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Thu, March 7 - Sun, March 17, 2013
MAIN THEATRE, WRIGHT HALL

THATRE & DANCE

Devised & Choreographed by Granada Artist-in-Residence
QUDUS ONIKEKU

The length of this production is one hour and 15 minutes without intermission. This production has the potential for exposure to fine dust. It contains adult content and sudden loud noises. Before the performance begins, please note the exit closest to your seat. Kindly silence your cell phone, pager and other electronic devices. Video, photographic and audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited by law. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater. Thank you for your cooperation.
**FLASH: A New Choreography**

**Director’s Note**

In the face of the world, I’m undoubtedly a Black and an African man, but the question for me has never been in the realm of denying nor romanticizing, not worrying whether I’m black enough or being too African. We live under a construct which has placed more emphasis on defining and outlining who we are, so rather than just dancing and communicating ourselves in our own simple and naive manners, we now— through the obligation of the other—spend time imitating an idea of ourselves. For me, there will be no denying nor romanticizing, for this is usually the price to pay in acquiring that legitimacy that is offered to traveling artists outside their terrain, but rather I look at things more holistically and all inclusively. So it’s always about how to communicate my own ideas of the world.

As opposed to the evangelical engagement with the divine, as something to be contemplated and rationalized, here in FLASH, collectively we are working to embody the divine itself through self immersing, and losing the self unto an essential life force which transcends us and dances inside and around us, to get salvation first from this world before the other. In this piece, we propose a configuration of different stories from witnesses from different events in different places and times, all narrated as a single story. In essence, we can imagine how human relationships and our actions, are never isolated but always interlinked with repercussions echoing on other ends of the earth.

A tree they say can never make a forest, therefore, there will be no FLASH without the enduring and persevering support of many members of the cast and crew, their talents and sensitivities have produced a great part of this piece. I particularly thank my wife Hajarat Alli for allowing me take up this title of visiting professor, hence a visiting husband, also, Mary Ann Brooks, for being a wonderful assistant on many grounds. I am grateful to the genesis of this idea, Ken Foster, a good friend and director of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, who introduced me to UC Davis, and I am greatly indebted to the authorities of the Department of Theatre and Dance for this rare opportunity.

All my work as a creative artist has been a series of possibilities of responding to issues that affect me primarily, and those that affect the permanent human values which I defend. I know that my audience is not particularly concerned with these matters before coming to the theater, so it then becomes my responsibility to find other interesting and spectacular ways of reaching out and communicating. We hope that the amount of work and energy invested in making this possible will be felt by our audience. On behalf of the whole FLASH family, and as the head of this family, I hope you have a good time. ENJOY the show!

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-- Qudus Onikeku, UC Davis Granada Artist-in-Residence

**About the Creator/Choreographer**

**Qudus Onikeku** is one of the preeminent young generation choreographers working today. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Onikeku graduated from the National Higher School of Circus Arts in Chalons-en-Champagne, France. Often inspired by his Yoruban culture, Onikeku conducts artistic research in Africa and has toured the United States, the Caribbean and Europe with personal works as well as with renowned artists such as Heddy Maalem, Christophe Abdul Onibasa, George Lavaudent, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Boris Charmatz and Jean Claude Galotta. In 2007 he directed *Do We Need Coca-Cola to Dance?*, an urban dance project in various African cities which gave rise to a documentary film. Other works include *I Must Set Forth* (2009) at the Bates Dance Festival, *My Exile is in My Head* (2010) at Centquatre in Paris, *STILL/Life* (2011) at the Festival d’Avignon, *We Dance We Pray* (2011) at Vuyani Week in Johannesburg and *Kaddish* (2011) at Torino Danza. He was named the 2012 New Choreographic talent at SACD (La Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques) in France, and is currently working on *QADDISH*, a new full length journey with his 80-year-old father that will premiere at the 2013 Festival d’Avignon.
UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance presents

FLASH: A New Choreography

with

Cynthia Arellanes
Mary Ann Brooks
Lindsay Beamish
Nicole Casado
Zach Heinzer
Mariah Heller
Hien Huynh
Manami Ii
Maribel Lopez
Jake Parkhurst
David Shih

SCENIC DESIGNER
Qudus Onikeku

COSTUME DESIGNER
Elizabeth Galindo

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Kurt Landisman

STAGE MANAGER
Corey Heimer

CREATED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY
Qudus Onikeku
CAST (in order of appearance)

Narrator................................................................. LINDSAY BEAMISH
Dancer.................................................................CYNTHIA ARELLANES
Dancer...............................................................MARY ANN BROOKS
Dancer...............................................................NICOLE CASADO
Dancer..............................................................ZACH HEINZER
Dancer.............................................................MARIAH HELLER
Dancer.................................................................HIEN HUYNH
Dancer.................................................................MANAMI II
Dancer...............................................................MARIBEL LOPEZ
Dancer.................................................................JAKE PARKHURST
Dancer...............................................................DAVID SHIH

PERFORMER BIOS

CYNTHIA ARELLANES (Dancer) is a third-year Dramatic Art major and is excited to be performing in FLASH.

LINDSAY BEAMISH (Narrator) has been a professional actress, dancer, writer and experimental filmmaker for over twenty years. She was recently seen in the film The Greatest, starring Pierce Brosnan and Susan Sarandon, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival. Other work includes lead roles in John Cameron Mitchell’s Shortbus, CSI, Gilmore Girls, independent film Forgetting the Girl, and Miranda July’s Nest of Tens. She has a BA in Theater and Dance from UC Santa Cruz and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Wyoming. Lindsay is currently pursuing an MFA in Dramatic Art from UC Davis.

MARY ANN BROOKS (Dancer & Choreographer’s Assistant) is an educator, activist, dancer and performance artist. Her adventures have led her from California’s back country mountain ranges to dance studios in New Zealand to street theater protests in San Francisco. Before starting the Interdisciplinary Dramatic Art MFA here at UC Davis in fall 2012, she danced with aerial dance troupe, Flyaway Productions, San Francisco.

NICOLE CASADO (Dancer) is a fourth-year Dramatic Art major. She is thrilled to be performing in FLASH.

ZACH HEINZER (Dancer) is a fourth-year Dramatic Art major who is very happy to be part of FLASH.

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QUDUS ONIKEKU: Choreography

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MARY BETH CAVANAUGH: Choreography
KIM EPIFANO: Choreography
ELIZABETH GALINDO: Costume Design
ROBIN GRAY: Stage Management
MICHELE LEAVY: Acting
MARIAN HELLER (Dancer) has been performing since the age of five, and began performing professionally at the age of sixteen. After working in the music industry in Los Angeles from 2008 to 2010, Mariah decided to take a break from the industry and focus on having the quintessential college experience. Now at the age of twenty one, Mariah has begun performing again in Northern California and runs a website dedicated to her music and modeling. After graduation, Mariah plans to return to the music industry, but for the time being she is thrilled to be a part of the UCD dance program and FLASH.

HIEN HUYNH (Dancer) This is Hien’s second quarter at UC Davis as a transfer student from Consumnes River College. His major is Communication. He believes that there is a strong connection between dance and communication. “It is through dance that we can communicate in vivid detail our emotions without saying a single word.” Middle school was where he began to learn how to speak the language of dance. Now as an undergraduate, he is on a journey to expand his vocabulary by studying various forms and styles of dance. “Let’s dance together; Let’s have a conversation.”

MANAMI II (Dancer) is a junior at UC Davis majoring in Dramatic Art. She is very short and shy. Originally from Japan, she has always been passionate about singing and dancing. She is looking forward to participating in future dance productions after FLASH.
CONCEPT ARTIST BIOS

Elizabeth Galindo (Costume Designer) is a couture and costume designer. Her designs have been featured in films including Charlie’s Angles, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button and in TV’s Sex in the City. Her couture gowns have sauntered down the red carpets at the Emmys, Grammys, Golden Globes and Oscars, as well as at the Cannes and Venice Film Festivals. She creates her own fabric designs as well as paints on silk. She recently received her doctorate in Performance Studies at UC Davis with focus of Costume Design in Film. Liz studied and learned fabric design in Florence at the Ferragamo and Roberto Cavalli screen printing studios as well as at the Fortuny Fabric studios outside of Venice. She was invited to study at the Kyoto Costume Institute in Japan, examining fabrics and silhouettes of contemporary Japanese designers and 21st century fabric making. She has been a guest lecturer at FIDM in San Francisco, University of Reading in England, Palazzo Pitti Museum in Florence, Italy, American Costume Society of America and International Symposium in Kansas City. Her designs have graced the covers of magazines including British Vogue, Movieline Magazine, LA Magazine, San Francisco Chronicle Sunday Magazine, Bel Air Magazine, and The New York Times Sunday Magazine.

Kurt Landisman’s (Lighting Designer) lighting designs have been seen throughout the San Francisco Bay Area at many theaters, including San Francisco Opera, ACT, Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, Theatreworks, California Shakespeare Festival, The Magic Theatre and Marin Theatre Company. Locally his work has garnered 18 Bay Area Critics Circle Awards and five LA Dramalogue Awards. Nationally, his work has been seen at many regional opera and ballet companies, including the Los Angeles Opera, Minnesota Opera, Virginia Opera, Tulsa Opera and Ballet Arizona. His designs have also been presented Off-Broadway and represented at Circle Rep and the Douglas Fairbanks Theatres. His designs include the world premieres of Sam Shepard’s True West and Fool for Love. Designs internationally include productions in Shanghai, Tokyo and Singapore.

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Company Managers
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