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```
self.file = None  
self.fingerprints = set()  
self.logdupes = True  
self.debug = debug  
self.logger = logging.getLogger(__name__)  
if path:  
    self.file = open(os.path.join(path, 'fingerprints.txt'), 'w')  
    self.file.seek(0)  
    self.fingerprints.update(request_fingerprints)  
    if self.debug:  
        self.logger.info('Fingerprints: %s', self.fingerprints)  
    if self.logdupes:  
        self.logger.info('Logdupes: %s', self.logdupes)  
    if self.file:  
        self.file.write('%s\n' % self.fingerprints)
```

**ICE**  
factory 2020

July 24-Aug 15



NEW OHIO THEATRE PRESENTS

# A BURNING CHURCH



PART OF ICE FACTORY 2020

# CREATIVE TEAM

Book and Direction by **Alex Hare** and **Zhailon Levingston**

Music by **Nehemiah Lockett**

Lyrics by **Zhailon Levingston**

Stage Manager **Jhanaë Bonnick**

Video Designer **Katherine Freer**

Sound Designer **Twi McCallum**

Music Director **Nehemiah Lockett**

Score Supervisor **Macy Schmidt**

Vocal Coach **Kiana Day Williams**

Sound Mixers **Carlos Del Castillo, Zé Luis Oliveira,**

**Tojo Rasedoara, Travis Tench**

Drums **Elena Bonomo, Eric Johnson**

Bass **Nate Stevens, Debbie Tjong**

Promo Photographer **David Friend**

Promo Graphic Designer **Stephen Davan**

# CAST\*

**Jen** Leandra Ellis-Gaston

**Cleo** Starr Busby

**Pastor Jo** Isaiah Johnson

**Isaiah** Nik Alexander

**Richard** Kevin R. Free

**Mary Ellis** Jeannette Bayardelle

**Pastor Donna** Missy Wise

**Praise Team** Kayla Davion, Avionce Hoyles,

Denise Manning, Carla R. Stewart

\*In addition to singing and acting, the cast recorded their own vocals + dialogue, positioned their devices for proper framing of filmed footage, and performed other extra tasks.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Cleo and Pastor Jen are standing in the rubble that was Calvary Baptist Church. Two years ago they lost the lease, eight years ago half the congregation left in disgust, twelve years ago it was the second biggest megachurch in Alabama, thirty years ago they found the pastor unconscious in the basement, and last night...

A kaleidoscopic new musical tracing the lives of church leaders and congregants amid protest movements, tragedies, and spiritual rebirth, *A Burning Church* is about an American institution fighting to survive a crisis of faith.

*A Burning Church* is being developed through New Ohio and IRT's two-year Archive Residency, with a premiere production scheduled for fall 2021. Hare, Levingston, and Lockett have also received the A Blade of Grass fellowship for socially-engaged art, which is supporting the team as they workshop the show in conversation with churches across the country.

**SPECIAL THANKS** Kori Rushton/IRT, A Blade of Grass (including Prerana Reddy, Deborah Fisher, and Kathryn McKinney), Drew Shade/Broadway Black, Musical Theatre Factory, Isaiah Johnson for his dramaturgical support, and the full cast for their willingness to collaborate with us in discovering and meeting the demands of an unconventional process!

## A NOTE FROM THE ETHER

We have been forced out of our beloved theatres by a global pandemic. The theatre's core relationship of physical bodies in a shared space is not currently available to us. And yet... artists continue to make art, and storytellers still have stories to tell.

The artists in this summer's Ice Factory have all embraced our current terms-of-engagement and committed themselves to a rigorous and playful investigation of digitally-mediated, live-streamed shared time. Because that is what artists do: they work with the resources at hand to make something radically new. Each of the different artists in IF2020 take different approaches - foregrounding, exploding, and exploiting different qualities of this new medium. They are joyful and fearless in the face of this new and uncharted territory. And that is why we follow them with such giddy anticipation.

Enjoy!

Robert Lyons, Artistic Director, New Ohio Theatre

## ICE FACTORY 2020 FESTIVAL LINEUP

**July 24-26**

**SOCIETY**

*BEGINNING DAYS OF TRUE*

*JUBILATION*

A visionary vows to create a life-changing product, with the smartest minds of her generation ecstatically on board. What could possibly go wrong? A satirical journey through the cult-like, group-think of winner-take-all capitalism, from the early euphoria of a new start-up through its epic crash and burn. Written by Mona Mansour, and directed by Scott Illingworth.

**July 30-Aug 2**

**DIBBA/KHANIN/MADRONE/SMITH**

*we need your listening*

An empty theater lit by glowing blue screens. Phone

## ABOUT NEW OHIO THEATRE

New Ohio Theatre serves Manhattan's most adventurous audiences by developing, curating and presenting bold work by New York's independent theatre community. We believe the best of this community, the small artistic ensembles and the daring producing companies who operate without a permanent theatrical home, are actively expanding the boundaries of what theatre is and what it can be. From our home in the West Village's historic Archive Building, the New Ohio strengthens, nurtures, and promotes this community, providing a professional, high-profile platform for downtown's most mature, ridiculous, engaging, irreverent, gut-wrenching, frivolous, sophisticated, foolish, and profound theatrical endeavors.

*Help us develop and present the best of New York's independent theatre scene by making a taxdeductible contribution at [newohiotheatre.org](http://newohiotheatre.org)*

calls after dark. Spinning confessionals. In a shifting theatrical landscape, individual audience members enter a dim space between digital and analog reality and are taken through a series of intimate, one-on-one exchanges with performers - discovering and re-discovering the act of listening as radical engagement.

**Aug 4-8**

**THE TRANSIT ENSEMBLE**

*WHO'S THERE?*

A Black American influencer accuses a Malaysian bureaucrat of condoning blackface. A Singaporean-Indian teacher launches an Instagram feud calling out racial inequality at home, post-George Floyd. A privileged Singaporean-Chinese activist meets a compassionate White Saviour, and an ethnically

ambiguous political YouTuber takes a DNA test for the first time. This cross-cultural encounter involving artists based in Singapore, Malaysia, and the United States uses Zoom as a new medium to explore the unstable ground between us and “the other.” In this pandemic contact zone, lines along race, class and gender bleed into one another, questioning the assumptions we hold of ourselves and the world around us.

**Aug 13-15**

**LEIVINGSTON/HARE/LUCKETT**

## ***A BURNING CHURCH***

A kaleidoscopic new musical tracing the lives of church leaders and congregants amid political movements, tragedies, and spiritual rebirth, *A Burning Church* is about an American institution fighting to survive a crisis of faith. This iteration will be presented as a virtual religious service, weaving in performances of songs from the show with sermons, commentary, and moments to hold spiritual space together -- space to imagine the role of the church in movements for liberation, as well as the form that church and theater can take when gathering is not possible.

### **NEW OHIO THEATRE STAFF**

<i>Artistic Director</i>	Robert Lyons
<i>Producing Director</i>	Marc Stuart Weitz
<i>Associate Producer</i>	Jaclyn Biskup
<i>Ice Factory</i>	
<i>Associate Producer</i>	Rachel Denise April
<i>Box Office Manager</i>	Antonio Miniño
<i>Ice Factory Crew</i>	Ryan Henry, Priyanka Kedia
<i>Press Representative</i>	David Gibbs/DARR Publicity

### **NEW OHIO THEATRE BOARD**

Scott Budlong  
Chris Dickey  
Margaret B. Grossman, *Chair*  
Erich Jungwirth  
Robert C. Lyons  
Vanessa Sparling  
Margaret Weber

### **ARCHIVE RESIDENCY COMPANIES**

The Archive Residency offers artists a two-year commitment of space, artistic support, and institutional continuity for the development and presentation of a new work. In partnership with IRT Theatre, our neighbors in the Archive Building, we provide independent theatre companies with that most elusive and invaluable resource: an artistic home.

*Current Archive Residency Artists*  
Byzantine Choral Project (2019-21)  
Radical Evolution (2019-21)  
Kareem M. Lucas (2020-21)  
Levingston/Hare/Luckett (2020-21)

### **BLACK LIVES MATTER**

New Ohio Theatre stands in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. We commit to fighting against those inflicting violence on Black communities, to wrestling with new questions, and holding ourselves more accountable as we move forward to a better future. If you would like to donate to support the fight for justice and equality, please [click here](#) to learn about one of our favorite organizations supporting Black trans lives.

### **INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

New Ohio Theatre is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta). We pay respect to Lenape peoples and ancestors past, present, and future, and acknowledge our reliance on the land and waters of Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland.

*Ice Factory 2020 is supported, in part, by grants from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; Howard Gilman Foundation; Mental Insight Foundation; and New York Community Trust.*