

UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies Presents
HIP HOP ANANSI



SCHOOL OF
THEATRE, DANCE, &
PERFORMANCE STUDIES



Friday, April 18 –
Saturday, April 26, 2025

KOGOD THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THEATRE

EMMA

Written by Jane Austen
Adapted by Michael Bloom
Directed by Lisa Murphy-Nathans
KAY THEATRE
OCTOBER 7-10, 2024

METAMORPHOSES

By Mary Zimmerman
Directed by KenYatta Rogers
KOGOD THEATRE
NOVEMBER 15-22, 2024

for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf

By Ntozake Shange
Co-directed by Fatima Quander
and Ama Law
KAY THEATRE
FEBRUARY 21-28, 2025

HIP HOP ANANSI

By Eisa Davis
Directed by Paige Hernandez
KOGOD THEATRE
APRIL 18-26, 2025

DANCE

FALL M.F.A. THESIS DANCE CONCERT

Choreographed by Christina Collins,
daniel miramontes and Peter Pattengill
DANCE THEATRE
OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

SPRING M.F.A. THESIS DANCE CONCERT

Choreographed by Kevin Clark,
Mher Kandoyan and Kae Lawrence
DANCE THEATRE
FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

UMOVES: UNDERGRADUATE DANCE CONCERT

DANCE THEATRE
MAY 2-4, 2025

SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

HIP HOP ANANSI

By Eisa Davis

Directed by Paige Hernandez

Director.....	Paige Hernandez
Co-Choreographer	Ama Law
Co-Choreographer	Chris Law
Stage Manager	Alana Isaac
Scenic Designer.....	Margarita Syrocheva
Costume Designer	Emil Mendoza
Lighting Designer.....	Mariah Faulkner
Media Designer	Tim Kelly
Sound Designer.....	Nick Hernandez

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 – SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025

KOGOD THEATRE

The performance will last approximately 60 minutes.

Special thanks to KenYatta Rogers, Jennifer Barclay Newsham,
Bayron Celis, Scot Reese and Eisa Davis.

Please take this opportunity to silence your cell phones, and anything else that might beep or buzz. Photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. And finally, please take note of the nearest exit from the venue in case of emergency.

CAST

Anansi	William Nash
Gab.....	Mason Minus
Spray.....	Chiso Obichere
Worm	Hannah Alisse Collins
Ah-ight.....	Sophie Bagheri
Two Turn	Trevor MacWilliams

UNDERSTUDIES

Anansi	Jordan Richard
Gab.....	Immran Barry
Spray.....	Heidi Lehan
Worm	Naomi Louie
Ah-ight.....	Charlie Taylor
Two Turn	Jabari Crenshaw



The Director is a member of the
**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS
SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

The role of a dramaturg is to provide context about a production's content and history so that the cast, crew and audience can all understand the work on a deeper level.

A class of TDPS students, taught by visiting professor Faedra Carpenter, studying the role of a dramaturg have created a collection of dramaturg notes on this production of Hip Hop Anansi.

Please scan this QR code to read their notes:



SOPHIE BAGHERI, (Ah-ight), junior undergraduate Theatre and English major. Creative and Performing Arts Scholar. UMD credits include *Men on Boats* (Hall U/S) and *Metamorphoses* (Track 5 U/S). She hopes you enjoy the show!

IMMRAN BARRY, (Gab, u/s), UMD credits: *Sleeping Giant* (Dan, Billy). Outside Credits: *Macbeth* (Macduff), *Legally Blonde* (Professor Callahan), *Fairytale Crime Unit* (Humpty Dumpty).

CHRISTINA COLLINS, (Assistant Choreographer), a native of Chester, Virginia, trained competitively before graduating from Thomas Dale High School for the Visual and Performing Arts in 2016 under Ilana Puglia. Her passion led her to earn a degree in Dance + Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2020, studying under artists like Autumn Proctor Waddel, Scott Putman, and André Zachery. Now a third-year M.F.A. Dance candidate at UMD, Christina is deeply engaged in Afrofuturism, exploring the intersections of movement, storytelling, and Black imagination. She is excited to be helping choreograph *Hip-Hop Anansi*.

HANNAH ALISSE COLLINS, (Worm), sophomore music education and theater double major. UMD credits: *Men on Boats* (Powell u/s). Outside credits: *Romeo and Juliet* (Friar Lawrence), *Taming of the Shrew* (Rose), *Antigone* (Chorus; Ismene u/s), *The Tempest* (Caliban).

JABARI CRENSHAW, (Two Turn u/s), second-year theatre performance & communications major. UMD credits: *Metamorphoses* (Deck Crew), Outside credits: *Little Women* (Laurie), *Once Upon A Mattress* (Prince Dauntless), *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Gargoyle).

NICK HERNANDEZ, (Sound Designer), is ecstatic to return to his alma mater to produce the soundtrack for *Hip-Hop Anansi*. Theater Credits include: *Metamorphoses* at Folger/ Shakespeare Library; *Look Both Ways* and *Long Way Down* at the Kennedy Center; *Topdog/ Underdog* at Roundhouse Theater, *Is God Is* at Constellation, *Fences* at Ford's Theater; *Word Becomes Flesh* at Theater Alliance (Helen Hayes Award); *Havana Hop & All the Way Live* (with sibling Paige Hernandez); *The Hip-Hop Children's Trilogy* (with playwright Psalmayene 24) at Imagination Stage. Additional music credits include Hot 97 FM; Netflix, Smithsonian, Words Beats & Life, Inc & DC Public Libraries. @nicktha1da

PAIGE HERNANDEZ, (Director), is a multidisciplinary artist who is critically acclaimed as a performer, director, choreographer and playwright. She has been commissioned by and collaborated with the Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian, The Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse and the Glimmerglass Festival to name a few. Paige has been named a "classroom hero" by The Huffington Post, a "Citizen Artist Fellow" with the Kennedy Center, "40 under 40" by the Washington Post and one of "Six Theatre Workers You Should Know" by American Theatre Magazine. With her company B-FLY ENTERTAINMENT, Paige continues to develop and tour original work internationally. www.paigehernandez.com

ALANA ISAAC, (Stage Manager), senior theatre and government major. Creative & Performing Arts Scholar. Co-Founder of Maryland Ghostlight Company. Select UMD Credits: *Discus* (Director), *Emma* (SM), *The Prom* (ASM), *Hamlet* (SM). Alana would like to thank the TeaDPS crew for making her college experience incredible. Yippee forever!!!

AMBERLEY KUO, (Assistant Stage Manager), junior theatre major. UMD credits: Fearless New Play Festival (Violet/ Beth), *The Late Wedding* (Actor Three u/s), *Are We At War Yet* (Female One), *Emma* (Assistant Director), *Metamorphoses* (Assistant Stage Manager).

AMALAW and **CHRIS LAW**, (Co-Choreographers), Born and raised in the DMV metropolitan area, Ama and Chris Law are co-founders and co-directors of Project ChArma who have been dancing together since high school. Combined, their expertise reflects the expanse of their training in a wide range of historically Black movement styles and foundations. Both Ama and Chris completed undergraduate and graduate studies from the University of Maryland College Park, both receiving MFAs in Dance and Choreography. They both dedicate their careers to the creative possibilities of intersecting dance traditions to facilitate important conversations about social change. They have taught and choreographed at various institutions including the Kennedy Center, Kentucky University and Bates Dance Festival. Their quest as teaching artists is to provide inspiration for future generations to become fierce and community-engaged individuals. Together, the Laws create immersive works as Project ChArma, a project-based dance theater company dedicated to using art to engage activism; pronounced “karma” because it guides their lives. Project ChArma often curates National Dance Day events at The REACH and was awarded the 2024 Local Dance Commissioning Fund. This culminated in the premier of *Chronicles of Nina* presented in April of 2024. Follow them on IG & FB: @projectcharma or at www.projectcharma.com

HEIDI LEHAN, (Spray / Nah Mean u/s), freshman theatre performance major. Heidi is very excited to be in her first mainstage show here at umd! UMD club credits: *The Tempest* (Caliban).

NAOMI LOUIE, (Worm u/s), is a junior theatre performance major. She’s thrilled to be in her first show since transferring from Montgomery College! Selected MC credits: *Little Women* (Beth), *Spelling Bee* (Olive), *Men on Boats* (Bradley/Movement Captain).

TREVOR MACWILLIAMS, (Two Turn), freshman theatre and vocal performance major.

EMIL MENDOZA, (Costume Designer) *he/they*, is a first year costume design MFA candidate at the University of Maryland. Hailing from Phoenix, Arizona he received a 2021 BA in theatre (design and production) and is excited to be finding his footing in the DC Metro area theatre community. This production of *Hip Hop Anansi* is his DC design debut, and they’re so excited to share the wonderful wide-webbed world of Anansi and his children with all of you!

MASON MINUS, (Gab), senior government and politics major. Member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Leader in Student Success Initiative, Former President of the Black Student Union, Former Chair of DEI in the SGA.

WILLIAM NASH, (Anansi), William is so excited for this production of Hip Hop Anansi. He is a 3rd year theatre and dance major and is very thankful to be involved in his 4th theatre production here in TDPS. He would like to thank his friends, family, and faculty for their support and guidance! UMD Credit: *The Prom* (Nick), *Are We at Way Yet?* (M3), *Metamorphoses* (M9), UMoves Undergraduate Concert 2023 ("Internalization"-performer), UMoves Undergraduate Concert 2024 ("Internal Warfare"-choreographer/performer)

CHISO OBICHERE, (Spray/Nah Mean), junior public health science major. UMD credits: FMFA '24 (Assistant Stage Manager). Outside credits: *She Kills Monsters* (Evil Tina), *Once on this Island* (Andrea/Ensemble), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle).

HAYDEN POLSKY, (Assistant Stage Manager), second-year theatre/GVPT major. CAPA Scholar. Recent TDPS: *Metamorphoses* (Actor 6), *Are We At War Yet?* (u/s M3), *The Prom* (Assistant Music Director), upcoming: *She Loves Me* (Georg Nowak). Favorite outside credits: *Anastasia*, (Vlad, Cappies Award), *Newsies* (Davey).

ERIN SANDERS, (Assistant Lighting Designer) senior theatre major with a concentration in stage management and lighting design. UMD Credits: *for colored girls* (SM), *Metamorphoses* (ASM), *Men on Boats* (SM). Outside Credits: *Alice By Heart* (SM, Wildwood Summer Theatre), *Lightning Thief* (Lighting Designer, Wildwood Summer Theatre).

MARGARITA SYROCHEVA (Scenic Designer), third-year M.F.A. Design candidate exploring emotions through multidisciplinary artistry in theatre, film, and interactive performance. Her work extends from Moscow and Saint Petersburg to international stages. Recent credits include DANCE², an interactive piece on human-robot relationships performed at PRAX, Oregon State University, and *Emma*, Jane Austen's classic, produced at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. As she prepares to graduate from UMD, Margarita is eager to establish herself as a rising professional in the DMV area and across the globe!

AMELIA (LEE) TALBOT, (Assistant Media Designer) *they/them*, senior computer science/theatre major. Banneker/Key. TDPS: *Metamorphoses* (Actor 4, Intimacy Captain), UMoves 2024 (Media Designer), *The Prom* (Mrs. Greene, Fight Captain). Local: *Wizard of Oz*, the Puppet Co (Technical Director, Helen Hayes nominated); *Partings*, Capital Fringe (Technical Director).

CHARLIE TAYLOR IV, (Ah-ight u/s), a sophomore theatre performance major from Baltimore, MD. UMD credits: *Hip Hop Anansi* (AH-IGHT). Charlie brings high energy and excitement to every role and naturally gravitated toward AH-IGHT's hypeman personality.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DESIGNERS AND STAGE MANAGERS

Assistant Choreographer	Christina Collins
Assistant Stage Managers	Amberley Kuo, Hayden Polsky
Assistant Costume Designer	Bailey Hammett
Assistant Lighting Designer	Erin Sanders
Assistant Media Designer	Amelia “Lee” Talbot
Assistant Sound Designer	Adam Hawley

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Assistant Director of Production and Operations	Jennifer Schwartz
Production and Operations Coordinator	Devin Kohn
Production and Events Coordinator	Kate Wander

PRODUCTION

SCENIC

Technical Director	Michael Driggers
Technical Coordinators	Mike Delaney, David Phelps
Scene Shop Coordinator	Reuven Goren
Lead Carpenter	Earl Browne
Carpenters	Hannah Belman, Ebou Dibba, Abby Feinstein, Ella Gammel, Danielle Juaregui, Maura Martin, Terence Ngwafor, Lurr Ragen, Harsh Senjaliya
Carpenter Graduate Students	Amir Mahdavi, David Wilson
Student Carpenters	Kyle Wasserman

SCENIC PAINTING

Scenic Charge Coordinator	Ann Chismar
Scenic Charge Painter	Fred Via
Scenic Artist	Corin Davis
Student Scenic Artists	Mars Burggraf, Kayla Harvey-Ali, Layla Nordrum, Hudson White

PROPS

Prop Shop Manager	Timothy Jones
Prop Shop Artisan	Paige Stone
Prop Shop Student Artisans	Adam Hawley, Charlotte “C” Macko
TDPS479 Students	Timia Snow

VENUE OPERATIONS

Stage Crew Leads	Steven Bronocco, Alexix Hayes, Cole Owens
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TECHNOLOGY

Technology Shop Manager	Jeffrey Reckeweg
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LIGHTING

Lighting Coordinator	Carrie Barton
Lighting Supervisor	Cameron Smith
Master Electrician	Liza Raney
Lead Electricians.....	Buruk Daniel, Christian Henrriquez, Courtney Naughton, Emily Pan, Hanna Zakharenko, J. Royal Miller, James Newman, Jasmine Voon, Kiefer Cure, Malory Hartman, Max Abramovitz
Student Electricians	Aïda Shakuur Nyabingi, Alana Isaac, Amelia Talbot, Danny Mallya, Drew Okoye, Ebou Dibba, Emma Meisel, Erin Sanders, Gabi Loshin, Hannah Kelly, Jaylyn Manu, Jeffrey Beamer, Johnny Kraft, Kyle Gunter, Mariah Faulkner, Melissa Szwed, Sonia Thanicatt, William Zhao, Yannick Godts

PROJECTIONS

Projections Coordinator.....	Zachary Rupp
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AUDIO

Assistant Manager of Audio	James O'Connell
Audio Supervisor	Phoenix Sweeney
Audio Technicians.....	Evan Thanicatt, Jake Goldstein, Kiefer Cure
Student Audio Crew.....	Jack Campbell

COSTUMES

Costume Shop Manager	Jen Daszczyszak
Assistant Costume Shop Manager and Crafts	Lisa Burgess
Costume Tailor and Draper	Tessa Lew
Costume Drapers	MJ Hromek, Steven Simon
First Hand	Dennis Kitmore
Costume Graduate Assistant	Bailey Bower, Addison Littlefield
Costume Technicians	Brooke Baney, Ilana Mongilio, Layla Nordrum
Costume Student Crew	Caroline Bailey, Emma Meisel, Wendy Saltsberg, Medhanit Desta, Silmarian Grinath, Carly Ruderman

SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, & PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Jill Bradbury

FACULTY

Jennifer Barclay
Faedra Carpenter
Amith Chandrashaker
Andrew Cissna
Alexandra Colburn
Sam Crawford
Crystal Davis
Carla Della Gatta
Lins Derry
Adriane Fang
Leslie Felbain
James Harding
Helen Huang
Misha Kachman
Maura Keefe
Kate Keeney
Ama Law
Caitlin Marshall
Alvin Mayes
Lisa Nathans
Sara Pearson
Kendra Portier
Fatima Quander
Scot Reese
KenYatta Rogers
Patrik Widrig

STAFF

Crystal Gaston
Isiah Johnson
Devin Kohn
Susan Miller
Renee Nyack
Jenn Schwartz
Cora Vare
Kate Wander
Deqin Jane Zhu

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ronya Lee Anderson
breeanah breedon
Emilia Bruno
Kevin Carroll
Jaimie Chen
Kevin Clark
Christina Collins
Atiya Dorsey
Eran Eads
Yasmin Eubanks
Mariah Faulkner
Colin Franz
Katherine Glenn
Yannick Godts
Matre Grant
Leo Grierson
Bailey Hammett
August Henney
Zainab Jeffery
Mher Kandoyan

Mina Kawahara
Timothy Kelly
Hannah Kelly
Marissa Kennedy
Kaela Lawrence
Gianina Lockley
MJ Loyet
Thea Luo
AmirMahdi Mahdavi
Emil Mendoza
daniel miramontes
Scott Monnin
Ryan Nock
Sofia Olivar
Peter Pattengill
Kristopher Pourzal
Johnna Presby
Mike Riggs
Jalen Rose
Doni Rotunno
Alondra Santos-Castillo
Patrick Saunders
James Sivert
Angela Smith
Rebecca Steinberg
Melissa Sturges
Margarita Syrocheva
Sophia Tepermeister
Connor Voss
Zoe Walders
Caitlin Woods



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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND



24 > 25
SEASON

*at The Clarice Smith
Performing Arts Center*

