

ALLEY THEATRE

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Media Contact:

Caroline Austin, PR and Communications Manager, carolinea@alleytheatre.org, 713.315.3335

Alley Theatre Presents World Premiere *Uhuru*

HOUSTON, TX - Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre and Artistic Director **Rob Melrose** announce the cast and creative team of **Gloria Majule's *Uhuru***. Directed by **Shariffa Ali**, this world premiere satire will examine identity and access as four hikers climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. *Uhuru* was developed through the Alley All New initiative with a reading in the 2024 Alley All New Festival.

Melrose shared, "The Alley has long been a place for new plays and playwrights. Few theatres can boast having had a playwright as celebrated as Edward Albee as their playwright-in-residence. Well, now the Alley is excited to introduce you to yet another wonderful playwright, Gloria Majule, for the world premiere of *Uhuru*! Gloria has a huge heart, a delightful sense of character, and a wickedly satirical wit—and she wrote this play while she was climbing Mount Kilimanjaro! I'm so proud to be producing this marvelous and funny play, by a writer you will hear about for decades to come."

Majule mused, "I wrote *Uhuru* because I was fascinated by Kilimanjaro and the significance it had for Tanzanians, versus for people in the outside world. I was excited about creating a world that took place on the mountain and exploring these different views and perspectives. I wanted to explore what freedom meant in a post-colonial Tanzania, and what mindsets and barriers limit this freedom. I hope audiences come join us for a darkly comic hike that asks us to examine what it means to live in a world where independence did not automatically mean freedom."

The cast includes **Oghenero Gbaje** as Sprite, **David Gow** as Henry, **Michael Oloyede** (Broadway's *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*) as Mshale and **Skyler Sinclair** (*Lend Me a Soprano*, Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*).

The creative team includes Scenic Designer **You-Shin Chen**, Costume Designer **Celeste Jennings**, Lighting Designer **Carolina Ortiz Herrera**, Sound Designer **Kathy Ruvuna**, Projection Designer **Lacey Erb**, Fight Director & Intimacy Specialist **Adam Noble**, Stage Manager **Trinity A. Nobles**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Ethan Mitchell**.

An unlikely group takes on a "Tanzanian-only" ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro in this sharp satire. The dramedy follows a Tanzanian-American tourist, two missionaries, and their guide as they make their way toward the "Roof of Africa." They must confront questions of access, identity, and who deserves a place on the mountain.

SPONSORS: Alley Theatre is supported by Season 80 Sponsors KPRC, United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and The District, the official hotel of Alley Theatre.

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES: Captioned Performance on Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 PM, Audio Described Performance on Sunday, October 25 at 7:00 PM, and ASL Interpreted Performance is Wednesday, October 28 at 7:30 PM.

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TICKETS: Performances begin **Friday, October 16 to Sunday, November 8** in the Neuhaus Theatre. Tickets are now on sale, starting at \$40. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, educators, and any student, regardless of age, with a valid ID for designated performances in designated sections. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

CONNECT WITH US: @alleytheatre, #AlleyUhuru

ABOUT ALLEY THEATRE:

Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Jennifer Bielstein. The Alley is committed to developing and producing theatre that is as diverse as the Houston community. The Alley produces 11 plays and nearly 350 performances each season, ranging from the best current work and classic plays to new plays by contemporary writers. Home to a full-time resident company of actors and expert artisans in all theatre crafts, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, directors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists. Additionally, the Alley delivers a robust array of education and community programs reaching people Pre-K through adulthood.

Alley Theatre performs at the Meredith J. Long Theatre Center, which is comprised of two state-of-the-art theatres: the 774-seat Hubbard Theatre and the 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre. The Alley reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance, education, and community engagement programs.

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