

February 16-17

IGNITE

A live hip hop experience

by YS1



**new
Hazlett
theater**

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IGNITE

A LIVE HIP HOP EXPERIENCE BY YS1.

FEBRUARY 16-17 | NEW HAZLETT THEATER

CREATIVE TEAM

YUSEF SHELTON.....Creator/Lead Artist
DREW BAYURA.....Music Director
KONTARA MORPHIS.....Choreographer/Dancer

PERFORMERS

MARCELL JOHNSON.....Host
DEJAH MONEA.....Singer
ARIS ROSS.....Singer
TOMI ADEBAYO.....Violinist
RJ WILLIAMS.....Drummer
RICKIA DAVENPORT.....Dancer

DESIGN TEAM

BROUGHTON GANAWAY.....Lighting/Projections Designer

SONGS

Buggin

Drip

Rising Star

Upnext

Squirtle

Da First Freestyle

W-Mans

1st Off

Childhood Woes

Tomi Solo

Da First Story

Love Yourself

Letter To My Wife

On The Road

Doors Open

Never Be Afraid

Combat

Angels Follow

Power

Higher Power

Imagination

Grateful

ABOUT THE SHOW

Hip-hop artist Ys1 (Yusef Shelton Da First) sets fire to the New Hazlett stage with the true story of Little Joseph. This autobiographical concert shows how faith, intention, and staying true to yourself can break the cycle of fear and help overcome adversity. With refreshing authenticity and a magnetic stage presence, Ys1 is sure to engage and empower audiences.

“The neighborhood that I’m from in Pittsburgh is Homewood. Homewood has been very synonymous with gun violence and death and drugs and addicts, but I really want to shift the narrative to show that you can be from Homewood and be an amazing individual. There are some very, very dope people that come out of Homewood. Why I think it’s so important for me to be consistently elevating is that I have a story that is so relatable to so many people.”

“The main thing I hope that people take away from this show is inspiration. I want young people to see somebody who came from the inner city and who’s now producing high-quality music with a positive message. I hope it helps them see that there are broader options for them.”

-Ys1, Creator



WHO'S WHO

THE CREATIVE TEAM



YUSEF SHELTON DA FIRST (Creator / Lead Artist)

is a Homewood-born-and-bred hip-hop artist and a true family man. From humble beginnings without parental guidance, Yusef overcame his circumstances and transformed his pain into purpose. Yusef found identity in his faith and raps to ignite purpose in the hearts of young Black men, giving them the tools to be authentic.



DREW BAYURA (Music Director)

is a Pittsburgh native vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, and music producer. His work spans a wide range of musical styles and focuses on creating social harmony through sound. He explores the relation of voice, sound, and rhythm and their effects on the electrical mental/emotional self complex, in order to empower the voices of the people he loves in his community.



KONTARA MORPHIS

(Choreographer/Dancer) is the Artistic Director of K-Theatre Dance Complex, a Dance Academy that provides quality dance instruction in several major areas of dance. Kontara has choreographed works for The Kelly Strayhorn Theater, The Dance Alloy, Propel Schools, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, The University of Dayton, Wright State University, and more.

WHO'S WHO | THE PERFORMERS



DEJAH MONEA (*Singer*)

is a Pittsburgh native who discovered her passion for singing at just seven years old. Throughout her adolescence, she participated in plays, artistic development programs, and performing arts institutions that allowed her to express herself and remain disciplined in her craft. As her journey of finding her identity continues, so does her style of music. She is a non-conformist and is unapologetic when it comes to her expression.



ARIS ROSS (*Singer*)

Aris Ross is a singer songwriter and graphic/web designer based in Pittsburgh. She studied music and piano since the age of 6 and considers herself a creative in every sense of the word, finding her calling and a renewed passion each time she starts a project. Aris can be found studying ministry and leading worship at her local church assembly.



MARCELL JOHNSON (*Host*)

is a transformational speaker who speaks into the lives of people all over the world from all walks of life. His own life trials, college education along with his God given gifts inspired him to be an entrepreneur who believes in helping others become the best version of themselves. Marcell is heavily involved in his current city Pittsburgh Pa. He speaks in conferences, schools, colleges, organizations, workshops, festivals, establishments and a plethora of other events.

WHO'S WHO (CONT.)



TOMI ADEBAYO (*Violinist*)

is a Nigerian-American portrait artist, classically trained electric violinist, and self-taught keyboardist. She received formal violin training at Pittsburgh CAPA and minored in Studio Arts at the University of Pittsburgh. She has played in several theatrical productions at the Benedum Center and the Byham Theater and performed in two WQED music specials in 2020. She hopes the arts will always be a part of her life.



RJ WILLIAMS (*Drummer*)

is a professional drummer, keyboardist, musician, producer, & arranger! Having a huge love for music since the age of 2, & since then has been blessed with many opportunities such as being on the Steve Harvey Talk Show & has been blessed to work with artists such as Tye Tribbett, Jonathan Traylor, Blanca, DOE, Justin - Lee & Jamie - Leigh Schultz, Mike Teezy, Caleb Gordon, BrvndonP & many more..



RICKIA DAVENPORT (*Dancer*)

is a native of Pittsburgh's Hill District who has taught dance for 12 years. Rickia attended Potomac State College in West Virginia and has a strong background in Hip Hop, Ballet, and Contemporary Dance. Currently, she serves as the Arts Education director with K-Theatre Dance Complex and is a lead dance instructor for Propel Charter Schools. In addition to dance, Rickia is also the proud CEO of Kai FiTT.

WHO'S WHO | THE DESIGNERS



BROUGHTON GANAWAY (*Lighting/Projections Specialist*)

is a consultant, audio, video, lighting and scenic designer based in Pittsburgh. He has apprenticed in the mentioned fields for over 15 years and has a variety of experience in multiple genres and settings. He considers himself to be a creative in story telling and modernization.



LAUREN N. WIJANGCO (*Stage Manager*)

is ecstatic to be stage managing her fourth CSA production at the New Hazlett Theater! Previously, she stage managed Nathan Wagner's *Perdita*, Vida Chai's *Somewhere Strange*, and Bailey Lee's *Papa*. Regionally, she has also worked with Quantum Theatre, City Theatre, Kinetic Theatre Company, Pittsburgh Fringe Festival, Mountain Playhouse, and A.D. Players Theater.

NEW HAZLETT STAFF

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CSA PROJECT MANAGER.....JANUS YOUNG
PRODUCTION MANAGER.....DYLAN BAKER
PROGRAM AND EVENTS MANAGER.....TRU VERRET-FLEMING
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR.....KRISTA REAM
PATRON SERVICES COORDINATOR.....KEVIN RABBITS
LEAD AUDIO TECHNICIAN.....LAURA MOELLER
BOX OFFICE COORDINATOR.....NATHAN WAGNER
STAGE MANAGER.....LAUREN N. WIJANGCO
SOUND OPERATOR.....LAURA MOELLER
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR.....PETER GUSTAFSON

FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF...BRANDON ANDERSON, DAVID BALINT,
NAOMI COSTANZA, REBECCA HURLBERT,
TRAYCEE IMAI, ZOË PIENKOSKI, EVA RESNICK-DAY,
ALEXIS RETCOFSKY, JASMINE ROTH, NATHAN WAGNER,
LAUREN N. WIJANGCO, LINDA WORTHAM

SPECIAL THANKS FROM NEW HAZLETT THEATER

Recital Magazine, Renee Rosensteel, and Saturday Light Brigade,

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