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Octagon

Kristiana Rae Colón



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Kristiana Rae Colón

Octagon

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Supporting Wall in association with Tabula Rasa

present

OCTAGON

by Kristiana Rae Colón

World Premiere
Arcola Theatre, London
16 September–17 October 2015

OCTAGON

by Kristiana Rae Colón

Prism	Lara Rossi
Chad	Harry Jardine
Chimney	Solomon Israel
Palace	Asan N'Jie
Jericho	Crystal Condie
Tide	Leemore Marrett Jr
Atticus	Martins Imhangbe
The Watcher Named Pen	Estella Daniels

<i>Director</i>	Nadia Latif
<i>Set design</i>	Lorna Ritchie
<i>Lighting design</i>	Christopher Nairne
<i>Sound design/composition</i>	Simon Slater
<i>Costume design</i>	Holly Rose Henshaw
<i>Fight direction</i>	Bret Yount
<i>Choreography</i>	Mina Aidoo
<i>Assistant director</i>	Taio Lawson
<i>Casting adviser</i>	Annelie Powell
<i>Dramaturg</i>	Sarah Dickenson
<i>Production manager</i>	Heather Doole
<i>Stage manager</i>	Hannah Royall
<i>Assistant stage manager</i>	Laura Beacham
<i>Poetry events producer</i>	Harriet Creelman
<i>Produced by</i>	Ben Monks & Will Young for Supporting Wall

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Kristiana Rae Colón Writer

Kristiana Rae Colón is a poet, playwright, actor, educator, Cave Canem Fellow, and Executive Director of the #LetUsBreathe Collective. Her play *Octagon*, winner of Arizona Theater Company's 2014 National Latino Playwriting Award and Polarity Ensemble Theater's Dionysos Festival of New Work, received an Honorable Mention on the 2015 Kilroys List. Her work was featured in Victory Gardens Theater's 2014 Ignition Festival and in 2013, she toured the UK with her collection of poems *promised instruments* published by Northwestern University Press. In autumn 2012, she opened her one-woman show *Cry Wolf* at Teatro Luna in Chicago while her play *but i cd only whisper* had its world premiere at the Arcola Theatre in London. Kristiana is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists and one half of the brother/sister hip-hop duo April Fools. She appeared on Season 5 of HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*.

Crystal Condie Jericho

Theatre includes *Black Crows* (Arcola Theatre), *Rumpelstiltskin* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Larksong*, *The Gift*, *Unearthed* (New Vic Theatre).

Crystal recently graduated from Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and was a runner-up for the 2014 Alan Bates Bursary.

Estella Daniels The Watcher Named Pen

Theatre includes *Dirty Butterfly* and *Festa* (Young Vic Theatre), *Iya-Ile* (Soho Theatre/Tiata Fahodzi), *Racing Demon* (Sheffield Theatres), *Treasure Island* (Theatre Royal Haymarket).

TV includes the lead role of Nala in *Sinbad* (Sky), *Thorne* (Sky), *Death in Paradise* (BBC) and *Da Vinci's Demons* (BBC).

Holly Rose Henshaw Costume design

Theatre includes *When We Were Women* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Handbagged* (regional tour, 2015), *The Suicide* (Embassy Theatre), *House of Mirrors and Hearts* (Arcola Theatre), *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Diva Opera – European tour, 2015), *The Father* (Trafalgar Studios), *Sunspots*, *Deluge*, *Deposit*, *Elephants*, *The Wasp* and *State Red* (Hampstead Theatre), *The*

Armour (Defibrillator at the Langham Hotel), *Donkey Heart* (Trafalgar Studios), *Goodnight Children Everywhere* (Drama Centre), *Don Giovanni* and *The Tales of Hoffmann* (Diva Opera European tour, 2014).

Holly is an associate designer for Snapdragon and her extensive work for the company includes *Teddy* (Southwark Playhouse), *Toast*, *The Dead Wait*, and *Thark* (Park Theatre) and *A Life* (Finborough Theatre).

Martins Imhangbe Atticus

Theatre includes *The Skriker* (Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre), the title role in *Lionboy* (UK and international tour with Complicite), *Das Ding* (New Diorama Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Cinderella: A Fairytale* (Unicorn Theatre), *Street Stories* (Royal Opera House), *A Human Being Died That Night* (Hampstead Theatre), *Sold* (Edinburgh Fringe), and *What Does It Take* (Albany Theatre).

Solomon Israel Chimney

Theatre includes *I Know All the Secrets in My World* (Tiata Fahodzi), *Chigger Foot Boys* (Ovalhouse Theatre), *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Comedy of Errors* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Taking Steps* (Old Laundry Theatre), *Redemption Over Hammersmith Broadway* (Lyric Theatre Hammersmith), *Taking Steps* (Tricycle Theatre) and *Tuff Love* (Bullion Theatre).

TV includes *Josh* (BBC), *Brothers with No Game* (BWNG/London Live), *Law and Order* (Kudos/ITV), *Holby City* (BBC) and *Quick Cuts* (BBC).

Harry Jardine Chad

Theatre includes *Shakespeare in Love* (Noël Coward Theatre) and *Faster Higher Stronger Straighter* (Dominion Theatre Studio).

Film includes Ron Howard's *In The Heart of the Sea* and *The Thief* for Synergy Theatre Company.

Radio includes more than 30 plays for the BBC.

Harry is the Artistic Director of Vamp Theatre Company and is currently working on their project *Go Wisely* about police Brutality.

Nadia Latif Director

As director: *Homegrown* (National Youth Theatre, site specific), *Even Stillness...* (Soho Theatre), *Saved* (Drama Centre), *but i cd only whisper* (Arcola Theatre and Lincoln Center, New York), *Carrot* (Latitude Festival), *Coalition*, *Wild Horses* and *Slaves* (Theatre503), *The Ballad of Crazy Paola* (Arcola Theatre), *In the Heart of America* (RADA).

As associate/assistant director: *Decade* (Headlong), *The Great Game* (Tricycle Theatre), *The Homecoming* (Almeida Theatre)

Taio Lawson Assistant director

Taio studied Anthropology at Brunel University, with a particular focus on theatre as ritual.

As assistant director: *Pigeon English* (Bristol Old Vic), *Sizwe Banzi Is Dead* (Young Vic Theatre/Eclipse Theatre) and *Perseverance Drive* (Bush Theatre).

As director: *Face in a Jar* (Rhoda McGaw Theatre), *Gutted 'n' Battered* (Sweden tour), *What We Are* and *90's Kid* (Etcetera Theatre).

Leemore Marrett Jr Tide

Theatre includes *Chariots of Fire* (Hampstead Theatre/West End), the Sam Wanamaker Festival (Globe Theatre), *All My Sons* (UK tour with Talawa).

TV includes *Crossing Lines* (Netflix), *Vera* (ITV), *24: Live Another Day* (20th Century Fox), *Utopia* (Channel 4), *Silent Witness* (BBC), *Whitechapel* (ITV), *Spooks* (BBC) and *Stolen* (BBC).

Film includes *Survivor* (Millennium Films), *My Brother the Devil* (Wild Horses Films) and *Squadron 42* (Cloud Imperium).

Asan N'Jie Palace

Asan has recently graduated from the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. In his final year he played the lead role of Vernon Little in *Vernon God Little* and was also chosen to perform on the Globe stage for the Sam Wanamaker Festival. Upon graduation, he was offered a new regular role in the Sky 1 show *Mount Pleasant*.

Christopher Nairne Lighting design

Previous work for Supporting Wall includes: *Our Ajax* (Southwark Playhouse) and *Shallow Slumber* (Soho Theatre).

Other theatre includes: *Lionboy* (Complicite – Tricycle Theatre & world tour), *The Late Henry Moss*, *Teddy* and *Johnny Got His Gun* (Southwark Playhouse), *Around the World in 80 Days* (Cambridge Junction & Tobacco Factory, Bristol), *Little Light* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Coolatully* (Finborough Theatre), *Sense and Sensibility* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *The School for Scandal* (Park Theatre and Theatre Royal, Bury), *Dracula* (Theatre Royal Bath), and *Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises* (Trafalgar Studios).

Opera includes: *Vivienne* (Linbury Studio, Royal Opera House), *The Adventures of Count Ory* (Blackheath Halls Opera), *Belshazzar* (Trinity Laban Conservatoire), *Albert Herring* and *La Calisto* (Hampstead Garden Opera), *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Ryedale Festival Opera) and *La Bohème* (OperaUpClose; 2011 Olivier Award winner). www.christophernairne.co.uk

Annelie Powell Casting adviser

Annelie is the Assistant Casting Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and has been working in casting since 2006. She also works as a freelance casting director in theatre, film and television. www.powellcasting.com

Lorna Ritchie Set design

Design for Theatre includes: *Macbeth* (Omnibus), *She Stoops to Conquer* (RADA), *Even Stillness* (Soho), *but I cd only whisper* (Arcola Theatre), *Peter Pan* (Vanbrugh Theatre, RADA), *This Place Means* (Greenwich Dockland International Festival for high hearted theatre), *Beasts* (Theatre503), *Dirty Butterfly* (Gielgud Theatre, RADA), *Measure for Measure* (Vanbrugh Theatre, RADA), *Slaves* (Theatre503), *Antigone* (Prime Cut, Belfast), *Mules* (Young Vic Theatre), *The Car Cemetery* (Gate Theatre), *Wuthering Heights* and *Limbo* (York Theatre Royal), *An Enemy of the People* and *Lady from the Sea* (Arcola Theatre).

Design for ballet: *Coppelia* and *Carmen* (Ballet Ireland tours), *Stargazer* (Royal Opera House), *Scheherazade* (Ballet Ireland tour), *Rumpelstiltskin* (Peacock Theatre, Sadler's Wells Theatre).

Lara Rossi Prism

Theatre includes *Even Stillness Breathes Softly Against a Brick Wall* (Soho Theatre, dir Nadia Latif), Supporting Wall's production of *Tender Napalm* (UK tour), *The Alchemist* (Liverpool Playhouse), and *13* and *Emperor and Galilean* (National Theatre).

TV includes *Crossing Lines* series 1–3 (Tandem Communications), *Agatha Raisin* (Mammoth Series for Sky), *Life of Crime* (ITV), *Murder* (Touchpaper for BBC) and *The Shadow Line* (Company Pictures for BBC).

Lara has twice been nominated for the Ian Charleson Award for her stage work.

Simon Slater Sound design/composition

Simon has composed for over 250 theatre, film, television and radio productions. Recent credits include music for *Constellations* (Duke of York's Theatre and Royal Court Theatre) for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award, *Carmen Disruption* (Almeida Theatre), *Talking Heads* (Theatre Royal Bath and national tour), *The Broken Heart*, *Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse), *Great Expectations* (Vaudeville Theatre), *Arabian Nights* (Sherman Cardiff), *Ghosts* (New Vic Theatre), *Single Spies* (Rose Theatre, Kingston), *Wonderland*, *Raving*, *No Naughty Bits* and *Enlightenment* (Hampstead Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme), *Land of Our Fathers*, *Handful of Stars* (Trafalgar Studios and Theatre503), nominated for two Off West End Awards, *Cannibals* (Royal Exchange Manchester), *The Lady and the Van* (national tour), *The Deep Blue Sea*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Grouch*, *As You Like It* and *Wind in the Willows* for West Yorkshire Playhouse, *Two Men of Florence* (Huntington Theatre Company, Boston), *Romeo and Juliet* (Royal Shakespeare Company), the award winning *James and the Giant Peach* (Octagon Theatre, Bolton), *Coyote on a Fence* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester and the Duchess Theatre, West End), *Henry V* and *Julius Caesar* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Macbeth* (Albery

Theatre), *Rose Rage* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater and The Duke on 42nd Street, New York).

Television includes: *Inquisition* (Channel 5), *Dalziel & Pascoe* (BBC) and *Impact Earth* (Channel 5).

Radio includes: the award-winning *The Blood Libel*, *Eight Days in July*, and *The Look of Life* and *The Report* (BBC Radio 4).

As an Actor: *Chariots of Fire* (Gielgud), *Viva Forever* (Piccadilly Theatre), *Mamma Mia!* (Prince of Wales Theatre), *Bloodshot* (St James Theatre), and two awards for his audio book reading of *Bloodshot* (St James Theatre and Vertigo Theatre, Calgary) and the double-award-winning audiobook *Wolf Hall*.

Supporting Wall

Supporting Wall is an independent producing company founded in 2008 by Ben Monks and Will Young. Supporting Wall's productions have won Olivier, Fringe First, OffWestEnd and *Stage Awards*; and the company has twice been nominated for the OffWestEnd Best Producer Award.

Supporting Wall has worked with established writers like Philip Ridley, Timberlake Wertenbaker and Mike Bartlett alongside emerging talents including Clare Lizzimore, Chris Lee, Stewart Pringle, Kenneth Emson and Jonathan Donahoe. Typically reflecting contemporary social and political themes, recent work includes Mike Bartlett's *Bull* (Young Vic Theatre – Olivier Award winner for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre), Philip Ridley's *Radiant Vermin* (Soho Theatre / Bristol Tobacco Factory), *Dark Vanilla Jungle* (Soho Theatre, Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre and tour) and *Tonight with Donny Stixx* (Soho Theatre, Oxford Playhouse and Edinburgh Fringe).

www.supportingwall.com

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