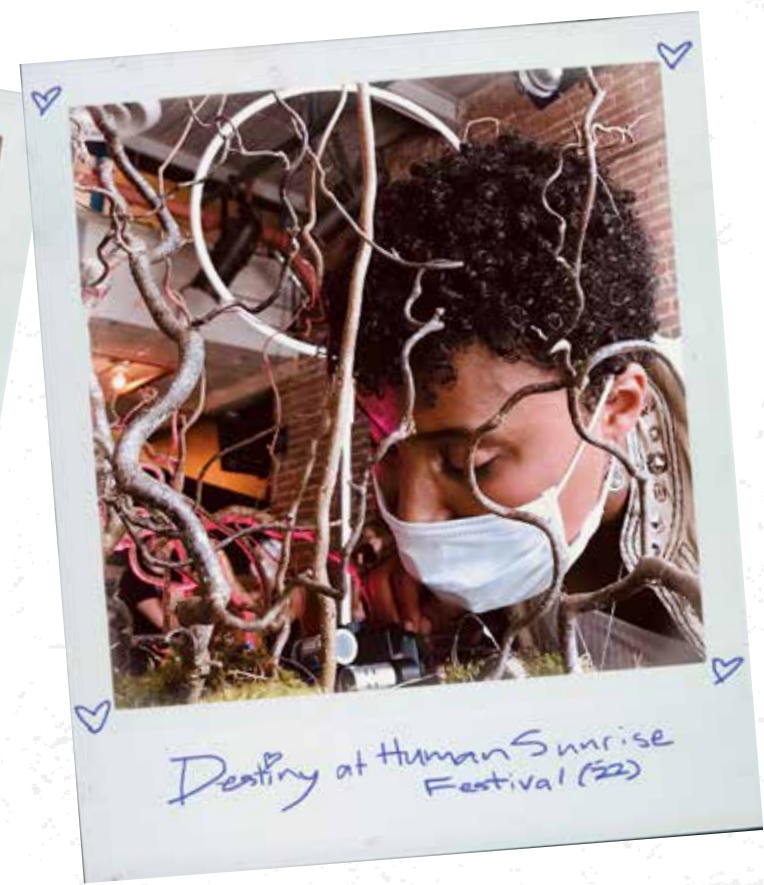
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Bloomberg
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S O U
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THE ARTHUR M. BLANK
FAMILY FOUNDATION



We are so grateful to our artists and staff. The work they were able to do in the face of such daunting obstacles was incredible. We thank our patrons and sponsors too, for without their support in all forms for over 4 decades, we wouldn't be able to share this work.

Our mission of focusing on the social, political, and spiritual values of our culture is perhaps more relevant now than when Del and Faye began over 40 years ago. Your support means the world to us and allows us to continue developing new playwrights with new methods of collaboration. Whether it is attending in person or on-line, participating in one of our many discussions around the work onstage, sharing an event on social media, or donating. We cherish all of it.

We have some exciting things in store for our upcoming 44th season. We hope you'll join us however you are able.

Please consider [donating](#) as we return to full capacity to help us continue this important work in our community, and most of all thank you!