



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | www.burbagetheatre.org
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Burbage Theatre Co continues their 12th Season with
the raucous RI premiere of *BLKS* by Aziza Barnes**

PAWTUCKET, RI October 25, 2023 —

After their critically and popularly acclaimed production of Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, **Burbage Theatre Co continues their 12th Season with the RI premiere of Aziza Barnes's *BLKS*, directed by Burbage Theatre Co resident artist, Catia. *BLKS* will be presented as a limited engagement of 13 performances from **November 16 through December 3 at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre.****

Due to the fact that *BLKS* features an ensemble of predominantly Black-identifying artists and centers the stories of Black characters, **Burbage Theatre Co will host their first BLKOUT NIGHT as a part of the production. This is a Pay-What-You-Will performance on Saturday November 25 at 7:30pm, preceded by cocktail hour at 6:30pm.** While this performance is open to the public, Burbage's BLKOUT NIGHT is the purposeful creation of an environment in which a Black-identifying audience can experience and discuss our production.

"This is the series that HBO was too afraid to sign because it's about three twenty-somethings that don't know the sound decibel barrier or what the definition of TMI [too much information] is. It'll be a night full of belly-busting laughs as you watch blk girls be unapologetically BLK."

— **Catia**, *Director of BLKS, Burbage Theatre Co Resident Artist*

"BLKS is a riveting theatrical experience that contains multitudes – combining uproarious comedy with a poignant undercurrent of tragedy – a blessed combination of the sacred and profane. And while this play contains a touch of Burbage's trademark irreverence, this is a story the likes of which we have never produced on our mainstage before.

Coming immediately off of her critically-acclaimed performance in Speakeasy Stage's *POTUS*, this is the first solo directing project for Catia at Burbage and we could not be more excited to have her at the helm. She has assembled an incredible cast and we've assembled a crack-team of designers to bring this production into full and vibrant life.

If you're excited for a challenge and a fresh perspective – a lot of humor and a brutally honest and unflinching look at the complexities of human relationships, both heartwarming and heartbreaking – do not miss *BLKS*."

— **Jeff Church**, *Artistic Director, Burbage Theatre Co*

**Burbage Theatre Co's production of Aziza Barnes's *BLKS* begins previews on
November 16 and closes on December 3 after 13 performances.**

*All performances will take place at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre
59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860.*

***Critics and members of the Press are Invited to join us on our
Pay-What-You-Will Performance (Saturday, November 18 at 7:30pm)
or on our Sunday Preview performance (Sunday, November 19 at 2:00pm).***

You can reply to this email or contact Artistic Director Jeff Church at jeff.church.jr@gmail.com for more information.

RI Premiere

BLKS

by Aziza Barnes

(November 16 - December 3)

“A raucous comedy of misbehavior and a quiet tragedy of mistreatment... the pure joy of seeing the best of people at their worst... the uncomfortable proximity of terror and pleasure, the mark of mortality in the midst of intimacy, percolates beneath the surface at all times, so that even at its most extreme and obscene—BLKS is not for prudish ears or eyes—it is serious and sad and profoundly human.”

—*NY Times*

When sh*t goes down, your girls show up. Waking up to a shocking and personal health scare, Octavia and her best friends, June and Imani, go on a crusade to find intimacy and joy in a world that could give a fuck less about them or their feelings. This 24-hour blitz explores what it is to be a queer blk woman in 2015 New York, how we survive and save ourselves from ourselves.

“Hilarious in the most uncomfortable ways. It’s the kind of comedy you watch with one hand covering your eyes, and the other suspending your dropped jaw... Barnes’s lack of fear as a writer is what makes BLKS a particularly joyous experience... Each of Barnes’s characters is a mess in his or her own special way, and it is in their flaws that we are best able to see reflections of ourselves—and laugh-cringe at the mirror’s harsh truth.”

—*Theatre Mania*

“... a disarming, vivacious comedy... Barnes’s irreverent and exuberant play, saturated in race and sexuality, is part romantic sitcom, part existential reflection... Before you know it, a deep, soulful riff is unwinding... It’s a persistent, perceptive entertainer.”

— *Washington Post*

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

RI Premiere

BLKS

by Aziza Barnes

directed by Catia

ENSEMBLE

Daria Lyric-Montaquila	Tavia
Autumn Jefferson	Imani
Abraphine Ngafaih	June
Ayrin Ramirez Peguero	Ry
Jordan Daniel Smith	Justin
Sarah Gruber	That B*tch on the Couch

PRODUCTION CREW

Catia	Director
Hector “Manny” Maldonado	Stage Manager
Lorraine Guerra	Assistant Director
Jaimy Escobedo	Costume Design
Trevor Elliott	Set Design
Andrew Iacovelli	TD
Brittany Costello	ATD/Props



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BLKS CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

Thursday November 16 at 7:30pm **Preview**

Friday November 17 at 7:30pm **Preview**

Saturday November 18 at 7:30pm **Pay-What-You-Will/PRESS Preview**

Sunday November 19 at 2:00pm **PRESS Preview**

Friday November 24 at 7:30pm **OPENING NIGHT**

Saturday November 25 at 2:00pm

Saturday November 25 at 7:30pm **BLKOUT NIGHT/Reception at 6:30pm**

Sunday November 26 at 2:00pm

Thursday November 30 at 7:30pm

Friday December 1 at 7:30pm

Saturday December 2 at 2:00pm

Saturday December 2 at 7:30pm

Sunday December 3 at 2:00pm

TICKET POLICY —

"The best bang for your theatrical buck in the Ocean State." — Warwick Beacon

Preview Performances — \$15

General Admission — \$30

Students — \$15

High School Students — Any and all rush tickets are available to High School students for FREE

COVID-19 PREVENTION POLICY —

Burbage has implemented an *optional masking policy* for our patrons.

While masks are no longer required, you are encouraged to mask if you like.

Burbage will continue to make masks available to our patrons.

We do ask that you remain mindful of your own health and wellness before attending the theatre.

If you begin exhibiting new symptoms of Covid-19 that cannot be explained by regular seasonal allergies, we ask that you reconsider attending the theatre.

There is nothing more important to us than your health and safety.

If you must cancel or change your reservation with us, just contact the box office and we'll be happy to exchange your tickets to another performance.