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**Parris-Bailey Arts is pleased to announce
Dahlak Brathwaite as the Director of its new work “Yankee Bajan”.**

Knoxville, TN – February 8, 2023 – Parris-Bailey Arts is pleased to announce Dahlak Brathwaite as the Director of its new work “Yankee Bajan”. Dahlak is an award-winning dramatic auteur: playwright, composer, performer, director, and filmmaker. His work has been presented at The Smithsonian, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, REDCAT, MCA Chicago, Ars Nova, The Public Theater, The Apollo, SXSW, by Creative Time, and on HBO’s last two seasons of Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry. Dahlak’s trilogy of works - Spiritrials (solo play), Try/Step/Trip (musical), Adapting History (documentary film) - take a personal look into the criminal justice system and the relationship between Black American music and Black American subjugation. Development of the work has been supported by CalArts, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Victory Gardens, and Montalvo Arts Center. Dahlak has received awards and support from NEFA, the Doris Duke Foundation, The U.S. State Department, NYU Tisch, and MAP Fund. He was a Creative Capital finalist and a United States Artist nominee. Most recently, Dahlak was invited by The Public Theatre's Under the Radar Festival to join their 2023 Devised Writing Group. He is a graduate of NYU’s Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, where he was awarded the Dean’s Full-Tuition Fellowship, and served as the Assistant Director for the national tour of the Tony-winning revival of Oklahoma! His artistry is well known in the field and we are delighted to have him join our creative team!

www.thisisdahlak.com

About Parris-Bailey Arts:

Parris-Bailey Arts exists to support the work of playwrights, solo artists and ensembles in the development of new performance works by creating opportunities for mentoring, networking and sharing of resources during the creation process. Our objective is to utilize our expertise to secure Commissions, Curate new work and facilitate Ensemble & Devised Script Development and Story Work. By collaborating with professional theaters, community-based theaters, producers, presenters and other artistic partners, PBA strives to advocate for diverse creative voices.

Linda Parris-Bailey, President and CEO, brings more than 50 years of professional experience in the field. She is a Playwright, Director and Actor. She served as the Executive/Artistic Director of the Carpetbag Theatre and was the primary playwright creating work for the CBT Ensemble from 1974-2019. In addition to her work with Carpetbag, Parris-Bailey has been commissioned throughout her career by professional and community-based partners as an independent playwright and artist; working with such organizations as Touchstone Theater, The Higher Ground Project and Junebug Productions. As a curator she has worked on events and festivals for numerous local, national and international organizations including Women Playwrights International, American Festival Project and Performing Americas (a project of the National Performance Network). She has provided Culturally-Driven facilitation services to numerous organizations, including The Highlander Center, The W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the African Theatre Association (AfTA) International Conference at the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies. Throughout her five-decade career, she has utilized traditional cultural practices to engage participants in the process of self-reflection and discovery. Finding voice is not simply storytelling; it reveals an individual's power to make change in their own lives and the lives of their community. Our curatorial practice is rooted in these principles, selecting work that exemplifies an aesthetic that is inclusive and meets our standard of excellence.

For more information about Parris-Bailey Arts contact parrisbaileyarts@gmail.com, parrisbaileyartspa@gmail.com or visit www.parrisbaileyarts.com.

Support:

