

CARNEGIE HALL

PLAYBILL®

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MARGUERITE LAURENT

Marguerite Laurent is an award winning playwright, performance poet, dancer, and activist attorney. She was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and raised in Stamford, CT. She holds a BA from Boston College, a JD from the University of Connecticut School of law and a dance degree from the Hartford Conservatory.

She is a gifted spoken word artist and the writer, performer and producer of the "Red, Black & Moonlight" series, her critically acclaimed one-woman Jazzotry Vodun dance theater work, which she has toured nationally and performed at colleges and universities, performance art centers and theaters, including non-traditional venues such as the United Nations. In addition to being an award winning playwright, dramatist and solo performer, she is an essayist, the author of three plays, three spoken word and jazz CDs and two books of poetry. She specializes in teaching about the light and beauty of Haitian culture, the "Symbolic and archetypal nature of Haitian Vodun," the illegality and immorality of forcing neoliberalism



policies on Haiti and the developing world, the illegality and human rights violations caused by the current US embargo against Haiti, the need for France to repay the 1833 ransom it embezzled from the Haitian people and the constant Euro-US hostility Haiti faces, endures and struggles to overcome as the first Black Republic in the world after Ethiopia in a Eurocentric world which purposely inflames instability, insecurity, impasse and chaos in the Black republics.

GILMAN T. FIGARO (M.C.)

Gilman T. Figaro, Sr., songwriter, scriptwriter and producer. In 1985 Gil founded the nonprofit organization, 'Calypso for Africa Inc.', to musically answer the call from his brothers and sisters in drought-stricken Ethiopia. He co-authored and produced the hit track, 'Now is the Time', the proceeds of which were donated to Ethiopia through UNICEF. This track included 72 calypsonians spanning four generations from the late Roaring Lion, and the late Lord Kitchener, Lord Pretender, Machel Montano and Natasha Wilson. The project was launched at the United Nations in 1987 with the legendary Roberta Flack as the Co-host. Gil's determination to enhance

the integrity and global awareness of Caribbean art forms has never waned. In 1989, he founded and produced the SUNSHINE Awards to pay tribute to the creators, performers and promoters of Caribbean art, dance, music and poetry.

In 1998, Gil's concern and compassion for humanity and the less fortunate compelled him to accept an invitation from Air Jamaica Limited to set up and head a musical project for the people of Montserrat, who lost families, homes and jobs as a result of a series of volcanic eruptions on their island. Together with songwriter, Joe Brown, and co-authored the Song for Montserrat.

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