

UNDERGROUND

HEAR THE SOUND OF FREEDOM

BOOK & LYRICS
BY:
AKIL DUPONT

LEAD
COMPOSER:
LILI FORBES



EXECUTIVE
PRODUCER:
MEREDITH LUCIO
(TONY AWARD WINNER)

GENERAL
MANAGEMENT:
AARON GRANT
THEATRICAL

A STORY OF THE ENSLAVED, TOLD WITH THE SPIRITUALS THAT GUIDED THEM TO FREEDOM. INSPIRED BY REAL EVENTS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY



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A SLAVE STORY TOLD THROUGH SONG, "UNDERGROUND" FOLLOWS BALI, A FIELD SLAVE WHO PLANS TO ESCAPE FROM HIS OPPRESSIVE PLANTATION LIFE AFTER LEARNING THAT HIS MASTER IS GOING TO SELL HIS YOUNG DAUGHTER, EMALA. DISCOVERING INSTRUCTIONS HIDDEN WITHIN THE LYRICS OF NEGRO SPIRITUALS, BALI FINALLY DECIDES TO FLEE WITH EMALA.

A HOUSE SLAVE, DEMBI, IS FORCED ALONG THEIR PERILOUS JOURNEY AFTER TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM THAT THEIR PATH IS TOO DANGEROUS. DEMBI BELIEVES THAT THEY WILL SURELY BE KILLED IF THEY FOLLOW THE PATH OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

AS WE JOIN THEM ON THE FREEDOM TRAIL, ORIGINAL AND TRADITIONAL SPIRITUALS INSPIRE AND GUIDE THEM ALONG THEIR JOURNEY, IN HOPES THAT THE MASTER WILL NEVER FIND THEM AND DRAG THEM BACK TO A LIFE OF SERVITUDE.

UNDERGROUND

2 HOURS – CAST OF 9 – 4 MUSICIANS

1ST PLACE
FT. LAUDERDALE
INTERNATIONAL FILM
FESTIVAL 2010

AUDIENCE
AWARD
GREATER AUGUST TOWN
FILM FESTIVAL
2013
KINGSTON JAMAICA

BEST SHORT
FILM
TWIN CITIES
BLACK FILM
FESTIVAL
2011

BEST
FILM
SHORTFESTS FILM
FESTIVAL
JULY 2013

WINNER
HOLLYWOOD
BLACK FILM
FESTIVAL 2011

BEST STUDENT
SHORT
INDEPENDENTS FILM
FESTIVAL 2012

BEST STUDENT
SHORT
TALLAHASSEE
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
NEWPORT BEACH
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
TOLUCA TOWN
FILM FESTIVAL
2012 - FRANCE

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
BLACK HOLLYWOOD
REUNION
OFFICIAL SHORT
FILM SHOWCASE 2011

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
TREASURE COAST
INTER. FILM
FESTIVAL 2012

TWO-TIME
STUDENT
AWARD

NATIONAL
EMMY
WINNER

ACADEMY OF TELEVISION
ARTS & SCIENCES FOUNDATION
NATIONAL COLLEGE TELEVISION AWARDS

BEST YOUNG
ACTRESS
ACTION ON FILM
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

BEST
FILM
GREATER AUGUST TOWN
FILM FESTIVAL
2013
KINGSTON JAMAICA

FOUNDER'S
AWARD
INTERNATIONAL
BLACK FILM
FESTIVAL OF
NASHVILLE 2011

1ST PLACE
PALM BEACH
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

AUDIENCE
AWARD
GASPIILLA
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2012

BEST
GRADUATE FILM
17Y FILM
FESTIVAL 2012

BEST SHORT
FILM
INTERNATIONAL
BLACK FILM
FESTIVAL OF
NASHVILLE 2011

BEST SHORT
FILM
TEXAS BLACK
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

BEST SHORT
FILM
SAN DIEGO BLACK
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
STONY BROOK
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
PORT WOODS BLACK
FILM FESTIVAL
2012

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
SAN FRANCISCO
BLACK FILM
FESTIVAL
2011

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
ROSWELL
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
BIG BEAR LAKE
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2011

HEAR THE SOUND OF FREEDOM

UNDERGROUND

COLLEGE OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS PRESENTS UNDERGROUND STARRING KEN WESTER, TOMI TOWNSEND & NIKE EATON
SOUND DESIGN AKIL DUPONT EDITOR STEVEN GRIFFIN COMPOSER NATE TANNER & AKIL DUPONT
ORIGINAL RECORDINGS FAMU GOSPEL CHOIR ORIGINAL SCORE & ADDITIONAL VOCALS MUSIC MAN DRE PRODUCTIONS VISUAL EFFECTS AKIL DUPONT
FOSTER SYLVIA DUPONT & MARCO BORRETO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FRAHEME PRODUCTION DESIGNER FAREN HUMES
SCREENPLAY ARIYA WATTY & AKIL DUPONT PRODUCER ALLISON LEGER DIRECTOR AKIL DUPONT

WWW.FILM.FSU.EDU

FSU FILM COPYRIGHT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS 2010

DC DOLBY
DIGITAL THEATRE

FILM PRODUCTION HISTORY

WINNER OF 21 AWARDS IN
28 FILM FESTIVALS

2 STUDENT EMMYS
PLAYED IN 60 COUNTRIES

CREATED IN 2010



PLAY PRODUCTION HISTORY

5 PRODUCTIONS IN 4 STATES

93% AVERAGE CAPACITY

CREATED IN 2015

DEVELOPMENT - PLAY

UNDERGROUND

ATLANTA BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL, ATLANTA GA - FULL PRODUCTION

OCTOBER 2015 - 99% CAPACITY - 600 SEATS, 594 TICKETS SOLD **CLOSING NIGHT EVENT**



SANKOFA ANNUAL CONCERT, TALLAHASSEE, FL - CONCERT PRODUCTION

JULY 2019 - 115% CAPACITY - 800 SEATS, 920 PATRONS **STANDING ROOM ONLY**



NEGRO ENSEMBLE COMPANY SHOWCASE, NEW YORK CITY - STAGED READING

MARCH 2016 - 70% CAPACITY - 200 SEATS, 140 PATRONS (MINIMAL MARKETING)

DIRECTED BY TONY AWARD-WINNER BEN HARNEY



ATLANTA MUSICAL THEATRE FESTIVAL, ATLANTA, GA - STAGED READING

AUG 2016 - 88% CAPACITY - 184 SEATS, 162 TICKETS SOLD (MINIMAL MARKETING)



NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, DURHAM, NC - FULL PRODUCTION

FEB 2017 - 93% CAPACITY - 300 SEATS, 280 PATRONS



**93% CAPACITY
AVERAGE!**



“AKIL HAS SUCH A UNIQUE GIFT FOR STORYTELLING!”

VIVICA A. FOX, ACTRESS

“WHEN YOU TAKE THE FAMILY TO SEE THEIR NEXT PERFORMANCES, LOOK OUT FOR ‘UNDERGROUND’ AS YOUR BEST BET.”

JOSEPH WALKER, THEATRE CRITIC

“‘UNDERGROUND’ IS THE PROJECT WE ALL DREAM TO MAKE!”

JULIE DASH, DIRECTOR
“DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST”

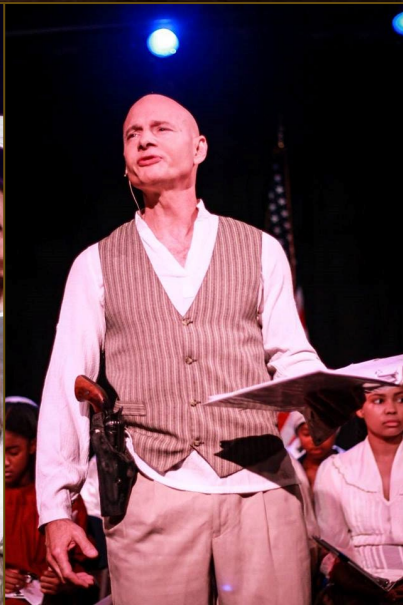
“AKIL DUPONT’S INSPIRING PRODUCTION OF ‘UNDERGROUND’ WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENT. THE ONE-NIGHT ONLY PRODUCTION, PRESENTED BY THE ATLANTA BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL, PLAYED TO AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD THAT MADE IT KNOWN THEY WANTED MORE.”

AXS ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

UNDERGROUND

UNDERGROUND

EVERY AMERICAN BORN FORM OF MUSIC – ROCK AND ROLL, COUNTRY, GOSPEL, HIP-HOP, ETC. – TRACES BACK TO THE NEGRO SPIRITUAL. OUR ANCESTORS HAD THE VISION AND INGENUITY TO WEAVE INSTRUCTIONS INTO THESE SONGS TO GUIDE THE TORMENTED THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.



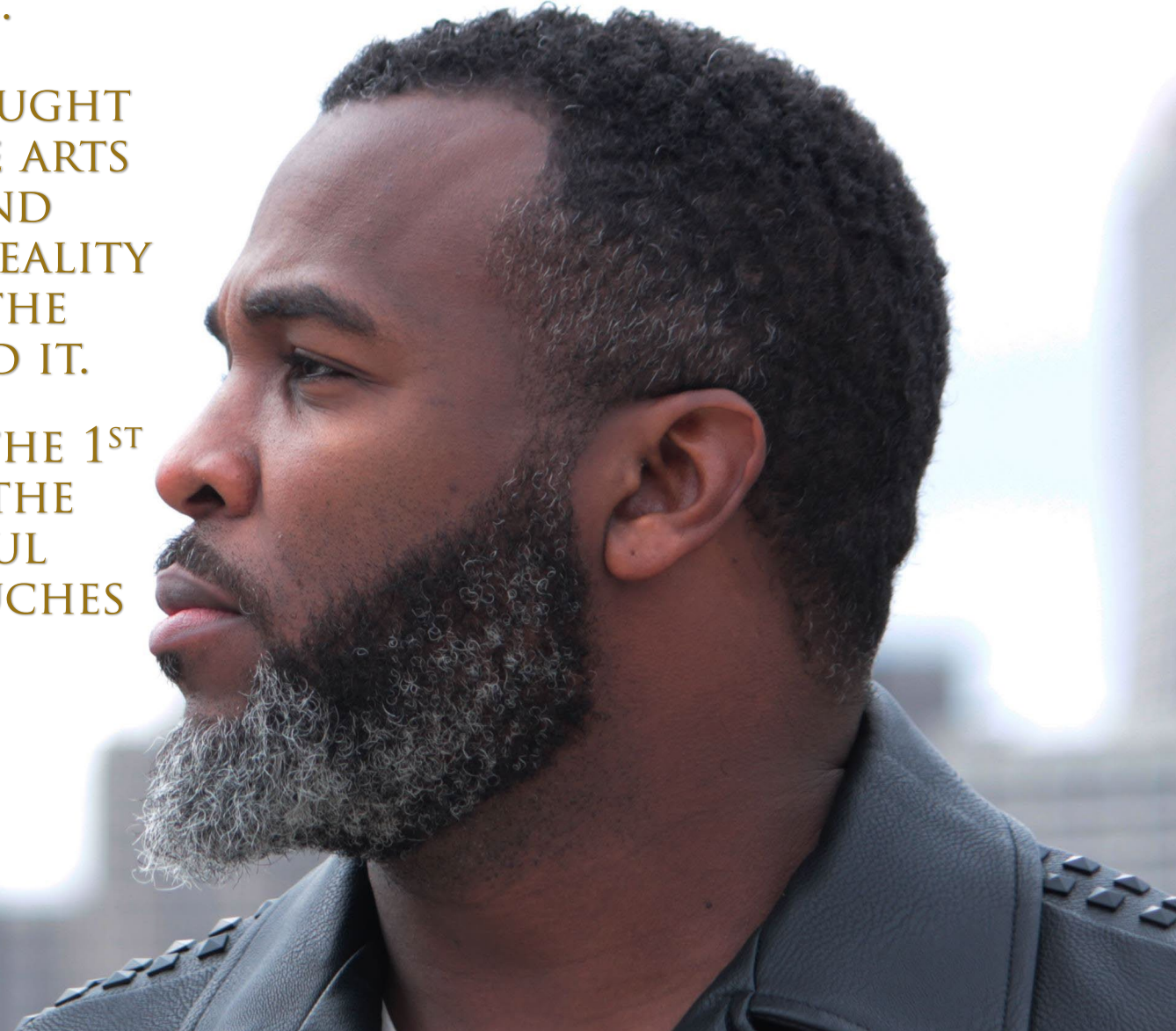
CREATOR'S NOTE

THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR HISTORY IS UNDER ASSAULT IN AMERICA. POLITICIANS ARE TRYING TO STRIP IT FROM SCHOOLS - ELEMENTARY THROUGH COLLEGE.

WHILE THIS BATTLE IS STILL BEING FOUGHT IN THE HALLS OF POLITICS, WE IN THE ARTS HAVE A UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE AUTHENTIC REALITY OF THE ROAD TO FREEDOM FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE WHO LIVED IT.

SHOWCASING OUR STORY THROUGH THE 1ST AMERICAN BORN FORM OF MUSIC, THE SPIRITUAL IS NOT ONLY A POWERFUL EXPERIENCE, BUT ALSO ONE THAT TOUCHES THE SOUL.

~AKIL DUPONT



NEXT STEPS

- 1) A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN NEW YORK CITY. ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATIVE PARTNERS. PUT SHOW IN FRONT OF A PROFESSIONAL THEATRE AUDIENCE.

ESTIMATED DATE: LATE 2023 / EARLY 2024

- 2) IF NEEDED, A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL PRODUCTION OR OFF-BROADWAY LIMITED RUN

ESTIMATED DATE: IF NEEDED

- 3) A COMMERCIAL OFF-BROADWAY OR BROADWAY PRODUCTION IN NYC

ESTIMATED DATE: SPRING / SUMMER 2025



UNDERGROUND

DEMOS & SHORT FILM



HER SOUL WAS TIRED

VIDEO CLIPS ARE FROM THE
2019 CONCERT PERFORMANCE

AUDIO CLIP OF "POOR PILGRIM
OF "SORROW"



LANTERN OF MAGIC



UNDERGROUND



UNDERGROUND
SHORT FILM

THE UNDERGROUND TEAM



BOOK & LYRICS

AKIL DUPONT, MFA
WINNER OF 2
STUDENT EMMYS, 38
FESTIVAL AWARDS



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

MEREDITH LUCIO
TONY AWARD
WINNER
(PORGY & BESS)



LEAD COMPOSER

LILI FORBES
WINNER OF 7
CARIBBEAN GOSPEL
MUSIC AWARDS



GENERAL MANAGER

AARON GRANT
GM, VAN GOGH'S EAR

UNDERGROUND

AARON GRANT, GENERAL MANAGER

AARONGRANT@THEATRICAL.AG

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UNDERGROUND



A BREATH STOPPING
MUSICAL THAT CAPTURES
ONE SLAVE'S FAITH AND
DETERMINATION TO GAIN
FREEDOM FOR HIS FAMILY

HEAR THE SOUND OF FREEDOM

BOOK & LYRICS BY: ABEL DUPONT
LEAD & VOCAL COMPOSER: LEE FORACE
MUSIC BY: MICHAEL WILLIAMS, WYLLIE STEPLAND, DANIEL SIVANI, JAMES BERRY,
JOURNARDON II, TOM & EDDY LOOSE, MARK JACKSON AND CHRISTOPHER BALSCHUK

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