

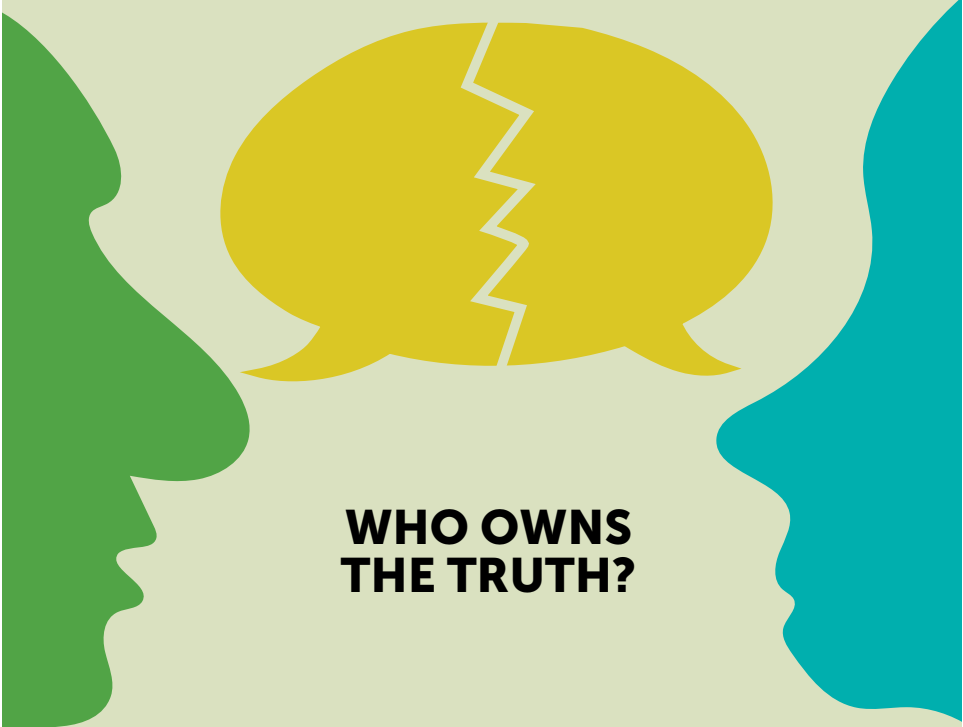
PRESENTED BY
Lower Bottom Playaz

PRODUCED BY
Ayodele Nzinga

CREATED BY
Charlie Levin

THE ONE TRUTHINESS

{OAKLAND : 1}



WHO OWNS
THE TRUTH?

OneTruthiness.com

The Lower Bottom Playaz
presents

THE ONE TRUTHINESS

{ Oakland : 1 }

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

to all the people whose posts, tweets, articles, and interviews
quoted — for articulating complicated things publically, teaching
through their words, and generally lighting a way through the world

Conceived & Created by

Charlie Levin

Series produced by

Ayodele Nzinga & The Lower Bottom Playaz

{ Oakland : 1 }

Co-Produced by The Flight Deck

Music by

Zebra Operation

Performed with

You

The One Truthiness incorporates
the voices and rhythms of its audience.

BIOS

Charlie Levin — (Creator) A multidisciplinary artist whose work has been presented locally, nationally, and internationally, Charlie's interactive installations, paintings, and performances engage issues of complexity, identity, and perception. Her visual theater company Local Infinities (co-founder, Chicago) created 11 critically-acclaimed original works in 6 years including "Wax & Wayne," winner of the Unique Theatrical Experience Award at the New York Fringe Festival. Internationally, her work has been seen in the Netherlands, Ukraine, and the UK. In the US, her work has been seen in the Washington DC area, Chicago, Long Beach, and Los Angeles. Bay Area presentations include the San Francisco International Arts Festival, Oakland Art Murmur's Classic Cars West, Hannah Regev's "Keeping an Eye on Surveillance," CODAME and Kinetech Arts. Her innovative installations of wax paintings on glass use transparency, light, and sensors to reveal multiple images based on the viewer's actions. art.girlcharlie.com

Ayodele Nzinga, MFA, PhD — (Producer) Recently included in the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, Nzinga is Founding director of Lower Bottom Playaz, Oakland's Premiere North American African Theater Company and a Black Arts Scholar. She was recognized in 2016 as one of the 40 faces that contributed to changing the face of Bay Area Theater (by Theatre Bay Area). She is a talented actress, a powerhouse SpokenWord Artist, a lyricist, a published poet, a playwright, film and stage director, producer, recording artist, film writer, and offers a series of engaging motivational lectures, transformative workshops, and collaborative creative sessions, as a means of creating space for group conversation. Nzinga is a California artist, who in the tradition of the Black Arts Continuum, uses performance as a method of inter-intra group communication. She was the Artistic Director of the original Recovery Theater, and its cult classic Marvin X's "One Day in the Life," the longest running African American Theater production in North America. She was the founding Artistic Director of The Sister Thea Bowman Memorial Theater, a 100-seat theater built in 2000, dedicated to the use of live performance as a form of community engagement. ayodelenzinga.com

The Zebra Operation (Music) — The Zebra Operation is a busking duo that rocks out on the BART train. Breaking down the monotony and tension in the Bart with sweet songs ranging from soothing hip hop ballads to blistering classical pieces. Adley, the guitarist, plays in the style of Stanley Jordan, using the guitar more like a piano. Ibby, the drummer, plays the cajon. Both members have their own bands. Adley leads his band BICICLETAS POR LA PAZ on musical bike tours around the US, Canada and Mexico so far. Ibby plays the drum set with several bands including THE FUNKANAUTS, THE LAGOS ROOTS AFROBEAT ENSEMBLE, and THE FUTURELICS. The philosophy behind the Zebra Operation is to support art, support activism and to cultivate a new culture where music is part of everyone's daily diet. They have performed in many different scenarios and settings, but see the BART as their home. Befriend them on Facebook and get updates on shows, new busking videos and more. ENJOY! [Find Zebra Operation on Facebook](#)

PRODUCTION TEAM

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Lighting Design | William Campbell |
| Lighting Operator | High Beats @ RealRapStudio |
| Marketing | Elizabeth Seja-Min |
| Videography | Wes Hendrix @ King of Black Media |
| Photography | David Lee Burleigh @ Lee Burleigh Studios Neptune @ Neppypics |
| Easel Design | Martin Sweet & Micah O'Maits |
| Stage Manager | Kenitra Love |
| Box Office | Ebony Hatton |
| Ushers | Shaylah Danielle Ellis, Lisa Evans, Venus Morris |
| Stagehands | Neptune, Erik Wright, Bones Causey |

HISTORY

The One Truthiness was originally inspired by the work and lives of the residents of Wahat Al-Salam / Neve Shalom and their School for Peace. Special thanks to Barbara Ridberg for the introduction.

2014 — Kinetech Arts' Featured Artist Series

2016 — San Francisco International Arts Festival at Fort Mason

2018 — The Lower Bottom Playaz @ The Flight Deck
(January, May, September, December)

2018 — San Francisco International Arts Festival at Fort Mason

THANK YOU

Amy Bayersdorfer
(sanity check, financial advisor, exo-brain, and most helpful person)

David & Fran Levin

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NOTE FROM THE ARTIST

Stephen Colbert coined the term “truthiness” in 2005 to describe when things seem true or feel true, even if not necessarily actually true.

We come to January, 2018 in a state of flux. At every level of society, we are arguing over what was, what is, and what should be. We are faced with alt-facts and called a “post-truth” society. How do we go forward from here?

The One Truthiness was created out of the idea that we each have our own truth, but none of us has the whole truth. Truth is the sum total of all of our individual truths and “truthinesses.”

We judge ourselves and others based on what seems “right” or “wrong” as we have experienced it, but the world works differently for different people. In that context, how can we possibly come up with good solutions based only on our own view without taking into consideration the needs and experiences of others?

Like it or not, we are always all in the picture together.

This project began after I visited bi-national communities in Israel — communities where Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews are intentionally “living together in conflict.” Their differences are out in the open, yet they work on creating space for each other.

I became fascinated by the kind of stamina it takes to work constructively in a context where there is no expectation of a quick or easy answer. No single demand or piece of legislation can begin to “fix” the problems of what we call the Middle East. It requires deeper change — “hearts and minds.”

Back in the U.S., our conflicting realities are coming to the surface fast and hard. The 2016 election ripped a veil off many people’s eyes, revealing mutual anger underlying diverging ideals and goals for what we “should” be and what “should” happen next — at every level of society — including our definitions of reality, morality, race, gender, America, community, truth, reliability, and reason.

These are multi-generational concerns that play out in the minutiae of our every day lives. It is policies and traditions and how we perpetuate and respond to them.

People are suffering and feeling ignored. People are dying. Communities are at risk. For some, this is new and raw. For others it's a longstanding grievance. Lately, it seems we are competing in our suffering instead of working together to diminish suffering for everyone.

What does it take to believe each other, when we are living such parallel lives that it's hard to even see each other?

When we can't agree on the basic definition of truth, when we can't trust each other, our government, or our news sources — how do we go forward?

With the urges to destroy the status quo, can we really move forward without alternatives in place? At the same time, small steps may pacify, but can they actually create justice or substantial change?

If most people mean well and believe they are doing good things, how are we creating this level of mortal conflict? What are the different experiences that distort our ability to share a commonly-held reality, leading to such profound divisions?

These are some of the questions informing *The One Truthiness*.

I created *The One Truthiness* in 2014 to see what the world looks like when we put the pieces together and see our separations, commonalities, and misunderstandings together — to bring all our truths out on the table and look at the patterns created by all our experiences and needs. Perhaps then, we can begin to rebuild trust and envision a future that creates room for everyone.

I placed *The One Truthiness* within our local community because if we can't create connection and good solutions across difference in our own communities, how valuable are our opinions of solutions for people far away?

I make art about complexity, using our own perception, transparency, and light to craft images, objects, and installations that give people a tangible experience of how we create meaning. Art is my contribution to the conversation.

Thank you for participating. Thank you for being patient with me and each other — all of us only know what we know until we don't. Welcome to Oakland.

— Charlie

The Lower Bottom Playaz (The Playaz)

Founded 1999

Mission — Creating community one story at a time.

Motto — To create what we need from what we have been gifted.

The primary purpose of The Lower Bottom Playaz, Inc. is to foster the creation, production, and presentation of quality theater in the tradition of the Black Arts continuum. The Lower Bottom Playaz, Inc. is dedicated to the excavation, critical examination, and illumination of the conditions of North American inner cities and the lives of inner city inhabitants through the creation of original works, the production and performance of the highest caliber existing material available to us from the North American African canon and the works of other artists considered marginalized within the American theater scene and the great American society in general.

We employ artists to perform, create work, present work, and train youth in theater arts. We concentrate on the presentation and creation of work that connects us to the universal in the human condition and enables dialogues that engage perceptions of difference and issues of concern for all inner city spaces.

The Lower Bottom Playaz, Inc. purposefully uses performance as a way of increasing social awareness, providing an entry point to community concerns, as well as to stimulate, celebrate and enhance understanding of ourselves and others through the shared experience of live theatre. The Lower Bottom Playaz, Inc. utilizes the performing arts to create a more conscious and compassionate public sphere as well as to inspire, nurture, challenge, educate, and empower artists and audiences; foster the enlightenment of more conscious and compassionate communities; and inspire in all of us the willingness to explore new ideas and generate dialogues concerning class, the social order, equity, and diversity. The Lower Bottom Playaz, Inc. provides urban residents the opportunity both to attend and to participate in quality presentations of performance art that encourage self-reflection and foster the inclusion of inner city communities in the larger conversations that concern the global village in which we all live. Our intentions are to entertain, inform, and educate, thereby enriching the cultural life of inner city spaces in California and adding to the state's rich and diverse arts community.



SEE THE WHOLE SERIES!

The One Truthiness { Oakland } is a four-part series featuring a new show every three months. Buy tickets to the whole series or just the next one.

May 4–5 The Flight Deck
Oakland

May 27, June 1–2 San Francisco International Arts Festival
Fort Mason, San Francisco

onetruthiness.eventbrite.com

TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU

The paintings & book are for sale.

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Each version of *The One Truthiness* responds to its local context and current issues of concern. Do you know people whose stories need to be heard?

OneTruthiness.com

FUNDED BY

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