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Company One Theatre, in collaboration with American Repertory Theater, Boston Public Library, and Boston Comics in Color Festival, announces

Black Super Hero Magic Mama

by Inda Craig-Galván

directed by Monica White Ndounou

dramaturgy by Ilana M Brownstein and Regine Vital

All tickets are Pay-What-You-Want! (\$0 minimum)

April 22 - May 21, 2022 at Boston Public Library

Rabb Hall, Central Library in Copley Square (700 Boylston Street, Boston)

*Plus: **Branch Out With C1** community gatherings across the Boston Public Library network, including events in Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Grove Hall, and Roslindale, in partnership with Boston Comics in Color Festival, Wee the People, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, The Theater Offensive, and Leela Yoga + Wellness.*

Boston, MA — Company One Theatre (C1) announces its first in-person production since February 2020: Inda Craig-Galván's ***Black Super Hero Magic Mama***, directed by Monica White Ndounou and produced in collaboration with [American Repertory Theater](#), [Boston Public Library](#), and [Boston Comics in Color Festival](#). Press opening will be Saturday, April 23, 2022 with a preview performance on Friday, April 22. Performances continue Thursdays - Sundays through May 21 in Rabb Hall at the Central Library in Copley Square (700 Boylston Street, Boston). Tickets are available now at CompanyOne.org. As part of C1's commitment to uplifting **Theatre As Public Art**, all tickets are Pay-What-You-Want with no minimum.

A high-flying adventure that refuses to be held down by the gravity at its core, ***Black Super Hero Magic Mama*** is the story of Sabrina Jackson, a Black mother whose son is killed by a white police officer. Unable to step into the role society expects of her, she instead retreats into a technicolor world of her own creation, fueled by her son's love of comic books, where she gets to take charge as the hero of her own story.

"We're excited to finally host a live audience again with two of our strongest collaborators by our side in the American Repertory Theater and Boston Public Library, and to forge a new partnership with Boston

Comics in Color Festival,” said Shawn LaCount, C1 Artistic Director. “We thought we’d be producing Inda Craig-Galván’s ***Black Super Hero Magic Mama*** in a very different world, when we announced the play for a 2020 production—but we believe this is exactly the right play for this moment in 2022. With the brilliant Monica White Ndounou onboard as director, we know this story is in good hands.”

“Healing is built into the play,” said Ndounou, “and Inda expertly balances the humor and hurt that’s really emblematic of Black life, period. Even though it’s material that can be very challenging for Black and brown people to witness and live through again, Inda lovingly empowers her characters to claim their rights to healing and joy as they survive a society that has been absolutely brutal.”

“I’m so excited to be working with Company One Theatre, particularly because of their commitment to intersecting social change and art,” said Craig-Galván. “I was inspired to write this play by the death of Tamir Rice. My son was 14 years old at the time, and I thought: how brave his mother was to stand in front of a press conference and lead a prayer. And then I realized maybe it doesn’t make me weak that I couldn’t do that. The expectations put on African American mothers during these traumas is ridiculous. What if a mother couldn’t, or wouldn’t? What would her story be?”

“A.R.T. is thrilled to continue our long-term collaboration with C1, which shares our belief in theater’s power to catalyze dialogue, foster healing, and imagine collective pathways forward,” says Mark Lunsford, Artistic Producer of A.R.T. “We look forward to working with these incredible partners to bring Inda’s play to our community.”

“Comics in Color is excited about the partnership with Company One in its production of ***Black Super Hero Magic Mama***,” said Cagen Luse, Co-Founder and Producer of the Boston Comics in Color Festival. “This powerful and important work will spark important conversations we desperately need to have about loss, grief, and the effect of racism and violence on our community. It seems like a natural fit with our organizations as we are both committed to supporting diverse voices in storytelling.”

The production, C1’s third to be mounted in Rabb Hall at the Boston Public Library’s Central Library in Copley Square, will also inspire the event series ***Branch Out With C1***, featuring local community gatherings across the library’s branches in Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Grove Hall, and Roslindale. These events will include partners from Boston Comics in Color Festival, Wee the People, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, The Theater Offensive, Leela Yoga + Wellness, and Dudley Cafe. See below for more information.

“Library spaces *are* cultural spaces, best brought to life with innovative partnerships,” said David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library. “We are delighted to partner with Company One for the third time bringing a fully pay-what-you-want production to the Boston Public Library and are excited to see this as a catalyst for connective engagement across the neighborhoods and communities of Boston.”

>> About the Production

In all the books that Sabrina Jackson reads to her son Tramarion, tragedy’s just an origin story, something to propel the heroes into wondrous new worlds. When tragedy strikes in her own life, Sabrina launches herself into a fantastical, technicolor universe where she gets to be the hero. A high-flying adventure that refuses to be held down by the gravity at its core, Inda Craig-Galván’s ***Black Super Hero Magic Mama*** is a powerful refutation of the disproportionate expectations placed on Black mothers and their sons.

>> Company One Theatre is producing *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* to AMPLIFY:

- the urgent need for police reform, gun law reform, and the end of sanctioned violence on Black lives.
- care for Black women's vulnerability within society's pressure to be resilient.
- the communal healing that allows us to become the heroes of our own stories, and that serves as a balm to individual and collective grief.
- exuberant, joyful, and inclusive representation #fortheculture.
- community partners like the Justice Resource Institute, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, and Boston Comics in Color Festival, which are supporting impactful change on the ground and in our neighborhoods.

>> Cast

Ramona Lisa Alexander* — Sabrina Jackson aka Maasai Angel
Ricardo Engermann — Coach Corey Brackett aka Deep Thinker
Joshua Robinson — Tramarion Jackson
Ashley Rose — Lena Evers
Stewart Evan Smith — Tom Blackman aka Human Hyena
Anderson Stinson III — Flat Joe/Joseph A Hughes aka Black Superman
Helen Hy-Yuen Swanson — Connie Wright aka Lady Vulture
Dustin Teuber — Dave Lester aka Death Tap
Karimah Williams — Understudy

** Member of Actors' Equity Association*

>> Production Artistic & Design Team

Playwright: Inda Craig-Galván
Director: Monica White Ndounou
Dramaturg: Ilana M Brownstein
Dramaturg: Regine Vital
Assistant Dramaturg: Afrikah Smith
Rehearsal Stage Manager: Sam Knox
Production Stage Manager: Pat-rice Rooney
Assistant Stage Manager: Liz Diamond
Assistant Stage Manager: Ross Gray
Scenic Designer: Baron Pugh
Assistant Scenic Designer: Michelle Sparks
Costume Designer: Mikayla Reid
Lighting Designer: Elmer Martinez
Sound Designer: Anna Drummond
Projection Designer: Maria Servellon
Animation Design & Comics Consultant: Cagen Luse
Props Designer: Jenn Butler
Fight Choreographer: Margaret Clark
C1 Production Manager: Jake Mariño

>> Performance Schedule

Friday, April 22 @ 7PM - Preview
Saturday, April 23 @ 7PM - Press Performance
Sunday, April 24 @ 2PM
Thursday, April 28 @ 7PM - Educator Night Out*
Friday, April 29 @ 7PM
Saturday, April 30 @ 7PM
Sunday, May 1 @ 2PM

Thursday, May 5 @ 7PM
Friday, May 6 @ 10AM - Student Matinee
Friday, May 6 @ 7PM
Saturday, May 7 @ 7PM
Sunday, May 8 @ 2PM
Thursday, May 12 @ 7PM
Friday, May 13 @ 10AM - Student Matinee
Friday, May 13 @ 7PM
Saturday, May 14 @ 7PM
Sunday, May 15 @ 2PM
Thursday, May 19 @ 7PM
Friday, May 20 @ 7PM
Saturday, May 21 @ 2PM
Saturday, May 21 @ 7PM

**Educator Night Out: Thursday, April 28*

C1's new Educator Night Out event brings together educators from across the city. Experience **Black Super Hero Magic Mama** in community, while considering how theatre can be utilized as a tool for social change in your own classroom. Featuring a curated pre-show experience with hands-on theatre games, exercises, light refreshments (Covid-protocols permitting), and more!

Additional performance-related events and post-show discussions with community partners to be announced at CompanyOne.org.

How to purchase tickets:

- Online at CompanyOne.org and AmericanRepertoryTheater.org
- In-person at the Boston Public Library within one hour prior to performance
- A digital version will also be made available for on-demand viewing during the run, details to come.

>> Production Covid Protocols

Masking

Everyone is required to wear a well-fitted mask that fully covers their nose and mouth at all times during this production. We strongly recommend wearing an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask, or double-masking. The only exception to this requirement is for performers while performing.

Vaccination Requirements

- **Visitors eligible for boosters** must present proof of full vaccination plus booster doses.
- **Visitors ineligible for boosters** must show proof of full vaccination plus negative results from an antigen test taken within 24 hours.
- **Visitors under 5** who are not yet eligible for the vaccine must show negative results from an antigen test taken within 24 hours.

Negative PCR or antigen test results will not be accepted in place of proof of vaccination.

Protocols are subject to change.

>> Branch Out With C1

A series of gatherings spread across the Boston Public Library's branches, connecting the themes of Company One Theatre's production of **Black Super Hero Magic Mama** to our city's local communities through interactive experiences in partnership with organizations throughout Boston, paired with a sneak peek of the play!

Branch Out With C1: Families for JusticeFeaturing **Wee the People**

Boston Public Library, Roxbury Branch

Saturday, March 26, 11AM-12PM

Branch Out With C1: The Making of a SuperheroFeaturing **Comics in Color**

Boston Public Library, Jamaica Plain Branch

Tuesday, March 29, 4PM-5PM

Branch Out With C1: A Vision for Community Policing in BostonFeaturing **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute** and **The Theater Offensive**

Boston Public Library, Grove Hall Branch

Thursday, April 7, 6PM-7PM

Branch Out With C1: Tranquility and Tea for Superhero MomsFeaturing **Leela Yoga + Wellness**

Boston Public Library, Roslindale Branch

Friday, April 15, 2PM-3PM

More information about **Branch Out With C1** events to come!**>> About the Playwright**

Inda Craig-Galván writes stuff – mostly plays and TV. Her work often explores intra-racial conflicts and politics within the African-American community. Grounded in reality with a touch of magical realism that fucks with time & memories. Inda's currently developing new works of theatre on commission with The Old Globe and Roundhouse Theatre. Produced plays include *a hit dog will holler* (Skylight Theatre & Playwrights' Arena co-production, Los Angeles), ***Black Super Hero Magic Mama*** (Geffen Playhouse, Los Angeles) *I Go Somewhere Else* (Playwrights' Arena, Los Angeles). Inda is the recipient of the Kesselring Prize, Jeffry Melnick New Playwright Award, Blue Ink Playwriting Prize, Jane Chambers Student Award for Feminist Playwriting, and Stage Raw Best Playwright Award. Inda's plays have been included on the Kilroys List (twice) and Steppenwolf Theatre's The Mix. Inda has developed & presented work at Ashland New Play Festival, Orlando Shakes, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Black Swan Lab, The Old Globe Powers New Voices Festival, Kitchen Dog Theatre New Works Festival, Black & Latino Playwrights Conference, WomenWorks, Humanitas, Chalk Repertory Theatre, Skylight Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Trustus Theatre Playwrights Festival, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Intiman, and others. Aside from theatre, Inda is a writer on the upcoming JJ Abrams series *Demimonde* (HBO), and previously wrote on *Happy Face*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, and *The Rookie*. She is in development with Universal TV Studios to write and executive produce *Cotton Club Princess*, adapted from the novel by Karla Diggs. *a hit dog will holler*, Inda's 4-episode fiction podcast adapted from her play, premieres March 16, 2022 on Radiotopia.fm or wherever you get your podcasts. MFA in Theatre: Dramatic Writing, University of Southern California.

>> About the Director

Dr. Monica White Ndounou is an Associate Professor of Theater and the founding Executive Director of [The CRAFT Institute](#) which convenes [The International Black Theatre Summit](#) and administers the Pay-It-Forward All-Career Level Mentorship Program along with various initiatives designed to create culturally inclusive ecosystems throughout the world of arts and entertainment by transforming formal training and industry practices while promoting equitable access. She is also the past President of the Black Theatre Association (BTA) (2016-2018), Vice President of Advocacy for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) (2019-2021) and serves on the board of [The August Wilson Society](#). She is a founding member of the National Advisory Committee of [The Black Seed](#), a national strategic plan to

create impact and thrivability for Black theater institutions and initiatives. She is an alum of The Black Arts Institute and a co-founder of [CreateEnsemble.com](https://createensemble.com), a digital platform for creative artists of color.

>> About Company One Theatre (C1)

Founded in 1998, Company One has situated itself as a home for social justice and artistic excellence by connecting Boston's diverse communities through live performance, the development of new plays and playwrights, arts education, and public engagement programming. By establishing a dedicated space for marginalized and alternative narratives to thrive and working with partners and collaborators across the city, Company One has become a local leader in the ongoing conversations that continue to define the era of social change in contemporary America.

Company One Theatre's work falls into four main areas: Productions, Education, New Play Development, and Connectivity. Over its 20+ year history Company One has produced over 80 productions, employed over 1500 local artists, and have been awarded over 30 Boston theatre awards. We have served over 100,000 audience members and 15,000 students.

MISSION

Company One Theatre builds community at the intersection of art and social change.

VISION

A Boston defined by justice, equity, and artistic innovation.

MANIFESTO

Welcome to our community, where every audience member, artist, student, and supporter has the opportunity to fight for social justice. At C1...

- We strive to create intentional, authentic theatrical experiences that uniquely integrate content, style, space, and community.
- We amplify new stories and adventurous theatrical forms to define what's next in the American theatre.
- We focus on growing our students' authority, voice, and point of view, while developing artists into the next generation of change-makers.
- Our work is responsive to what's happening in our city, nation, and world.
- We work towards justice by challenging inequity and oppressive systems.
- Innovation, forward thinking, and collaboration lead the way.
- We center our work on reciprocal relationships with community partners.
- Representation is an act of social justice.
- Our growth is motivated by questioning the status quo, internally and externally.
- We strive for artistic excellence as defined by our collective community.

"To attend one of their performances is often to feel yourself immersed in exuberance, with waves of energy pouring from the stage, usually reciprocated by an avidly enthusiastic audience that is far younger and more diverse than the Boston theater norm." — *The Boston Globe*

>> About American Repertory Theater

American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking and passionate inquiry to catalyze dialogue and transformation. Founded in 1980 and led by Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus, the A.R.T. is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as a partner. A.R.T. builds community by embracing theater's power to cultivate the full breadth and beauty of our shared humanity. It has been honored with many distinguished awards including 21 Tony Awards since 2012, a Pulitzer Prize, and the Regional Theater Tony Award. As the professional theater on the

campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. plays a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages community members and local students annually in project-based partnerships, workshops, conversations with artists, and other enrichment activities both at the theater and across the Greater Boston area.

MISSION

The American Repertory Theater is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as a partner.

VISION

We focus on the research and development of groundbreaking theatrical experiences that catalyze dialogue and transformation. We believe that by engaging our hearts, minds and bodies, theater has the power to heal and imagine collective pathways forward.

We commit to advancing public health in our practice and our programming, recognizing that racism in America is a national public health crisis. Our new home in Allston will be a breathable and healthy building envisioned as a town hall for the twenty-first century. Inspired by the model of a teaching hospital, the building will be a vibrant center for research, experiential pedagogy, and performance.

We build community with our audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors across Greater Boston, embracing theater's power to cultivate the full breadth and beauty of our shared humanity. We affirm and celebrate a multitude of perspectives and experiences that reflect the diversity of our country and world. We are dedicated to making a welcoming and accessible space for people of any identity, background, or ability.

VALUES

We hold the institution and each other responsible and accountable for living our shared values. There is no hierarchy to these values; they are all equally important and interrelated. We acknowledge that as an institution we must devote time to implementing and sustaining these values:

We center anti-racism

Habituate anti-racist practices in our policies, structure and culture.

We lead with inquiry

Ask questions in a spirit of brave curiosity in our never-ending journey of learning and growth

We believe in collaboration

Work together with trust and respect to unlock collective creativity

We practice adaptability

Challenge assumptions and create capacity to support "next" practices

We embrace regenerative practice

Promote the health and vitality of our planet, our organization, and each other

A.R.T. acknowledges that its theaters are situated on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the [Massachusetts Tribe](#).

>> About Boston Public Library

Established in 1848, the **Boston Public Library** is a pioneer of public library service in America. It was the first large, free municipal library in the United States; the first public library to lend books; the first to have a branch library; and the first to have a children's room.

The Boston Public Library of today is a robust system that includes the Central Library in Copley Square, 25 neighborhood branches, the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center, the Kirstein Business and Innovation Center, and an archival center, offering public access to world-class special collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and prints, along with rich digital content and online services.

The Boston Public Library serves nearly 4 million visitors per year and millions more online. All of its programs and exhibitions are free to all and open to the public.

The Boston Public Library is a department of the City of Boston, under the leadership of Mayor Michelle Wu. To learn more, visit bpl.org.

>> About Boston Comics in Color Festival

Comics in Color is a group of people of color passionately dedicated to exploring the world of comics storytelling in order to see ourselves reflected in this media format and art form. We intend to continue to grow and form a supportive community of critical makers and storytellers who use the visual medium. We intend to explore what has been done and use what we have to make space for ourselves in this genre and larger community. We intend to establish a growing presence in our region uniting with other growing communities of color where we tell our stories and explore our possibilities.

Comics in Color's mission is to produce free and accessible events in the Boston community that brings awareness to creators of color that are currently producing comics and visuals stories as well as encourage and support people of color to tell their stories and create their own comic projects and contribute to the cultural ecosystem.

>> C1 Contact

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