

**Marguerite Laurent** is an award-winning playwright whose one-woman show **The Red, Black & Moonlight** series has garnered critical attention. An attorney who has practiced entertainment business law for over ten years, Ms. Laurent lectures on the Vodun arts and teaches dance and creative writing workshops. A gifted actress, storyteller, teacher, writer, and poet, Ms. Laurent shares many Haitian traditions in telling the story of how the African captives in Haiti created their own language, their own religion and became a nation – the first Black nation in the Western Hemisphere. She is an Urban Artist Fellow with the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and the recipient of the 2001 playwright fellowship from the Commission. She is also founding member with Djedje Djedje-Gervais, of the West African Haitian dance theater group - Compagnie Ablessy. Her most challenging and memorable work was as a legal advisor to Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president in 1995, promoting the democratizing process in Haiti. **The Red, Black & Moonlight Series** is a musical memoir based on that story and her life and work in the United States.

#### Musicians:

**DAMAS ("FANFAN") LOUIS** – Haitian Drummer

**AZOUKE (GREGORY) SANON** – Boula player and Haitian Roots/Racine Singer ("Samba")

**DANIEL "DADI" BEAUBRUN** - Keyboardist & Samba

**PATIENCE HIGGINS** – Multi-reed player, Saxophonist and Flutist)

**HASAN BAKR** – Percussionist

**Azouke (Gregory) Sanon** was a pioneer in the Roots Music Movement of Haiti in 1979. He has worked with recognized Roots/Racine music bands such as, "Sanba Yo," "Foula," "Seven Heads" and "RAM." He has lectured at the University of Kansas on Haitian Vodun and Haitian history. From 1991 to the present he has often been sought after to create programs and CD's of traditional roots music, including for the Smithsonian Institute and PBS, amongst others. Mr. Sanon was part of a featured opening group for the Rolling Stones in Washington, DC in the mid 90's. He has drummed for countless Haitian Vodun programs including a program for the Museum of Natural History in New York. Azouke (Gregory) Sanon is a member of the Haitian Roots band called Azaka, which has performed internationally in festivals and around New York in various clubs.

**Patience Higgins**, from Greenville, South Carolina, is a multi-reed player. He currently teaches at the Harlem School of The Arts and Jazzmobile. He is featured on the 1998 double Grammy Award recording – Dee Dee Bridgewater's "Dear Ella." For the last ten years he has been a member of the Duke Ellington Orchestra and is the leader of the Sugar Hill Jazz Quartet. His other credits include tours and recordings with the Count Basie Orchestra, Lionel Hampton, Ray Charles, Muhal Richard Abrams, Barry Harris, Stevie Wonder, Hamiett Bluiett's Baritone Group, The Pointer Sisters, Savion Glover, Bobby Watson and Tailor Made, David Murray, Jimmy Scott, Paquito D'Rivera, Rodney Kendrick and Yoko Ono. Mr. Higgins' Broadway credits include "Dreamgirls", "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Bubbling Brown Sugar", Black & Blue", "Runaways", "Sophisticated Ladies", "Jelly's Last Jam", "5 Guys Named Moe" and "Chicago". He can be heard on the movie soundtrack recordings of "The Cotton Club", "School Daze", "Awakenings" and "Soul To Soul." Mr. Higgins has toured Europe, Japan, South America, Africa and the Caribbean and performed at every major jazz festival in the world.

**Hasan Bakr**, Percussionist, singer and composer, Hasan Bakr found his first musical expression in the tonal arts of the drum. He has studied in the master-student discipline for most adult life with such notables as Chief Bey (shekere), Nana Vasconcelos (berimbau and caxixi), Little Ray Romero (timbales) and Mbemba Bangoura (Djembe). While actively pursuing a career in drumming, Hasan molded a unique vocal ability that landed a position as one of the lead singers in the legendary "Spirit Ensemble" and HeritageOP, both New York based percussion ensembles. He has performed with a number of artists including The Winard Harper Sextet, Snow, Hassan Hakmoun and Zimbabwean Mbira Master Ephant Mujuru. As a composer he penned a collection of works for dance and the media arts, with a 2001 co-writer credit on the film, "Brooklyn Babylon".

**Damas Fan Fan Louis** started drumming at an early age in his spiritual grandfather's peristyle (temple) in Haiti. In 1989, he arrived in the United States to work with dance anthropologist and icon Katherine Dunham, who first encountered his skills and passions while he was performing as a lead drummer with the famous, Theatre National D'Haiti. Under Ms. Dunham's tutelage Fan Fan expanded his repertoire to include African djembe and saba drumming. After touring with Ms. Dunham, Fan Fan moved to New York where he performs and teaches professionally at Djoniba Dance and Drum Center, the Mind-Builders' Creative Arts Center, and, for many arts and education programs in the NY public school systems, amongst others. Mr. Louis has performed with world renowned artists, including the Rolling Stones, Rara Machine, Herve Maxe, Leon Destine, and at the inaugural ceremony "Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodun" shown at the American Museum of Natural History, in NY and at the opening ceremony for the XXVI Olympic games, Atlanta, GA "Drumming for Peace in the World", along with 300 other Master Drummers including Babatunde Olatunji, Chief Bey, and Ladji Camara. He is the founder and leader of **Minokan**, a traditional Haitian "roots" band specializing in the folkloric and ritual performance styles of Haitian Vodun. **Minokan** is also a Vodun Society whose membership plans and organizes such educational programs as lectures, demonstrations and workshops to a range of general and academic audiences. Among **Minokan's** objectives are to enlighten and inform those not yet familiar with the light, beauty, power and sacred principles of Haitian Vodun culture and practice. Damas "Fan Fan" Louis is the Hougan Asogwe (high priest.) of **Minokan**. He has set up altars and peristyles and materials, such as flags, bottles, veves, asons and other sacred instruments and tools of Vodun for exhibits and academic presentations at major Universities and Museums, including the John Hope Franklin Center at Duke University, Lincoln Center and the American Museum of Natural History in NY.

**Daniel "Dadi" Beaubrun**, a graduate from Queensborough Community College in Music Electronics in 1987, was among the first to create a new revolutionary sound for Haiti known as Racine Mizik (Roots music). His unique musical style blends traditional Haitian Vodou rhythms with Rock, Pop and Blues. The mélange of driving Haitian Vodou rhythms with a variety of musical instruments coupled with astute arrangements and splendid choral hooks has taken Vodou music out of the countryside and into the cities of Haiti while bringing international recognition and acclaim to Vodou ceremonial music and dance. Today, this unique sound that Mr. Beaubrun has created has claimed its own distinctive niche in World music for Haiti just as the Reggae freedom songs of Bob Marley have done for Jamaica. This distinct Racine (Roots) sound is evident in the three albums produced by Daniel Beaubrun for Boukman Eksperyans: "Vodou Adjac", "Kalfou Danjere," and "Libète." Boukman Eksperyans is a music band founded in 1978 by Daniel, with his brother and sister in Port-au-Prince. After the band's first hit on the radio in 1988, Boukman Eksperyans became internationally acclaimed for its work in preserving the Haitian Vodou music in a style appreciated by a worldwide audience. From 1989 to 1996 Mr. Beaubrun toured the world with Boukman Eksperyans, the 1992 Grammy nominee for "World Music Album of the year." Since his extensive career with Boukman Eksperyans, he has performed with renowned artists such as Peter Gabriel, Jimmy Cliff, Michael Shives (Carlos Santana's former drummer), along with Ismaelo and Yossou N'Dour (the world renown Senegalese singers). Mr. Beaubrun has produced and composed for platinum Columbia recording artist, Fugees. He was commissioned by Grammy award and internationally recognized solo artist Wyclef Jean as writer/composer for his Columbia recorded album, "The Eclectic" and wrote two tracks, "Diallo" and "Thug Angel."

