Maroon Queen

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY ARIANE BARNES

WINNER POPELEI SEED COMISSION 2018

ARCOLA LABS RESIDENT ARTIST 2019

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ariane is a multilingual, British- Mauritian writer-performer. She believes in social change and expression being liberated and pushed to the fore through her work as an artist. She is excited by language, queerness, culture and the intersection of artistic mediums.

Exploring big topics around identity, race and belonging through her work, she takes pleasure in researching and working across mediums to create fresh, new, daring work every time- taking risks and pushing the boundaries of form and emotion in a theatrical context.

Ariane is enthralled by the prospect that her work will extend beyond the stage and into important discussions that will create change and widen people's world view. She is the founder of the Different Women Project empowering women who don't fit the standard mould to stand tall and strong in their craft.

“ I'm going to take you on a journey to show you what it was... Well is, to be me. I figured round about now you might be bovered...Now that Prince Harry has finally come to his senses and married that American girl.”

STRAPLINE

In a gutsy, colourful story of passion, defiance and survival, 'Maroon Queen' explores what it's like to be idolised, loved, and hated as the rebellious queen of the 'free-folk'

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Somewhere around 1850, according to legend, a whole people chose to jump off a cliff in Mauritius rather than resubmit to colonial rule, all because one woman refused to give herself to a man. And to make it worse, the story tends to vary depending on whom you ask. This tongue-in cheek re-imagining of the legend of the Maroon Queen - reportedly the feistiest charmer of them all - is an epic one woman show about racial identity, cultural heritage, and myth - juxtaposed with a serious dose of comic Mauritian ‘Real Talk’.

ABOUT THE SHOW

- WINNER OF THE POPELEI SEED CIOMISSION
- SELCTED FOR THE BLACKTRESS SEASON AT TRISTAN BATES
- RESIDENT AT THE ARCOLA THEARTRE (FINAL R&D)

The show is a fusion of epic poetry, music, capoeira and dance, enriched with French and Mauritian Kreol. It was selected for the John Thaw Initiative Blacktress season of works-in-progress in October 2018. This project has brought together some amazing international creatives including capoerista & musician Nino Poncianho (Mojabu capoeira, BBC, Cats 2019) and Afro-Brazilian dance expert Irineu Nogueira (Abeieie dance, Bambas festival, International Samba Congress). The project has its own original score.

Le Morne Mountain is a world heritage UNESCO site.

Target Audience:

Theatres (UK, France, Mauritius, African & surrounds), Bi-lingual producers & theatre makers, New writing venues, Universities, Consulates and embassies, Cultural Institutes, Centres for study around the African/Indian diaspora. People of colour, Feminists, Activists, Historians, Students.

Themes:

The Erasure of Warrior Women in Maroon History, Colorism & Being Mixed Race: then and now, The Power of Oral Tradition & The British Empire: truth vs fantasy, The Objectification & Erasure of Mixed Race Women, Female Figures of Rebellion and Social change.

Tech Requirements:

Maroon Queen can be adapted to almost any space, it requires a basic lighting rig and good acoustics for the live music. It works well on a thrust and in the round and can be performed as a site responsive piece.

Lighting & props:

Lighting: A spotlight for the beginning, a basic warm wash throughout and a spotlight for movement pieces.

Sound: Basic sound system/mics for instruments at specific points. PA if available.

Props: 2 x chairs for musicians.

Enquiries & Bookings:

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