

OCT 23, 2020 | 6:00 PM

# BEYOND THE GAZE:

## WRITING MULTIDIMENSIONAL BLACK CHARACTERS FOR THE STAGE

A CONVERSATION WITH MAXINE LYLE '00  
AND KATORI HALL

What creative and commercial obstacles do Black storytellers face when writing complex characters for stage and screen? How can Black artists re-frame the cultural gaze through traditional and emerging Black art forms?

STEP SHOW: THE MUSICAL is a new theatrical work by Maxine Lyle that combines step, spoken word and song to tell the story of a college freshman as she navigates the world of step and academic life. Currently in development, STEP SHOW: THE MUSICAL is part of the CenterSeries' 2020-2021 Artist's Studio program, supporting the creative process of theater and dance makers.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

### ARTIST'S STUDIO

*While so much of the world has slowed down to a halt in response to COVID-19, artists have not ceased to create meaning out of these most unusual circumstances. The Williams community will meet and converse with artists and scholars, following their continued creativity in their studios. Over the course of the academic year, new works of performance will be created in conversation with guest speakers, faculty, and students.*



**Maxine Lyle** is a choreographer, teaching artist, producer, and founder of Soul Steps, one of the world's only professional dance companies dedicated to teaching and performing step. Maxine holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Williams College, where she co-founded Sankofa, the Williams College step team.



**Katori Hall** is an Olivier Award-winning playwright and the showrunner of *P-VALLEY*, a new Starz drama based on her play *Pussy Valley*. She's also the bookwriter and co-producer of West End and Broadway hit, *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*. Other writing credits include *The Mountaintop* (Broadway), *The Hot Wing King* (Off-Broadway), *Hurt Village* (Off-Broadway) and *Hoodoo Love* (Off-Broadway). Katori is an alumna of Columbia University, ART at Harvard University and Juilliard. Katori has been published in publications such as *The Boston Globe*, *The Guardian*, and *The New York Times*.

FRI | FEB 5, 2021

Part II: STEP SHOW: Open Rehearsal and Dialogue

THU | APR 8, 2021

Part III: STEP SHOW: Work-In-Process Performance

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