



**FELLA!**  
**THE CONCERT**

**The Parker Playhouse**  
**Sunday, January 15, 2023**  
**7:00pm**

## FELA THE CONCERT PROGRAM

Music & Lyrics

Additional Lyrics by

Music Arranged by

*Fela!* Original stage production Conceived by

*Fela!* Original stage production Directed and

Choreographed by

Lighting Design by

Costume Design by

Produced in association with

Executive Producers

Fela Anikulapo-Kuti

Jim Lewis

Aaron Johnson & Jordan McLean

Bill T. Jones, Jim Lewis & Stephen Hendel

Bill T. Jones

Burke Wilmore

Marina Draghici

Aaron Johnson and Margaret Selby

Ruth and Stephen Hendel

## CAST

Fela Anikulapo-Kuti

Dance Captain, Ensemble

Ensemble

Ensemble

Ensemble

Ensemble

Musical Director/Drums

Congas, Djembe

Percussion, Vocals

Trombone

Trumpet

Tenor Saxophone, Keyboards

Baritone Saxophone

Guitar

Guitar

Bass

Duain Richmond

Afi Bijou

Shakira "Kira Divine" Marshall

Iris Wilson

Jason Herbert

Ismael Kouyate

Greg Gonzalez

Talu Green

Domenica Fossati

Nadav Nirenberg

Jeff Pierce

Morgan Price

Alex Harding

Ricky Quinones

Bryan Vargas

Timothy James Allen

Sound Engineer

Lighting Supervisor

Music Supervisor

Production Stage Manager

General Manager

Fernando Moore

John Finen

Aaron Johnson

Aislinn Curry

Ianthe Demos

Tour Booking

Margaret Selby

President, Selby Artists Mgmt

[MSelby@selbyartistsmgmt.com](mailto:MSelby@selbyartistsmgmt.com)

**SELBY/ARTISTS**  
**MANAGEMENT**  
*Performance Redefined*

## SONG LIST

*Everything Scatter*  
*The Clock - Yellow Fever, Ikoyi Blindness*  
*Trouble Sleep Yanga Wake Am*  
*Expensive Shit*  
*Water No Get Enemy*  
*Zombie*  
*Sorrow Tears and Blood*  
*Opposite People*  
*No Buredi*  
*Colonial Mentality - encore*

## CAST BIOS

**Duain Richmond** (*Fela Anikulapo-Kuti*) born in Sierra Leone, west Africa and moved to the United States at the age of nine. His acting career began when artist and director, Freddie Hendricks introduced him to his company, The Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble of Atlanta (Y.E.A). Through Y.E.A he developed his acting skills and started his journey in theater.

During his time with Freddie, he toured the Netherlands and South Africa performing productions like, "Times", "Soweto" and "Black". Continuing to refine his craft, he later returned to the Netherlands as part of his residency with the theater company, Made Da Shade.

In 2012, Duain Richmond joined the award-winning Broadway musical production FELA, leading the show in the iconic role of Nigerian activist and musician, Fela Anikulapo Kuti. In 2013 the production return to Broadway with Duain for a summer run followed by a national Tour.

It wasn't long after that Duain Richmond discovered his love for making Afrobeat music and telling his own musical journey in his one-man production titled Across Da Waters that premiered in Los Angeles 2022.

**Afi Bijou** (*Dance Captain, Ensemble*) was last seen on *Godfather of Harlem* (EPIX) starring Forest Whitaker and will be returning to her reoccurring role as Sister Marny for its 3rd season. She has worked in multiple Broadway shows; regional and off-Broadway theatres across the country such as Yale Rep, Playwright's Horizons and Manhattan City Center with the likes of noted writers and directors such as Lynn Nottage, Tina Landau and Kenny Leon. She is delighted to be returning to her *Fela!* family after nearly 2 years.

**Shakira "Kira Divine" Marshall** (*Ensemble*) is an artist from Queens, New York. She is a singer, songwriter, actor, choreographer, writer, model, and dancer trained in tap, jazz, ballet, modern, acrobatics, Afro-Caribbean, West African, Hip Hop, voice and piano. Kira is a platinum billboard charting artist of hit songs "Go Bang", "Chameleon" and "Solid Gold" with Australian Electronic Dance band PNAU.

Kira attended SUNY Purchase and received a B.A. She made her Broadway debut with FELA! and continued as a member of the international tour company. She was also a member of Afrobeat cover band "Chop and Quench." Kira is credited with creating a dance style called "Afro Soca" and has worked

with artists such as Machel Montano, Alison Hinds, Nas, Jill Scott, Beyonce, Kelly Rowland, Michelle Williams and Pharrell Williams. She currently works with Ms. Lauryn Hill as a choreographer, private dance instructor, featured dance artist and background vocalist.

**Iris Wilson** (*Ensemble*) was an original (featured) cast member of the three-time Tony award winning Broadway musical *Fela!* directed by Tony Award winner Bill T. Jones. She has toured with the show performing nationally and internationally. As a choreographer, her work has been presented in the first Black National Dance Festival in Vienna Austria, the International Dance Festival in Costa Rica, the world's famous Apollo Theater in New York City, the Late Nite Artist series at the Pillsbury Theater in Minneapolis, Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan and Dance Africa Denver. She currently travels to Santiago De Cuba to teach, perform, and collaborate with Santiago's premier dance company Cutumba and the School of Arts.

Iris has performed in The St. Lucia Jazz Festival with the world-renowned Afro-Beat drummer Tony Allen. She also performed in Dance Africa Denver 2014. She has recorded with Stephen Marley singing background on his latest release "Made In Africa". She has performed nationally and internationally with various dance companies such as Opus Dance Theater Inc, Bouso African Dance Company, Haiti Dancsco, Dinizulu African Dancers and Drummers, and KaNu Dance Theater. Iris is currently a dance educator at P.S. 9 in Brooklyn, NY.

**Ismael Kouyaté** (*Ensemble*) hails from a family of renowned artists and praise singers in Guinea, West Africa. He performed with Guinea's national companies, Les Percussions de Guinea and Les Ballets Africains. Currently residing in New York City, he teaches dance and sings with his band, Ismael Kouyaté: Waraba Band.

**Jason Herbert** (*Ensemble*) is the founder and CEO of the JR Media Group, a New York-based entertainment company. Jason has a uniquely creative and business edge with more than 20 years of experience as a professional dancer, singer, and actor, and a decade in music entertainment. Jason began his formal training at the Harlem School of the Arts and the Martha Graham School in New York City. His primary training includes scholarships to The Alvin Ailey School and The Boston Conservatory. He began to decorate his career goals with extensive television, film, and theatrical credits including works like *Invisible Thread*, with director Diane Paulus and Sergio Trujillo, and Tony Award-winning Broadway show *FELA!*, Directed by Bill T. Jones. TV and Film include NBC Saturday Night Live with Chance The Rapper, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, NBC Upfronts, MTV's *Daddy's Girls*, and feature films *Bolden*, *Freedom*, and *Hal King*. Companies include *Philadanco! Ballet Noir*, *Kymera Dance*, and *Forces of Nature Dance Theater*.

#### **Band Bios:**

**Greg Gonzalez** (*Musical Director, drums*) "*Greg is one funky drummer who knows how to push me so well. He's bankable.*" -Patti LaBelle. Greg Gonzalez is the Music Director and drummer for the Tony Award winning Broadway show *FELA!* and its current touring production *FELA! The Concert*. His resume includes performance and recording credits with top artists including: Beyonce, Patti LaBelle, Cecil Taylor, Femi Kuti, Seun Kuti, Red Baraat, Falu, Jazz Mandolin Project, Danielia Cotton, Chop and Quench, Antibalas, Don Braden, and many more. Growing up in Venice, CA, Greg attended the UCLA School of Music and had the privilege of studying with drumming legends Freddie Gruber, David Garibaldi, Louis Conte, and Mitchell Peters. More recently Greg has become an educator, teaching and performing for the Mark Morris Dance Center, and Carnegie Hall's Future Music Project.

**Domenica Fossati** (*Percussion*) is a Latin Grammy winning flutist, singer, recording artist, and educator based in Brooklyn, NY. Influenced by a wide range of musical styles including jazz, rock, and hip-hop, her work oscillates gracefully between art music and pop.

She has worked with leading players in jazz and pop music including, Marc Ribot, Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys, and members of Snarky Puppy, and has won a Latin Grammy for her performance in Flor de Toloache's album, "Las Caras Lindas." An electrifying performer, Domenica has been a guest lead singer for Antibalas and Brazilian Girls and is the front-woman of dance music group, Underground System. An ensemble who has become a fixture in New York's dance nightlife scene since their 2018 LP release of "What Are You" on Soul Clap Records.

An advocate for music education, Ms. Fossati is co-artistic director for OneBeat Sahara, a collaborative musical exchange program between artists from the U.S. and Sahara region. She holds an MFA from New York University, where she studied with Robert Dick and also served as adjunct faculty.

**Rasaan "Talu" Green** (*Congas, Djembe*) Percussionist and Composer Rasaan 'Talu' Green's performances include ones with *Fela!* on Broadway, the Brooklyn Nets, Soutsatzka the Musical, and MAZE, along with band collaborations with Ms. Patti Labelle, Ms. Lauryn Hill, The Roots, Aloe Blacc, Estelle, & H.E.R. Green has performed globally in Africa, North America, Australia & New Zealand, and Europe. He is a resident musician with Resura Arkestra and provides musical arrangements for dance companies and master workshops throughout New York City. He holds a BFA in music from Long Island University.

**Nadav Nirenberg** (*Trombone*) has firmly established himself as a top-tier trombonist, composer/arranger and bandleader in his hometown New York City.

Known for his big sound, versatility and powerful solo style, his writing has been featured by HBO, NBC, Netflix, VICE, SONY, feature films/documentaries & international commercials.

He has performed/recorded with Harry Styles, Eddie Palmieri, Blood Sweat & Tears, Stormzy, Pitbull, Wyclef Jean, Wu Tang, Action Bronson, Too Many Zooz, Brasstracks, Antibalas, The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Ghostface Killah, Rag'n'Bone Man, Father John Misty, Streetlight Manifesto, Lee Fields & The Expressions and many more artists.

**Jeff Pierce** (*Trumpet*) is a New York based trumpet player who has toured nationally and internationally with a wide variety of musical groups and theatrical productions. He has recorded for numerous artists and for many television shows, movies, commercials and podcasts. He performed with *Fela! the Musical* on Broadway and on previous national tours.

**Morgan Price** (*Tenor Saxophone, Keyboards*) From Carnegie Hall to the Beijing Opera House to the MTV Music Awards, Morgan Price's music career has taken him to every corner of the globe. He has performed on stage and/or recorded with such legendary artists as: Beyoncé, Macy Gray, Aloe Blacc, Living Colour, Melissa Etheridge, Kenny Loggins, Charles Bradley, The Dirty Projectors, Bright Eyes, Angelique Kidjo, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, and many others. He also has been a featured musical soloist in such Broadway shows as *Fela! The Musical*; *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Time of the Temptations*; *Tina*; and most recently *MJ the Musical*. Morgan was featured on the afrobeat band Antibalas' 2021 Grammy Award-nominated album "Fu Chronicles." He resides in Queens with his wife Mariella and son Louis.

**Alex Harding** (*Baritone Saxophone*) was born in Detroit and studied music in his early years with Yusef Lateef, Beans Bows and Herbie Williams, and had a chance to play with Wynton Marsalis and Donald Byrd while still in high school. Alex went on to win music scholarships to the University of Massachusetts and the Aspen School of Music. His first European engagement in 1990 was in *Porgy and Bess*. A year later, he

went to Mexico to the Arts and Music Festival with percussionist Francisco Mora. After settling in New York in 1993, and a stint touring with Phatoms, a Haitian group, Alex joined Julius Hemphill's Saxophone Sextet. He also began performing with Muhal Richard Abrams, Craig Harris, Lester Bowie, Frank Lacy, Oliver Lake and David Murray's Big Band. In 1996, Alex joined Hamiet Bluiett's Baritone Group and appeared with the Mingus Big Band, Jayne Cortez Firespitters and Lester Bowie's Hip-Hop Philharmonic. He also recorded with Greg Osby, Frank Lowe, David Lee Roth and Rodney Whittaker. The following year, Alex recorded *At Doctor King's Table* with the Julius Hemphill Sextet, a CD with Hamiet Bluiett's Baritone Group, and he made his debut with the Sun Ra Arkestra under Marshall Allen's leadership. In 1998, Alex was part of the Sun Ra All-Star Project that premiered at the North Sea Jazz Festival and the Montreux-Detroit Jazz Festival and has performed with the late Roy Hargrove Big Band and with Aretha Franklin. The critics have hailed him as "the new voice on baritone saxophone, the carrier of the great legacy of Harry Carney, Pepper Adams and Hamiet Bluiett". Alex Harding has released several albums as a leader garnering glowing reviews and appeared as guest on more than 40 albums. In the October '97 issue of *Jazz Times*, the review of Hamiet Bluiett's Baritone Band said that "Alex Harding attacked the music with steamroller momentum and uncommon ferocity...it was sheer fireworks."

**Ricky Quiñones** (*Guitar*) In Brooklyn, NY, Ricardo Quiñones began playing guitar at the age of ten on a three-string garage sale find, thus beginning a lifelong love affair with the instrument and its possibilities. This fascination with the guitar eventually found him playing, writing and collaborating with a wide range of musically kindred spirits including Alicia Keys, India Arie, Sade, Luther Vandross, and others. Ricky is proud to have been part of the Fela on Broadway family since 2009 when it opened, and subsequently graced stages worldwide.

**Bryan Vargas** (*Guitar*) Guitarist & Grammy nominated songwriter Bryan Vargas has recorded and performed on stages around the world with music legends & underground indie phenoms. He is one of the most active guitarists in New York City's "World Music" community, and beyond. Vargas was the original guitarist of the Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra and currently can be seen with Hip Hop DJ's Stretch & Bobbito and their band the M19s, Jazz-Funk masters Groove Collective, Classical Indian Vocalist Falu, Mexican cumbia-rockers Pistolera, & bolero revivalists Miramar, among others. Vargas was the "tenor" guitar player for the Tony award winning Broadway musical *Fela!*, directed by Bill T. Jones, and was the Asst. Music Director for its American touring production. Currently Vargas continues with the band Chop & Quench (The *Fela!* Band), which features the band and cast members from the show. Vargas' debut CD "Afro Latino Soul," was produced by Arturo O'Farrill. It was called one of the Ten Best World Music CDs of 2004 by WFMU (New York), WBEZ (Chicago) & WNYU (New York). His original composition, "As Warm As The Sun," was featured in Spike Lee's Netflix series, *She's Gotta Have It*. Vargas co-wrote and performed the songs on the multicultural children's album, "Falu's Bazaar," with the Classical Indian vocalist, Falu which was nominated for a 2019 Grammy Award for Best Children's Album. Most recently, he was featured on the "Que Bonita Bandera" remake by Stretch & Bobbito & the M19s band which also featured Latin music legends Eddie Palmieri & Danny Rivera.

**Timothy James Allen** (*bass*) is a guitarist and bassist based in New York City who divides his time between performing and composing music for film and television. He has played music in over 30 countries on 6 continents with a diverse group of bands and artists, one of which is Brooklyn's Antibalas who recently earned their first Grammy nomination.

He has released 2 full length solo albums on indie label Tigershrimp Records under Timothy James. He recently has scored his first full length feature film *Suono Dell'Isola* which is currently in Italian film festivals. Timothy started working with Fela on Broadway in 2009 as a sub for the tenor guitar chair and eventually moved over to bass in 2013 with the Fela! touring company.