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**WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
PRESENTS**

**DAHLAK BRATHWAITE: *TRY/STEP/TRIP***

**Directed by** Roberta Uno

**Dramaturgy by** Roberta Uno

**Choreography by** Toran X. Moore

**Assistant Choreographer** Freddy Ramsey, Jr.

**Composition by** Dahlak Brathwaite & Teak Underdue

**Lighting Design by** Brianna Pattillo

**Costume Design by** Dana Rebecca Woods

Thursday, February 2 – Sunday, February 5, 2023

The Wallis' Lovelace Studio Theater

(Beverly Hills, CA, January 17, 2023) – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents **DAHLAK BRATHWAITE: *TRY/STEP/TRIP***, a powerful spoken word, multi-character musical performed through the language of step dance, from Thursday, February 2 through Sunday, February 5, 2023, in The Wallis' Lovelace Studio Theater. Written and composed by Dahlak Brathwaite, this exhilarating work follows the uplifting journey of an anonymous narrator re-imagining an experience in a court-ordered drug rehabilitation program. Inspired by Brathwaite's own history, *Try/Step/Trip* layers characters, poetic verse, and dialogue over music to create a high-octane theatrical piece. According to Brathwaite, "*Try/Step/Trip* blurs the lines between dramatic performance, hip hop, and life as it explores racism, addiction, and the criminal justice system." The *Sacramento News & Review* described Brathwaite's presence as, "breathtaking, and chilling...ripping through your mind with just a microphone."

*Try/Step/Trip* is directed by Roberta Uno, with dramaturgy by Uno, and performed by Dahlak Brathwaite, Jasmine T.R. Gatewood, Freddy Ramsey, Jr., and Max Udell, with special guest performer: Isaiah Lucas. The production is choreographed by Toran X. Moore, with assistant choreographer Freddy Ramsey, Jr., compositions and orchestrations by Brathwaite and Teak Underdue, lighting design by Brianna Pattillo, and costume design by Dana Rebecca Woods.

An American Sign Language interpretation will be provided at the Sunday, February 5, 2:30 pm, performance.

**Dahlak Brathwaite** (director and composer) is an award-winning playwright, composer, and performer. His work has been presented at The Smithsonian, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, REDCAT, MCA Chicago, Ars Nova, The Public Theater, SXSW, by Creative Time, and on HBO's last two seasons of Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry. Brathwaite's trilogy of works - *Spiritrials* (solo play), *Try/Step/Trip* (musical), *Adapting History* (documentary film) - take a personal look into the criminal justice system and the relationship between Black American music and Black American subjugation. Development of the work has been supported by CalArts, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Victory Gardens, and Montalvo Arts Center. He has received awards and support from NEFA, the Doris Duke Foundation, The U.S. State Department, NYU Tisch, and MAP Fund. He is a graduate of NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, where he was awarded the Dean's Full-Tuition Fellowship, and currently serves as the Assistant Director for the national tour of the Tony-winning revival of *Oklahoma!*

**Roberta Uno** (director and dramaturg) founded and was Artistic Director of New WORLD Theater 1979-2002 in Amherst, MA. Her numerous directing credits include *The Dance and the Railroad* by David Henry Hwang, *Clothes* by Chitra Divakaruni, *Unmerciful Good Fortune* by Edwin Sanchez, *Flyin' West* by Pearl Cleage, *Stop Kiss* by Diana Son, *Sneaky* by William Yellow Robe, *Sheila's Day* by Duma Ndlovu, *I Land* by Keo Woolford, *the bodies between us* by thuy le, and the musical theater concert *Bone Hill*, co-written with and composed by Martha Redbone and Aaron Whitby. Uno was the last theater director to work directly with James Baldwin; directing *Blues for Mr. Charlie* and as a dramaturg she has spanned generations working with Pearl Primus, Alice Childress, Sekou Sundiata, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Crystal Truscott, Dionna Daniel, and others. She directed a large-scale devised theatre work, *We the Peoples Before* at the Kennedy Center.

#### **ADDITIONAL BIOS [HERE](#)**

Tickets for *Try/Step/Trip* (\$40-\$50) are on sale now, as are single tickets and subscriptions to all performances in The Wallis' 2022/2023 Season. [TheWallis.org/TST](http://TheWallis.org/TST)

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

The Wallis is closely monitoring the ever-changing local health and safety environment carefully and addressing known health factors at the moment. Should plans change and any performance be required to be postponed or cancelled or if venue capacity limitations are instituted, ticket holders will be notified immediately with options for their purchased tickets per The Wallis' ticketing policies.

The health and safety of patrons, staff, and artists inside and outside the venue are a top priority for The Wallis. Facial masks are no longer required but are strongly encouraged and recommended. The Wallis' health and safety protocols are also subject to change at the venue's sole discretion or in accordance with LA County and City of Beverly Hills regulations. Current Health & Safety Protocols and updates may also be accessed at [TheWallis.org/Safety](http://TheWallis.org/Safety). Policies are subject to change.

#### **About Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:**

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national, and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 350 theater, dance, music, film, cabaret, conversation, and family entertainment programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GROW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. Michael Nemeroff is Chairman of The Wallis' Board of Directors.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

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**EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**WHAT:**

**WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
PRESENTS**

**DAHLAK BRATHWAITE: *TRY/STEP/TRIP***

Directed by Roberta Uno

**PERFORMED BY**

Dahlak Brathwaite

Jasmine T.R. Gatewood

Freddy Ramsey, Jr.

Max Udell

with Special Guest Performer: Isaiah Lucas

**CREDITS**

Directed by Roberta Uno

Dramaturgy by Roberta Uno

Choreography by Toran X. Moore

Assistant Choreographer Freddy Ramsey, Jr.

Composition by Dahlak Brathwaite & Teak Underdue

Lighting Design by Brianna Pattillo

Costume Design by Dana Rebecca Woods

Additional Choreography Delina Patrice Brooks  
Additional Dramaturgy Skyler Gray  
Vocal Coach Jasmine T.R. Gatewood  
Stage Manager/Scenic Brittany White

**WHEN:**

Thursday, February 2 – Sunday, February 5, 2023  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 8 pm; Sunday, 2:30 pm

*Try/Step/Try* at The Wallis is media sponsored by KCRW.

**RUNNING TIME:**

Approximately eighty minutes with no intermission

**TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:**

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to current health and safety variables, performances are subject to change, postponement, or cancellation.