

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
THEATRE

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FRICION AMID GENTRIFICATION IN *GOOD BONES*—READING AND DISCUSSION WITH PLAYWRIGHT JAMES IJAMES, PART OF STUDIO R&D: WORK IN PROCESS

Studio Theatre will host a reading of scenes from Studio-commissioned *Good Bones* and a talkback between playwright **James Ijames** and sociologist/community activist **Dr. Sabihya Prince** on **Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 7:30pm**. This event is part of **Studio R&D: Work in Process**, a new series that invites audiences into the creative process for some of the country’s most talented playwrights. In *Good Bones*, Ijames explores gentrification in a post-industrial city on the rise, a premise familiar to DC residents and to Ijames himself, who lives in Philadelphia.

Reporting on an Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity study, *The Washington Post* wrote in an April 2019 article: “In most American cities, gentrification has not pushed low-income residents out of the city they call home, according to a study. But Washington is not most cities. In the District, low-income residents are being pushed out of neighborhoods at some of the highest rates in the country...”

Ijames delves into his creative process, changing neighborhoods, the sounds of a city, and what makes a home in Studio’s latest Work in Process event. Prince will bring her work as both an artist and urban anthropologist and qualitative researcher to the conversation; her research and writing focus on the ways race, class, and other components of status and identity overlap to shape the condition and experience of African Americans in cities.

Work in Process is part of Studio R&D, Studio’s incubator for new plays, new relationships, and new modes of collaboration.

Work in Process events are free. Registration is required to save seats. Learn more on [Studio’s website](#).

About *Good Bones*

Aisha’s moved back to the block, but the neighborhood’s changed. Boomeranging across the country with her husband, she’s renovating their new house in a post-industrial city on the rise. But the neighborhood’s still loud at night and Aisha’s homecoming is more complex than she expected, so when their contractor is caught up in an act of violence a block away, Aisha finds herself in the crosswinds of legacy and responsibility, haunting and belonging.

About James Ijames

James Ijames is a Philadelphia-based performer and playwright. His plays have been produced by Flashpoint Theatre Company, Orbiter 3, Theatre Horizon (Philadelphia, PA), The National Black Theatre (New York City), Ally Theatre Company (Washington, DC) and have been developed by PlayPenn New Play Development Conference, The Lark, Playwrights Horizons, Clubbed Thumb, Villanova Theatre, Gulfshore Playhouse, The Wilma Theater, Azuka Theatre, and Victory Gardens. James is the 2011 F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Artist recipient, and he also received two Barrymores for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play for *Superior Donuts* and *Angels in America*, and one Barrymore for Outstanding Direction of a Play for *The Brothers Size* with Simpatico Theatre Company. He is a 2011 Independence Foundation Fellow, a 2015 Pew Fellow for Playwriting, the 2015 winner of the Terrance McNally New Play Award for *WHITE*, recipient of the 2015 Kesselring Prize honorable mentions for*Miz Martha*, and a 2017 recipient of the Whiting Award. James is the 2018 recipient of the Kesselring Prize for *Kill Move Paradise*. James is a founding member of Orbiter 3, Philadelphia's first playwright producing collective and a mentor for The Foundry. He received a BA in Drama from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and a MFA in Acting from Temple University. James is Assistant Professor of Theatre at Villanova University and resides in South Philadelphia.

About Sabiyha Prince

Activist/anthropologist/artist Sabiyha Prince writes about African American life and culture in cities while her paintings affirm the splendor and struggle associated with Black experiences and those of other marginalized populations. A native Washingtonian, Dr. Prince's books include *Constructing Belonging*, *African Americans and Gentrification in Washington, D.C.*, and *Capital Dilemma*, which she co-edited with American University professor Derek Hyra. Her paintings have been exhibited at The Anacostia Arts Center, The Hill Center, and through The Petworth Arts Collaborative. Her media appearances include MSNBC, NPR, Al Jazeera English, WHUR, WOL-AM, WPFW, and WYPR. Today, she directs her own qualitative research firm—AnthroDocs—where she deploys research methods associated with cultural anthropology to problem solve and promote social justice.

INFORMATION

Where: Studio Theatre's Milton Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005

Performance: January 23, 2020 at 7:30pm

Tickets: Free; registration required

STUDIO THEATRE

Studio Theatre is Washington's premier venue for contemporary theatre, "where local audiences will find today's edgiest playwrights" (*Variety*). One of the most respected midsized theatres in the country, Studio produces exceptional contemporary drama in deliberately intimate spaces. Drawing inspiration from great ensembles—where people work together with a spirit of generosity and professional rigor—Studio brings characteristic thoughtfulness and daring to its work onstage and off, through its new work incubator and engagement, education, and workforce training initiatives. Studio serves nearly 75,000 people each year, including more than 1,000 youth and young adults through community engagement initiatives. Founded in 1978, the quality of Studio's work has been recognized by sustained community support, as well as 72 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in professional theatre.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: 1501 14th Street NW (northeast corner of 14th and P Streets)

Parking: Studio has a parking partnership with Washington Plaza Hotel at 10 Thomas Circle NW, three blocks south of Studio; patrons who park at the hotel's parking garage can purchase a \$13 voucher at the Box Office. Street parking is extremely limited; arrive early to increase your options.

Metro Stops: Red Line: Dupont Circle, Orange/Blue Lines: McPherson Square, and Green/ Yellow Lines: U Street/Cardozo

Accessibility: Studio's theatres are all wheelchair accessible; seats are available by reservation. Assistive listening devices are available for all shows at the Box Office. Call the Box Office at 202.332.3300 for more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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