Afro-Atlantic Playwright Festival, Minneapolis, July 12-14

The Playwrights' Center is thrilled to announce the Afro-Atlantic Playwright Festival, inspired by a month-long residency of African and African American playwrights in France.

In 2013, eight accomplished black playwrights—four from Africa and four from the U.S.—convened in Cassis, France, to participate in the Camargo Foundation’s Cultural Diaspora residency, conceived and curated by award-winning Minneapolis-based playwright Carlyle Brown. Made possible by the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts, Jerome Foundation, Ford Foundation, and FACE Foundation (French American Cultural Exchange), its goal was to unite established artists “from opposite ends of the Africanist Diaspora,” in Brown’s words. Now, in 2019, that residency has inspired the Afro-Atlantic Playwright Festival.

The eight participants in the residency were: Bode Adesyin (Benin City, Nigeria), France-Luce Benson (New York City, U.S.), Kara Lee Corthron (New York City, U.S.), Kimberly Ellis (Pittsburgh, U.S.), Blessing Hungwe (Harare, Zimbabwe), Zainebu Jalloh (Bern, Switzerland/Nigeria), Genevieve Jessee (San Francisco, U.S.), and Femi Osofino (Ibadan, Nigeria).

The residency has inspired the Afro-Atlantic Playwright Festival (taking place at the Playwrights’ Center, Minneapolis, July 12-14, 2019). The festival is free and open to the public and will include workshops, panel discussions, and staged readings of the works completed during the residency.

The three-day festival is made possible by kind support from the Ventoux Theater Fund, The Ford Foundation, and FACE Contemporary Theater, a program of FACE Foundation.
Looking toward the future, the Camargo Foundation has plans to broaden the scope of the Cultural Diaspora program, expanding it to six weeks and opening applications up to playwrights of African descent from across the globe.

Program of The Afro-Atlantic Playwright Festival

Friday, July 12, 7:00pm - Deux Femmes On The Edge De La Revolution by France-Luce Benson

REGISTER HERE

Saturday, July 13, 10:00pm - Not All Canoes Sail Back Home: Maya, Maryse, And Eva In Nirumah’s Ghana by Femi Osofisan

REGISTER HERE

Saturday, July 13, 7:00pm - We Take Care Of Our Own by Zainab Jallo

REGISTER HERE

Sunday, July 14, 10:00pm - Roundtable discussion with Carlyle Brown, Chuck Mike, France-Luce Benson, Zainab Jallo, and Femi Osofisan

For more information, artist portraits, or to schedule interviews, please contact:
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To learn more about how to support the Camargo Foundation, please contact:
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