

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES OPEN APPLICATION FOR THE ALLEN LEE HUGHES BIPOC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

*****Applications are open now through February 11, 2022 *****

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces the relaunch of the **Allen Lee Hughes BIPOC Fellowship Program** for the 2022/23 Season. The Fellowship Program, named for the Tony Award-nominated lighting designer, is reclaiming its roots as a professional training program for individuals who self-identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color). **Applications will be accepted December 6, 2021 through February 11, 2022.** To apply, visit www.ArenaStage.org/fellowship.

“Arena has been committed to providing training to aspiring BIPOC artists and administrators since its inception and was a leader among the theater field when we launched the Allen Lee Hughes Fellows Program in 1990,” shares Artistic Director **Molly Smith**. “We are renewing this commitment with a specific focus on providing mentoring and educational aspects, as well as on-the-job experience for BIPOC fellows. The program has a proven track record in building a pipeline of artists and administrators in the theater field. This reinvigorated commitment also comes with renewed focus on the whole person, so that we support fellows fully while they are with us in Washington, D.C., and then prepare them to take on the rest of the world.”

Since 1990, Arena Stage has supported young artists through the Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship Program. Arena Stage’s Founder and Artistic Director **Zelda Fichandler** and Artistic Associate **Tazewell Thompson** co-founded the theater’s fellowship program for individuals of color as part of Arena Stage’s cultural diversity program. More than 700 young artists and administrators have gone through the program since it began over 30 years ago and over 85% are still working in the theater. Graduates include Artistic Director **Jamil Jude**, Costume Designer **LeVonne Lindsay**, Director **Lileana Blaine Cruz**, Director **Miranda Haymon**, Director/Dramaturg **Lorraine A. Robinson**, Director/Playwright **Paige Hernandez**, Literary Manager **Otis Crotez Ramsey-Zöe**, Lighting Designer **Xavier Pierce**, Managing Director **David Lloyd Olson**, Playwright **Cheryl West** and more.

“The Fellowship Program was founded to bring people of color into the Arena family, train them and promote them,” explains **Allen Lee Hughes**. “I am very happy to see it return to the original intent, and I am so proud of Arena Stage’s commitment to emerging talent.”

The full-time program, which includes a weekly stipend, offers personalized training and in-depth, hands-on experience with top-tier professionals in artistic and technical production, arts administration, arts education and community outreach. Fellows are mentored by Arena Stage staff members, participate in professional development workshops and attend monthly meetings with directors, designers and senior staff administrators who provide insight into the overall management of the theater.

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Fellowship opportunities include:

Artistic Development: Artistic Fellow

Arts Administration: Development Fellow, General and Company Management Fellow, Graphic Design Fellow, Leadership and Business Fellow, Marketing Fellow, Media Relations Fellow, Patron Services Fellow

Community Engagement: Community Programs Fellow, School Programs Fellow

Production: Costumes Fellow, Lighting Fellow

Timing: Fellowships are full-time and require a commitment of 35-38 weeks beginning September 6, 2022, and running until May 2023. End dates may differ depending on the fellowship and departmental needs.

Compensation: All-inclusive weekly stipend of \$600.

For more information, and to apply, visit: www.ArenaStage.org/fellowship

The Allen Lee Hughes BIPOC Fellowship Program is made possible by the Hearst Foundations.

Arena Stage's community engagement efforts are generously sponsored by Denie and Frank Weil; The Estate of Ms. Toni A. Ritzenberg; AT&T; Joanne Barker; Catherine and Chris Guttman-McCabe; Hattie M. Strong Foundation; Robert and Natalie Mandel Family Foundation; Floyd E. Davis Family Foundation; Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.; Alice Shaver Foundation; Theatre Forward; Collins Aerospace; England Family Foundation; Friends of Southwest D.C.; GEICO; JBG Smith; Wayne and Susan Jonas; Foley & Lardner LLP; Weissberg Foundation; Jean Schiro- Zavela and Vance Zavela; Actors' Equity Foundation; and Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and groundbreaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays and impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org

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