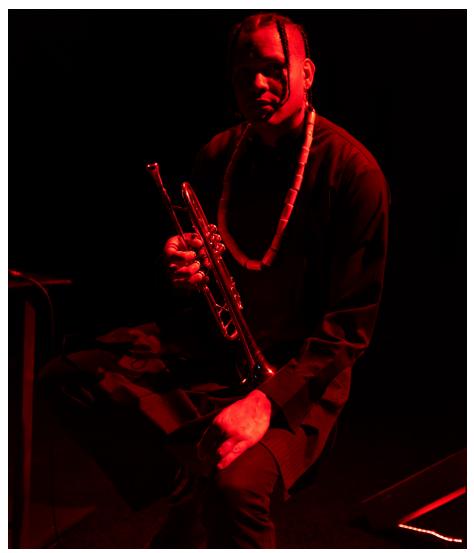
La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club Presents The Things Around Us

By Ahamefule J. Oluo

Part of Under the Radar



The Downstairs 66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003 Jan 9-12, 2025

The Things Around Us

Composed, Written, and Performed by: Ahamefule J. Oluo

> Produced by: Roya Amirsoleymani

The Things Around Us is a collection of seemingly unrelated stories and anecdotes that swirl and dance with an immersive, live musical score created through electronically looped and effected trumpet, clarinet, and everyday objects. Known for their epic stage shows with autobiographical stories and large ensembles, Oluo inverts the formula with stories about other people, other places, and other times set to intimate solo soundscapes that seem to emerge from thin air—a reflection of, and a necessity caused by, the forced isolation of the pandemic. Darkly humorous, uplifting and bleak, deep and silly, this work is about trying and failing to find order in chaos.

Performance is 90 minutes no intermission

Ahamefule J. Oluo (they/them) is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, writer, comedian, and creator of live performance. They were a founder of awardwinning experimental jazz quartet Industrial Revelation, Mellon Creative Research Fellow, Creative Capital awardee, MAP Fund awardee, and Artist Trust Arts Innovator awardee. Oluo premiered the critically acclaimed Now *I'm Fine* (2016) and *Susan* (2020) at The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival. They have written for television and wrote, scored, and starred in the award-winning film *Thin Skin* (2020); appeared on *This American Life*; and produced albums by comedians Hari Kondabolu and Dwayne Kennedy. Oluo's work has been supported by UTR, On the Boards, PICA, Meany Center, The Clarice, STG, Seattle Rep, Intiman, Fusebox, OKC Rep, MacDowell, Yaddo, The MAP Fund, and Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

Funding Credits:

The Things Around Us is supported by a grant from The MAP Fund. Its creative development has been supported through residencies and engagements at Yaddo, MacDowell, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA), Seattle Rep, Wa Na Wari, Langston, and a Mellon Creative Research Fellowship with UW's Meany Center for the Performing Arts. Its New York City premiere at La MaMa ETC is part of Under the Radar Festival. This project was supported, in part, by a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant. *The Things Around Us* premiered on September 6, 2024 at Portland Institute for Contemporary Art's Time-Based Art Festival in Portland, Oregon.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank: Lindy West, Penelope and Charley Oluo, Susan Oluo, Ijeoma Oluo, Jacque Gbalipre, and Eze Oluo; the Amirsoleymani Family; Sarah Murphy and everyone at La MaMa; Mark Russell, Tommy Kriegsmann, Sami Pyne, Brian Freeland, and everyone at Under the Radar; Wa Na Wari; Langston; UW's Meany Center; Kaytlin McIntyre, Antonieta Carpio, and everyone at Seattle Rep; Erin Boberg Doughton, Kristan Kennedy, and everyone at PICA; John Keister; Andrew Schneider; Joseph Keckler; Jennifer Zeyl; Josh Rawlings; Rachel Ramseur.

Accessibility / Content Advisory: This performance includes lighting effects, loud volumes, and haze. Earplugs are available at the box office. Some strong language. Recommended for ages 13 and up.

Part of Under The Radar, the annual festival of experimental theater.

Under the Radar is the United States' premier festival of experimental theater and performance art. As a long-time New York City-based platform for cuttingedge work hailing from around the globe. Produced by ArKtype with Festival Director Mark Russell, UTR has been reimagined in its 20th annual season as a city-wide celebration that incisively speaks to our moment. Rather than being tied to a single host institution, Under the Radar's current iteration is curated collaboratively with an array of renowned arts organizations and curators, each harnessing the connective nature of the festival format to introduce some of the world's most innovative multidisciplinary voices to wider audiences. The 2025 edition of UTR will include over 33 distinct programs at 24 theater spaces, presenting more than 250 performances in only 16 days from January 4 to 19. The depth, breadth and excellence of this year's festival serves as proof that collaboration can power the American theater through this era of existential crisis into a reinvigorated future of conjoined artists ready to embrace diversity, challenge and reinvention.

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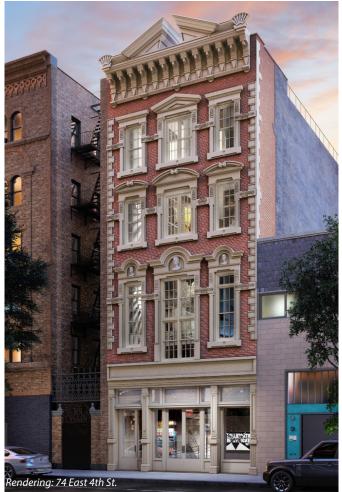
Public Programs Fellow: Margot Anderson-Song



A full program with information on this production can be found on the *The Things Around Us* page of the La MaMa website.

In addition you can scan the QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for access to the digital program.





La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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