

SDA PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE 2020/21

April 16 & 17, 2021

SDA Virtual Stage

USC School of Dramatic Arts

presents

## New Works Festival Year 2 | Playwrights Workshop

Presented in Association with Los Angeles Theatre Center/Latino Theatre Company

# the blood of a hibiscus

By Zharia O'Neal

Directed by Inger Tudor

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(in alphabetical order)*

Nariya Douglas

**Sandra**

Mylah Eaton

**Zubi**

Stevie Johnson

**Avril**

Rayce Lopez

**Ricardo/Motel Room Guy**

Justin Newell

**Jamal Ferris**

Dee Dee Stephens

**Janice**

#### TIME

Right now.

#### PLACE

A motel room in Los Angeles.

—

There will be no intermission.

#### STAGE MANAGER

Tina Archer

#### VIRTUAL HOUSE MANAGER

Els Collins

#### TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Dominic Vacca

#### STAFF TECH LEAD

Joe Shea

---

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Sheryl Eaton, Jillian Pinnock, Aubrey Forbes of the Lashing Dogs, Elmore Stoutt, Mangoman Photography, Buddha Mather, Deborah Reynolds, Safrika O'Neal, Jonathan Lane of 5 Alarm Music, Dale Turner, Abigail Hadeed

#### WARNING

Please be advised that this production contains mature language and themes.

**PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE**

To falling in love with the place from whence you came.  
To wounds, to wishing, to wavin' and whinin' and walkin' tall.  
To talkin' raw and cuttin' style,  
To I see says the three blind mice —  
To guinep and guava and Johnnycake in wax paper  
To a short 'a' and a Long Look  
To Vick: I love you (loud and seeing.)  
To the gap to the Ghut to the King James Version.  
To a closed Crandall's and to open water  
To Fisher and Debbah and "Safffffff!"  
To my Sandra.  
And to my People, all all all: this play is an outstretched hand  
— ayo grasp it firm and (don't) leh me go.

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

What are the ties that bind? They may be marriage, kinship, friendship, or a connection to our homeland, but we never know how strong these bonds are until they are challenged. When they are stretched to their limits, will they break or is there just enough give for them to remain secure? Sometimes we clutch onto them to keep us safe. Sometimes we hang on past the point of usefulness, even to our own detriment. And every now and then, we may be just brave enough to untie the knot and then wait to see if we remain connected.

---

**DIRECTOR'S BIO**

**Inger Tudor** is also an actress, producer and poet. She has directed and assistant directed productions in New York and Los Angeles. Favorite credits include: *Ladyville* and *Terrorist is Spelled K-A-R-E-N* (The Road Theatre), *Around-the-Clock Festival* (Rogue Machine Theatre), *Crawl, Fade to White* (assistant director) and *Local Story* (Theatre of NOTE), *The View from Here* (The Actors Workout Studio), *My Children! My Africa!* (The Actors Co-op), and her very first directing project, *The Colored Museum* (HLS Drama Society – Best Director award). Inger is a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Law School and London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art.