

PRESENTED BY  
Lower Bottom Playaz

PRODUCED BY  
Ayodele Nzinga

CREATED BY  
Charlie Levin

# THE ONE TRUTHNESS TACTICS

{ OAKLAND : 3 }



CAN WE **STOP TALKING** AND  
**GET SOMETHING DONE?**

The Lower Bottom Playaz  
presents

# THE ONE TRUTHINESS

{ Oakland : 3 }

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## 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

## Conceived & Created by

Charlie Levin

## Series produced by

Ayodele Nzinga & The Lower Bottom Playaz

## Music by

Ibby Freeman & Baeilou

## Performed with

You

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

## PRODUCTION TEAM

<b>Lighting Design</b>	William Campbell
<b>Lighting Operator</b>	High Beats @ RealRapStudio
<b>House Manager</b>	Kenitra Love
<b>Box Office</b>	Ebony Hatton
<b>Crew</b>	High Beats
<b>Videography</b>	Wes Hendrix @ King of Black Media, Wes Hendrix 2nd
<b>Photography</b>	David Lee Burleigh @ Lee Burleigh Studios

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## 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.

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## 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](http://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](http://ayodelenzinga.com)

**Ibby Freeman** (Percussion) — Ibby Freeman has played in many of the bay areas finest bands. Ranging from the art/funk duo "the zebra operation", to afrobeat rhythms in the 12 piece band "Lagos Roots Afrobeat Ensemble". Dabbling in all kinds of arts, you can find Ibby juggling, reading tarot and writing poetry. Ibby has been an original member of the musical aspect of "The One Truthiness," and 6 years after moving to the bay, Ibby has become a solid backbone and advocate for street musicians and alternative approaches to how and where music and art can exist.

**Baeilou** (Cello) — "Baeilou" names Mia Pixley's cello, as well as her seemingly baroque-folk and (sometimes) jazz inspired musical project. An Austin, Texas native, Mia is a cellist, singer and songwriter living in Oakland, CA by way of New York City (her cello is a Bay Area native). Most recently, Baeilou played cello on Fantastic Negrito's second GRAMMY award winning album "Please Don't Be Dead". She has also performed in award winning Off-Broadway musicals, toured with Windham Hill and been the principal musician in film scores. She holds a professional studies diploma in cello performance from San Francisco Conservatory of Music, a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from CUNY Graduate Center, and a BA from Columbia University. Mia cares about community, the arts, mental health and the environment. [baeilou.com](http://baeilou.com)

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## THANK YOU

Amy Bayersdorfer

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

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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 are having a national conversation about race.

*There is tremendous evidence that Trump voters were motivated by racial resentment (as well as hostile sexism), and very little evidence that economic stress had anything to do with it.*

– Vox.com and *The Washington Post*

And people’s opinions about it and what to do about it run the gamut.

*Apparently, the education gap, police brutality, school underfunding, sentencing disparities, the drug war, the incarceration rate, the racial difference in money bail, the statistically-provable anti-black leanings of the criminal justice system, the discipline disparities in K-12 schools, the undervaluing of black real estate, the fact that resumes containing black names are less likely to get callbacks, racial biases in mortgage lending and even the fact that two out of every three white people in America think there are times when it is okay to use black people’s skin color as a temporary costume—all of it—is due to the fact that black people simply refuse to sit down and politely explain racism in a calm and soothing tone.*

– Michael Harriot, *The Root*

Our conscious and unconscious understanding (and misunderstanding) about race are shaping our world at every level — personally, locally, nationally, and globally. Yet, we can’t even agree on what it is much less what to do about it.

Oakland is famous for taking action. It is a stronghold of creativity in all areas, including political and social activism. Yet even here we have extreme disparities in our views and experiences of reality. Why did BBQ Betty and Permit Patty feel like they needed to call the police? People of color here still struggle to acquire city services, respect from the legal system, quality education, jobs, housing, savings, and respect. An African-American 10-year old still got thrown out of Whole Foods while shopping for a birthday present for his mom.

So with so many well-intentioned people, how does this still happen? Clearly, solely not-actively-doing-racist-things still perpetuates a system of dramatic inequity and danger based on race.

We are living in a particularly divisive moment in history, where compromise often feels like complicity, and the stakes feel so high we can't afford anything but perfection. But If we can't talk and work effectively with like-minded people, how can we unite a country?

This is the third installment of **The One Truthiness {Oakland}**. After many of the previous shows, people have asked "But what do I do?"

So ... what does happen when we work together — when good people try to make it better? Where do we start? Why do we stop? Who gets hurt along the way? What does it feel like to succeed?

Race is tricky. There are real life-and-death consequences felt every day at every level, and yet in some ways, it doesn't exist. It's personal, cultural, institutional, and systemic. Where does class fit in? Responsibility? History? Where do you start when people have been working on it for so long, and there is still so much disparity?

**The One Truthiness** seeks to reclaim the nuance. It believes that we each have our story, and that the Truth is made of all of our stories intertwined. Race is slippery. There is no one clear answer, and yet we are all in it together.

*You are not obligated to complete the work,  
but neither are you free to desist from it*

– The Mishnah

Thank you.

— 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. Come back for the last part in May.

## May 30-31 { Oakland:4 }

@ The Flight Deck

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### BRING THE ONE TRUTHINESS TO WORK

*The One Truthiness* works especially well with communities of people with ongoing relationships. We can customize the content to your concerns and interview people within your organization.

[charlie@OneTruthiness.com](mailto:charlie@OneTruthiness.com)

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### TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU

The paintings & book are for sale.

### FUNDED BY

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