



BAYOU BLUES

Written & performed by Shaina Lynn

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white, flowing, sleeveless dress, is kneeling on a dark stage. She is looking down and to her right. The background is a large, abstract mural with blue and purple tones, featuring faces and patterns. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

Bayou Blues dives deep into the consciousness of a black girl's pursuit to find air amidst the drowning waves of colorism in New Orleans. Based on her true life experiences, Shaina Lynn takes the audience through the allure culture of Mardi Gras, Bounce music and second line parades to shine light on the city's dark history of internalized racism. With spoken word, song, dance and rap she shares her story, based on true-life experiences. A tale of transformation and healing for all, Lynn's powerful one-woman show questions the current impact of colonialism and race on communities of color.

Written and performed by: Shaina Lynn

Run time: 45mins

Requirements: Wireless microphone (Technical rider available upon request)

Talkback time: 15 - 20 mins

History:

Shaina Lynn was selected as the 2017 Curatorial Fellow presenting Bayou Blues at Carolina Performing Arts' Historic Playmakers Theater. During her fellowship Shaina engaged with undergrad, masters, and doctoral students across disciplines of study in class lectures and discussion. Bayou Blues was selected for the 2017 CalArts New Works Festival directed by Monty Cole. For the UK premiere, Shaina collaborated with Los Angeles director, choreographer and arts curator Brian Carbine, assembling a team of designers, choreographers and animators. At the 2015 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Bayou Blues was nominated for an Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award. At the 2013 New Orleans Fringe Festival, Bayou Blues was listed as one of the Top 12 Must See Shows by Offbeat.com. The show debuted in 2013 to great acclaim at Washington DC's Capital Fringe performing arts festival, later showing at TADA! during Emerging Artists Theatre's New Works Series in New York.

Lectures & Workshops:

Bayou Blues uncovers the complicated history of race in America through the history and culture of New Orleans. Shaina is available to give lectures, guest artist talks, and workshops with a scholarly focus on subject matter including (but not limited to):

- Race in America
- Colorism
- Music History
- Women's & Gender Studies
- African American Studies
- Black Performance & Performativity
- Poerty & the Spoken Word
- Acting & Theater Performance

Designers

Set design: Tanya Orellana

Sound Design: Sam Sewell

Animation: Ilana Kirschbaum and Julia Newhide

Stylist: Rose Strasen

Lighting Design: Pei-Yu Lai

Drummers: Carl Pillot & James Waterman

Band Director: Malachi Whitson

Past Directors: Brian Carbine (2015), Monty Cole (2017)



"A new star has been discovered, one whose light is only beginning to gain recognition."

- **CultureBlaze**

" Shaina Lynn is also well-equipped to draw on her wide-ranging skills as a performer, moving deftly through various settings and bringing to life the various characters that had impact on her early years. Her piercing eyes reach out to us and combine with the haunting tones of her voice to portray the sadness that dominates most of her story."

- **Broadway Baby 2015 Richard Beck**

"It is a delight to watch such a talented actress using her many skills..."

- **DCTheatreScene.com**

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Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION

2017 MFA, California Institute of the Arts, School of Theater, Acting
2011 BA, Marymount Manhattan College, Theater Arts

2016-2011 CEO/Editor-in-Chief, Pursuit of Nappiness LLC., Los Angeles, CA
Set strategy and vision for yearly programming. Generated online content for the company websites. Curated and wrote blog and social media materials. Managed international and local community events.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017 AmeriCorp Artistic Scholar, Los Angeles, CA
2016 CalArts Teaching Assistant Conversations in Contemporary Theater, Valencia, CA
2015 Voice and Movement for Theater Workshop, Some Places Chronicles, Los Angeles, CA
2015 Teaching Artist, Community Arts Partnership (CAP) Plaza De La Raza, Los Angeles, CA
2015 Teaching Artist, CAP Hart Park, Valencia, CA
2015 CSI Teaching Artist, CAP, Los Angeles, CA
2013 Theater Teaching Artist, Creative Kids, Washington, D.C.

WRITINGS/PUBLICATIONS

2016 The Huffington Post: Say Dark Meat: The Wrong Way To Approach A Dark Skinned Woman

EXHIBITIONS

2017 Afro Futuro Fábrica de Arte El Acercamiento/The Approach Exhibition, Havana, Cuba
2017 Work-in-Progress Rhizomatic Performance Lab Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
2016 Afro Futuro Miami Art Week Centro Cultural Español Miami, FL
2016 Afro Futuro El Acercamiento/The Approach Exhibition, Plaza de la Raza Los Angeles, CA

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2017 Bayou Blues, Carolina Performing Arts, Chapel Hill, NC
2017 High Voltage Series, The Electric Lodge, Los Angeles, CA
2016 What To Send Up, Boston Court Theater, Dir. Aleshea Harris, Pasadena, CA
2015 Going Solo Onstage, Some Places Chronicles, Los Angeles, CA
2015 Bayou Blues, Solo, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh, Scotland
2014 Bessie & Bill, Bessie, Discovery Theater at The Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.
2014 Glove Story, Bobbi, DC Black Theater Festival, Dir. Ken Pisani, Washington, D.C.
2013 Bayou Blues, Solo, DC Capital Fringe Festival Washington, D.C.
2013 Bayou Blues, Solo, Emerging Artist Theater (EMT) Fall New Works Series, TADA! Theater, New York City, New York
2013 Bayou Blues, Solo, New Orleans Fringe Festival, New Orleans, Louisiana

AWARDS HONORS & GRANTS

2016 Puffin Foundation Grant for Theater
2016 Diversity Grant, California Institute of the Arts
2016 CalArts Commission for Sustainability Grant, California Institute of the Arts
2015 Interdisciplinary Grant, California Institute of the Arts
2015 RAW DC Performer of the Year, RAW Artist, Washington, D.C.
2014 SheRocks Honoree, Love Life Media, Washington, D.C.
2013 Runner Up, Monologue Madness, Washington, D.C.
2013 June Fringe Artist of the Month, DC Capital Fringe Festival, Washington, D.C.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2017 Goddess Exchange: LA Self Love, Pursuit of Nappiness, LLC., Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice Los Angeles, CA
2016 Artist of Color Meet Up, Pursuit of Nappiness, LLC., Edinburgh Festival Fringe Edinburgh, Scotland
2015 Goddess Exchange: NOLA Black Women & Mental Illness, Pursuit of Nappiness, LLC., Community Book Center, New Orleans, LA
2015 Artist of Color Meet Up, Pursuit of Nappiness, LLC., Edinburgh Festival Fringe Edinburgh, Scotland



Artist Bio:

Shaina is a Los Angeles based actress. She is a recent graduate of the MFA Acting program at California Institute of the Arts. Shaina was the recent Curatorial Fellow at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she presented her internationally acclaimed one woman show Bayou Blues at the Carolina Performing Arts Center. She is the 2016 recipient of The Puffin Foundation Theater Grant for her work Afro Futuro, which has been performed and exhibited at Ludwig Foundation and Fabrica De Arte in Havana, Cuba. Shaina has featured and performed her poetry and spoken word at venues across the country including La-Ti-Do in Washington DC, Inspired Word, and the Bowery Poetry Club in New York City. In 2015, Shaina was named the RAW DC Performer of the year. Shaina received her BA in Theater from Marymount Manhattan College.

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 [Bayou Blues YouTube Preview](#)
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