

TEMPLES OF **LUNG AND AIR**

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY

KANE SMEGO

DIRECTED BY

JOSEPH MEGEL

PRC²

AUG 22 – 26, 2018

Joan H. Gillings Center for Dramatic Art

| playmakersrep.org

| 919.962.7529



Dear Friends,

As a Next Level Artist supported by the U.S. Department of State, Kane Smego has spent the past four years traveling to Zimbabwe, Thailand, Brazil, and Morocco to promote understanding and conflict resolution through hip hop, and to support the professional development of artists in those communities. As a theatre artist, Kane is an heir to Shakespeare, Molière, and Lope de Vega—and I'm not exaggerating. Kane's extraordinary gift is

to bend, turn, twist, and massage words in ways that make them feel entirely new again, and to arrange them into sentences, stanzas, images, and metaphors that drop our jaws and leave us panting to keep up. As both creator and citizen, Kane is a living embodiment of how art can make a tangible difference in people's lives. What a lucky stroke it is, then, to have him return to his home turf and kick off our 2018/19 season: *Shifting Ground: Theatre that Moves*.

Kane comes to us through our friend and frequent collaborator, Joseph Megel. Through Joseph's acclaimed UNC program, The Process Series, Kane found an artistic home back on the campus where he honed his craft as an undergraduate student. We're thrilled to offer Joseph and Kane an opportunity to deepen their collaborative rapport, and to further amplify this international touring artist's local impact.

For this production, building upon PRC's ongoing "Act Two" of post-show conversation, we've curated a series we're calling "Pass the Mic." Several audiences will get to meet a veritable Who's Who of poetic talent from the Triangle and witness the breadth of the form. Providing deep, courageous engagement with and around our work is a vital part of our mission to create transformational impact in our immediate and extended communities. We're excited for you to join us in experimenting with *how* we do that from show to show.

If you're already a member of our PlayMakers family, welcome home. If you're new to PlayMakers, we hope you'll consider us a resource and a hub for the highest quality entertainment and dynamic, provocative, and inspiring discussion. We've got an amazing season lined up ahead, but for now, all we ask of you is to sit back and perform the same two basic tasks that Shakespeare, Molière, and Lope de Vega asked of their eager audiences:

To Listen. And to respond.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vivienne".

Vivienne Benesch
Producing Artistic Director



A production of StreetSigns, Inc.

PRC²

TEMPLES OF **LUNG AND AIR**

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY

KANE SMEGO

DIRECTED BY

JOSEPH MEGEL

Scenic Designer

TORRY BEND

Lighting/Projection Designer

DOMINIC ABBENANTE

Sound Designer

ERIC ALEXANDER COLLINS

Beatboxer

BRENTTON HARRISON

Dramaturg

ELISABETH CORLEY

Stage Manager

ELIZABETH RAY*

Special Thanks to Armen “Armenhammer” Melikian

This project was supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. www.NCArts.org.



This project is also supported by a grant from the Paul Green Foundation, Inc. — Serving the Arts and Human Rights since 1982.

*Indicates members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Professional Theatre of the Department of Dramatic Art

Adam Versényi, Chair

Vivienne Benesch, Producing Artistic Director

Justin D. Haslett, Managing Director

Produced in association with The College of Arts and Sciences

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Kane Smego WRITER, PERFORMER

PlayMakers: Debut. Kane Smego is a spoken word and hip hop artist, a National Poetry Slam finalist, and co-founder of the youth arts and education nonprofit Sacrificial Poets. He is also an international touring artist, performing and teaching all across the U.S. and abroad. Kane helped create the Poetic Portraits of a Revolution (PPR2011) project that gathered stories from Egypt and Tunisia's popular revolutions and adapted them for an eight-week radio series on WUNC and a full-length theatrical performance for The Process Series. Other projects include work with: Next Level Zimbabwe, Next Level Thailand, Next Level Brazil; touring with Black Ice from Def Poetry Jam; guest artist on Grammy-award winning rapper King Mez's debut album, *My Everlasting Zeal*; presenter at TEDx, the Shriver Report, Global Young Leaders Conference, and National Association of Social Workers Convention; primary author of the *YouTHink* curriculum that uses poetry and hip hop to help youth and adults tell their own stories, and challenges them to transform themselves and their communities through the use of the spoken and written word.

Joseph Megel DIRECTOR

PlayMakers: Debut. **Off-Broadway/New York:** Howard L. Craft's *Freight: The Five Incarnations of Abel Green*, Guillermo Reyes's *Men on the Verge of a Hispanic Breakdown* (Outer Critics Circle Award), Dean Gray's *The Pattern at Pendarvis*. **Regional:** Jennifer Maisel's *The Last Seder* (EST West, Theatre J, The Organic Theatre); Elisabeth Lewis Corley's adaptation of *The Miser* (Duke University); Derek Goldman's adaptation of *Will The Circle Be Unbroken* (Chapel Hill); *A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay About the Death of Walt Disney, Best of Enemies, The Brothers Size, The Goat*, and *Nixon's Nixon* (Manbites Dog Theater). Joseph is artist in residence in Performance Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Department of Communication, where he runs The Process Series: New Works in Development. He is Artistic Director of StreetSigns and Co-Executive Director of Harland's Creek Productions, producer of new plays, screenplays, and short films. Recent direction for StreetSigns includes: *Closer Than They Appear*, *Freight: The Five Incarnations of Abel Green*, *Trojan Barbie*, *Blood Knot*, *Poetic Portraits of a Revolution*, *Dream Boy*, and *White People*.

Torry Bend SCENIC DESIGN

PlayMakers: Debut. **Off-Broadway/New York:** *Are They Edible* (La Mama, Incubator Arts Project, Dixon's Place). **Regional:** *Animal Dance* (The Children's

Theatre Company, Circle Course, Katmandu); *Pygmalion* (Southwest Shakespeare Co.); Stephen Wadsworth's *Agamemnon* (Getty Villa); *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* (Empty Space Theatre); *Omnium Gatherum*, *The Bald Soprano/The Lesson and Brilliant Traces* (Oregon Repertory Theater); *The Elephant* (Disney Music Hall's International Toy Theater Festival 2008, Jumbo Shrimp Circus). Creator & director of *The Paper Hat Game* (3Legged-Dog Art and Technology Center, Manbites Dog Theater, The Great Small Works Toy Theater Festival, The Den Theater, Open Eye Figure Theater); *Nesting* (Great Small Works International Toy Theater Festival, The Port City Puppetry Festival, Douglas Paasch Puppet Festival, Open Eye Figure Theater); *Loser, Love's Infrastructure* (Duke Performances). **Education/Other:** Set designer, puppet artist, and Associate Professor at Duke University.

Dominic Abbenante LIGHTING DESIGN

PlayMakers: Company member in his sixth season. Dominic is the Lighting Director and a resident Lighting and Media Designer at PlayMakers. Recent designs include *The Christians*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Intimate Apparel*. **Off-Broadway:** Assistant Design for *Max Mavin: Thinking In Person*. **Regional:** Triad Stage, Guilford College, and UNCSA, San Diego Asian American Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Jean Isaacs Dance Theatre, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Cygnet Theater, Diversionary Theatre, The Hudson Theater. **Education/Other:** Professor in the Department of Dramatic Art at UNC-Chapel Hill. MFA in Lighting Design from San Diego State University.

Eric Alexander Collins SOUND DESIGN

PlayMakers: *Leaving Eden*, *The Crucible*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *We Are Proud To Present...* Eric Collins has served the industry for over 25 years, where he has worked across the U.S., Europe, and Australia, including the iconic Sydney Opera House. In 2015, Eric was awarded Best Sound Design by BroadwayWorld for North Carolina Theatre's *Billy Elliot: The Musical*. Recent credits include: North Carolina Theatre: *Mary Poppins*, *Wit*, *Grease*, *Into the Woods*, *Next to Normal*, *Les Misérables*, *Cats*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (awarded 2013 Best Sound Design), and *NERDS: The Musical* (Broadway preview). Theatre Raleigh: *Light In the Piazza*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Carousel in concert*, *Sleuth*, *Urinetown* (awarded 2013 Best Sound Design), *Avenue Q*, *August: Osage County*, *Violet*. Carolina Ballet: *Macbeth* (2015 world premiere), *The Nutcracker*, Lynne Taylor-Corbett's *Dracula* and *The Little Mermaid* (both world premiere ballets). North Carolina Symphony: *The Music Man*, Idina Menzel (in concert), Natalie Merchant (in concert).

Elisabeth Lewis Corley **DRAMATURG**

PlayMakers: Debut. **Off-Broadway/New York:** Four seasons with Signature Theatre Company, 47th Street Theatre, Harland's Creek Productions, and Triangle Theatre. **Regional:** Founding artistic director of the Atlanta Shakespeare Company. *Freight: The Five Incarnations of Abel Green, The Pattern at Pendarvis, The Turn of the Screw, As You Like It, Dream Boy*, Jim Grimsley's *White People* (StreetSigns); *The Best of Enemies, The Goat, A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay About the Death of Walt Disney* (Manbites Dog Theater); *Steel Magnolias* (Triad Stage); *Mother Courage* (Justice Theater Project). **Education:** MFA in Poetry from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers and a BA with Highest-Honors-in-Poetry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she has taught screenwriting and performance of poetry. Elisabeth is a member of the Dramatists Guild, Actors' Equity Association, and SAG/AFTRA.

Elizabeth Ray **STAGE MANAGER**

PlayMakers: Company member in her second full season. *A-Train, Tartuffe, Dot, The Cake, Into the Woods, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Private Lives*. New York: *Shows for Days* (Lincoln Center Theater), *In the Secret Sea* (Theatre Row), *Wallenberg, Requiem for Mr. B, Presto Change-O* (Frankel Green Production Company), and *Welcome to Shoofly* (Playwrights Horizons). Work at other regional theatres includes productions at North Carolina Theatre, Theatre Raleigh, Palm Beach Dramaworks, and Cape Fear Regional Theatre. Elizabeth is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

StreetSigns **PRODUCER**

StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance is an award-winning professional performing arts and educational center. Founded in Chicago in 1992, StreetSigns has presented more than fifty productions in its more than twenty-five-year history. StreetSigns has worked in partnership with Northwestern University, the Department of Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Georgetown University, always dedicated to the development and presentation of new literary adaptations, company created theatrical works, innovative new plays, and bold re-imaginings of classics. StreetSigns is committed to celebrating its region's rich oral and written traditions, and to engaging cultural and political issues through performance. www.PiedmontPerformanceFactory.org

Vivienne Benesch **PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Vivienne is in her third season as a company member and PlayMakers' Producing Artistic Director. For 12 seasons, she served as Artistic Director of the renowned

Chautauqua Theater Company and Conservatory, presiding over the company's transformation into one of the best summer theatres and most competitive summer training programs in the country. She directed over fifteen productions at CTC including an acclaimed re-imagining of *Romeo and Juliet* featuring the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Theatre, Opera and Dance companies. She brought CTC's production of *Amadeus*, performed with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic, to the Virginia Arts Festival featuring PlayMakers company member Ray Dooley. She has helmed productions of *Leaving Eden*, *Mr. Joy*, *The May Queen*, *Three Sisters*, *Love Alone*, *RED* and *In The Next Room* for PlayMakers, directed extensively for The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and directed *The Heidi Chronicles* for Trinity Repertory Company. As an actress, Vivienne has worked on and off-Broadway, in film and television, and at many of the country's most celebrated theatres. She has appeared with Gene Wilder, Al Pacino and Blythe Danner, performed with Maggie Smith in the London revival of Edward Albee's *The Lady from Dubuque*, and received an OBIE Award for her performance in Lee Blessing's *Going to St. Ives*. Vivienne is a graduate of Brown University and NYU's Graduate Acting Program. As an educator, she has directed for and served on the faculty of some of the nation's foremost actor training programs, including The Juilliard School, UNC-Chapel Hill's Professional Actor Training Program, Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Program and at her alma mater, NYU's Graduate Acting Program. Vivienne also holds a BA from Brown University.

PlayMakers Repertory Company is a Member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



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Triffin Morris, *Costume Director*
Adam Maxfield, *Technical Director*

Jennifer Guadagno, *Assistant Costume Director*
Laura Pates, *Assistant Technical Director*
Rachel Pollock, *Costume Craftsperson*
Kelly Anne Johns, *Wig & Wardrobe Supervisor*
Dominic Abbenante, *Lighting/Video Supervisor*

Charles K. Bayang, *Stage Manager*
Andrea Bullock, *Properties Master*
Adrienne Call, *Props Artisan*
Derek Graham, *Audio Designer/Engineer*
Tia James, *Vocal Coach*
Gregory Kable, *Dramaturg*
Jacqueline E. Lawton, *Dramaturg*
Mark Perry, *Dramaturg*
Donald Quilinquin, *Master Carpenter*
Elizabeth Ray, *Stage Manager*
Alex Ruba, *Costume Collection Coordinator*
Jessica Secrest, *Scenic Artist*
Adam Versényi, *Dramaturg*

For this Production

Kyle Spens, *Technical Director*
Nick Guariglia, *Light/Video Operator*
Ashleigh Streiff, *Deck Crew*

Students

Graduate Students

Professional Actor Training Program: Emily Bosco,
Geoffrey Culbertson, April Mae Davis, Rishan
Dhamija, Alex Givens, Brandon Haynes, Sarah
Keyes, Jenny Latimer, Shanelle Leonard, Christine
Mirzayan, Tristan Parks, Adam Poole, Dan Toot
Technical Production: TJ Hansen, Rocky Love, Nate
Pohl, Kyle Spens
Costumes: Ellen Cornette, Cami Huebert, Samantha
Reckford, Jane Reichard, Erin Rodgers, Danielle
Soldat, Erin Torkelson, Lauren Woods

Faculty

Adam Versényi, *Professor and Chair*

Jeffrey Blair Cornell, *Associate Chair, Teaching Professor*

Dominic Abbenante, *Teaching Assistant Professor*

David Adamson, *Lecturer*

Judy Adamson, *Professor of the Practice*

Milly S. Barranger, *Alumni Distinguished Professor Emerita*

Vivienne Benesch, *Professor of the Practice*

Tracy Bersley, *Assistant Professor*

Jan Chambers, *Professor*

McKay Coble, *Professor*

Howard Craft, *Professor of the Practice*

Ray Dooley, *Professor*

Samuel Ray Gates, *Assistant Professor*

Julia Gibson, *Assistant Professor*

Jennifer Guadagno, *Teaching Assistant Professor*

David A. Hammond, *Professor Emeritus of Acting and Directing*

Justin Haslett, *Teaching Assistant Professor*

Kathryn Hunter-Williams, *Teaching Associate Professor*

Letitia James, *Teaching Assistant Professor*

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Kimball King, *Lecturer*

Jacqueline E. Lawton, *Assistant Professor*

Adam Maxfield, *Teaching Associate Professor*

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Bobbi Owen, *Distinguished Professor*

Kathy A. Perkins, *Professor Emerita*

Mark Perry, *Teaching Assistant Professor*

Rachel E. Pollock, *Teaching Assistant Professor*

Bonnie Raphael, *Professor Emerita of Voice & Speech*

Michael Roller, *Associate Professor*

Aubrey Snowden, *Teaching Assistant Professor*

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STEALING SIR GUY'S GIRL
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NOV 14-DEC 2

SHE
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BOOK BY JOE MASTEROFF
MUSIC BY JERRY BOCK LYRICS BY SHELDON HARNICK

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ALL TITLES AND DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

STILL
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BEWILDERNESS

BY ZACHARY FINE

A comedic look at
Thoreau's epic failure
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APR 24-28

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BY VIRGINIA GRISE

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