

SKIN TO SKIN

By
Jeremy J. Kamps &
Trixie Ndanu Kioko



About SKIN TO SKIN:

Inspired by the true stories of Black mothers and midwives, and the impact of systemic racism in the labor and delivery rooms, SKIN TO SKIN is a new theatrical project led by playwright Jeremy J. Kamps and Trixie Ndanu Kioko, a midwife and birthing justice advocate.

Development:

In 2023, Kamps and Kioko facilitated a series of creative storytelling and investigative workshops with Black mothers. The workshops fostered connection and community through group discussion, reflective exercises, creative improvisation, and dramatization of real-life events.

Inspired by the workshops, and with Kioko's consultancy, Kamps developed the play's script, which follows three women's journeys through pregnancy, labor, and delivery. These tales explore how differing social identifiers, life experiences, abilities, biases, and systemic prejudices impact individuals' birthing experiences. The play seeks to uplift these stories, illuminate the inequities of US medical systems, and celebrate the incredible birthing process as well as Black women's joys, wisdom, and shared humanity. SKIN TO SKIN had its first table read in December 2024, and Houses on the Moon will continue development throughout 2025 in advance of the play's 2026 premiere.

About The Artists:



Jeremy J. Kamps is a playwright, screenwriter and novelist. He was a Fellow at The Public Theater (EWG) and NYC Center for Fiction. He is a Playwright-in-Residence for Esperance Theater Company and Spectrum Theater Ensemble. His work has been produced in NYC and LA, and has won numerous awards and distinctions including the William Saroyan Human Rights Award, The Goldberg Award, Page 73 (finalist) and the Ruby Lloyd Apsey Award. His film work is in development with Smoke and Mirrors Productions, Leah Natasha Productions, and RDS Entertainment. His debut novel NOT A SINGLE RACIST BONE is currently under review. He facilitates drama, writing, leadership and DEI workshops around the world as a means of social justice and community building. MFA: NYU.

Trixie Ndanu Kioko is a Certified Nurse Midwife. Her path to this vocation started with her own home birth in Vermont, where her midwife showed her that birth is an inherently sacred part of the human experience. She saw the importance of centering the pregnant person in the birthing process, and making them feel heard and empowered. She has since dedicated herself to bringing midwifery into the mainstream as a time-honored, evidence-based, and holistic model of care. As one of approximately 500 Black midwives in the US, Trixie is particularly passionate about providing the BIPOC community access to midwifery care. She has over seven years of experience as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at Mt. Sinai West and, most recently, as a full-scope midwife in Paterson, NJ. She received her M.S.N. in Midwifery from Frontier University, her B.S. in Nursing from Russell Sage College, and her B.S. in Biology from the University of Albany.



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We are seeking Co-producers, community partners, and project sponsors to help bring this vital project to life! For more information, please contact HOTM's Artistic Director Emily Weiner at emily@housesonthemoon.org