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# ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR TREY ANTHONY'S <u>'DA KINK IN MY HAIR</u>

# April 14–May 15, 2022 (Media opening: April 20)

IN BRIEF The Arts Club presents 'da Kink in my Hair, playing from April 14 to May 15 at the <u>Stanley Industrial</u> Alliance Stage, 2750 Granville Street, Vancouver. Tickets from \$35. More info at <u>artsclub.com</u>

VANCOUVER, B.C. (March 21, 2022)—Welcome to the Toronto salon of Novelette Campbell (Alana Bridgewater), where the captivating stories of eight different women untangle with just a touch of the hairdresser's fingers. Steeped in honesty, humour, and joy, Trey Anthony's 'da Kink in my Hair—the smash hit play that inspired the television series—will make its West Coast premiere, running April 14 to May 15 at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage.

As the women sit in Novelette's chair, their individual secrets of hardship and courage unfold. Each character takes the audience on a narrative journey of personal experience—from family struggles to the need for acceptance—that is elevated through Anthony's addition of music to the original play. The winner of four NAACP awards, 'da Kink in my Hair weaves together these powerful and intense stories with laughter, tears, and inspiration, giving voice to the challenges and triumphs of contemporary Black women.

Director and choreographer **Ray Hogg** said, "*'da Kink in my Hair* is remarkable in that the characters and the stories ring familiar to everybody. Trey Anthony has a knack for diving deeply into cultural specificity without alienating those outside of her culture. Part of the magic here is that by using comedy and humour to fully explore her culture, she unlocks universality; we all know what it's like to belong to a community, to be scared of ostracization, to be welcomed home after a long absence, to belly laugh with your sisters, or to look to our elders for guidance and support."

Executive Director **Peter Cathie White** said, "I love the piece's heart, smarts, and strong female roles. And while it had originally started as a play, Trey's addition of music makes the piece even more captivating and infectious. I'm positive audiences will feel connected to the stories, songs, and, ultimately, their community. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll shout, 'Amen!' The show truly is a joyous celebration!"

#### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Trey Anthony is an award-winning playwright, actor, and producer best known for her award-winning play and television series 'da Kink in my Hair. As a producer, she worked for the Women's Television Network and the Urban Women's Comedy Festival. She founded Trey Anthony Studios, a television and theatre production company dedicated to producing new works of theatre. She is a recipient of the prestigious Harry Jerome Award for the arts and the recipient of an Eve Ensler Award of the Arts.

#### **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER**

Ray Hogg is an award-winning director, choreographer, and Black theatre artist whose work has graced stages across the country. He served as the Artistic Director of Rainbow Stage from 2012 to 2017, and currently holds the position of Artistic Director of The Musical Stage Company in Toronto, as well as an Artistic Affiliate at Neptune Theatre in Halifax. Additionally, Ray is the Founding Artistic Director of Prime Mover Theatre Company, a not-for-profit organization



dedicated to advancing marginalized artistic voices and redefining equity, inclusion, and representation through championing artists and their vision.

## CAST

Alana Bridgewater (Novelette), Jenni Burke (Miss Enid), Lossen Chambers (Patsy), Ghislaine Doté (Sherelle), Paige Fraser (Suzy), Tama Martin (Stacey-Anne), Dawn Pemberton (Nia), Katrina Reynolds (Sharmaine)

## BAND

Mary Ancheta (Piano), Sally Zori (Percussion)

#### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Ray Hogg (Director & Choreographer), Mary Ancheta (Music Director), Kevin McAllister (Set Designer), Nalo Soyini Bruce (Costume Designer), Itai Erdal (Lighting Designer), Rick Colhoun (Sound Designer), Alisha Davidson (Assistant Director), Victory Dibiri (Assistant Costume Designer), Trevor Tews (Assistant Sound Designer\*), Hackman's Head Office (Wig Builder), Davina Cooper (Hair & Wig Consultant), Ausar Stewart (Dialect Coach), Ronaye Haynes (Stage Manager), Evan Ren (Assistant Stage Manager)

\*This position is made possible by the support of Prime Mover Theatre Company

SHOWTIMES + SPECIAL PERFORMANCES Tue-Thu at 7:30 PM, Fri & Sat at 8 PM, Wed at 1:30 PM, and Sat & Sun at 2 PM Sunday Salon: Sun, April 24, at 2 PM <u>Tuesday Talkback</u>: Tue, May 3, at 7:30 PM <u>VocalEye Performances</u>: Sun, May 8, at 2 PM, and Fri, May 13, at 8 PM

#### **SPONSORS**

Presenting Sponsor: Mission Hill Family Estate Production Sponsors: Singleton Reynolds, Dockside Restaurant Season Sponsors: BMO, CMHC Granville Island, CTV, IA Financial Group, Sandman Hotels, Inns & Suites, Vancouver Sun

#### **ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB**

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.

The Arts Club is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əỷəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílíwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

# MEDIA CONTACT

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