



A contemporary artist residency, dance and performance center,
for Martha's Vineyard and beyond
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FOR IMMEDIATE LISTING and RELEASE

June 20, 2022

Urban Bush Women in Residence at The Yard
Presenting Works at Multiple Island Locations
June 22, 23, 24, and July 1

[June 20, 2022] — (Chilmark, Massachusetts) Urban Bush Women returns to The Yard for a creation residency from June 21st to July 2nd. Over the next two years, Urban Bush Women will engage with The Yard to develop a site-specific version of their work, *Haint Blu*, on Martha's Vineyard. This June, their residency will focus on development and community engagement. While in residence, their creative process will take them all over the Island, from the historic Shearer Cottage in Oak Bluffs to Orange Peel Bakery in Aquinnah.

Urban Bush Women seeks to bring the untold and under-told histories and stories to light through dance. They do this from a woman-centered perspective and as members of the African Diaspora community in order to create a more equitable balance of power in the dance world and beyond. Over the course of their engagement with The Yard, Urban Bush Women aims to create relationships, strengthen connections, and deepen their understanding of the African American and Indigenous communities on Martha's Vineyard. This interconnection will inform the creation process of the site-specific version of *Haint Blu*.

Haint Blu is an ensemble dance-theater work steeped in memory and magic. Known as the color that Southern families paint their front porches to ward off bad spirits, *Haint Blu* uses performance as a center and source of healing, taking us through movement into stillness and rest. It is an embodied look into familial lines and the movements, histories, and stories of our elders and ancestors. It reflects on what has been lost across generations and what can be recovered. *Haint Blu* takes us to the magical place where spirits share their legacies, journey onward, and leave the thick residue of their knowing behind. *Haint Blu* is inspired by SCAT!, Urban Bush Women's musical theater work in development.

Performance Information:

Urban Bush Women

In Residence June 21-July 2

- **Workshop**, June 22 at 10 am | The Yard, 1 The Yard Chilmark, MA 02535

- **Pop-up Performance**, June 23 at 5:30 pm | Featherstone Center for the Arts, 30 Featherstone Ln Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
- **Truth and Joy Presentation**, June 24 at 5:30 pm | Oak Bluffs Campground, 1 Trinity Park Oak Bluffs, MA 02568
- **In-Progress Showing** July 1 at 6 pm | Orange Peel Bakery, 22 State Road Aquinnah, MA 02535

Workshop Pricing:

\$20 per person

*Yard Access \$10 price is available [Please use this application form.](#)

**Please note the specific Covid-19 policy for this workshop. As always please bring a mask. Mask wearing will be at the discretion of the instructor. In addition, Urban Bush Women requires proof of vaccination via a vaccination card.

Urban Bush Women Showings and Presentations are Free.

Space is limited for the Pop-up Performance at Featherstone and In-Progress Showing at Orange Peel. [Register required.](#)

Haint Blu is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by The Yard, Live Arts Miami, the Hopkins Center for the Arts, and Williams College. The Creation Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information: www.npnweb.org

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The Yard is a creation and performance platform for artists from around the globe, and we offer exhilarating, wide-ranging, and educational arts experiences through performances, residencies, and community activities. We present performances by international, national, and local artists; provide paid residencies for artists; offer inter-generational engagement programs and classes for our island community; and bring dance and creativity-centered education programs into schools. Our community programs run year-round and can be found on The Yard's campus and in partner locations across the island of Martha's Vineyard. Please visit www.dancethyard.org for more information.

SEED. GROW. REAP. REPEAT: THE NATURE OF THE YARD.

TheYard 