



# THE NEW VICTORY® THEATER

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New 42nd Street Presents at New Victory  
Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers'  
**CARTOGRAPHY**



**Team Behind *JACK&* and *GO FORTH* Create Show for Young Audiences about World Refugee Crisis**

**January 10 - 19, 2020**

**New York, NY** (December 13, 2019) -- Inflatable rafts on the Mediterranean. Dark holds of cargo trucks. Family photos hidden carefully in a backpack. Hear the stories of young refugees when **CARTOGRAPHY** asks what part we play in the lives of young people who set out into the unsure waters of their futures. Conceived and created by acclaimed experimental theater artist **Kaneza Schaal** [Bryce Dessner's *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)*] and Caldecott-winning author and illustrator **Christopher Myers** (Misty Copeland's *Firebird*; creative director, Penguin Random House's *Make Me a World*) and produced by ArKtype, **CARTOGRAPHY** investigates how stories became a currency for young migrants at border checkpoints.

Developed as part of New Victory LabWorks, the theater's new work development program, and commissioned by The Kennedy Center, this multimedia theatrical work shares a world alive with movement and migration as the effects of climate change, war and poverty give shape to where we have come from and where we are going. **CARTOGRAPHY** runs at the New Victory Theater January 10-19, 2020.

Written by Myers and directed by Schaal, **CARTOGRAPHY** is inspired by the artists' work in Munich with refugee youth from over 12 different countries. Following the 2016 influx of refugees into Europe from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and West Africa, among other nations, Schaal and Myers identified refugees ages 11-17 and used a variety of tools, including map-making, storytelling and filmmaking, to help these young people share their stories. By layering these narratives, Schaal and Myers build a theatrical experience that invites audiences to explore how migration is, in fact, a part of everyone's story.

"We discovered that young refugees wanted a forum where they could share their stories and not be erased--that despite being a part of a mass migration they each brought different experiences with them," says Myers. "Theater became a space where these youth were made more visible and more heard, and we're excited to share these stories with young audiences who are likewise learning how to define their role in the world."

Schaal and Myers, whose past collaborations include *JACK&*, recently at New York Live Arts and BAM Next Wave Festival, and *GO FORTH*, which premiered to great acclaim as part of PS122's COIL 2015, created this original theatrical work intentionally for young audiences as a part of New Victory LabWorks.

**CARTOGRAPHY** was produced by ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann and premiered at the Kennedy Center in January, 2019, and made possible by a generous grant from The Joyce Foundation. The work is a co-commission of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi and Playhouse Square, Cleveland, OH, with developmental support provided by Young People's Theatre, Toronto, Canada, The Performing Garage as part of The Performing Garage Presents Residency Program, and the Center for the Arts, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.

Learn more about **CARTOGRAPHY** at [NewVictory.org](http://NewVictory.org).

**Public Performance Schedule:**

Friday, January 10 at 7pm

Saturday, January 11 at 2pm / 7pm

Sunday, January 12 at 3pm

Saturday, January 18 at 2pm / 7pm\*

Sunday, January 19 at 3pm

\*sign-interpreted performance

**CARTOGRAPHY** has a running time of 60 minutes with no intermission, and is recommended for ages 10 and up.

### **Ticket Information**

Full-price tickets for **CARTOGRAPHY** start at \$17. Tickets are available online (NewVictory.org) and by phone (646.223.3010).

To purchase tickets in person, the New Victory box office is located at 209 West 42nd Street (between 7th / 8th Avenues). Box office hours are Sunday & Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12pm-7pm.

### **About Kaneza Schaal**

A 2019 Recipient of a Soros Arts Fellowship, which recognizes work having to do with migration, her recent works have shown at BAM's Howard Gillman Opera House, The Shed, The Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Walker Arts Center, and internationally in Egypt, Vietnam, Rwanda, Holland, Germany and France. Schaal received a 2019 United States Artist Fellowship, 2018 Art For Justice Bearing Witness Fellowship from the Ford Foundation, 2017 Map Fund Award, and 2016 Creative Capital Award. Her work with The Wooster Group and Elevator Repair Service brought her to venues including The Whitney Museum, Centre Pompidou, and MoMA. She has worked with immigrant families and youth seeking asylum for over a decade.

### **About Christopher Myers**

Christopher Myers, creative director behind Random House's Make Me a World imprint, is a widely acclaimed author and illustrator, as well as a versatile artist whose fine art has been exhibited at MoMA PS1 and numerous national and international museums and galleries. In addition to illustrating his own titles, Myers has worked with numerous authors, including E. E. Cummings, Zora Neale Hurston and his father, Walter Dean Myers; the two worked together on the Caldecott Honor winner, *Harlem*, as well as the Coretta Scott King Honor winners *Black Cat* and *H.O.R.S.E.* He collaborated with dancer Misty Copeland on the picture book *FIREBIRD*. In film, he co-directed the Sundance selection *Am I Going Too Fast?* with Hank Willis Thomas. Myers has written several notable essays, among them "Young Dreamers," an eloquent reflection on Trayvon Martin and Ezra Jack Keats's *The Snowy Day*, as well as the much-discussed "The Apartheid of Children's Literature," published in *The New York Times*.

### **About ArKtype**

ArKtype specializes in new work development and touring worldwide. Thomas O. Kriegsmann's past work includes projects with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Victoria Thierrée-Chaplin, Yaël Farber, Peter Sellars, Julie Taymor and Tony Taccone. Recent premieres include Bryce Dessner's *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)*, John Cameron Mitchell's *The Origin of Love*, Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers' *CARTOGRAPHY*, Sam Green & Kronos Quartet's *A Thousand Thoughts*, Big Dance Theater / Mikhail Baryshnikov's *Man in a Case*, and Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater's *Not by Bread Alone*. Ongoing collaborations include Ashley Fure, 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Big Dance Theater, Josh Fox, Rude Mechs, Adrien M. & Clare B. and Compagnia T.P.O. Upcoming premieres include Scott Shepherd's *This Ignorant Present* with Malthouse Theater in Melbourne and Nora Chipaumire's *Nehanda V. The Queen*.

### **About New Victory LabWorks**

New Victory LabWorks is committed to fostering an inclusive program where every artist feels welcome. Through this new works program, New Victory champions the creation of innovative, adventurous productions for young audiences. By supporting New York artists and providing them with invaluable responses and feedback from kids, New Victory LabWorks invites artists to hone their craft, expand their skills, make contacts in the field, take artistic risks and make bold choices with their work. New Victory LabWorks has helped develop over 55 projects on their journey to the stage.

### **About The New Victory Theater**

The New Victory opens new worlds to young people and families through extraordinary performances, education and engagement programs. Bringing kids to the arts and the arts to kids since 1995, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the United States. Reflecting and serving the multicultural city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international shows on its stages. A global leader in arts education, youth development and audience engagement, The New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts Education Award, and by the Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

### **About The New 42nd Street**

Under the leadership of President Russell Granet, New 42nd Street is a performing arts nonprofit whose mission is to make extraordinary performing arts a vital part of everyone's life from the earliest years onward. Driven by a deep commitment to performing arts access, we connect people to world-class performances, essential education programs and creative communities that push culture forward. Through New Victory and New 42 Studios, we serve artists, educators and New Yorkers of all ages with invaluable arts engagement and resources in and beyond the performing arts. Together with our supporters, we open new perspectives, incubate new works and create new opportunities to move us all.

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