

# Quest and the girl

COMPLICATED LOVE,  
HIP HOP STYLE  
CREATED BY  
**DR. HOLLYHOOD  
AND JON QUEST**

PRESENTED VIRTUALLY  
**MAY  
20-21**

with the  
yellow jacket

new  
Hazzett  
theater

COMMUNITY 20  
SUPPORTED ART 21  
PERFORMANCE SERIES

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## ABOUT *QUEST AND THE GIRL WITH THE YELLOW JACKET*

**Q**uest and the Girl with the Yellow Jacket brings together the individual albums of two Pittsburgh hip hop artists: Dr. HollyHood's *Yellow Jacket* (2019) tells the story of a woman in a relationship with a married man, and Quest's *Hollywood Divorce* (2019) follows the life of a married man involved in an affair. The albums are woven together in collaboration with dramaturg TJ Young. The duo describes the work as a "Hip Hopera," focused on the emotional perspectives of individuals involved in a complex love story.



***Quest and the Girl with the Yellow Jacket* is a story of love told through the power of hip-hop. Love can sometimes push people over the edge and unfortunately, many can get hurt in the process of expressing what they think/feel is love."**

**— DR. HOLLYHOOD AND JON QUEST**

# ARTIST BIOS

**Jonathan Brown**, also known as Jón Quest, is a native of Pittsburgh, and what you'd call a master of ceremonies: an emcee's emcee. Quest, whose name is inspired by the 60's cartoon "Jonny Quest," finds an escape from reality through hip hop music, and prides himself on sharing the adventures he encounters.

**Dr. Amber Epps**, also known as Dr. HollyHood, is often referred to as the "mom of Pittsburgh hip hop," creating modern hip hop with old-school sensibilities. Since writing her first song in sixth grade detention, Holly's lyrics have depicted life experiences, expressed extreme emotions, and created musical stories that are both hardcore and gritty, yet light-hearted and whimsical.



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# ARTIST STATEMENTS

I wrote my first song in 6th grade detention. That song was the first time I expressed my emotions in that format and ever since then, I have felt that words were my most powerful tool to express my emotions. My best songs come from when I am experiencing extreme emotions, whatever they may be. I am a writer, lyricist, visual artist, curator, advocate, professor, witch, and mom. I have never been a person who only focuses on one thing at a time, so I enjoy wearing many hats all at once.



*Yellow Jacket* is a 16 minute concept album that outlines the relationship of a woman who is involved with a married man. The tracks, including spoken word pieces, tell the story of this emotional roller coaster that involves happiness, disappointment, anger, and heartbreak. This is a story that is not uncommon, but is one that is often not told publicly or through music in this format.

This is how I chose to express myself truthfully, creating space to honor and acknowledge the relationship and then allow closure.

Not everyone will like this. Not everyone will approve of this. This will make some people uncomfortable. And that's okay. This album is my story. It's not supposed to be pretty, and no one has to like it.



## - Dr. HollyHood

When it comes to my music, I speak about my life, what I've been through, what I'm going through, and how I made it to the other side. I speak about my quest and the journey.

*Hollywood Divorce* is a hip-hop concept album inspired by life events during my hiatus from music. It tells the story of a



married man who is struggling to heal. I went through a wild transformation, evolving into a better person and needed to share my story with the world. This is a dark story that doesn't get told much and can come off as taboo.

My vision for this album was to captivate the audience with storytelling; I wanted it to be like watching a movie so I've included interludes, skits, and characters. I wanted to focus on the way that love can make you do certain things, the mental and spiritual health of all



parties involved, the various forms of abuse that can be tossed in, and more. A lot of this stuff isn't talked about, so this was my chance to speak my truth, do quite a bit of shadow work, and close that chapter in my life. I had to live it, heal from it, write it down, and tell the world my truth.

I wanted to provide a musical told through hip-hop with my album, so to have an opportunity to combine my project with HollyHood's *Yellow Jacket* is something that I'd never imagine happening and I'm grateful for this opportunity.

**- Jon Quest**

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## SPECIAL THANKS

Johnmicheal Bohach, Dominique Brock, Deborah Brown, Nikki B, Shade Cobain, Highly Intoxicated Productions (Shing), Ron Knight, OJ Macklin (Club Elevation), the New Hazlett Theater, Semaj Regah, Alyssa Scott, Abby Shaw, Leslie "Ezra" Smith, Dev Structures, Soy Sos, Phillip Thompson, Melissa W, TJ Young, Maurice, Demetrius, Garry, Raiden, and Jon's children, Julian & Allyn.

**MAY 20-21**

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# CAST & CREW

**DR. AMBER EPPS**  
AMBER

**JONATHAN BROWN**  
JON QUEST

**TJ YOUNG**  
DRAMATURG

**DOMINIQUE BROCK**  
TORI

**ABBY SHAW**  
ALEX, TORI'S FRIEND

**LESLIE "EZRA" SMITH**  
THERAPIST

**PHILLIP THOMPSON**  
BIG PHILL, JON'S FRIEND

**JAZMAINE WADE**  
JAZ, AMBER'S FRIEND

**JORDAN BECKHAM**  
VIDEOGRAPHER

**JONMICHAEL BOCHACH**  
SCENIC DESIGNER

**MICHAEL BOONE**  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**HARBOUR EDNEY**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER

**GREG MESSMER**  
LIGHTING TECHNICIAN

# CAST BIOS



## **TJ YOUNG** (*Dramaturg*)

is a Texas-born playwright and dramaturg based in Pittsburgh where he serves as co-representative for the Dramatists Guild. He received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from Texas State University and has been a Teaching Artist with City Theatre and Quantum Theatre. His plays include *Dark Skinned Pavement* (2020 Inkslinger Playwriting Award Winner), *No. 6*, *Lyon's Den*, *Ruby's Baby Blue*, *Hell is Empty*, and *Hallmark*. TJ is the NPP Vice-Chair for Region 2 of KCACTF.



## **DOMINIQUE BROCK** (*Tori*)

is excited to be getting back into theater with *Quest & The Girl with the Yellow Jacket*. She would like to extend thanks to Jon and Amber for allowing her to be a part of this show and tell their story. She'd also like to give a special thanks to her friend Maria, her family for all their support and to her Gram who is the reason she will never stop pushing towards her dreams. Much love to all who tune in.



## **ABBY SHAW**

**(Alex, Tori's Friend)** was born and raised in Paradise, California and is currently a senior studying Acting at Point Park University. Abby received her Associates degree in Theatre Arts at Butte College in 2019 but has been a part of the performing arts community for over twelve years. She believes art is what makes us human, brings us together, and helps us heal.

**MAY 20-21**

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# CAST BIOS / CONT.



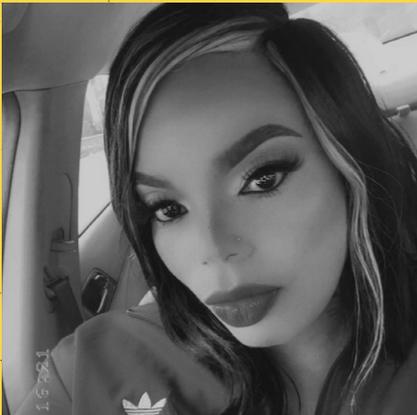
## **LESLIE "EZRA" SMITH**

**(Therapist)** is a spoken word artist, actor, director, event coordinator and host. He has performed with Kuntu Repertory Theater, New Horizon Theater, and Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Co. His awards include Best Lead Actor at The African American Council of the Arts and Pittsburgh Hip Hop Awards Poet of the Year. He has been a host at The August Wilson Center, The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, and The Shadow Lounge. Currently, he hosts "Figuratively Speaking" at Lounge 7101 in Homewood, Pittsburgh. IG: @izrah1977



## **PHILLIP THOMPSON**

**(Big Phill, Jon's Friend)** also known as DJ Big Phill, has been in the film making, photography, music production and DJ scene for years. He has shot film/video projects for a variety of clients including fighters in the UFC, to local organizations, and music videos. He has shared the stage with some of the greatest entertainers in the business such as The Roots, Kid Capri, Big Daddy Kane, and countless others. He is also a part of the elite DJ crew "Grind Hard DJs."



## **JAZMAINE WADE**

**(Jaz, Amber's Friend)** is a loving wife and mother of two. She is also the co-founder of one of Pittsburgh's hottest youth dance teams, the Lady Diamonds. Amber and Jaz have been real-life friends for over 10 years. Jaz describes herself as genuine, loving, and just plain awesome. She is thrilled to be a part of this new performance.

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# NEW HAZLETT THEATER SAFETY PROTOCOLS

**The New Hazlett Theater staff has been committed to every person's safety during the filming of *Quest and the Girl with the Yellow Jacket* and has established safety protocols in consultation with other local theater organizations, health professionals, and with information provided by the CDC and local government.**

**Here are some of the ways that our artists and crew were protected during the making of this production:**

- Artists and crew were given lifestyle surveys prior to rehearsal and filming to evaluate risk and prepare mitigation plans.
- Artists and crew were asked to self-isolate during the weeks leading up to and during the filming process.
- Artists and crew were tested for COVID-19 at regular intervals during the rehearsal and filming process.
- Artists and crew were questioned about activities and symptoms each time they entered the building.
- All rehearsals were conducted with actors and crew in appropriate PPE provided by New Hazlett Theater in consultation with health professionals.
- All production crew was socially distanced throughout the production.
- No other individuals were permitted on set during filming.
- All singing in the production was pre-recorded with each singer in isolation. No singing was done during the filming of the performance.

**For questions and concerns about COVID-19 safety procedures please contact Executive Director, René Conrad at [rconrad@newhazletttheater.org](mailto:rconrad@newhazletttheater.org)**

**MAY 20-21**  
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# NEW HAZLETT STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **RENÉ CONRAD**  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR **SCOTT CONKLIN**  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING **KRISTIN HELFRICH**  
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGER **KIMBERLEE LOVE**  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER **PATTI PHILLIPS-BEST**  
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR **DYLAN BAKER**  
VENUE AND HOSPITALITY MANAGER **COURTNEY BOLD**  
PROGRAM AND EVENTS MANAGER **AMBER HOLDER**  
DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST **PHOEBE ORR**  
STAGE MANAGER **RACHAEL ELLIS**  
MASTER ELECTRICIAN **PIPER CLEMENT**  
LEAD AUDIO ENGINEER **CHRIS FRITSKY**  
AUDIO ENGINEER **LAURA MOELLER**  
CAMERA OPERATOR **JEREMY FLEISHMAN**  
CAMERA OPERATOR **SHERYLAND NEAL**

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**REBECCA CULYBA**  
**MARK FATLA, ESQ.**  
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**SUSAN GILLIS KRUMAN**  
**LAURA GREENAWALT**  
**BRIEN MARSH**  
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**EVAN H. STEIN**  
**ROB ZELLERS**

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# NEW HAZLETT THEATER FUNDERS

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**THE STAUNTON FARM  
FOUNDATION**

**MAY 20-21**

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# NEW HAZLETT THEATER

New Hazlett Theater provides a nurturing, collaborative environment for artists leveraging people, space, and technology to create and present challenging and dynamic art.

## **WE ARE FLEXIBLE AND DYNAMIC**

We seek out collaboration in order to allow arts organizations and individual artists to pursue their own missions, present their own programs and connect with their own – and new – audiences.

## **WE ARE MORE THAN A BUILDING**

We excel at listening, helping artists think about the big picture without worrying about how all the pieces of the puzzle will come together.

## **WE ARE A COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

We create an energetic arena for arts events and community dialogue in our Northside neighborhood and beyond.

## **WE SUPPORT DIVERSITY OF PROGRAMMING**

We embrace the programming of a broad range of artists and arts organizations, hosting diverse audiences and encouraging the success of Pittsburgh's performing arts community.



**NEWHAZLETTTHEATER.ORG**

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# Local Singles

A NEW MUSICAL  
BOOK, MUSIC,  
AND LYRICS BY  
**NICK NAVARI**

**MARCH**  
25-26



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SUPPORTED ART  
PERFORMANCE SERIES 21

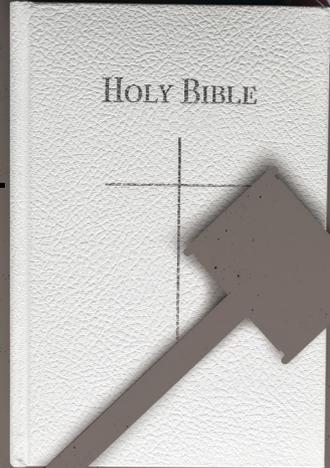
# Milton



HOLY BIBLE

A BIOGRAPHY  
IN MOVEMENT  
CREATED BY  
**KAYLIN HORGAN**

**APRIL**  
8-9

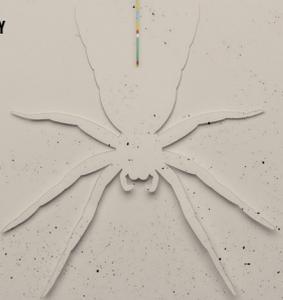


COMMUNITY 20  
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# Sunsum is Spirit

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY  
EXPLORATION OF  
WEST AFRICAN  
MYTHOLOGY,  
TRADITION,  
AND MIGRATION BY  
**SAMUEL BOATENG**

**APRIL**  
29-30



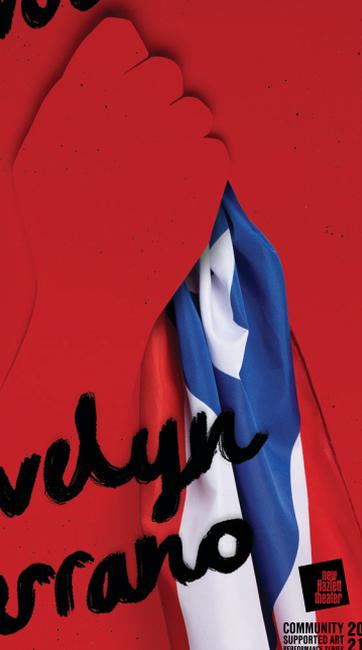
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# the Revolution

A PLAY BASED ON  
THE NOVEL BY  
SONIA MANZANO  
WRITTEN AND  
DIRECTED BY  
**TALOC RIVAS**

**JUNE**  
10-11

# of Evelyn Serrano



COMMUNITY 20  
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**new**  
**Hazlett**  
**theater**