



presents...

SEAN JONES
DIZZY SPELLZ
featuring **BRINAE ALI**

Sean Jones | Trumpet
Brinae Ali | Tap & Vocals
Wendel Patrick | Turntables
Alex Brown | Piano
Kris Funn | Bass
Mark Whitfield, Jr. | Drums

Friday, April 15, 2022 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre

Dizzy Spellz offers an Afro-futuristic lens exploring the intersection of cultural and spiritual dilemmas within the African Diaspora through the music of Dizzy Gillespie. From his coming of age through racial and social dynamics in the Deep South, creating and curating the bebop movement in New York, to his spiritual journey to Africa and his delve into Afro Cuban music and the Baha'i Faith, Dizzy was very much ahead of his time. Sean Jones (trumpeter/musical director) and Brinae Ali (choreographer/tap dancer/vocalist) have teamed up to create a piece that fuses elements of jazz, tap, Hip Hop, and BeBop to articulate the social vernacular of the African American experience.

This program is made possible in part by the generous support of Thomas and Lily Beischer.

Sean Jones is represented by Unlimited Myles unlimitedmyles.com

Hamburg Steinway Model D, Pro Piano, San Francisco



ARTIST PROFILES

Sean Jones was San Francisco Performances' Jazz Artist-in-Residence from 2015 to 2019 and appears on the main stage for the third time. He has also appeared on the Salon Series and the Family Matinee Series.

Music and spirituality have always been fully intertwined in the artistic vision of trumpeter, bandleader, composer, educator, and activist **Sean Jones**. Singing and performing as a child with the church choir in his hometown of Warren, Ohio, Sean switched from the drums to the trumpet at the age of 10.

Sean is a musical chameleon and is comfortable in any musical setting no matter what the role or the genre. He is equally adept in being a member of an ensemble as he is at being a bandleader. Sean turned a six-month stint with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra into an offer from Wynton Marsalis for a permanent position as lead trumpeter, a post he held from 2004 until 2010. In 2015 Jones was tapped to become a member of the SF-JAZZ Collective. During this time, Sean has

managed to keep a core group of talented musicians together under his leadership forming the foundation for his groups that have produced and released eight recordings on the Mack Avenue Records, the latest is his 2017 release *Sean Jones: Live from Jazz at the Bistro*.

Sean has been prominently featured with a number of artists, recording and/or performing with many major figures in jazz, including Illinois Jacquet, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Nancy Wilson, Dianne Reeves, Gerald Wilson and Marcus Miller. Sean was selected by Miller, Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter for their Tribute to Miles tour in 2011.

He has also performed with the Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Youngstown Symphony Orchestras as well as Soulful Symphony in Baltimore and in a chamber group at the Salt Bay Chamber Festival.

Sean is also an internationally recognized educator. He was recently named the Richard and Elizabeth Case Chair of Jazz at Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Institute in Baltimore. Before coming to Pea-

body, Sean served as the Chair of the Brass Department at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Additionally, he serves as Artistic Director of Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz.

Alexandria "Brinae Ali" Bradley, born and raised in Flint, Michigan is an interdisciplinary artist who believes in using the power of the arts to transform the conditions of the human spirit. When she is not traveling and performing, she is giving back to young people and grassroots organizing. Currently Bradley is the assistant artistic director of Tapology, Inc. a youth-based outreach program in Flint, that believes in preserving the art of tap and jazz culture through education and performance. As an educator she has collaborated with After School Activities Partnership, East Park Revitalization Alliance, Philadelphia Clef Club of Performing Arts, Raise It Up! Youth Arts and Awareness, Flint Youth Theatre, Mural Arts of Philadelphia, Young Audiences of New Jersey, Queens College, Long Island University, Ping Chong and Company, and New Jersey Performing Arts Center and was an artist in residence at the Carol Morgan School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Queens College and Long Island University.

Internationally Ali has traveled and performed around the world in countries such as France, Germany, China and Brazil. She also traveled with a team of tap dancers to Russia for a tour in five cities working with the U.S. Embassy for its cultural exchange program celebrating National Tap Dance Day. Her Broadway and off-Broadway experience has gained her positions as assistant dance captain for *Shuffle Along, or, the Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed* choreographed by Savion Glover and directed by George C. Wolfe; company member of NY and Touring cast of STOMP; special feature in the *Cotton Club Parade* which later became *After Midnight* under the musical direction of Wynton Marsalis, New York City Center; Encores! Off-Center production of *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope* directed and choreographed by Savion Glover; and was a part of a two-week tour in Italy celebrating Ella Fitzgerald's centennial.

As a playwright and songwriter she has also created an award winning work such as Best Short Play at the Downtown Urban Theater Festival for her one woman show *Steps* and the Vox Populi Independence Music Award for *Destination Forever: Vol.1 EP*.