

# **Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth**

presents

## ***Vegan Chitlins and the Artist Formerly Known as the N-word***

Trebien Pollard

**Friday & Saturday, January 17 & 18, 7:30 pm**  
Theater on Currier • Dartmouth College • 2025

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*Funded in part by the Carolyn R. Kohn 1976 Dance Artist in Residence Fund, the Amy and Henry Nachman, Jr. '51 Fund for Visiting Performing Artists in Dance, the Nathan W. Pearson and Sons 1932 Fund, the Melville 1960 and Leila Straus Fund, the Wetzel Family Fund for the Arts and the Blye Fund for Artists' Residencies at the Hopkins Center for the Arts*

*Programmed as part of Dartmouth's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, with the theme of "Moral Courage in the Face of Uncertainty"*

# ***Vegan Chitlins and the Artist Formerly Known as the N-word***

Conceptual Vision and Performer: Trebien Pollard  
Music Composition: CJ Alicea, Loscil, Michael Wall, Jay Weissman  
Music Engineering: Farai Malianga, Jay Weissman  
Visual Art: Rebecca Stenn  
Text: Trebien Pollard  
Costume Design: Trebien Pollard  
Lighting Design: Amara McNeil  
Stage Manager: Holly Trenbath  
Video: Jonah Weissman

## **Program**

*Approximate duration: 80 minutes with no intermission*

- I. Long Walk to Freedom/A Self That is Not a Self
- II. Submerge/Emerge: the door of no return
- III. The Ritual of Being
- IV. I'm Tryin' to Get Home
- V. BLACK SUPA DUPA FLY
- VI. Shaking the Devil: the black swan effect

Note: The program contains material that may be offensive.

Please stay after for a dialogue with the artist.

*Vegan Chitlins and the Artist Formerly Known as the N-word* was made possible by the support of a New York State Council on the Arts grant and VCU Summer Research grant.

### **Special Thanks**

CDR Marshall and Helen Pollard  
*Vegan Chitlins* collaborative and production team  
Niegel Smith  
The Flea's staff and board  
VCU Arts Dean Carmenita D. Higginbotham, Ph.D. and staff  
My Bois – Dr. James Anthony Frazier, Darrell Jones, Steve Maza, Vincent Thomas  
Jawole Willa Jo Zollar  
Dr. Veronica Brown  
Dr. Gaynell Sherrod  
Christal Brown  
All the Black men for being

# From the Artist

Imagine a world where freedom is defined as the legislation of existence. A world where freedom shows up as violence, restraint and enclosures. Imagine a world where freedom is synonymous with oppression, injustice and death. A world where constraint and negation are markers of a life lived and lost. Carry these feelings with you everywhere you go. Hold them. Wear them as armor, weight, adornment and trauma. Now, let it all go and step outside.

*Vegan Chitlins and the Artist Formerly Known as the N-word* (“Vegan Chitlins”) is a theatrical love story told from the perspective of a shapeshifter called BLACK. BLACK travels through time portals of black consciousness by way of a black vortex of blackness emerging as black as black can be chanting the incantation “What will they see? Will they see? What will they see? Why? Why can’t they see?” BLACK negotiates space and time through a body of atmospheric traces of movement, migration and the mobilization of one’s own madness.

This darkie-town testimonial. This post-colonial, conceptual revival, conceived and performed by Trebien Pollard, is a visual narrative of blackness traversing through documentation and symbols of reality that exist beyond articulation. The work chronicles resilience in the face of struggle, transformation and survival.

*Trebien Pollard*

## About the Artists

**Trebien Pollard** is a graduate of Florida A&M University with a BS in Mathematics Education and an MFA in Dance from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He received training at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Florida A&M University, Florida State University, the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, and from several gifted teachers and choreographers. Trebien has performed with many dance companies, including Tania Isaac Dance, Nia Love, Martha Graham Ensemble, RIOULT, Pearl Lang Dance Theatre, Rebecca Stenn Co., Erick Hawkins Dance Co., the MET (Metropolitan Opera Ballet), Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, Bebe Miller Company, Urban Bush Women and Pilobolus. He appeared in the jazz musical opera *The Hang* by Taylor Mac (librettist) and Matt Ray (composer).

As a choreographer, Trebien’s work has been performed throughout the United States, England and Japan. He has choreographed and toured, nationally and internationally, with RASA recording artist Nomad. Trebien has also choreographed William Electric Black’s *The Hamlet Project*, *The Damned: A Rock Musical* and *Frankenstein: The Rock Musical*. He performed in and co-choreographed with Jawole Willa Jo Zollar (choreographer) in the opera *The Ritual of Breath Is the Rite to Resist* by Jonathan Berger

(composer) and Vievee Francis (librettist). Trebien’s most recent creative work considers interdisciplinary design, geographic sites, embodied language and spatial strategies as emancipatory practices for survival and liberation.

**Rebecca Stenn** is an artist living and working in New York City. Her group Rebecca Stenn Company performed to critical acclaim in over 50 cities including such venues as the Copenhagen Festival, the Edinburgh Festival, the Joyce Theater, Danspace Project, and Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, among others. As a dancer with MOMIX, Stenn performed in over 30 countries and appeared as a featured performer in films for Italian, Spanish and French television. She is a founding member of Pilobolus Too. Stenn is currently on faculty at The New School and Princeton University and is Choreographer-in-Residence at Dartmouth College. Recently, Stenn started a visual arts practice as a painter and is currently represented by Agora Gallery. Her work has been exhibited in galleries in New York City, London, Milan, Venice and Lisbon and at art fairs in Miami, NYC and South Hampton. She is honored and delighted to have the chance to collaborate once again with her dear friend and esteemed colleague Trebien Pollard.

**Holly Trenbath** (they/she; Stage Manager), from Richmond VA, is a movement artist, interdisciplinary dance-maker and production facilitator who graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2024 with a BFA in Dance + Choreography along with minors in General Business and Theatre with a concentration in Stage Management. Having recently stage managed *The House that Will Not Stand* at the University of Richmond, they are happy to broaden their professional career in technical theater by supporting Trebien Pollard's *Vegan Chitlins and the Artist Formerly Known as the N-word*. Previously, she has interned as both a Production and Operations Intern with the Bates Dance Festival and have worked as an Inaugural Fellow/Company Assistant with TheREDprojectNYC. Credits include: *EarlyBrain!*: E0010001 (VCUarts: Dance/Producer, Choreographer); *TWO TRUTHS: Truth 1* (VCUarts: Dance / Stage Manager); *johnbrown* (VCUarts: Dance / Assistant Stage Manager); *ANON(ymous)* (VCUarts: Theatre / Production Assistant).

**Amara McNeil** is a New York-based, Hartford-raised, theatrical lighting designer and filmmaker. She holds a B.A. in Theater from Fordham University and was the 2023 Howell Binkley Fellow as well as 2019 ALW American Theater Wing Scholar. As a visual storyteller, she aims to create an immersive experience for the audience, using vibrant colors and dynamic angles to bring texture to the stage. She enjoys work created for and by the black community and projects that push the boundaries of what we can imagine to be real. Credits include Broadway: *Come From Away* second national tour (Asst. LD), *The Wiz* pre-Broadway tour

(HBB Fellow), *Once Upon A One More Time* (LD Intern), *Parade* (LD Intern); Regional: *Hair* (Assoc. LD), *The Untitled, Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical* (ALD); Fordham: *La Cocina* (LD), *The Nether* (Dir. of Photography), *Enterprise* (Asst. Dir. of Cinematography), *My Papier Mache Monster* (LD), *Hand to God* (LD); Barnard: *Fedra* (LD); Film: *A Thousand and One* (Art Dept. PA), *Condé Nast* (PA), *Big Think* (Grip); PPAS: *And A Child Shall Lead* (LD), *Indecent* (LD), *Roe* (LD).

**Jay Weissman** (Soundview Studios) contributed incidental sound design, audio recording and music composition for this performance. Jay is thrilled and always honored to work with Trebien, a treasured collaboration well into its fourth decade.

**Jonah Weissman** is a multi disciplinary artist and musician who was born and bred in New York City. Through his time at Parsons School of Design, Weissman explored what it means to be a child of the 21st century, growing up amongst the genesis of social media and the culture surrounding. Raised by artists and creatives, Weissman has always been encouraged to make—resulting in a lifelong passion for art by the young age of 22. He released a self-titled electronic album in 2022 under the alias audiovirtual and is currently working on a follow-up. He has been involved in various projects with communities in downtown Manhattan and Brooklyn, and is currently working on a group art show in the lower east side of Manhattan.

## Arts in the Curriculum & Community

During a week-long residency, Trebien Pollard will be evolving the project *Vegan Chitlins and the Artist Formerly Known as the N-word* further and teaching alongside John Heginbotham and Rebecca Stenn, with whom he regularly choreographs for the Dartmouth Dance Ensemble. He will also lead workshops and participate in discussions with students, faculty and staff. Pollard is co-choreographer of the Hop-produced *The Ritual of Breath Is the Rite to Resist*.



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