

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arena Stage

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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR THE TONY AWARD-WINNING
MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB PRODUCTION OF

JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING

By JOCELYN BIOH

Directed by WHITNEY WHITE

A Co-Production with BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE
and CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

In Association with MADISON WELLS LIVE and LaCHANZE

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announced tickets are now on sale for *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*. This new comedy by celebrated Ghanaian-American playwright **Jocelyn Bioh** will kick off Arena's highly-anticipated 2024/25 Season—the first programmed by Artistic Director **Hana S. Sharif**—following a twice-extended Fall 2023 Broadway run. Manhattan Theatre Club's Tony Award-winning production will open shop **September 6 – October 13, 2024**, in Arena Stage's **Kreeger Theater**. Press Night will be held on **Thursday, September 12**. To buy tickets, please visit arenastage.org/jajas.

Set in the pulsating heart of Harlem, *Jaja's African Hair Braiding* unravels the complexities of cultural identity, assimilation, and the pursuit of the American dream within the African immigrant community. Follow the uproarious escapades of Maria, Bea, Miriam, Aminata, Ndidi, Jaja, and others as they navigate life and laughter in Jaja's bustling hair braiding salon. With humor as rich as its characters, this production weaves hilarious moments with profound insights, celebrating the indomitable spirit and interconnectedness that define us all.

Reuniting the creative team from Manhattan Theatre Club's sold-out run, the production will be led by Tony-nominated director **Whitney White** (*Jaja's African Hair Braiding*), and feature the talents of three-time Tony-winning scenic designer **David Zinn** (*Stereophonic*), the first Black woman to win a Tony Award for Best Costume Design of a Play **Dede Ayite** (*Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, Arena's *American Prophet*), Tony-nominated lighting designer **Jiyoun Chang** (*Stereophonic*, Arena's *Ride the Cyclone*), Tony-nominated original music and sound designer **Justin Ellington** (*Jaja's African Hair Braiding*), Tony-nominated projection designer **Stefania Bulbarella** (*Jaja's African Hair Braiding*), and 2024 Special Tony Award-winning hair and wig designer **Nikiya Mathis** (*Jaja's African Hair Braiding*). The cast will be announced at a later date.

A guaranteed community favorite and box-office hit, this production will have all the excitement of a world premiere, though already tested and well adored. From special events like back-to-school hair braiding workshops to themed performances kicking off Howard University's Homecoming, Arena Stage can't wait to bring this production to the nation's capital.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

TICKETS: Tickets are \$45-95 plus applicable fees. Ticket prices and availability are subject to change. Arena Stage's many savings programs include "pay your age" tickets for those aged 35 and under; military, first responder, and educator discounts; student discounts; and "Southwest Nights" for those living and working in the District's Southwest neighborhood. To learn more, visit arenastage.org/savingsprograms.

Tickets are available at arenastage.org. Tickets may also be purchased by phone at 202-488-3300, or in person through the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, D.C., Tuesday-Sunday, 12-8 p.m.

Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets: 202-488-4380

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Weekday matinees at 12 p.m. on September 26, October 2, and October 9

No performances on September 17 and 18

Early Curtain: Sunday, September 29 at 6 p.m.

Southwest Nights: Tuesday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 21 at 2 p.m.

Audio-Described Performance: Saturday, September 28, at 2 p.m.

ASL-Interpreted Performance: Saturday, October 5, at 8 p.m.

Mask-Required Performances: Saturday, September 14, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, October 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Closed Captioning: GalaPro begins Friday, September 13

Industry Night: Sunday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Pride Night: Wednesday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m.

NPHC/Divine Nine Night: Thursday, September 19, 8 p.m.

Post-Show Conversations

Connect with the show beyond the performance at a post-show conversation on September 19 following the 8 p.m. performance.; October 1 following the 7:30 p.m. performance; and September 26, October 2, and October 9 following the 12 p.m. matinee performances.

Roots to Success: Back to School & Hair Event: Saturday, August 24

Get all your questions answered about adopting healthy hair habits to maintain and protect all types of hair – from 1A to 4C. In partnership with Dudley Beauty College, join us at Arena to learn about braiding techniques, trimming, and styling, to prepare for the first day of school!

Ubiquitous Women's Expo Exhibitor Booth Activation: September 6-8, 2024

Join us for the 10th Anniversary celebration of the Ubiquitous Women's Expo - a vibrant space to connect across beauty, health, fashion and lifestyle! Visit us at booth 407 as you enjoy the event. ubiquitousexpo.com

Civic Dialogues: CROWN ACT: Friday, September 13

What is the CROWN ACT and what actions can we collectively take to eradicate race-based hair discrimination in the workplace? Visit Arena Stage during the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) week of events inviting civic conversations about the CROWN ACT.

Women in Entrepreneurship Panel Discussion at Jaja's Marketplace: Saturday, September 21

Welcoming all entrepreneurs and beauty enthusiasts! See Arena Stage transform into JaJa's Marketplace where you can buy from local women-owned businesses and learn what it takes to own a business and effectively promote your brand. Between the matinee and evening show, Arena will host a dynamic panel discussion featuring powerful and bold women who have mastered the art of launching and scaling their businesses to make an impact in their communities.

Howard University Homecoming Kick-Off: Sunday, October 13

HU...U Know! Calling all Howard students, staff and alumni to join us at Arena to kick off homecoming. Sport your favorite HU gear as you mingle alongside old and new faces before joining us for the evening performance. More information coming soon.

Full Calendar: arenastage.org/tickets/calendar

SAFETY: Arena Stage recommends but does not require that patrons wear facial masks in our theater except in our occasional mask-required performance. These conditions are subject to change, and Arena continues to consult with medical professionals, monitor government best practice recommendations, and engage in industry trainings to ensure the health and safety of our patrons, artists, and staff. For up-to-date information, visit arenastage.org/safety.

TRAVEL: Limited parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage for \$18 to \$30, including drive-up valet parking for \$30. Call 202-488-3300 to purchase in advance. For more information on transportation and other parking options around the Mead Center, visit arenastage.org/transportation.

For complete 2024/25 Season details, visit arenastage.org/season.

The first racially integrated theater in our nation's capital and a pioneer of the regional theater movement, Arena Stage was founded on August 16, 1950, in Washington, D.C., by Zelda Fichandler, Tom Fichandler, and Edward Mangum. Today—nearly 75 years later—Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. We produce plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit, and present diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Consistently contributing to the American theatrical lexicon by commissioning and developing new plays, Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement and serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. www.arenastage.org

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