

SKIN TO SKIN



*Three women. Three trimesters. Three stories.
A new play about birthing while Black in America.*

Giving birth should not be a life-threatening experience.

BLACK WOMEN:

3X HIGHER RISK OF MATERNAL DEATH NATIONALLY

5X HIGHER PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH RISK IN NEW YORK STATE

6X HIGHER PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED & PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH RISK IN NYC

THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES HARMED EVERY YEAR

SKIN TO SKIN

TRIPTYCH OF AN AMERICAN EPIDEMIC

Statistics become impossible to ignore when they become stories.

Inspired by true stories of Black mothers and midwives, *SKIN TO SKIN* is a new play led by playwright Jeremy J. Kamps and Trixie Ndanu Kioko, a midwife and birth justice advocate.



Inspiration



One of only 1,400 Black midwives in America, Trixie Ndanu Kioko sees firsthand the impact of systemic racism in labor and delivery rooms.

Kioko and her husband, the award-winning playwright Jeremy J. Kamps, are parents of a daughter and son. They decided their next co-creation must bring the injustices of the birthing process for Black people to light.

“Birthing people are experts in their own bodies, in their own care, and they have something to add to the conversation when it comes to decisions about their health.” – Trixie Ndanu Kioko

Investigation

In 2023, Kamps and Kioko facilitated creative storytelling workshops with Black mothers and midwives, fostering connection through discussions, reflective exercises, and creative improvisation. Their resulting script follows three women's journeys through pregnancy, labor, and delivery.

Despite the trauma and pain wrought by the American healthcare system, these are stories of joy and life. In a culture steeped in dehumanizing Black women, *SKIN TO SKIN* is a story about seeing our full humanity.



Curation



Development of **SKIN TO SKIN** has spanned three years, with ongoing community workshops and public readings at New York Theatre Workshop, Open Jar Studios, Women Building Up, and Kingsborough Community College celebrating Black Maternal Health Week.

Creation

Development continues through workshop presentations as part of the [Rough Draft Festival](#) at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center on October 27 & 28, 2026, followed by a benefit reading celebrating [Houses on the Moon's 25th Anniversary](#) on November 9, 2026 at Five Angels Theater.

With direction by Rosalyn Coleman Williams, the world premiere of **SKIN TO SKIN** is slated for March 11-28, 2027 co-produced with [HERE Arts Center](#).

"It's a chance to contribute to the conversation about Black women and their maternal health...to be part of the solution with art. I believe with conversation will come action, and solutions."

- Rosalyn Coleman Williams



Creative Team



Jeremy J. Kamps (Playwright)

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 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.

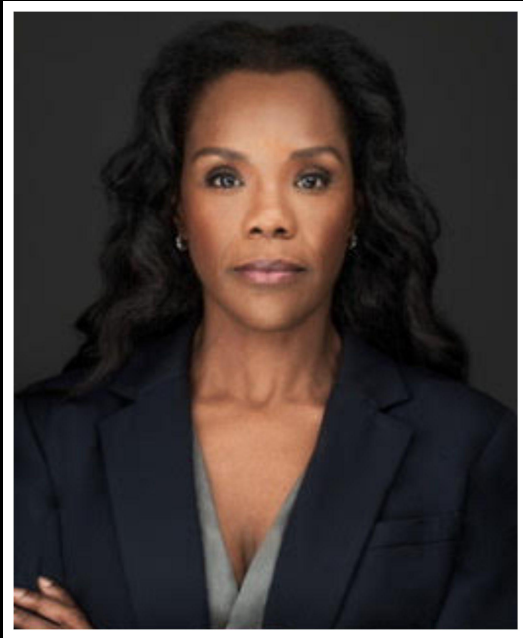


Trixie Ndanu Kioko (Co-Creator)

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 a sacred part of the human experience. Experiencing 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 1,400 Black midwives in the U.S., Trixie is passionate about providing the BIPOC community access to midwifery care. She currently works as a Midwife in NYC and NJ. M.S.N. in Midwifery, Frontier University; B.S. in Nursing, Russell Sage College; B.S. in Biology, University of Albany.

Creative Team



Rosalyn Coleman Williams (Director) is the director of the award-winning short films *Allergic To Nuts* and *Drawing Angel*. Both films have been seen on TV and in Film Festivals around the world. With over a dozen film directing credits, Rosalyn is slated to direct the feature film *Black Boys Don't Sew*, written by her husband and partner Craig T. Williams, with Viola Davis attached as Executive Producer. Currently, Rosalyn is an artist in residence at Stonestreet Studios with her short film *Thanksgiving Break* an official selection of the 2024 Big Apple Film Festival. A graduate of Howard University with an MFA from Yale School of Drama, she served as an on-set acting coach for HBO's 2nd season of the hit series *In Treatment*. As an actor, she most recently appeared nightly in the hit Broadway play *To Kill A Mockingbird* and in the film *Rob Peace*.

Creative Team

Craig T. Williams/Redwall Productions will produce the film and digital media elements for *SKIN TO SKIN* that converge and interact with the action onstage, revealing the inner lives of the three main characters. Janae's anxious Google searches on Black maternal health contrast with the confidence this respected professor projects to the world. Hazel's concerning ultrasounds belie her carefully crafted social posts. 16-year-old Aricely's fast-cut 'get ready with me' live streams share her preparations for an abortion. A writer, producer, and editor, Williams has empowered artists in developing their craft for over 20 years, providing them with tools to create and share their stories with the world.

redwallproductions.com



Houses on the Moon



Founded in 2001, **Houses on the Moon Theater Company** was created to amplify unheard voices, inspire bold dialogue, deepen understanding, and ignite action. One of New York's most fearless and socially impactful theater companies, Houses develops and produces original plays through first person interviews, creative workshops and community collaboration, exploring some of the most challenging social complexities of our time. housesonthemoon.org

Houses on the Moon



Aaliytha Stevens, Director of Strategic Planning and Cultural Affairs at Houses on the Moon, helps shape organizational strategy, cultural engagement, partnerships, and opportunities to deepen the impact of storytelling beyond the stage. A longtime marketing and audience development strategist and community builder, Aaliytha's work sits at the intersection of arts and culture, community engagement, health equity, and social impact, connecting organizations with the communities they seek to serve. She is particularly passionate about Black maternal health and the power of SKIN TO SKIN to spark dialogue, build partnerships, and inspire meaningful action.



Emily Joy Weiner is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Houses on the Moon Theater Company. Since the company's inception in 2001 she has been creating, developing, performing, producing and directing new works that explore the complex and sensitive issues of our time. Directing highlights include THE ASSIGNMENT (ART/New York Theatres), THE SANTA CLOSET (Teatro Circulo), and the storytelling production gUN COUNTRY. She penned and performed in SHARED SENTENCES (Theater 122CC) and co-developed and toured a one-woman adaptation of Faulkner's AS I LAY DYING with the late Wynn Handman. Emily is a recipient of The League of Professional Theatre Women's Josephine Abady award for her work with Houses in the creation of culturally resonant works.

***SKIN TO SKIN** is more than a play.*

It's a catalyst for advocacy, education, and partnerships that create change.



Maternal health doesn't begin in the delivery room, and **SKIN TO SKIN** explores the realities that shape pregnancy long before labor begins. Ongoing performances in hospitals, schools, community centers, and other non-traditional spaces reinforce the critical truth: improving Black maternal health outcomes requires more than excellent medical care. It requires healthier communities.

Help us change the stories around Black Maternal Health.

Producing Partners support our artists and help brave new work reach the stage.

Community Connectors bring the play to non-traditional spaces for performances and workshops.

Advocacy Amplifiers connect us to healthcare partners, policy makers, and press opportunities.

For more information on producing partnerships, change-making opportunities, or to make a tax deductible contribution to support **SKIN TO SKIN**, contact Emily Joy Weiner at emily@housesonthemoon.org.

