



PRESENTS

THE  
FELLOWSHIP  
HALL

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CHESRAY DOLPHA

BAC ARTIVISM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM MANAGERS + MENTORS

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THE FELLOWSHIP HALL PROJECT MANAGER

DRIA BROWN

THE FELLOWSHIP HALL PRODUCTION MANAGER

RACHAEL HARRIS

The Broadway musical *Wicked* is proud to be the lead sponsor of the BAC Artivism Fellowship. This year's Fellowship is also made possible by the generous support of Sonja and Jonathan Perkins, AT&T, The Elphaba Fund, Diana DiMenna, Abigail Disney, and the many other donors that supported this initiative.

# BIAS BENDER BAC EPISODE

## KAYLA STOKES

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Bias Bender is a podcast dedicated to telling the stories of Black women through weekly episodes. Host, Kayla Stokes, explores a variety of topics including: racial disparities, civil justice, representation, education and more. Each story and interview is meant to broaden the perspective of what a Black woman can be by telling the multiple stories/biographies of Black women from history and the present. By learning from the past and the present, the podcast is working to dream of a fuller future for Black women.

### KAYLA STOKES



is a director, writer, producer, and most importantly a storyteller. She is passionate about investigating and telling the stories of people from all walks of life. Over this past year she launched a podcast called *Bias Bender*. As producer and host, she explores the lives of Black women from the past and the present in order to imagine the future. In addition to her own podcast, Kayla works on various scripted audio plays and series. Her theatrical directing credits include *Dutchman* (Carnegie Mellon), *pato, pato, maricón* (Ars Nova ANT Fest), *Six Left Feet* (The Black Box Project). Selected assisting/interning projects include *We're Gonna Die* (2nd Stage), "Daddy" (The New Group/Vineyard), *OSCAR at the Crown* (The Neon Coven), *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* (NYTW). Kayla is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University where she earned a BFA in Directing. Kayla is currently a part of Broadway Advocacy Coalition's first cohort of Artivism Fellows, and her work is supported, in part, by a 4Culture Arc Artist Fellowship.



### **Naquasia Pollard**

is an advocate, activist and direct service provider. She has been deeply involved in movements for social justice drawing upon her own experience – 15 years of incarceration in a Women’s Correctional Facility at the age of 19 and being pregnant on Rikers Island (Rosie M. Singer). Upon her release in October 2017 she went to work at the Ladies of Hope Ministries where she utilized her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Minor in Psychology, earned in prison, to support women impacted by incarceration. Her personal and professional goals are connected to her own experiences with systems that were supposed to support her but instead have failed her. As a result, Naquasia is deeply committed to supporting women and girls impacted by systemic failures.

While working at the Ladies of Hope Ministries, Naquasia became more involved in advocacy and direct services for women and young girls using a trauma-centered approach to support them in their journey towards healing and restoration. Recently, Naquasia founded Pure Legatee Inc, an organization that seeks to provide a residential space for young adults who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system, and girls that are aging out of foster care and are experiencing chronic homelessness. In addition, she is a part of the Beyond Rosies campaign and Herstories documentary. Naquasia is involved in the Probation and Parole Reform Project with Columbia University, and is currently involved with the Speakers Bureau to lift the voices of formerly incarcerated people as agents of change.

Naquasia has been interviewed by the New York Times for her efforts to end mass incarceration and her involvement with criminal justice reform and has been featured on Metro Focus for her advocacy to close Rosie M Singer on Rikers Island. She is an alumnus of Women Influencing Systems and History through Community College Fellowship to train women to be organizers and advocate against mass incarceration.



### **Adam Westerman**

is a Seattle-based producer whose music has been featured in short films, commercials, plays and podcasts. He graduated Vassar College with a major in drama and worked in NYC as a production assistant in film and TV. He is currently scoring a documentary feature titled *In Search of Home*, about a family of immigrants from Honduras.



### **Sabrina Kleman**

is a New York based Web Developer/Designer who loves to animate and edit short videos for friends on the side (mostly for instagram). Reach out to her if you’re a creative with a tight budget!