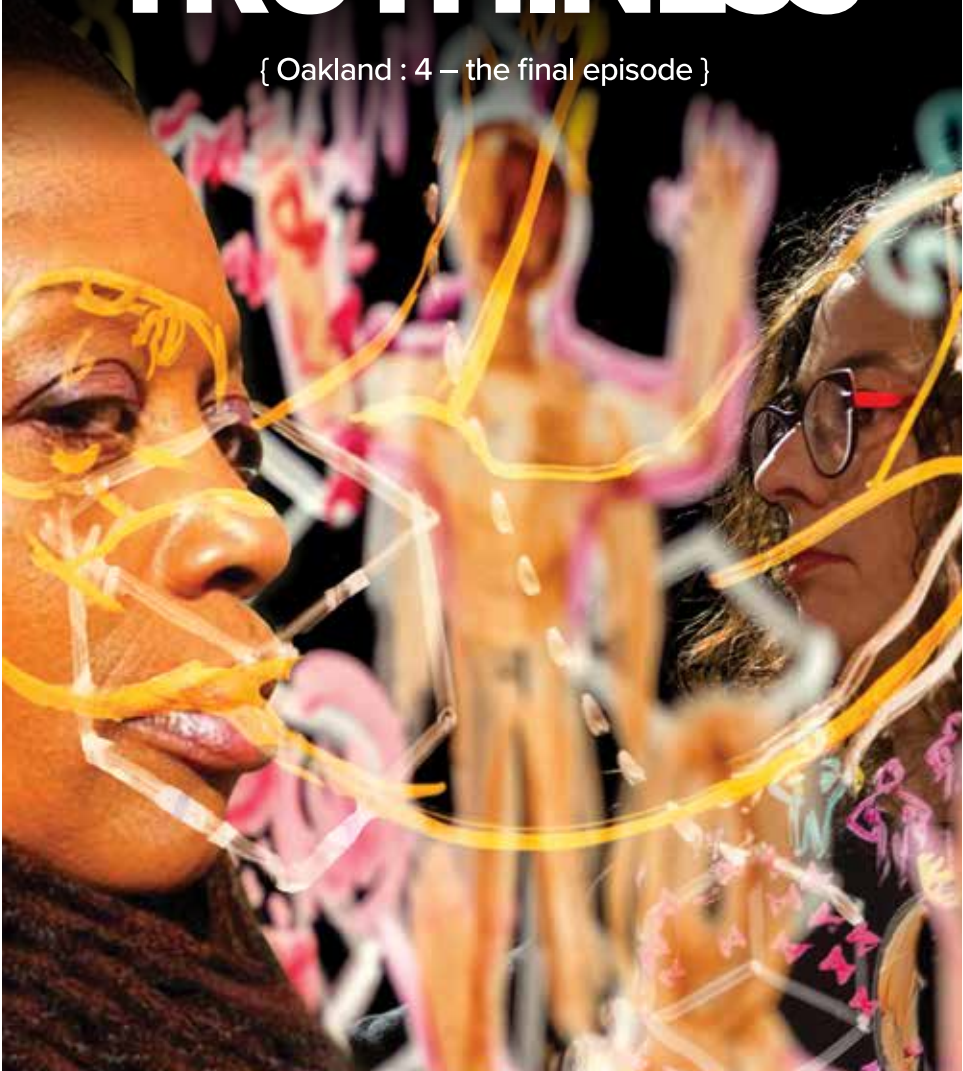


Lower Bottom Playaz present

# THE ONE TRUTHINESS

{ Oakland : 4 – the final episode }



Who gets to be **safe**? Who is cast as the **threat**?

The Lower Bottom Playaz  
presents

# THE ONE TRUTHINESS

{ Oakland : 4 }

**CONCEIVED & CREATED BY**

Charlie Levin

**DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY**

Ayodele Nzinga

**CO-PRODUCED BY**

The Flight Deck

**CAST**

Simone Bloch	Daryn Nicole
Kenitra "KoKo" Causey	Dishonne Muhammad
Stanley "Doe" Hunt	King Ross
Tara Lipari	Jake Weissman

**MUSIC BY**

Ibby Freeman & Mia Pixley

**MOVEMENT ADVISOR**

Krista DeNio

**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.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

<b>Production Manager</b>	Kenitra Love
<b>Lighting Design</b>	William Campbell
<b>Lighting Operator</b>	High Beats @ RealRapStudio
<b>Box Office</b>	Ebony Hatton
<b>Usher</b>	Taliah Scott
<b>Crew</b>	Kevin (Neptune) Jenkins, High Beats
<b>Videography</b>	Wes Hendrix @ King of Black Media, Wes Hendrix 2nd
<b>Photography</b>	TaSin Sabir, TaSin Sabir Studios

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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** (Director & 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. [ayodelenziga.com](http://ayodelenziga.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.

**Mia Pixley** (Cello) — Mia Pixley is a singer songwriter, improviser, cellist and collaborator who creates seemingly baroque folk, jazz, and blues inspired music. An Austin, Texas native, Mia lives in Oakland, CA by way of New York City (her cello is a Bay Area native). Mia released her first EP, *Inside Under*, under the alias Baeilou. Recently, she played cello on the second GRAMMY award winning *Fantastic Negrito* album, “Please Don’t Be Dead” and has toured with Windham Hills, Winter Solstice Series. This fall, she and her husband, Kevin Shaw, a visual artist, will release, *SPAR*, which is their first art and music collaboration. She is pumped about it. Mia studies cello performance at San Francisco Conservatory of Music and has a PhD in clinical psychology. @miapixley



**Krista DeNio** (Movement Advisor) — Krista DeNio is an interdisciplinary choreographer, director, performer, writer and educator. Artistic Director of KD>>>Moving Ground, she is committed to engaging interdisciplinary collaboration that bridges performance work, education and activism toward a socially just world. Current projects include *EchoTheaterSuitcase* and *NETWORK*. Krista is a House Artist at CounterPulse, a member of the International Interdisciplinary Artist Consortium, and is Manager of the Art Program at Larkin Street Youth Services, San Francisco. As a lecturer she has worked with U.C. Berkeley’s Theater, Dance and Performance Studies department; with Professor Lochlann Jain, in Empathy Lab, a course developed at Stanford University, and a number of universities around the country. Krista teaches dance and performance making throughout



the Bay Area and country. She received her BA in Dance/Dramatic Art and I.S.F. [Development and Human Rights] from U.C. Berkeley and her MFA in Theater: Contemporary Performance from Naropa University.



**Simone Bloch** — Simone is a French-American performer who you may have seen lately as Skuroji in “A Noh Christmas Carol” at Theatre of Yugen, or the old Clockmaker in “Time Sensitive” with Ragged Wing Ensemble or even as the very young Leila in “Leila’s Quest for Flight” with Golden Thread Productions. Unlike her Chinese great-grandfather and his German spouse or her

Filipino grandfather who didn’t transmit their culture, language and traditions to the next generations, she has chosen integration versus assimilation. She is excited to be part of this artistic production that denounces racism and promotes tolerance and open-mindedness

**Kenitra “KoKo” Causey** is a graduate of LBP Summer Theater Day Camp and a Junior Lower Bottom Playaz troupe member. She’s appeared in *Rag Doll Lullaby*, *Fences*, numerous “Big Shows” and was featured in the Fury Fest as a dancer with Sokeo Rose.



**Stanley “Doe” Hunt** started in the coming of age film LICKS, is a core LBP troupe member who grew up on stage. He’s appeared in *Mama at Twilight*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *LIFER* and *Beyond Bars Growing Home*.

**Tara Megan Lipari** is a bay-area based yoga teacher, drama teacher, and actress. She last appeared as Roberta in Ionesco’s *The Future is in Eggs*, and is thrilled to now be called back to the stage to give life to another abstract piece of theatre with *The One Truthiness*. Tara has achieved her B.A. in Drama from San Francisco State University, and continued her training with a summer in London studying Shakespeare at L.A.M.D.A.. She has performed across the globe in London with the North London Actors, as well as in Oakland with the Ragged Wing Ensemble. She has been personally profoundly affected by this show, and is honored to represent her community’s earnest (though sometimes confused) desire for peace. She hopes everyone can enjoy the performance, with an open heart.





**Daryn Nicole** is 10 years old, and is a 5th grade student, at Glenview Elementary School in Oakland, California. Daryn is a celebrated visual artist, who also enjoys playing the bass guitar and the violin. She loves swimming and travel and has attended school in Ghana, West Africa. Daryn Nicole makes her stage debut in this production of *The One Truthiness*.

**Sis. Dishonne “Khalifa” Muhammad** is an educator, human rights advocate, and world traveler. She has taught various subjects, here in the US.. as well as English as a second language, both in China and Ghana, West Africa. Khalifa received her Bachelors from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in Sociology and a Masters in Public Administration from Grand Canyon University. Besides traveling, Khalifa writing, spending time with her children, and various expressions of art - such as theater and photography. After returning to the Bay Area, she is concerned with gentrification and the impact on Bay Area culture.



**King Ross** is a Junior Lower bottom Playaz troupe member whose has attended LBP Summer Theater Day Camp since age 4. He has appeared in numerous “Big Shows” and last appeared main stage as the Wise Old Child in Protection Shields.

**Jake Weissman** — Jake Weissman is starting his professional acting career after studying at UCSB and The Foothill Theatre Conservatory. Some of his favorite roles in the past have been Kerry Davis in *First Person Shooter*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, and Jim O’Connor in *The Glass Menagerie*. Jake is very excited to be working on *The One Truthiness* because his goals are to use his art and acting for activism, and this is the first step to achieving this goal.



## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you know me you know I love stories. Stories are the oldest form of “getting your news,” and the way that people explain the world to themselves and each other. Stories carry our accumulated narrative of us together in the world making life.

I love stories that are as complex as people are, have deep messages you can't escape, and disturb you in a way that changes you in ways you didn't invite or anticipate.

I often engage stories to learn something about myself or the world—I find my way and reason inside the story of a thing, person, or place.

I like stories that challenge what we think we know, and make us want to understand why we hold the thoughts we hold, and how we might live better in the world with other humans.

I make work that inspires and informs conversations. I like conversations in rooms where people who don't normally mingle come together to sit in the dark and be told a story about the high art of being human.

I met Charlie Levin almost five years ago. I fell in love with her work in illuminated wax on glass and her prowess as a storyteller. We embarked on a journey to find the truth—everyone's truth. The journey has inspired fine conversation, deep personal reflection, respect for someone whose life is very different than my own, and an abiding love of truth, no matter where it's hiding.

Charlie has been a lively co-conspirator, and it's been my pleasure to watch her hungry eyes look into the world in all its complexity and pull from it a story of its fractures and miracles-in-waiting. And to then watch her brush them in melted wax on a glass canvas has been a delight that pleases my mind and my soul. Her adroitness in taking you from clear canvas where you think you understand everything, to a canvas so full of your secrets and the world's angst that your clarity on where you end and the world begins becomes obscured -- is a gift to us and the art of storytelling.

I am so happy to be a part of one of the most unique ways of looking at the world I have ever presented. I welcome you to one of the most important conversations of our time.

To Charlie I am grateful for the gift of being seen. There is something important in your story being told with grace, love, and generosity of spirit.

Charlie sees us. All of us. This is our story—everybody's. I hope it disturbs you in ways that challenge you to be tall, awake, and a force for understanding in a world made by us.

I invite you to be the hero. Because no matter what kind of world we choose to make—we are in it together.

Artfully,

Ayodele Nzinga

## NOTE FROM THE ARTIST

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

Privilege, fragility, Whiteness, Blackness, culture, values, power, access, responsibility for ourselves and others — these qualities are increasingly rising to the surface in our public discussions and private reflections. They are charged. Emotions run high. Stakes are high. Who do we want to be ... as a country, as a community, as people?

Being raised Jewish in America, I saw a lot of “Israel is right and can brook no criticism.” As I got older, I saw the opposite: “Israel is wrong and no praise can be acknowledged.” This project began in 2014 after my first visit to Israel, where, not surprisingly, it’s more complicated than that. I visited bi-national communities — communities where Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews are intentionally “living together in conflict.” They have irreconcilable existential differences, yet they work on creating space for each other.

I returned to the U.S. to the Ferguson protests and suddenly saw how in our country too, the government shoots people in the middle of the street, and we (in general) accept it as sad but tolerable. I started to see the existential threat and anxiety that people-perceived-as-Black experience as a daily concern and how isolated and insulated my perspective was as someone perceived and treated as White. Our truths were literally different.

Racism is slippery. It is systems and institutions and yet also personal and subtle. We all have it. It frames our ideas of normal, of comfort and discomfort in every sphere of life. It’s hard to see how to fix it, especially when we are uncomfortable around each other. When we can’t listen with grace. It’s easy to feel powerless. My work has always been about perspective and complexity, and yet it took that long for me to connect it to race.

When I met Ayodele Nzinga in 2015, I found a mind and a heart large in scope, grasping to portray humanity and truth in bold, beautiful strokes. She empowers generations of people. She has trusted me with her art, her community, and her Oakland. This project has changed the direction of my work, my heart, and my life.

I am honored by the trust placed in me by all the people who allowed me to talk with them, who shared the stories that end up in this work. These are real voices expressed in private circles, rarely allowed to be laid out next to each other.

Ayodele and her Oakland give me hope. There is SO much good work being done. Brilliant people with new ideas giving their all ... and then some. Anything I can do to support and shine light on them, in my mind, serves us all.

We have an opportunity ... all of us ... to gently hold the awkwardness and come together — because ... we create the world. Like it or not, we are always all in the picture together.

Respectfully,  
Charlie Levin



## HISTORY

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

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## 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 & Dimitri Andonov, Amy Bayersdorfer, Rachel Bayersdorfer, Toby Berkow, Laurie BK, Robert Bloch, Nancy Bloch, Barbara & Norman Brickman, Anthony Brown, Heidi Burbage, Jos Burns, Lauren Campedelli, Eugenia Chien, Elizabeth Churchill, Joy Coscolluela, 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 Kapur, 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, Barbara and Gene Ridberg, 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.

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## THANK YOU

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

David & Fran Levin, Mark Scheeff

Angela Wellman and the Oakland Public Conservatory

Nilofer Ahsan, Tur-Ha Ak, Najee Amaranth, Geoffrey Austin, Hilary Mac Austin, Anthony Brown, Olaitan Callender-Scott, Roger Carr, Alexandra Cicorschi, Elizabeth Churchill, Melissa Colten, Elizabeth Costello, Amy Cranch, Regina Davis, Krista De Nio, Mark Enea, Ron Evans from ArtsArmy / Group of Minds, Fenner, Flying Moose Video, Jessica Forbes, Valentino Foster, Ben Gross, Yvette Holts, Shaka Jamal, Tristan Harvey, Dana Harrison, John Hollis, Yvette Holts, Irene Hsiao, Alfred & Beatrice Israelstam, Yvonne Keene, Kinetech Arts, Sue Mark, Clover Mathis, Maria Möller, Rebecca Novick, Oddbill, Micah O'Maits, Giuliano Pacheco, Clara Pinsky & ABD Productions, Brian & Sid & the team from Afterparty Post, Jovelyn Richards, Barbara and Gene Ridberg, Stacey Rolland, Sarah Ruplin, Shane Safir, Anna Shneiderman, Lindsey Siegel, Martin Sweet, Andrew Wood of the San Francisco International Arts Festival, Liz Simpson, Kathleen Thompson, Mark Tuschman, Elysse Versher, John Watkins, the team at WestEd, John Young and Kelsey Bergstrom, and everyone else who has helped directly and indirectly.

## 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 theater. 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.



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

- The Mishnah

## **TAKE US HOME WITH YOU**

The paintings & book  
are for sale.

<http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/onetruthiness>

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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.

[OneTruthiness.com](http://OneTruthiness.com)