

BRIC

presents

Root Cause: Black American Circus

(Work-in-Process)

By Cleo Reed

Creative Director: Cleo Reed

Cast/Musicians

Cleo Reed – The Fool

SIFA – Angel

Chanel Stone – Our Gentle Shadow (2pm)

Danielle J.S. Gordon – Our Gentle Shadow (6pm)

Jazzie Lock – Momma

Idris Frederick – Pianist

Malcolm Martin – Drummer/Percussionist

Aaron “Aani” Kisslinger – Tuba

Keyanna Hutchinson – Guitarist

“Root Cause: Black American Circus” is a self-produced musical project. Cleo guides us through their narrative driven, pre-performance of their debut album while integrating the aesthetics and movement of 20th-century circus performance.

Special Thank You to Clay Devlin, Gianna Rosina, Willie Mae Fututre Sounds, Vishal Nayak, Joshua Sondoal-Garcia, Yetunde Sapp, Celeste Samson, Connor White, Dylan Samuel, Jahmir Duran-Abreu, Isa Reyes, Jessie Acosta, Jazzie Lock, and Malcolm Martin

BIOGRAPHIES

CLEO REED (Creative Director/The Fool) Raised in New York City and Washington, D.C., Cleo Reed is a student of Black underground sound and intention. They reach deeply into their own lineage and use it as a reference in both music and multimedia art. They produce and design soundscapes, compositional and popular music works, in addition to mixing, mastering, and editing their own music and visuals. Through music, Cleo works to amplify the needed presence of Black queer women in production and sound design spaces. They are a recent graduate of Berklee College of Music and are currently finishing their debut album “Root Cause,” which will be released this year. Recent collaborators include Jon Batiste, Nick Hakim, and more.

DANIELLE J.S. GORDON (Our Gentle Shadow - 6pm) is a budding interior designer and entrepreneur with a passion for all things creative. With over two decades of experience in the performing arts industry, her dance career has taken her across the world and back. She now calls NYC home where she continues to pursue multifaceted endeavors. Follow her journey on IG: @ **danielle.j.s.gordon**

EMMA CALLAHAN (BTS Videographer) is a performer, writer, and video artist from Brooklyn, NY. In their practice they explore language, re-enactment, and the Filipino-American experience. She is the lead director of 8 Ball TV, and is currently working on her first full length play. She also performs stand up comedy, and hosts a comedy show “Hey... Lol...” with Michael Oluokun.

CELESTE SAMSON (Project Manager/Wardrobe Assistant) is an interdisciplinary artist and costume designer from Queens, NYC. Recent roles/undergraduate work: *Antigone* (Ismene), *Terminating or Sonnet: LXXV* or “Lass Meine Schmerzen Nicht Verloren Sein” or *Abivalence* (Costume Designer), *Replacing Linda* (Costume Designer), *Mr. Burns: A Post Apocalyptic Play* (Scratchy), *The Bacchae* (Bacchae Chorus), *Call Me By Any Other Name... Just*

As Sweet (Romeo), *Miss You Like Hell* (Costume Designer), *We Are Proud to Present A Presentation on the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Südwestafrika, Between the Years 1884–1915* (Costume Design), *Deja Vu on the Obituary Page* (Chloe), *Ramaavan* (Surpanakha), and “Girl Scouts Play” (Girl Scout #2). @celeste.sam and @celsolstice on instagram

CHANEL STONE (Our Gentle Shadow - 2pm) is a performer, choreographer, creator and skater based in Brooklyn, New York. Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. She moved to NYC in 2015 to pursue her dreams of professional dance. She graduated in 2019 from LIU Brooklyn with a BFA in Dance. In January 2020, Chanel joined Company XIV in their production of *Seven Sins* & has starred as the lead in every production since. In April of 2021, she became a Resident Artist with Triskelion Arts where she has been able to dive into her own creative potential. Chanel's first solo show, (*inner*)*bloom* premiered in September of 2021, which coupled live performance art and film. She works as a movement director, choreographer and teacher which has led to her collaboration with Cleo Reed for *Root Cause: Black American Circus*.

SOKHNA SAMB (Camera operator) was born and raised in nyc, sokhna samb is an emerging film director. working from music videos to paid campaign ads, sokhna hopes to create worlds with the people around her.

\$WANK (Photographer) is a soulful creative based in NYC working towards their career in photography, acting, producing and much more!

SIVA (Camera person) is a Brooklyn based photographer, that's currently a student at the school of visual arts.

THE CHANNEL IDENTITY (Design/Creative Direction) is a boutique design studio helping prolific artists execute their design goals. We build worlds through design and bring a unique branding perspective to all our creative partnerships.

SIFA (Angel) is a 24 year old Rwandan/American singer from Columbia, Missouri. Sifa has always had a passion for music and bettering the world. In fact, Sifa's name means "to lift up," and her energetic and zealous performances do just that.

KEYANNA HUTCHINSON (Guitarist) is a multi instrumentalist, composer, and producer from Brooklyn, NY. Primarily as a guitarist, she began playing professionally in NYC clubs and venues since the age of 15. Her passion for guitar led her to attend Berklee College of Music in 2017 where she was awarded the Presidential Scholarship. This past year she was a recipient of the Next Jazz Legacy Award. As an awardee of this first ever cohort, Keyanna received both creative and business mentorship from acclaimed artists Terri Lyne Carrington, Lizz Wright, Matthew Garrison, and Brandon Ross

MALCOLM MARTIN (Drummer/Percussionist) is excited to join Cleo Reed in this presentation of the Black American Circus as drummer and percussionist. He has spent several years touring internationally with groups like Orion Sun and Sales, playing sold out shows across the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia, including festivals like Coachella and Corona Capital (Mexico). Malcolm also produces music and works as a photographer and videographer.

IDRIS FREDERICK (Pianist) is a 25 year old a pianist/composer who was born in Detroit MI. Before moving to New York to study at The New School of Jazz where he is now a freshmen, he spent the first 6 years of his career performing alongside some of the biggest talents in and around the Louisville area. He is now ready to expand his career to global lengths and change life's with the power of his music. You can follow Idris here or on his social media platforms.

JAZZIE LOCK (Momma/Associate Producer) is a Brooklyn bred, skilled vocalist, experienced performer, and imaginative songwriter, who is passionate about originality and sharing her love of music. She has toured the world in choir competitions and festivals including countries such as Spain, Germany and Japan. She has also worked as the lead in a televised musical, “The Miracle of Christmas”. Jazzie graduated from Berklee College of Music where she studied Professional Music with concentrations in Songwriting and Music Business, and a minor in Musical Theater Performance. Jazzie Lock is now in the graduate program at BerkleeNYC studying Live Experience Design and is currently featured on Cleo Reed’s upcoming album, Root Cause.

JOSHUA N. SANDOVAL GARCIA (b.1994) (Set design/Set up) is a mixed media self taught artist born in and currently residing in Harlem, New York. Throughout his adolescence he spent a majority of his time admiring his grandmother. Watching her sew, paint, and draw instantly sparked his curiosity. Observing his favorite cartoons, he picked up a pencil and began drawing, which soon led to creating his own characters. Garcia found himself becoming a student of the art world and enjoyed using his spare time studying artists before him. Going to museums and galleries analyzing their use of color and techniques helped to later develop his own unique style. Garcia’s current work embodies his experiences and emotions and is being brought to life with his wide use of mediums, tools, and vivid colors. Through this process he presents us with the complexity of life, death, and everything in between.

DYLAN SAMUEL (Lighting technician) is a musician and lighting technician from New York City whose credits include a number of off Broadway and television productions.

CONNOR WHITE (Lighting Op) Multiple disciplinary Visual Chef. Catering to all visual elements of live events and installations. Integrating film, photography, lighting and set design, as well as video and 3D design to create visually stunning environments.

JESSIE GARCIA (Rigging) During the last eight years Jessie has dedicated a big part of her career to musical theater in the audio team this gave a new interest to pursue. The next step to take is the production and expose this group of talented people to the world.

ISA REYES (Makeup Artist) is a multimedia artist born and raised in NYC. In their music, atmospheric vocals and rhythmic instrumentals create a cross between alternative R&B and indie pop while exploring concepts of nostalgia, internal struggle, relationships to self and others, and how it feels to 'grow up.' Following the release of their EP, BELS Isa has been expanding their musical and artistic horizons. Whether through visual art or music, with all forms of their creation and expression Isa hopes to make audiences feel less alone in their world.

KAT IMPERIAL (Costume Design) is a visual artist and musician working out of Brooklyn, NY. You can find her on Instagram at **@babbyrat** or **katimperial.com**

ABOUT BRICLAB: PERFORMING ARTS

BRIClab: Performing Arts is a commissioning and residency development program for emerging and established local artists to explore and expand the possibilities of their work in music, dance, theater and multi-disciplinary performance. Free exploration and rigorous commitment to process, with the support of the staff and resources that BRIC offers, are at the heart of the BRIClab program. Artists receive stipends and an exclusive 12-day intensive residency in the multi-purpose Artist Studio with development time, artistic mentoring, and work-in-process performances.

ABOUT BRIC

BRIC is a leading arts and media institution anchored in Downtown Brooklyn whose work spans contemporary visual and performing arts, media, and civic action. For over forty years, BRIC has shaped Brooklyn's cultural and media landscape by presenting and incubating artists, creators, students, and media makers. As a creative catalyst for our community, we ignite learning in people of all ages and centralize diverse voices that take risks and drive culture forward. BRIC is building Brooklyn's creative future.

Major support for BRICLab is provided by TD Bank. Additional support for BRICLab: Performing Arts is provided by Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Howard Gilman Foundation and Mertz Gilmore Foundation. General support for BRIC is provided by Bank of America, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Con Edison, Genesis Inspiration Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Lambent Foundation, M&T Charitable Foundation, New York Community Trust, Scherman Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), Tiger Baron Foundation, and numerous individuals.

