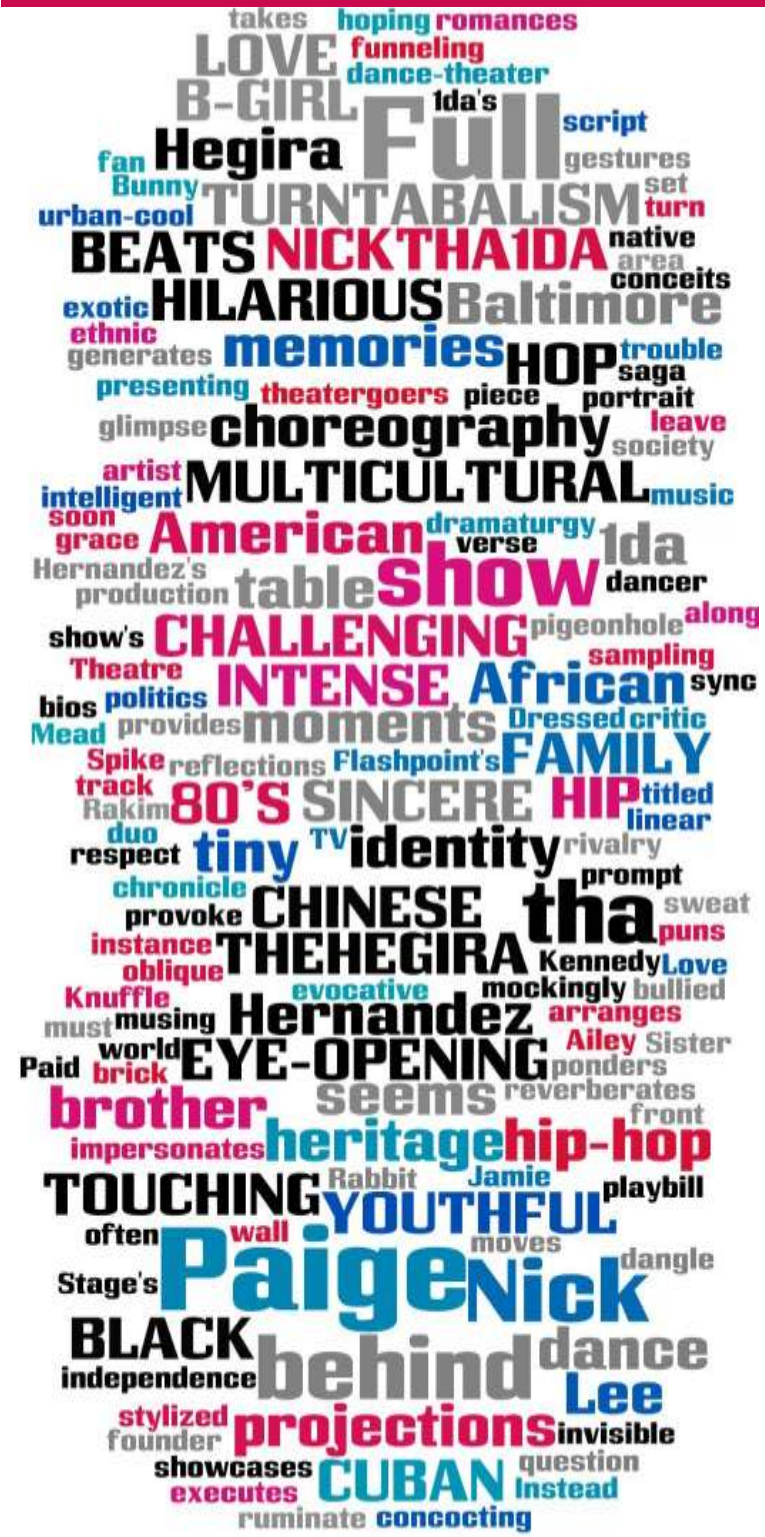
about...



"Paige in Full, [the title is a play on hip hop classic "Paid in Full"] tells Paige's autobiographical story from pre-conception to present day in a one hour show that grabs the audience by the throat and doesn't let them go. Part comedy, part pain, and part retrospective on growing up in Baltimore in the late 80's and early 90's, we experience Paige trying desperately to fit in, before finding her voice, accepting herself and becoming one of the most fascinating artists to watch of this generation."

-Porscha Coleman, DC Theatre Scene

To create *Paige in Full*, sibling-duo Paige Hernandez (writer and performer) and Nick tha 1da (musician) worked with Danielle A. Drakes (director) and Bryan Joseph Lee (dramaturg) to develop a unique coming of age story that speaks to a dynamic hip-hop-influenced generation.

production history

Since its premiere in May 2010, *Paige in Full* has packed theaters, had exceptional reviews, successful events, unique workshops and sold out performances.

Produced by theHegira www.thehegira.org
theHegira showcases the artistry of women of color, as their aesthetic is underrepresented in the theatrical mainstream. The company's mission is to produce a dialogue between artists and audiences through the exploration, development, and production of stories of struggle, survival, and triumph.

Mead Theatre Lab Program
at Flashpoint Theatre, DC 2009-1010:
New Play Script Development ~ Dec.2008-Nov.2009
Workshop Rehearsals ~ November 2009
Workshop Performances ~ December 11 and 12, 2009 at 8pm
Final Script Development ~ January through March 2010
World Premiere~ May 11 through May 29, 2010

SULU excerpt performance~ June 19, 2010
DC Hip Hop Theatre Festival (Studio Theatre) ~ July 7, 2010
Fulton Theatre, PA ~ Sept 17, 2010
Wellesley College, MA~ Sept. 24, 2010
Salve Regina University, RI~ Nov.12, 2010
Intersections Festival, DC ~March 2011

artist statement

"With PIF (Paige in Full), I aimed to create what I wanted to see on stage: sibling performers in a positive story that is both uplifting and insightful. The show needed to blur cultural lines with infectious music, choreography that moved the story forward, poems that defied structure, accessible emotion, and a strong narrative of love, pain, and triumph.

I wanted a story that would help to reclaim the positive energy that hip hop was once known to create. I wanted a story that was all at once international, and "around the way". Lastly, I wanted a story for little girls of color. I want them to know that no matter where they fall in the rainbow, their voice is interesting, unique and needs to be heard.

I credit a lot of the show's inspiration to my younger brother and fellow performer, Nick tha 1da. He gave me a CD of his beats and my creative wheels started turning. The music inspired 20+ characters, 18 poems, 7 live music (DJ) sets and 8 dance routines.

Theater needs a jolt of fresh air. Its audience isn't getting any younger and its topics can't compete with social media, technology and the current racial climate. The hip hop experience has evolved from records to cassettes; cds, to ipods; and now to the stage. Enjoy the visual mixtape."

-Paige

artist bio

Paige Hernandez (writer, choreographer, performer) is a graduate of the Baltimore School for the Arts and received a BA in theater and broadcast journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park.

As a teaching artist, Paige has taught throughout the U.S .to all ages, in all art disciplines. She has partnered with many organizations including Wolftrap and Arena Stage where she was awarded the Thomas Fichandler award for exceptional promise in theater education.

Paige has performed on many stages in the DC metro area including Arena Stage, Roundhouse, The Everyman Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Imagination Stage, GALA, Discovery Theatre and Charter Theatre as well as others.

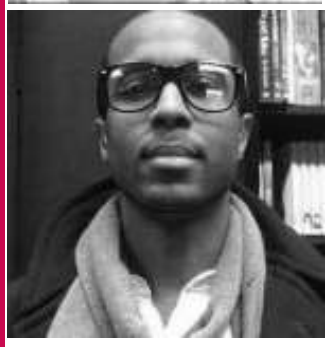
As a critically acclaimed b-girl, Hernandez's choreography has been seen all over DC and recently in DC/NY's Hip Hop Theatre Festival with Imagination Stage's *Zomo the Rabbit*. As a performer and playwright, Hernandez has performed her children's show *Havana Hop* and her one woman show, *Paige In Full* in various theatres, schools and colleges along the East Coast.

www.paigehernandez.com

creative geniuses

Nick tha 1da (live beats and sound design) is returning hip-hop to its foundation with the soul of sampling. He was selected for his successful signature chopped samples & hard-hitting drums which earned his title of DMV (DC/MD/VA) Beat Champion in 2005 & 2006. Nick tha 1da created the musical soundtrack/scores for independent films including Loose Change, a 9/11 documentary directed by Dylan Avery which received publicity on Fox News/CNN. He produced the theme/segments for The Peter Rosenberg Show on Hot97(WQHT-FM) and has produced for artists such as W. Ellington Felton, Raheem Devaughn, Asheru (The Boondocks), NC's Justus League and many more. Visit More information atnicktha1da.com.

Danielle A. Drakes (director,producer)received her BA from Goucher College and MFA from The Catholic University of America. As a performer, she has worked with Ford's Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, CENTERSTAGE, CATF, Discovery Theatre, and Imagination Stage. Directing credits include Lions of Industry, Mothers of Invention, Suessical, the musical!, Deep Belly Beautiful, Stop Kiss, Southern Girls, Dutchman, Chain and Late Bus to Mecca. Recipient of TCG's Nathan Cummings Young Leaders of Color grant, Drakes is a member of Round House Theatre's Artist Roundtable, Red Circle, Actors' Equity Association and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.www.thehegira.org



Bryan Joseph Lee (Production Dramaturgy) is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and holds a degree in Latin American Studies and Theatre. Since 2008, he has worked with the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, DC, where he served as Assistant Director and Assistant Dramaturg on multiple productions. Bryan has also worked with the New York Theatre Workshop (NYC), ELEMENT New Play Festival (Chicago), and the Source Festival (DC), among others. Currently, Bryan serves as Program Coordinator of the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center.

Zoia N. Wiseman (Lighting & Stage Management) received her BFA in Theatre Arts from Stephens College. She has worked with various theatres in Louisiana and the Washington DC metro area. Most recently she stage managed Solas Nua's tour of "Everything Between Us" and was lighting designer for the 2010 Wattage Festival.

Tewodross Melchishua (Video & Projections) received his BA in Art/Photographic Media from Morgan State University, and an MFA in Imaging & Digital Arts from UMBC. He has produced work in video/film, animation, traditional and digital art; music videos and video installation. Recently, he curated the Flashpoint exhibition, M3: MCs, Mics and Metaphors (2009). He is the creative director for Visual Jazz Media Group, and serves as an Associate Professor in visual communication at Bowie State University. www.soulsuite.com

Jamie Yellen (Sets) graduated from Goucher College in May 2009 with a degree in Theater and Studio Art. She has designed sets and lights for several shows for Red Branch Theatre Company and Drama Learning Center. She would like to thank Danielle for this opportunity and her support. She would also like to thank the production team, Z, her friends and family for their support.

press and reviews

"Sister and brother share a tiny stage in the hour-long production, Hernandez's chronicle of growing up with a mixed-race identity. As she chats to the audience and executes urban-cool hoofin' routines, and he generates beats and sampling at a table behind her, their mutual respect reverberates in sync with their enthusiasm for hip-hop. Such pointed moments will prompt theatergoers to ruminate a little about identity politics and the molding of the self in a multicultural world. Chiefly, though, "Paige in Full" will leave audiences hoping more work by Hernandez — and Nick tha 1da, too — comes along soon."
– **Celia Wren, The Washington Post**

"The multi-layered story sparkles with contemporary urban flair, tantalizing terms and expressions, and move 'yo body rhythms in this beat-filled portrait of an artist as a young girl. Totally at ease and in command of her material, Hernandez shows how hip-hop and dance shaped her earliest memories and became the bedrock of her existence. It's stunning… In another innovative segment, she depicts "B'More's" neighborhoods in "haiku", reflecting diverse sights and sounds in just a few well placed words, inflections, even mimicry. She just nails it. Throughout, Hernandez is mesmerizing and leaves you wanting more**."**
– Debbie Minter Jackson, DC Theatre Scene

"The verdict: Paige Hernandez represents the truest voice of what hip-hop theatre can be for our generation: non-linear, dynamic, personal, intense, community-oriented in content and tone, and fondly nostalgic. The distinct moments of Paige's life in this 60-minute act allowed us a window into all of our own lives, love, loss, triumphs and missteps, all with a hip-hop lens through which to examine them. There is no doubt in my mind now that #hiphoptheatreisreal and that #visualmixtapesdoexist."- **Simone Jacobson, Couch Sessions**

This show will make you laugh, cry, and then laugh some more. It's about beats, rhymes, and life. It's how the hip hop culture of the 80's and 90's shaped her life and how it changed as she changed. It's about how without this thing we call hip hop, the Paige Hernandez we see here would most likely not exist. So thank God for hip hop and thank God for Paige in Full!
- **Steve Lee, University of Maryland**

The sibling duo was fantastic and the show had the audience clapping, dancing, and even rapping in their seats!- **Ariel Medley, DC Examiner**

Paige's is pure hip hop. She breathes it. It's a part of her DNA. She can connect the songs and the culture to her entire being. More importantly, she can explain it to the rest of us. She is beautifully articulate in her storytelling… she is enticing in her mastery of her body and movement. This performance is a delight. – **Genevieve Williams, Discovery Theatre**

workshops

Don't Sweat the Technique: Hip Hop Strategies and Activities for the Classroom and Stage
Participants will explore innovative hip hop teaching methods, activities and exercises to supplement curriculum and/or to use in performance pieces. The workshop will show how each hip hop element (Emcee, DJ, Graffiti and B-boy) can easily be transformed into exercises or performance pieces. Who knew hip hop could do wonders for classroom management?!!

Hip Hop Body Rock
Calling all fly girls and b-boys! Learn about significant hip hop choreographers, different styles of hip hop dance and regional/cultural influences. Then it's time to stretch and flex before you learn a brand new hip hop routine. Warning: after taking this class, your "swagga" may go into overdrive!

Community Collabo
As ensemble, participants will write, devise and perform their own ten-minute theatrical piece. Paige will lead the group through transitions, tableaux and basic play building. In the end, resources will be plentiful for the group to continue to create meaningful pieces in their communities.

Rap, Clap, Write That!
A pen and a paper is all you need to be a playwright! Effortlessly create characters, plots and setting using hip hop inspiration. Participants will be inspired to create poems, monologues and basic dialogue. If there's time at the end, we'll share the genius.

CREATE Your Own!
We can create a workshop that meets your participants' needs. Combine elements from the workshops above or pow-wow with us to create something unique, inspiring and educational. The sky's the limit and Nick and Paige are your co-pilots.

Workshops can be adapted to any time limit and any age range. Number of participants required may vary.

booking info

Visit: www.paigeinfull.com to submit an inquiry
Email: paiginfull@gmail.com
Mail:
Request for PAIGE IN FULL
7303 Willow Hill Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743
Phone: 443-604-0855

Genre: Hip-Hop Theatre, Visual Mixtape
dance/music/storytelling/one-woman

Length: One Act

Running Time: 60 Minutes

Number of Cast/Crew: 4
(one performer/one musician/two crew)

www.paigeinfull.com
for pictures, reviews and blogs!

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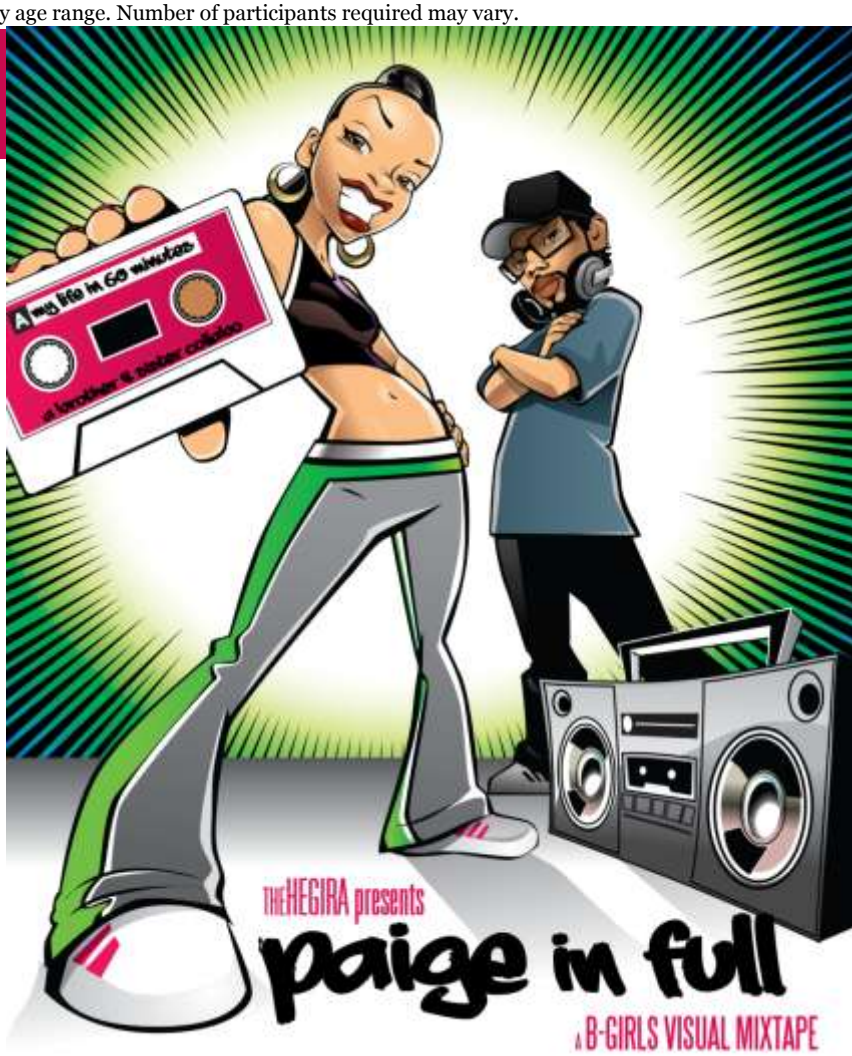
FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Artwork by Bryan C. Davis ~All images © C. Stanley Photography
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