

Experience L.A.

BLACK SUPERHERO MAGIC MAMA BY INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN

Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Geffen Playhouse, Westwood

“We get to see a Black woman on stage at the center of a fantasy in a way that we don’t often get to see ourselves portrayed. She is brave and strong; and she is also at times sad, angry, confused, and even funny. She is human.” —Inda Craig-Galván.

KNOW BEFORE THE SHOW

- This is the world-premiere production of *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* by Inda Craig-Galván.
- It is directed by Robert O’Hara, the recipient of two NAACP awards, two OBIE Awards, and numerous other honors.
- *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* was inspired in part by the story of Samaria Rice, the mother of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old Black boy who was killed by police in Cleveland in 2014.

INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN

The playwright Inda Craig-Galván is a Chicagoan living in Los Angeles. Her plays have been developed and presented at theatres including Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference, Oregon Shakespeare Festival Black Swan Lab, Kitchen Dog Theatre New Works Festival, The Old Globe, Chalk Repertory Theatre, Skylight Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Playwrights’ Arena MPAACT, Trustus Theatre Playwrights Festival, and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. Her many awards include recognition on The Kilroys List, The Kennedy Center Rosa Parks Playwriting Award, Blue Ink Playwriting Award, Urbanworld Film Festival’s Grand Jury Prize for Best Screenplay, Jane Chambers Student Award for Feminist Playwriting, Black & Latino Playwrights Conference Winner, WomenWorks Playwriting Award, Humanitas Play LA, and Princess Grace Award in Playwriting (runner-up).



In addition to writing for the theatre, Craig-Galván is a staff writer on ABC's *The Rookie*. She also has experience as an actor, sketch comedian, and comic improviser. She earned her MFA in Dramatic Writing from USC, where she studied both playwriting and screenwriting.

TAMIR RICE AND SAMARIA RICE

Inda Craig-Galván has said that part of the inspiration for *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* was watching Tamir Rice's mother at a press conference. Tamir Rice was a 12-year-old Black boy who was killed by police in 2014 while playing with a toy gun. His murder became part of a national conversation about state violence against Black people, in the context of the burgeoning Black Lives Matter movement. Tamir's mother, Samaria Rice, is now in the process of creating the Tamir Rice Afrocentric Cultural Center, an after-school center where "all children feel safe, nurtured and valued—especially in their darkest times." Children at the center will also be taught how to participate in political systems—something Samaria Rice said she learned about in the aftermath of her son's death.



Inda Craig-Galván

BLACK LIVES MATTER

In 2013, in the wake of the acquittal of George Zimmerman for killing a Black teenager named Trayvon Martin, three Black organizers—Patrisse Cullors (currently a USC MFA student), Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometl—began using the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter to call for justice—that is, for Black lives to be treated as if they matter—in "a world where Black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise." The hashtag has grown into a member-led, global movement with more than 40 chapters who "organize and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes." Movement organizers write, on the Black Lives Matter website, "It is an affirmation of Black folks' humanity, our contributions to this society, and our resilience in the face of deadly oppression."

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

Geffen Playhouse, named for entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, has been an important fixture in the L.A. theatre landscape since it was founded in 1995. The non-profit theatre, which is affiliated with UCLA, presents both classic and contemporary plays. In addition to presenting plays to approximately 130,000 theatre-goers per year, the Geffen offers education and community-engagement programs.

Geffen Playhouse has been awarded more than 50 regional theatre awards, including seven accolades for best overall productions and a special Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award for Best New Play in Los Angeles for both Jane Anderson's commission *The Quality of Life* and David Wiener's *Extraordinary Chambers*. Geffen Playhouse commissioned Donald Margulies' *Time Stands Still*, which received a Tony Award nomination for Best Play in 2010. The playhouse regularly presents world-premiere productions. The company was founded by Gilbert Cates and is currently helmed by Executive Director Gil Cates, Jr., Artistic Director Matt Shakman, and Board Chair Howard Tenenbaum.



A protest over the police shooting of Tamir Rice November 25, 2014, in Cleveland



blacklivesmatter.com

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Inda Craig-Galván told *Ampersand*, “Being forced to be the voice of reason for an entire community of people is a ridiculous demand.” Why is it ridiculous? Why does it happen?
- Craig-Galván has said that the plays she responds to are never only drama or only comedy, but both. What did you think of her use of humor and theatricality in a play that addresses one of the most real, serious issues of our time?
- What role do you think fantasy plays in dealing with grief?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Experience L.A. trip to *Lackawanna Blues* at the Mark Taper Forum bit.ly/VVLackawanna
- Plays at the Mark Taper Forum www.centertheatregroup.org/visit/mark-taper-forum
- Plays at the Kirk Douglas Theatre www.centertheatregroup.org/visit/kirk-douglas-theatre
- Plays at the Broad Stage thebroadstage.org
- Plays at the Los Angeles Theatre Center www.thelatc.org
- Plays at 24th Street Theatre www.24thstreet.org
- Black Lives Matter blacklivesmatter.com

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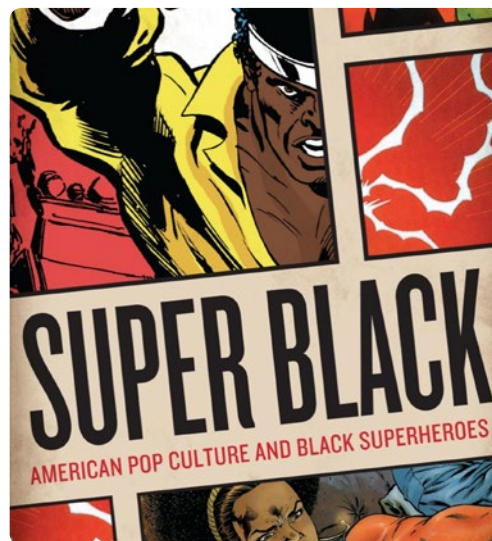
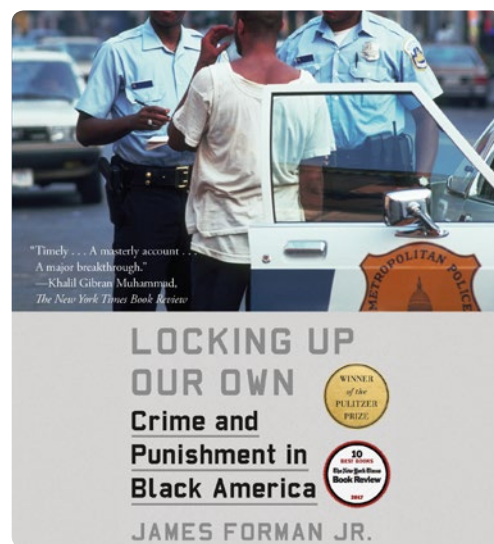
ANTHONY ANDERSON of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about tonight’s performance. Those with a call number (e.g., books and DVDs) are physical items which you can find in our campus libraries; DVDs circulate for seven days and are available at the Leavey Library circulation desk. Those without a call number (e.g. e-books, journal articles, and databases) are electronic resources, which you can access through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- Foreman, James. *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017.
DOHENY LIBRARY: HV9950.F655 2017
- Gateward, Frances K. and John Jennings, eds. *The Blacker the Ink: Constructions of Black Identity in Comics and Sequential Art*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2015.
DOHENY LIBRARY: PN6725.B57 2015
- Nama, Adalifa. *Super Black: American Pop Culture and Black Superheroes*. Austin, TX: University of Texas, 2011.
DOHENY LIBRARY: PN6725.N32 2011



Lackawanna Blues at the Mark Taper Forum



- Pegues, Jeff. *Black and Blue: Inside the Divide between the Police and Black America*. Amherst, MA: Prometheus Books, 2017.
DOHENY LIBRARY: HV8141.P34 2017
- Uno, Roberta, ed. *Contemporary Plays by Women of Color: An Anthology*. New York, NY: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2018.
DOHENY LIBRARY: PS627.M5 C66 2018

AUDIO VISUAL

- Coogler, Ryan, Joe Robert Cole, Kevin Feige, Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, et al. *Black Panther*. Burbank, CA: Buena Vista Home Entertainment, 2018.
LEAVEY LIBRARY: CIRDSK-DVD LVDVD 12553
- Foster, Kathleen, Iris Baez, Gwen Carr, Fay Chiang, William Jelani Cobb, Natasha Duncan, Stephanie Foard, et al. *Profiled*. New York, NY: Women Make Movies, 2016.
LEAVEY LIBRARY: CIRDSK-DVD LVDVD 11196
- King, Woodie, Joan Sandler, and Ed Pitt. *Black Theatre the Making of a Movement*. San Francisco, CA: California Newsreel, 1978.
LEAVEY LIBRARY: CIRDSK-DVD LVDVD 6179
- Nicks, Peter, Lawrence Lerew, Linda Davis, and Justin Melland. *The Force*. New York, NY: Kino Lorber, 2017.
LEAVEY LIBRARY: CIRDSK-DVD LVDVD 12708

SELECTED AFFILIATED USC ELECTRONIC DATABASES

Find scholarly resources about and African Americans and superheroes, African Americans and the police, and African Americans and theater, through these electronic resources.

- IIPA (International Index to the Performing Arts)**
 "IIPA draws its current content from more than 100 international performing arts periodicals from 9 countries, and also indexes feature performing arts articles and obituaries appearing in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. IIPA covers nearly all aspects of the world of the performing arts, from the most scholarly studies to the latest crazes. Most IIPA records in the current coverage (1998 forward) contain an abstract."
- JSTOR**
 "A growing full text collection of core social science, humanities, and science journals."
- Proquest Central**
 "...serves as the central resource for researchers at all levels."

