



## **Sharon Nyree Williams, LLC**

*Sharing authentic stories that spark personal transformation which influences our community*

March 13, 2020

I would like to respectfully submit, *Dare to Claim the Sky* for consideration for your next event. The show premiered on July 12, 2018 as part of the Seattle Theatre Group's Nights at the Neptune event. Then had a one-day with three performances at Meadowdale High School for it's first Equity Summit. It made its Off-Broadway debut at the 2018 United Solo Festival in New York City. In February, 2020 it was a part of ACT Theatre's ACTLab Solo Fest, and it will be a part of the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival in 2020.

### **Technical Information:**

Run time: 60 minutes

Talk Back: 20 minutes (Optional)

Audio playback through Apple MacBook

Lighting whatever is available at the venue

Furniture: Chair, stool and side table

Below please find play synopsis and key bios:

### **Play Synopsis:**

Based on her self-published anthology of the same name, *Dare to Claim the Sky*, by storyteller Sharon Nyree Williams is an exploration of her constant struggles with family, religion, depression and self-identity. Sharon invites you into her proverbial living room for an intimate and unapologetic conversation about family, faith, and the pain of being Black in this society. The story represents her strength in coming to grips with who she is, the constant battle of recognizing the beat-down in her life caused by systemic racism, frequent questioning of her self-worth as she comes to grips with the reality of her truth. *Dare to Claim the Sky* is a journey through the honest and unfiltered body of work written and performed by Seattle based storyteller, Sharon Nyree Williams.

### **Bios:**

**Joe Kye**, (Performer & Music Director) Born in Korea and raised in Seattle, singer/composer/violinist-looper **Joe Kye** "discharges world[s] of emotion" with his lush string loops and eclectic style (*Guitar World*). Drawing upon his immigrant upbringing,



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Kye weaves together diverse textures, melodies, and vocals to uplift and empower listeners. He has opened for Yo-Yo Ma, recorded a Tedx Talk, and been featured on NPR. [www.joekye.com](http://www.joekye.com)

**Christine Sumption**, (Director & Dramaturg), is a Seattle-based director/dramaturg. Her directing credits include productions at Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, and DARTS/Company Subaru in Tokyo, where she was a Resident Director for three years. She has served as a dramaturg for Sundance Theatre Lab, New Harmony Project, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and Hedgebrook, where she was a dramaturg for the Hedgebrook Women Playwrights Festival for 20 years.

**Sharon Nyree Williams**, (Writer & Performer), is a storyteller and arts administrator. Sharon loves telling stories about her life, the lessons she's learned, and the things she's observed with a hope that she will reach at least one person that can relate to her experiences. In making us as individuals and as a community stronger through the power of storytelling.

As an artist Sharon recently performed her latest solo performance *Dare to Claim the Sky* for ACT Theatre's ACTLAB Solo Fest, United Solo Festival in New York and as a part of Seattle Theatre Group's Nights at the Neptune. In conjunction with the performance she released the book *Dare to Claim the Sky* that is a compilation of her stories from her albums. Sharon has produced two poetry plus storytelling albums *Humanity* and *The Consciousness of Love* which was a recipient of the 2014-2015 Jack Straw Cultural Center's Artist Support Fellowship. She is currently working on her third album, *SHOOK* set to release in 2020. Sharon has produced short films, *Swipe*, *What About Us* and *From the Heart*. She's written and performed solo performance pieces *Plight: I am my brother's keeper* and *Circles of Life*. Sharon is proud to be listed on the 4Culture Artists Touring Roster.

Sharon has shared her stories with various audiences including students at elementary and high schools, several branches of the King County Library System, events for companies, performance venues, special events (Port of Seattle Martin Luther King Jr. Event, King County Martin Luther King Jr. Day, World Aids Day, King County Executive Fundraiser, Cornish College of the Art's event MELANIN, Women's History Month, Womxn's March Seattle, etc.).

When she's not performing, she is the Executive Director for the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas. She serves as the Chair for Historic Central Area Arts and Cultural District, LANGSTON Board of Directors, FEED Worldwide Advisory Board, Adult



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Advisory Committee for Creative Justice and is a former Seattle Arts Commissioner

(2014-2019), Board of Trustee for Cornish College of the Arts. Sharon founded The Mahogany Project a theatre arts collaborative that focuses on allowing Black artists an opportunity to share their voice. Sharon is a graduate of the Seattle University Master of Fine Arts in Arts Leadership program, and a proud graduate of the Historical Black College and University, Delaware State University with two degrees Bachelors of Arts in Television Production and a Masters of Business Administration.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 206-200-4444 or [storyteller@sharonnwilliams.com](mailto:storyteller@sharonnwilliams.com).

Much respect and appreciation,

Sharon Nyree Williams  
Storyteller  
Sharon Nyree Williams, LLC.