

She A Gem  
November 15-24, 2019

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts presents  
A World Premiere Kennedy Center Commission

She A Gem

Written by Josh Wilder  
Directed by Paige Hernandez

With Moriamo Temidayo Akibu, Aakhu TuahNera Freeman,  
Heather Gibson, Alicia Grace, and Kashayna Johnson

Part of *The Human Journey Exploration*.

Performances for Young Audiences is made possible by Bank of America.

Additional support for *She A Gem* is provided by Adobe Foundation, The Clark Charitable Foundation; Mr. James V. Kimsey; The Macy's Foundation; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Park Foundation, Inc.; Paul M. Angell Family Foundation; an endowment from the Ryna and Melvin Cohen Family Foundation; U.S. Department of Education; Washington Gas; and by generous contributors to the Abe Fortas Memorial Fund and by a major gift to the fund from the late Carolyn E. Agger, widow of Abe Fortas.

Major support for the Kennedy Center's educational programs is provided by  
the *She A Gem* through *the Rubenstein Arts Access Program*.

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## PROGRAM NOTE

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Welcome to the Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences's production of *She A Gem*. Jump into our story about three teenagers in Philadelphia on a double-dutch team whose worlds are changed when a pregnant teen from North Philly comes to town.

This world premiere Kennedy Center commission from playwright Joshua Wilder, in collaboration with artful director Paige Hernandez, is the first production to result from a commissioning project based on the 2018–2019 season theme, *The Human Journey*. *The Human Journey*, a collaboration between the Kennedy Center, National Geographic Society, and National Gallery of Art, invites audiences to investigate the powerful experiences of migration, exploration, identity, and resilience through the lenses of the performing arts, science, and visual art. Wilder's powerful piece draws on all aspects of the human journey to explore the lives of four young black women poised between their past and their future. This story asks the important question, what does it mean to be a part of a family and a community, and who will become the Gem?

We encourage you to stay for our post-show Deep Dive to help better unpack the themes of *She A Gem*.

If you have comments or questions about the show or would like to share feedback, please contact Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences at [kctya@kennedy-center.org](mailto:kctya@kennedy-center.org). We'd love to hear from you!

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more information on our season!

@KenCenTYA

Three teenagers—Krystin, Jaleesa, and Amber—form a double-dutch team in inner city Philadelphia to compete in their neighborhood pageant

# CAST

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(in order of appearance)

Kashayna Johnson .....	Krystin
Heather Gibson .....	Jaleesa
Alicia Grace.....	Amber
Aakhu TuahNera Freeman.....	Topaz
Moriamo Temidayo Akibu.....	Symone
Alicia Grace.....	Amber
Whitney Geohagan.....	Understudy
Tamieka Chavis.....	Understudy



*She A Gem* is a professional production employing members of Actors' Equity Association.



UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS represents the designers and scenic painters for the American Theatre.

*Please check houseboards for any program changes.*



## **MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM**

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State University. Recently Mobley was awarded a residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts.

*(Casting Director)*, in her 12th season as casting director, is responsible for casting the Kennedy Center's Theater for Young Audiences in-house and touring productions, as well as the New Visions/New Voices new play festival. In addition to her work with the Kennedy Center, she has also served as the casting director for the VSA Playwrights Discovery Program productions (2008–2011), and a casting consultant for the NSO P/N/P/R/\_WeahH\_HH/PnR/\_Wedb\_HH/PiRYvaHH\_HfH/c



The 3e

March 15–24, 2019  
Eisenhower Theater  
Ages 9+

March 29–31  
Family Theater  
Ages 5+

April 13, 2019  
Family Theater  
Ages 12+



# STAFF

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## A

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 Director of Education Programs and Productions ..... David Kilpatrick  
 Director of Education Activation and Engagement ..... Vanessa Thomas  
 Program Assistant, Education Programs and Productions ..... Kaitlyn Burke  
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 and Theater Education ..... Harry Poster  
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 Artistic Advisor ..... Kim Peter Kovac  
 Senior Press Representative for Theater and Education ..... Brendan Padgett  
 Manager, Marketing ..... Steven Dawson  
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## A

\* .....  
 Jane A. Smith ..... Box Office Treasurer  
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 Ruth Herman, Anita Martin,  
 William Taylor, Johanna Wilder ..... Assistant Head Ushers  
 Owen Burke ..... Production Manager  
 Greg Goldsmith, Robert Humphrey,  
 Michael T. Berra, Garrett Brown, Sean McNally ..... Production Stagehands

\*Represented by ATPAM, the Association of  
 Theatrical Press Agents and Managers

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The technicians at the Kennedy Center  
 are represented by Local #22, Local #772,  
 and Local #798 I.A.T.S.E.  
 AFL-CIO-CLC, the professional  
 union of the theatrical technicians.

The box office at the Kennedy Center is  
 represented by IATSE #868.

Steinway Piano Gallery .....  
 The Kennedy Center is represented by the Steinway Piano Gallery