

ON THE BOARDS

It's Not Too Late MARKEITH WILEY

Nov 16 – 20

running time: 90 minutes

Conceived and performed by Markeith Wiley

Direction: Hatlo & Markeith Wiley

Music: Keith White

Lightning Design: Meg Fox

Choreography: Markeith Wiley

Concept: Markeith Wiley

Production/Stage Manager: Cait Wyler

Shadow: Chloe Albin

DJ Houseband: Keith White

Jodie: LoraBeth Barr

Jimmy: Nikolai Lesnikov

Dushawn Brown: Markeith Wiley

This performance is sponsored by

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OtB AMBASSADOR WRITERS CORPS

PROFILE BY DAEMOND ARRINDELL

This season, an Ambassador Writers Corps Member will write a profile on each of the nine local artists in 16/17. These in-depth conversations between local artists and local writers will take the place of curatorial notes in the performance programs.

"I like when people are trapped in the joke, when there's no escape. I like to lead people down the wrong path and then trap them." -Paul Mooney

Markeith Wiley wants us to look at ourselves - to take a good, hard, long look at ourselves. Which is the exact opposite of what most of us want during a show. Hell, I could stay home and see myself. And Markeith isn't talking about a simple glimpse in the mirror either - not a quick check to see if there's something in my teeth. More like: Is there anything in my heart? How's my humanity looking these days?

It's often works that can't be captured in a box or with a label - this is a play, this is a dance, this is a song - that poke us in the sensitive places because we don't know what to expect as audience members. So we are on our toes or on the edge of our seats and we simply can't go to sleep and if we do, the work will serve to wake us up like an alarm clock and act as the more aggressive mirrors like the ones in seedy bars that have really invasive and unflattering neon lighting that shows every crease and nook and cranny of our skin. Honest work that shows us ourselves, honestly. This is what Markeith Wiley strives for.

My initial impulse was to call him a jack of all trades - dancer, choreographer, actor, activist, teaching artist - but that would be another label that minimizes Markeith's creative endeavors. Part of me wants to say that he is magic, but that would take for granted the intention, the labor, the hard choices and the vulnerability he puts into his work. Yes - work. That label seems appropriately fitting. While a student at Cornish, many of his fellow students were drawn to collaborate with him. So much so that he was told if he started his own performance troupe, he would immediately have a following. Markeith attributes this to "need." "I work out of necessity...of what's happening to me and you..." And what is needed is almost never easy.

Enter Dushawn. Seattle's first Black talk show host. Dushawn is a creature of Seattle - born in part of Markeith's need to share more than just his choreography as a dancer. In the desire for transparency, honesty and non-conformity, every move, every word, every utterance he brings to the stage through this character will be a dance as he works

through the issues of the day. And considering the events of this week there is much to work through.

With Dave Chappelle, Richard Pryor, and Paul Mooney as inspiration, and perhaps their spirits as co-conspirators, Dushawn and his guests from the community will address the question, "Is it too late?" Markeith cites the Devo song as a source for the title of the show. "When a problem comes along, you must whip it." Which begs the question, what and/or who is the problem? And furthermore, who holds the whip?

– Daemond Arrindell

Daemond Arrindell is a poet, performer, and teaching artist. Writer-In-Residence through Seattle Arts & Lectures' Writers in the Schools Program; and in 2012, he taught Seattle University's first course in Slam Poetry. He has performed and facilitated workshops in poetry venues, prisons, high schools and colleges across the country, and he has been repeatedly commissioned by both Seattle and Bellevue Arts Museums.

BIOS

Dushawn Brown, Seattle's first Black talk show host. Dushawn is a creature of Seattle – born in part of Markeith's need to share more than just his choreography as a dancer. In the desire for transparency, honesty and non-conformity, every move, every word, every utterance he brings to the stage through this character will be a dance as he works through the issues of the day.

California native Markeith Wiley is a dance maker, performer and instructor of many styles in the greater Seattle area. Wiley holds a BFA in Dance from Cornish College of the Arts and has performed with Keith Hennessy, Kitten n' Lou, The Dance Cartel, Lingo and more. His vast movement vocabulary spans a lifetime of influences, from breakdancing and hip-hop to contemporary and theatre dance. Wiley was a member of the 2014 City Arts Future List; he's danced at venues all over Seattle including Spectrum, Velocity and On the Boards, and choreographed for theatre groups WET and the Satori. He has plans for a new performance group The NogoodDoers to launch their first work in '17.

A native to the Seattle-area, Chloe Albin holds a BA in Dance from Chapman University. She happily moved back to the Pacific Northwest with a hunger to explore this dance community and expand her relationship to movement; since diving into the work of local artists in early 2016, Chloe has worked with and performed for Nathan Blackwell, Daniel Costa, Cameo Lethem,

Dylan Ward/Sleep Nod, Wade Madsen, Markeith Wiley, and is currently dancing for The Three Yells. She finds deep joy in movement and connection with others, and is full of gratitude to be a part of this production.

Keith White writes music and designs sound for dance and theater. His most recent original work, Two-Headed Calf, was a collaboration that featured his sounds, story-telling, and artistic design. Keith's art is currently featured in the comics quarterly Thick as Thieves. He has an ongoing project with bestfriend and artistic partner Calie Swedberg, called Receive a Kindness. Keith met Markeith at Cornish College of the Arts and they've been collaborating ever since.

HATLO is a collaborative queer theater artist who creates and facilitates new performance. collaborators include: Rosa Vissers (as PE|Mo), Birthday Girl performance series, MKNZ, the Satori Group, Intiman, Erin Pike & Courtney Meaker, Peter Dee, Kyle Loven, Jessica Jobaris, Washington Ensemble Theatre, & Implied Violence. Presenters include: On the Boards, The Orchard Project, Open Flight, Velocity, Lo Fi Arts Festival at Smoke Farm, Risk/Reward & Seattle International Dance Festival. Hatlo has a BFA in Original Works/Theater from Cornish and is part of the 2016 Stranger Genius nominated creative team of Thatswhatshe said.

Meg Fox is the realest O.L.D. (Original Lighting Designer) You've seen her work everywhere. She has been working with

Markeith since before you knew who he was.

Cait Wyler is a dancer, teacher, and organizer. She has had many roles since moving to Seattle including dancing for Mark Haim and Anna Conner, coordinating the Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation, and assisting artists with projects produced by Velocity Dance Center. Cait has a B.F.A. in Modern Dance from Texas Christian University. This is her first project with Markeith Wiley.

HEY!

Want to keep the party going after the performance?
Head down the street to our friends at the Streamline Tavern. Bring your ticket stub from tonight's performance and get a \$2 pint.

OtB + the best bar in Seattle = love 4/ever



174 Roy St

On the Boards would like to shout out to a few organizations doing powerful anti-racist work. Learn more and find out what you can do at the websites below.

Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter is a chapter-based national organization working for the validity of Black life. We are working to (re)build the Black liberation movement.

#BlackLivesMatter

<http://blacklivesmatter.com>

American Civil Liberties Union

For almost 100 years, the ACLU has worked to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

<https://www.aclu.org/>

Showing Up for Racial Justice

SURJ is a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves White people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability.

<http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org>

Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites

CARW is a group of white people in the Seattle area working to undo institutional racism and white privilege through education and organizing in white communities and active support of anti-racist, people of color-led organizations. We support the self-determination of people of color, honor their leadership and are held accountable to people of color-led organizations

<https://carw.org/about/>

Coming Up...

HOUSE OF DINAH JEROME A. PARKER ANDREW RUSSELL

WED – SAT | DEC 7 – 10 | 8PM & 10:30PM
SUN | DEC 11 | 5PM & 7:30PM

The fierce beauty & power of Paris is Burning meets the provocative, poetic criminality & sexuality of Jean Genet and the music of legendary vocalist Dinah Washington.

Dancing, music, & surreal storytelling coalesce around Dinah's unmistakable voice as five intergenerational Black Queens learn to survive by any means necessary.

Written by Jerome A. Parker (NYC) and directed by Andrew Russell (Seattle); featuring Kathya Alexander, Brace Evans, Adé Côté, Stefan Richmond, and Randy Ford, with choreography by Dani Tirrell

info & tickets @ ontheboards.org

FOUNDED BY ARTISTS IN 1978,

On the Boards introduces audiences to international innovators in contemporary dance, theater and music while developing and presenting new work by Northwest performing artists.

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Tues – Fri | 3 – 6pm | INFO & TICKETS @ ONTHEBOARDS.ORG