



Nina Simone—Four Women

January

Tuesday 29, 7:30pm

St. Paul's AME Church,

Wednesday 30, 7:30pm

Hamilton

Thursday 31, 7:30pm

Marcus Gardley: Director (Award-winning poet, playwright and director)

Harriett D. Foy: *Nina Simone/Peaches** (played Princess Peyai, *Amazing Grace on Broadway*)

Samuel Jones: *Stage Manager*

Theresa Cunningham: *Aunt Sarah**

Darryl G. Ivey: *Musical Director/Sam**

Toni L. Martin: *Sephronia**

Harriett D. Foy: *Artistic Consultant*

Carla Hargrove: *Sweet Thing**

*Actors appear courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

On September 15, 1963, the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed by white supremacists. Four girls were killed in the bombing – Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Carol Denise McNair.

Nina Simone was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, arranger, and activist in the Civil Rights Movement. Her music spanned a broad range of musical styles including classical, jazz, blues, folk, R&B, gospel, and pop. Simone recorded more than 40 albums between 1958 and 1974. She made her debut with the album *Little Girl Blue*. She had a hit in the United States in 1958 with "I Loves You, Porgy". Her social commentary was not limited to the Civil Rights Movement; "Four Women" exposed the Eurocentric beauty standards imposed on black women in America, as it explored the internalized dilemma of beauty that is experienced between four black women with skin-tones ranging from light to dark. She explains in her autobiography "I Put A Spell on You" that the purpose of the song was to inspire black women to define beauty and identity for themselves without the influence of societal impositions.

The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment of any kind is strictly prohibited during performances.

Visit www.bermudafestival.org
for more information



Programme

Director's Note

Nina Simone - Four Women is a poetic and exquisite theatrical play about what inspired the famed artist Nina Simone to write her famous protest song MISSISSIPPI GODDAMN. When I first saw the play performed at Arena Stage... not only did the show lift my spirits, it made me laugh and cheer. I knew instantly that it was something that I wanted to direct. It is a tour-de-force celebration of the black female voice in the context of the Civil Rights Movement and a rally cry for us to honor and remember the women who sacrificed for our community. The actresses who perform in this show are some of the most talented individuals that I have ever worked with. This show would not be possible if it had not been for them and the supportive team of the Bermuda Festival.

SONG LIST

I Love You Porgy

George Gershwin, Du Bose Heyward and Ira Gershwin

Old Jim Crow

Nina Simone, Jackie Alper and Ron Bender Groef

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Traditional Gospel Hymn
Written by Civilla D. Martin and Charles H. Gabriel

Nobody

Music by Bert Williams and Lyrics by Alex Rogers

Sinnerman

Nina Simone

Images

(Based on William Waring Cuney's poem "No Images")

Brown Baby

Lyrics and Music by Oscar Brown, Jr.

Brown Baby

Written by Oscar Brown, Jr.

To Be Gifted Young and Black

Written By Weldon Irvine and Nina Simone

Mississippi Goddam

Nina Simone

Shout: Oh, Mary

Written by Christina Ham

Four Women

Written by Nina Simone

For more information about the cast please visit www.bermudafestival.org

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