

ABRONS  
ARTS HENRY STREET  
CENTER SETTLEMENT

March 14-24, 2019

OKWUI OKPOKWASILI & PETER BORN  
**ADAKU'S REVOLT**

OKWUI OKPOKWASILI & PETER BORN

# ADAKU'S REVOLT

## Conceived by

Okwui Okpokwasili

## Choreographed & Created in Collaboration with

Khadidiatou Bangoura, Peter Born, Audrey Hailes, Breyanna Maples & AJ Wilmore

## Direction & Design

Peter Born

## PERFORMERS

**Adaku** ■ AJ Wilmore

**Aunties/Ethereal ones** ■ Audrey Hailes & Khadidiatou Bangoura

**Aunty/Mother** ■ Okwui Okpokwasili

**Sister** ■ Breyanna Maples

## Production Manager, Technical Director & Lighting Supervisor

Michaelangelo DeSerio

## Shoe Engineer

Keely Snook

## Rigging Engineer

Joseph Silovsky

## Run Crew

Gia Ramos & Norman Lander

## Wig Consultant

Amanda Miller

## Costume Consultant

Ayano Ganaha

## Produced with

Lucy Jackson and Miranda Wright for Los Angeles Performance Practice

Created by **Okwui Okpokwasili** and **Peter Born** in collaboration with **AJ Wilmore, Breyanna Maples, Audrey Hailes** and **Khadidatou Bangoura**, *Adaku's Revolt* explores one girl's resistance to normative standards of beauty and the worlds and memories that open up in the face of that resistance. A fantasy and fable, Adaku's refusal powers a psychic and kinetic engine sending her through space and time.

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ABOUT

## ADAKU'S REVOLT CAST & CREW

**Okwui Okpokwasili** is a performer, choreographer, and writer creating multidisciplinary performance. Her productions are highly experimental in form, built from the singular contributions of the performers and the director/designer Peter Born. She was recently named a 2018 MacArthur Fellow ([www.macfound.org/fellows/1019/](http://www.macfound.org/fellows/1019/)).

**Peter Born** is a director, designer and filmmaker. In addition to his work with Okwui Okpokwasili, he collaborates with David Thomson on a cycle of installation/ performances revolving around a post-sexual incarnation of Venus. He created the set for Nora Chipaumire's rite/riot, and he has created performance videos with Chipaumire, including El Capitan Kinglady. He is a former New York public high school teacher, an itinerant oral designer, corporate actor-facilitator and furniture designer. His collaborations with Okpokwasili have garnered two New York Dance Performance "Bessie" Awards.

**Khadidiatou Rachel Bangoura** is from Liberia and Guinea. She was born and raised in France and grew up in Germany. After obtaining a BA in International Relations & Development Studies and an MA in African Studies in London, she moved to Berlin to study contemporary dance, graduating in 2017. Since October 2018, she is performing in Thomas Klopp's 'Vertrauen No. 2' (kollektiv anderer tanz). From June 2018 to September 2018, she was an activator in Okwui Okpokwasili's 'Sitting on a Man's head' at the 10th Berlin Biennale. Khadidiatou's own work 'Adult-ish' has been shown at ada studio Berlin and Werkstatt der Kulturen in 2017.

**Audrey Elaine Hailes** is a dance-theatre artist raised in Washington DC. She received her BFA in Experimental Theatre from NYU and currently performs with The Dance Cartel, Paloma McGregor, Maria Bauman, and Ebony Golden amongst others. Her own choreography has been commissioned by and seen at Gibney Dance, Dance Theatre Etc, Movement Research, BAAD! and New York Live Arts.

**Breyanna Maples** is a Philadelphia native and an alumni of The University of The Arts, School of Dance. Under the mentorship of many from the University and her humble beginnings at D'Shay School Of Dance and The Pointe Studio all based in Philadelphia. Breyanna has trained in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance styles. She has attended The Ailey School summer intensive, Camping International Dance Workshop and the Ronald K Brown/ EVIDENCE workshop series. Breyanna is currently living as a freelance artist in New York City.

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**AJ Wilmore** is a Philadelphia native who began her enthusiasm in the arts at block parties and many other family gatherings which soon drove her parents to place her in dance classes at Philly Movements Dance Company in Northeast Philadelphia. Following, her expression flourished in all styles at the Performing Arts High School and she was steadfast in her passion for movement and being moved. Taking her studies to the University of the Arts (UARTS) amidst the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield, her adventures in pursuit of a BFA in dance catapulted her to a process seen finally at the CN D (Centre Nationale De La Danse) facilitated by Lauren Bakst. She's continuing studies with a strong will in storytelling and speaking through the unheard.

**Michaelangelo DeSerio** is a native New Yorker, artist and adventurer. Plying his trade on both coasts, he has had the opportunity to work with UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance, Cornerstone Theater, Center Theatre Group, Meg Wolfe Dance and The Shakespeare Center in LA. Back home in NYC, Michaelangelo has been amazingly fortunate to work with companies such as The Living Theatre, Irondale Ensemble Project, The Civilians, New Georges, Epic Theater, Letter of Marque, Pig Pen Theater Company, Theater for the New City, Strike Anywhere. It is a great pleasure to be part of this production.

**Keely Snook** is a Brooklyn based Interdisciplinary Artist and Freelance Puppet Builder. She has an MFA in Studio Art with an emphasis in Printmaking from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and has worked for companies such as The Puppet Kitchen, Lyon Puppets, The Wassaic Project, No Strings Productions, and the Jim Henson Company.

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# OKWUI OKPOKWASILI & PETER BORN **SPECIAL THANKS**

Craig Peterson, Ali Rosa Salas, Violet Tafari, Cat Dawes, Jon Harper & all at Abrons Arts Center, Elisabeth Skjærvold, Courtney Geraghty, Raul Zbengheci, Clémentine Guinchat & all at FIAF, Jennifer Brogle, Danielle King and all at LMCC, Amanda Miller, Westbeth and the Collapsible Hole, Naja Gordon, Jimena Paz, Karen Monroe, Nima, Pia and Umechi.

# ADAKU'S REVOLT **FUNDING**

Adaku's Revolt is commissioned for the Tilt Kids Festival by the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) with funding provided by The MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Howard Gilman Foundation and created with support from the Abrons Arts Center through the Abrons AIRspace Residency Program.



# ABOUT ABRONS

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

Abrons Arts Center values freedom of expression and creativity, ever striving to provide creative communities with a space that celebrates diversity of thought and experience. Abrons aims to be an anti-oppressive home to people from all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, citizen status, ancestry, age, religion, disability, sex or gender identity. As definitions of expression and inclusion evolve, Abrons is committed to continually revising this statement in collaboration with our communities.

## Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

Abrons Arts Center is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta). We pay respect to Lenape peoples and ancestors past, present, and future, and acknowledge our reliance on the land and waters of Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We offer our care and gratitude to Lenapehoking, and are committed to resisting colonialism through the support of Indigenous-led programming and Indigenous artistic practices.

## You are welcome here.

For tickets and show times:

[abronsartscenter.org](https://abronsartscenter.org)

Support neighborhood businesses! As a thank you for supporting our programming, we're offering discounts to some of our favorite Lower East Side hangouts. For more information, click on

[abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions](https://abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions)

And get a discount when you bring this program!

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## Abrons Arts Center Henry Street Settlement

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