

PRESENTED BY
Lower Bottom Playaz

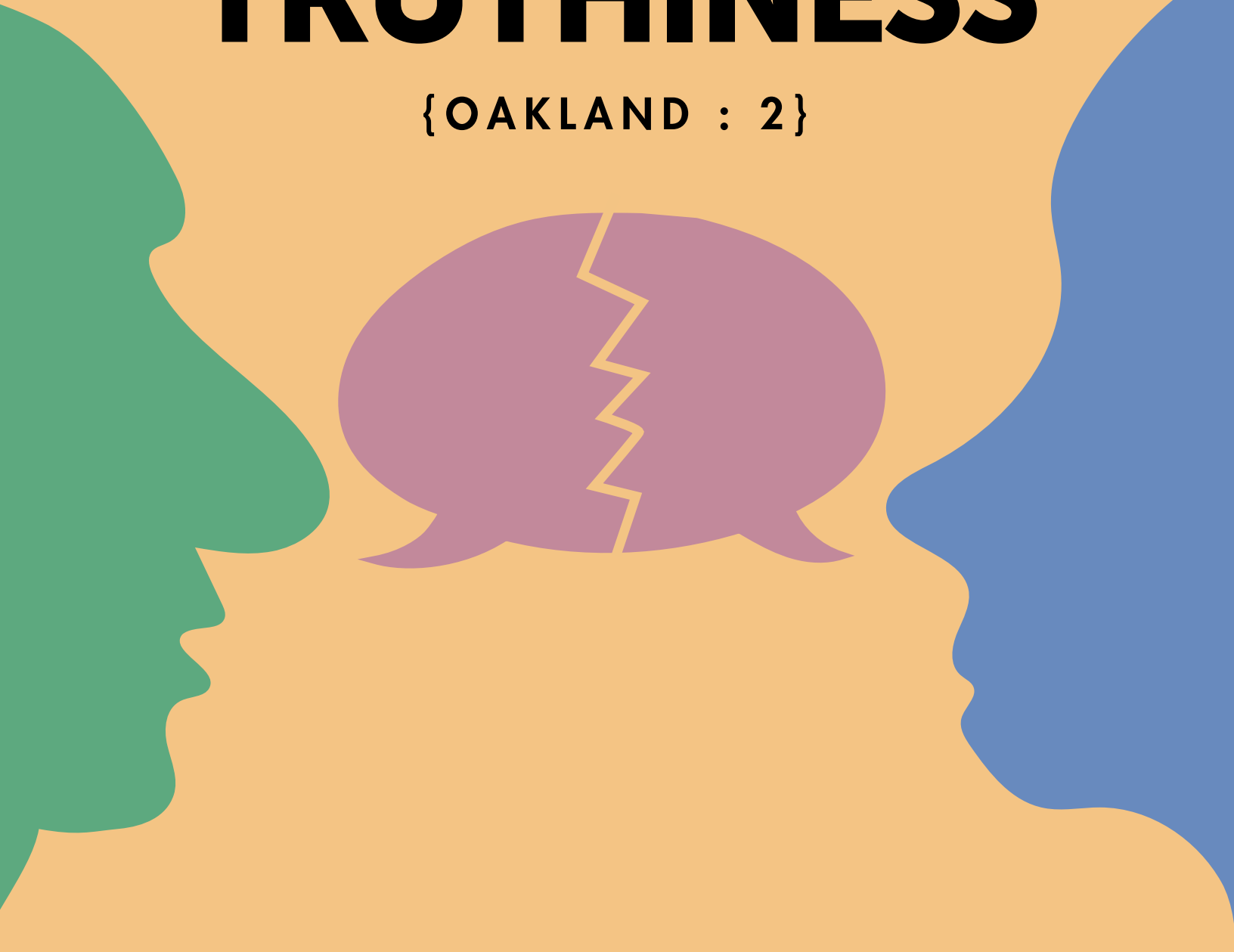
PRODUCED BY
Ayodele Nzinga

CREATED BY
Charlie Levin

San Francisco International Arts Festival 2019

THE ONE TRUTHINESS

{ OAKLAND : 2 }



OneTruthiness.com

Conceived & Created by

Charlie Levin

Series produced by

Ayodele Nzinga & The Lower Bottom Playaz

Music by

Ibby Freeman & Christian Kuria

Performed with

– You –

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

to all the people whose stories, posts, tweets, and articles, are quoted — for generously sharing complicated things, teaching through their words, and generally lighting a way through the world

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, February)

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, Mark Scheeff, John Hollis, Nilofer Ahsan

Afterparty Post, Geoffrey Austin, Hilary Mac Austin, Kelsey Bergstrom, Anthony Brown, Roger Carr, Alexandra Cicorschi, Amy Cranch, Elizabeth Churchill, Melissa Colten, Elizabeth Costello, Krista De Nio, Mark Enea, Ron Evans from ArtsArmy / Group of Minds, Flying Moose Video, Jessica Forbes, Valentino Foster, Ben Gross, Tristan Harvey, Dana Harrison, Wes Hendrix, John Hollis, Yvette Holts, Irene Hsiao, Alfred & Beatrice Israelstam, Kinetech Arts, Kenitra Love, Sue Mark, Clover Mathis, Maria Möller, Neptune, Rebecca Novick, Oddbill, Jana Olson, Micah O'Maits, Giuliano Pacheco, Clara Pinsky & ABD Productions, Jovelyn Richards, Barbara Ridberg, Stacey Rolland, Sarah Ruplin, Shane Safir, Anna Schniderman of The Flight Deck, Martin Sweet, Andrew Wood of the San Francisco International Arts Festival, Liz Simpson, Kathleen Thompson, Mark Tuschman, the team at WestEd, Erik Wright, John Young, and everyone else who has helped directly and indirectly.

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

Ibby Freeman & Christian Kuria (Music) — Members of the FUTURELICS, an Oakland-based band looking to add a fresh perspective and pay homage to the music of past generations. The FUTURELICS have shared the stage with big international acts, played Oakland-Born festival, and performed for the celebration of Black Panther founder Bobby Seale. The band is led by Xiomara and Camille Safiya, two young women who have combined their individual projects to create this band and give other artists a solid platform to launch from with their record label, FUTURELICS RECORDS. Their debut EP "Classic" is set to be released July 7th at the Starline Social Club in downtown Oakland. You are all welcome to join them!



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.

People are dying ... right here where we live. People are suffering and feeling ignored. Communities are at risk. For some, this is a longstanding grievance. For others, it's new and raw.

People are dying. Or feel like they're dying.
Culturally erased.

What are we teaching ourselves and each other?
What do we learn?

Are we teaching ourselves that we are different? Or that we have essential things in common? Are we actually welcoming others? Or just like to think we do? Do we really know how are our behaviors are experienced by others? Do we believe people when they tell us something? If we could look through someone else's eyes, would we really want to know?

The One Truthiness addresses race. But not only race. It addresses all the ways we keep ourselves separate.

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?

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

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

The One Truthiness was created 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.

It's easy to see the differences of people who are far away — those people over there. But there are plenty of ways we are keeping ourselves separate or pushing each other out right here in “Wokeland.” Is that the world we want to live in?

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?

We know this rationally, but what happens if we actually SEE each other — with respect?

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

It takes a certain kind of stamina 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. It requires deeper change — “hearts and minds.”

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

Perhaps the way we behave here in the small actions of our daily lives shapes the same dynamic underlying the larger divisions in the country and the world.

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

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.

— 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.



FUNDED BY

The generosity and support of everyone who contributed to the Kickstarter campaign, including (but not limited to):

Andrea Aerts, Nilofer Ahsan, Deb & David Alpert, Margaret Anderson, Sharon Andonov, Amy Bayersdorfer, Rachel Bayersdorfer, Toby Berkow, Laurie BK, Robert Bloch, Nancy Bloch, Barbara Brickman, Anthony Brown, Heidi Burbage, Jos Burns, Lauren Campedelli, Eugenia Chien, Elizabeth Churchill, Joy Cosculluela, Amy Cranch, William Alex Cunningham, Nikki D May, J Deitz, Arabella DeLuco, Marian Downie, Tony Dwyer, Susan Eisner, Vonnie Estes, Jan Fink, Gail Fisher, Mara Fruiterman Bayewitz, Helene Granof, Daniel Greene, Ben Gross, Cherie Hammer, Katharine Handler, Rob Haugen, Sue Heinemann, John Hollis, Stephany Howard, Marta Imas Wassertzug, Judy Jenkins Gaudino, Jannelle K, Rita Kanne, V Kapurs, John Kasab, Cheryl Kellond, Judd L Kessler, Marc L'Italien, Gilah Langner, Miriam Lavine Ratner, David & Fran Levin, Hyma Levin, Marvin Levin & Wayne Hall, Emily Lindsey & Martin Tomasz, J Linowitz, Faith Love, Phuong Ly, Hilary Mac Austin, Steve Marcus, Sue Mark, Destry Miller, Maria Möller, Sheri Morrison, Renee Moten, Natalie Nguyen, Meena Palaniappan, John Paul Young, Julie Plonk, Harold Poskanzer, Carol Ratner, Pilar Reber, Ronit Ridberg, Becky Robinson-Leviton, Sarah Ruplin, Shane Safir, Gerald Serotta, Lucy & Joel Sheffield, Jean Shia, Liz Simpson, Nessa Spitzer, Barry Stone, Neil Tangri, Virginia Tucker, Debbie Warden, Marjorie Wechsler, Susan Weiss, Dan Wilson, Alexis Wong, Bill Woodcock, Eric Ziegenhagen



Supported by
CASH | Theatre,
a grants program of
Theatre Bay Area



SEE THE WHOLE SERIES!

The One Truthiness {Oakland} is a four-part series featuring a new show every three months. You are seeing *{Oakland : 2}*.

Buy tickets now for September.

{Oakland : 3} **September, 2018**
The Flight Deck, Oakland

{Oakland : 4} **February, 2019**
The Black Arts Movement Festival, Oakland

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?

charlie@OneTruthiness.com