



**Astoria Performing Arts Center in partnership with Superhero Clubhouse  
present:  
Big Green Theater: Queens 2021**



# **THE MYSTICAL JUNGLE AND LUMINESCENCE CITY**

**A filmed eco-play by fifth grade students from P.S.152 in Woodside, Queens**

***Written by* Atqiya Afia (Sprit), Momin Ahmad, Jensine Ahmed, Afia Farzana (Shade Z),  
Subee Ghimire, Areeb Islam, Eljas Kacic, Mohammad Nawaz, Tiffany Ngo,  
Laura Sofia Porras, Aylin Ramos-Priego (Zero/Echo), Harman Singh**

*Featuring*

**Rasheedat “Ras” Badejo** as Noah Nathan  
**Nana Dakin** as Amy & Grandmother  
**Aja Downing** as D’Annaliss & Nara  
**Antígona González** as Eri & Marrow  
**Chris Ignacio** as George & Lucas

*Directed by* **Lanxing Fu**

*Assistant Directed & Choreographed by* **Tony Williams II**  
*Director of Photography & Film Editor* **Matthew Dunivan**  
*Songs Composed, Arranged & Music Directed by* **Yan Li**  
**in collaboration with BGT student playwrights**

*Visual Design by* **Lexy Ho-Tai**

*Costume Design by* **Saawan Tiwari**

*Sound Design, Mixing & Mastering by* **Jim Petty**

*Lighting Design by* **Dan Jobbins**

*Production Coordinator* **Rachel Denise April**

BGT Teaching Artists

**Lanxing Fu, Nana Dakin, Tony Williams II**

Superhero Clubhouse Co-Director & BGT Program Director

**Lanxing Fu**

Superhero Clubhouse Co-Director & BGT Program Manager

**Jeremy Pickard**

APAC Executive Director

**Jeff Griffin**

APAC Artistic Director

**Dev Bondarin**

APAC Education Coordinator

**Josephine McDonald**

P.S.152

**Principal Vincent Vitolo**

**Assistant Principal Lisa Russo**

Classroom Guest Presenters

**Ana Liza Caballes & Neil Patterson**

**Astoria Performing Arts Center (APAC)** is an award-winning non-profit theater company dedicated to engaging the residents of Astoria, Long Island City, and greater Queens in contemporary social and cultural issues through live performance and arts education. Established in 2001, APAC has produced a diverse mix of new plays and reimagined musicals and developed dozens of new works. APAC also provides a robust array of community and arts education programs that offer writing and performing opportunities to students, seniors, and residents of all ages with and without disabilities. Recent productions include the New York premieres of *Marguerite* by Michael Cooper and Anton Dudley featuring Tony Award-winner Cady Huffman and *Jump* by Charly Evon Simpson directed by Arpita Mukherjee, the AUDELCO Award-winning revival of *Caroline, or Change* by Tony Kushner and Jeanne Jeanine Tesori, directed by Dev Bondarin, and the New York Innovative Theater Award-winning New York premiere of *Queen* by Madhuri Shekar. For more information, please visit [www.apacny.org](http://www.apacny.org)

**Superhero Clubhouse** unites ecology and theater to enact justice, cultivate hope, and inspire a thriving future. We are a Lenapehoking (New York City)-based interdisciplinary community engaged in a long-term experiment utilizing the tools of theater to shift culture toward climate and environmental justice. [www.superheroclubhouse.org](http://www.superheroclubhouse.org)

**Big Green Theater (BGT)** is an eco-playwriting program that uplifts the imaginations of young people most impacted by our new climate reality and brings their ideas to life on stage. BGT aims to inspire students to manifest a sustainable and just community by using the power of their creative voice. Big Green Theater was initially conceived by Bushwick Starr founders Noel Allain and Sue Kessler. The program was developed and run in partnership with Jeremy Pickard and eco-theater collective Superhero Clubhouse from 2010-2020. The Bushwick Starr is continuing to run BGT in North Brooklyn, while Superhero Clubhouse is seeding the program in new neighborhoods.

If you are interested to start a Big Green Theater program with your theater or school, Superhero Clubhouse is seeking new partners. Please contact [info@superheroclubhouse.org](mailto:info@superheroclubhouse.org).

## **THE PLAYWRIGHTS**

**Atqiya Afia (Spirit)** is a 5th grader who likes to draw and listen to songs. Some of the songs Atqiya likes to listen to are in Japanese, English, and more. Their favorite subject is Math.

**Momin Ahmad** is a 5th grade student at P.S.152. He loves to play and do active things, and his favorite thing to do outside of school is play games. He wants to thank all team members on Big Green Theater and my mom who loved me so much.

**Jensine Ahmed** is a 5th grade student at P.S.152. She loves to play games and her favorite thing to do outside of school is hang out with friends. She wants to thank you all for inspiring her to become a better writer.

**Afia Farzana (Shade Z)** enjoys music and likes to play games. Afia is a 5th grader and is 10 years old. Their favorite subjects are English, Math, and Science. Some languages they listen to are Japanese and English and they like green, white, black, and more colors.

**Subee Ghimire** is a 5th grade student at P.S. 152. She loves to watch YouTube and go to the park after school. She loves doing arts and crafts and making stories.

**Areeb Islam** likes drawing and learning about living things. He is making a small story. He is very creative. He loved writing this play. It makes him feel very proud.

**Eljas Kacic** is a 5th grade student at P.S. 152. He loves to free-write, and learn/do science and his favorite thing to do outside of school is researching a wide variety of things, mostly science related. He wants to thank the actors, other playwrights, designers, teachers, and the audience, along with everybody else who helped with this play for creating such an amazing experience and for the wonderful play everybody will now enjoy.

**Mohammad Nawaz** is a 5th grade student at P.S.152. He loves to play video games in his free time and his favorite thing to do outside of school is eating fast food, right after school ends.

**Tiffany Ngo** is a 5th grade student at P.S.152. She loves to make crafts and draw. Her favorite thing to do outside of school is to make art (punch needling, diamond paintings). She is very grateful to be able to participate in this program!

**Laura Sofia Porras** is a 5th Grade student at P.S. 152. She loves to dance and her favorite thing to do outside of school is to go to the park and play with her friends.

**Aylin Ramos-Priego (Zero/Echo)** is a 5th grade student at P.S 152, He loves to talk to his friends on Discord, to use he/ they pronouns, to draw, and to watch Anime. Their favorite thing to do is to cosplay! He wants to thank Lani, Tony, JoJo, Nana, and everyone else for making him feel safe! Zero is pansexual and non-binary and loves cats and hamsters!

**Harman Singh** loves to draw and play video games. His favorite thing to do is to play outside with friends. Harman wants to thank the after school teachers for the opportunity to join BGT to write plays.

## **CAST & CREATIVE TEAM**

**Rasheedat “Ras” Badejo** (Performer) is excited to be a part of this new chapter in BGT history, but even more excited to play Noah Nathan in this awesome film! Ras is a Generative Theater Artist, Arts Educator, and Death Doula-in-training from Kansas City, Missouri. They have their BA in Theater-Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (2015) and have recently been accepted into New School's Arts Management and Entrepreneurship program and will be starting in the fall. You can find them on the 'gram @RasBad.

**Rachel Denise April** (Production Coordinator, she/her) is a Guyanese-American stage manager, who has studied Theatrical Design and Stage Management at the City College of New York. Select credits include: *Chicken and Biscuits* (Douglas Lyons), *Retreat Workshop* (Tracey Conyer Lee), *The Big Green Theater Festival 9* (Superhero Clubhouse) *The Hole* (Zhailon Levingston), *Neptune* (Timothy DuWhite), *The Genesis Plays* (The In[heir]itance Project), *Anais Nin Goes to Hell* (MTWorks), *Macbeth (of the Oppressed)* (Fab Marquee Productions), and The Fire This Time Festival 2015 (The Kraine Theater). She is currently a Creative Partner of Different Translation.

**Nana Dakin** (Performer, Teaching Artist) is a Thai American director of new work, classics and devised performance based in New York City. Her work pursues social equity by examining the way culture is constructed and unsettling dormant biases. Recent productions include *Love Letter to a Seed* (Clubbed Thumb Winterworks, NYC), *White Pearl*

(Royal Court Theatre, London), and *Damage Joy* (Bangkok International Performing Arts Meeting, Bangkok). Upcoming: *Sunwatcher* (The Civilians FINDINGS Series) and *Mammelephant* (Theater Row). As a teaching artist, she has taught directing, devising, and creative movement workshops in Thailand, the U.K and the U.S. [nanadakin.com](http://nanadakin.com)

**Aja Downing** (Performer) is extremely pleased and excited to be a part of this project and ready for all the projects to come. Aja graduated from The American Musical Arts Academy in 2016. Some of Aja's previous roles were Annette in *TjLovesSally4eva*, Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*, Jojo in *Cher Chez Le Femme*, Cassandra in *Alex and Eugene*, Christine DaÃ in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Aida in *Aida* and Ella Baker in *Bayard: a new musical*. Aja would like to thank her Mom and Dad for all they're support and love! And also thank the incredible cast and crew of Big Green Theater!

**Matthew Dunivan** (Director of Photography, Film Editor) is honored to be a part of this Big Green Theater project. Past film/theater hybrid projects include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Apocalyptic Artists Ensemble, and *American Arcana* with Astoria Performing Arts Center. Other self produced projects include *Happy Birthday, D\*\*\*weed*, *Dying to get Laid*, and *A Place for Sad Face*. Matthew is also an actor and photographer. [matthewdunivanphoto.com](http://matthewdunivanphoto.com)

**Lanxing Fu** (Director, Teaching Artist) is a Chinese-American theater artist and co-director of Superhero Clubhouse, uniting ecology and theater to enact justice, cultivate hope, and inspire a thriving future. With SHC: she is the playwright and co-creator of *Mammelephant* (The New Ohio / HERE Arts Center / Theatre Row) the program director of The Living Stage NYC (University Settlement), and a co-creator of *PLUTO (no longer a play)*, *(The Brick)* and *JUPITER (a play about power)*, (La MaMa). She also works as a freelance creative producer, performer, and writer. She is a TCG 2020 Rising Leader of Color and has been a workshop facilitator and speaker with Asian American Arts Alliance, The New School, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, TCG National Conference, Cultivating Ensembles, and more.

**Antigona Gonzlez** (Performer) is a Mexican theater maker. Besides being a creator and performer, she has also been engaged in theater production, lighting design, and technical departments. Co-founder of Colectivo Aguardiente which develops community art projects based on the oral history interview process. Member of Teatro Linea de Sombra (Mexico) since 2007. She has collaborated with Cie Carabosse (Niort, France), The Commons choir, FABnyc (NYC) among others. Artist-in-residence at Downtown Art, 2017 (NYC). She is grateful to APAC and the Superhero Clubhouse team for making her part of this wonderful project.

**Lexy Ho-Tai's** (Visual Designer, she/her) multi-disciplinary art and teaching practice explores imaginative and tangible world-building through craft and play. Working in a range of mediums, her collaborative and participatory practice employs humor, imagination, and absurdity to invite viewers to contemplate pressing social and environmental issues. She believes that joy is a radical act of resistance, and that play forges a powerful space for audiences to envision and work towards alternative futures. Residencies include the Watermill Center, Flux Factory, ARoS Museum, Everglades National Park and the Museum of Arts and Design.

**Chris Ignacio** (Performer) is a Filipino-American theatre artist, musician, puppeteer, producer and educator. He has toured nationally and abroad since graduating from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He is a Culture Push Fellow for Utopian Practice and a Queens Council on the Arts Community Engagement Commissioning grantee for his self-produced project *Co-written*, which involves collaborative songwriting with young people of color.

**Dan Jobbins** (Lighting Designer) APAC design credits: *Children of Eden*, *Secret Garden*, *Human Comedy*, *Blood Brothers*, *In The Bones*. Regional credits: *Sense and Sensibility* (Cape Fear Regional Theatre), *Cake* (Cape Fear Regional Theater), *Lost Highway* (Merry Go Round Playhouse), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Revision Theater).

**Yan Li** (Composer, Arranger, Musical Director) is a composer/lyricist, music director, and writer. His musicals include *Made In China* (NY Times Critics Pick), *Sweet Nothings*, *Double-A Dax*, *Enjoy the Ride*, *The Ghost Says Boo*, and *Bethune*. Recent productions include *Promenade* (NYU), *Marguerite* (APAC), *The Fantasticks* (Weston Playhouse), *The Age of Innocence* (McCarter Center, Hartford Stage), *Oh What a Lovely War* (Marymount), *From Here to Eternity* (Ogunquit Playhouse), and *Side Show* (Trinity Rep). Yan is an alum of NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program and the Royal Conservatory of Music. Thanks to APAC and Superhero Clubhouse for taking me along for this story, and my wife for listening to me hum it over and over at home.

**Josephine (JoJo) McDonald** (APAC Education Coordinator) is an actor, arts educator, and program assistant for Big Green Theater this year through APAC. She has worked as a project assistant for APAC on Playmaking and Summer Stars, and is thrilled to be joining BGT learning from the wisdom of all at Superhero Clubhouse. She is proud to have trained and taught at Shakespeare & Co in Lenox, MA, where she is from originally. When in New York, she enjoys riding her bicycle all around the city, working in the arts however possible, and providing compassionate, challenging, and justice-minded arts education for her students.

**Jim Petty** (Sound Design, Mixing, Mastering) is a sound designer and engineer with Five OHM Productions. Past productions include *The 8th* (Secret Theater), *How To Load a Musket* (59e59 Theaters), *She Persisted* (Atlantic Theater Company), *12th Night* (Shakespeare on the Sound), *Folk Wandering* (ART/NY), *Playing Hot* (Ars Nova), *The Elementary Spacetime Show* (Playwrights Downtown), *Noise* (Playwrights Downtown), *1969: The Second Man* (NYTW), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare on the Sound), *One Night Only* (McGinn Cazelle), *Forbidden Colors* (La Mama).

**Saawan Tiwari** (Costume Designer) is a Brooklyn-based costume designer and graduate of the University of Michigan. Credits: Black and Brown Theatre: *Mirror on the Wall* (CD) U-M: *La Boheme* (ACD), *Alcina* (ACD), Rude Mechanicals: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (CD), *The Wolves* (CD) MUSKET: *Bare: A Pop Opera* (CD), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (ACD) Runyonland Productions: *Shel: The Historically Fictionalized Musical* (CD) Bayview Music Festival: *West Side Story* (ACD), *An Opera Lover's Guide to Love and Murder* (CD).

**Tony Williams II** (Assistant Director, Choreographer, Teaching Artist) is a New York transplant that has worked nationally as both a director and a choreographer. Tony started training in high school in musical theatre. His love of dance took him to Jacksonville University where he continued his training additionally in ballet, jazz, and modern, earning him a BFA Since graduating in 2011 Tony has worked for companies such as Clayton State University, APAC, Players Theatre, Prospect Theater Company, Bronx Arts Ensemble, and New York City Center.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Principal Vincent Vitolo, Vice Principal Lisa Russo, Ryan Naso, Brandon Lee Harris, Lewis Shore, Phil, Teal & Meg, Oxygen Eventworks, Kaufman Astoria Studios, AAE, Goode Family Foundation, the parents and teachers of our student playwrights

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Big Green Theater classroom sessions and filming for this performance took place on occupied Lenapehoking (the land of the Lenape), with respect to our Shinnecock, Wampanoag, and Haudenosaunee neighbors.

Support the native people of Lenapehoking:  
The Lenape Center: [thelenapecenter.com](http://thelenapecenter.com)  
American Indian Community House: [aich.org](http://aich.org)

Learn about the land you occupy: [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca)



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