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## **New Victory Announces 2020-21 LabWorks Artists: nicHi douglas, ChelseaDee Harrison, Nambi E. Kelley and Christopher Rudd**



### **New Victory LabWorks Commits to Serving BIPOC Artists**

New York, NY (January 13, 2021) -- New Victory names **nicHi douglas** (*where love lies fallow*, Under the Radar 2020), **ChelseaDee Harrison** (2020 Broadway Advocacy Coalition Artivism Fellow), **Nambi E. Kelley** (National New Play Network Annual Commission 2020 Recipient) and **Christopher Rudd** (2019 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow) as the theater's 2020-21 New Victory LabWorks Artists. All returning for a second year in the new work development program, this cohort of NYC artists continue the creation of innovative, adventurous new work for young audiences as the theater dedicates this and future years of New Victory LabWorks to serving artists who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), including artists with disabilities and artists who identify as LGBTQIA+.

"Artists deserve time, space, compensation and support, and New Victory is taking a closer look at what we can do better to serve artists of color so that we might help share their stories with young audiences across the country," says Artistic Director Mary Rose Lloyd.

"These incredible individuals offer their artistry and insight at a pivotal moment for New 42 and the industry at large. Prioritizing BIPOC artists in the creation of original new work for young audiences is just one of the ways our nonprofit is committed to making change towards anti-oppressive practices," says New 42 President & CEO, Russell Granet.

For this year, New Victory LabWorks Artists receive \$15,000 as well as professional development, dramaturgical and community support from the theater's local and international network of professional artists, educators, presenters and producers. The program also offers the opportunity to hold invited rehearsals for industry professionals, fellow artists and New Victory audiences with facilitated feedback sessions.

Created to diversify the field of performing arts for young audiences and the productions seen on stages across the nation, New Victory LabWorks supports a variety of artists across performing arts disciplines. Without the expectation of a finished product at the end of development, participation in New Victory LabWorks is tailored to each artist's creative process.

### **Applications are now open!**

Apply to join the next cohort of 2021-22 LabWorks Artists until February 17, 2021. A virtual informational session about the program and application process will be held at 5pm on January 19th, 2021. To RSVP for the info session [please click here to fill out the form](#). For more information, visit [NewVictory.org/LabWorks](http://NewVictory.org/LabWorks).

### **About the 2020-21 New Victory LabWorks Artists**

**nicHi douglas** is a Brooklyn-based performer, choreographer, director, writer and ART-IVIST who spells her name with a capital H. she is the Head of Movement in the NYU/Tisch Playwrights Horizons Theater School studio. she has worked in various capacities with artistic institutions across the country including Denver Center, Berkeley Rep, the National Museum of African American Music, The Public Theater and Carnegie Hall, among others. she is currently co-directing an event in celebration of womxn at this year's Sundance Film Festival. nicHi received her BFA from NYU/Tisch and MFA from The New School.

**ChelseaDee Harrison** is a multi-hyphenate, interdisciplinary creator and arts educator. Specializing in theater-making, she performs, teaches, curates, co-facilitates, develops curriculum, directs and produces arts events. Her focus is creating new works of theater that highlight history and challenge dominant narratives and ensuring art is a tool in the hands of the people. She has also facilitated arts workshops and residencies with the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the New York City Department of Correction, New York University/Tisch School of the Arts and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Award-winning playwright **Nambi E. Kelley** was chosen by literary legend Toni Morrison to adapt her novel *Jazz* for the stage (Baltimore Center Stage, Marin Theatre Company). Her adaptation of Richard Wright's *Native Son* has played across the country and premiered off-Broadway at The Duke on 42nd Street (The Acting Company). Nambi is a former playwright-in-residence at the National Black Theatre, Goodman Theatre and New Victory Theater. Awards include this year's NNPN annual commission, the Prince Prize 2019 and a Dramatists Guild Foundation Writers Alliance Grant 2018-19. Nambi is a staff writer for a new show on Fox and for Showtime's *The Chi*.

Jamaican born dance-maker and 2019 Guggenheim Fellow **Christopher Rudd** credits the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem and New World School of the Arts for his performance career. Highlights include dancing for Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montréal and Cirque du Soleil. He founded RudduR Dance in 2015 to accomplish the goal of bettering the world through dance. RudduR Dance was presented on four continents in its first four years. The company made its City Parks SummerStage debut by participating in a globally accessible Juneteenth Tribute on June 19, 2020. Rudd has also made headlines by creating TOUCHÉ, an interracial homosexual pas de deux, for American Ballet Theatre.

### **About New Victory LabWorks**

Since the program started in 2012, New Victory LabWorks has helped develop over 60 projects on their journey to the stage, more than half of which have gone on to become full productions, touring across the country and around the world. By supporting NYC artists and connecting them with the nonprofit's international community of arts professionals, New Victory expands the canon of family performing arts made in the U.S.

To join the email list and receive updates on events and programs for artists, please visit [NewVictory.org/LabWorks](http://NewVictory.org/LabWorks).

New Victory LabWorks is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by grants from the Madeleine L'Engle Fund of the Crosswicks Foundation, The Ford Foundation, and the Howard Gilman Foundation.

### **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, 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, New Victory 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."

### **New 42**

Under the leadership of President & CEO Russell Granet, New 42 is a cultural 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, New 42 connects people to world-class performances, essential education and employment programs, and creative communities that push culture forward. Through New Victory and New 42 Studios, the nonprofit serves artists, educators and New Yorkers of all ages with invaluable arts engagement and resources in and beyond the performing arts. Together with its supporters, New 42 opens new perspectives, incubates new works and creates new opportunities to move us all.

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