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Kory Kelly – Director of Marketing & Communications at Pasadena Playhouse:

PlayhouseLive
Presents
A New Commissioned Work
Still.

Written and performed by spoken word artist

Javon Johnson

Directed by

Donny Jackson

Launching online at PlayhouseLive
September 30, 2020

Watch the trailer and purchase tickets at www.playhouselive.org.

September 24, 2020, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman announces the premiere of ***Still.***, a newly commissioned work written by and starring spoken word artist Javon Johnson, and directed by Donny Jackson. The production will launch online at PlayhouseLive on September, 30, 2020, and is part of the Fall line-up of pay-per-view streaming theatrical events.

As one of the nation's most prominent spoken-word artists, Javon Johnson takes to the Playhouse stage in ***Still.*** to share his very personal experience as a Black man in America at a pivotal time in our history. Johnson blends powerful imagery, witty prose and beautiful lyricism in this timely, unforgettable theatrical event.

Johnson has appeared on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, BET's *Lyric Café*, TVOne's *Verses & Flow*, *The Steve Harvey Show*, *The Arsenio Hall Show*, *United Shades of America* with Kamau Bell on CNN, and co-wrote a documentary titled *Crossover*, which aired on Showtime, in collaboration with the NBA and Nike.

Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman says, "We are honored to launch PlayhouseLive with the work of two extraordinary artists, Javon Johnson and director Donny Jackson. In this unique

moment of American reckoning, ***Still***. is a piece of art that eloquently captures what so many in our community are experiencing. It is a profound theatrical work created exclusively for a digital audience and captures a moment in history in real time, on our historic stage."

Javon Johnson is a renowned spoken word poet -- a three-time national poetry slam champion and a four-time national finalist. He is also Assistant Professor and Director of African American & African Diaspora studies and holds an appointment in Gender & Sexuality Studies in the Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Director Donny Jackson has been a staple of the poetry community for over 2 decades, and is also a doctor of clinical psychology, and a multiple Emmy-winning Producer and Director in unscripted television, including CNN's *United Shades of America with W. Kamau Bell*, *R&B Divas* for TV One, *The Bachelor* for ABC, A&E's *Teach*, and *Inside the Label* for BET. Dr. Donny is also an NAACP Image Award winner for his producing duties on TV One's music documentary series, *Unsung*.

Still. can be rented through Playhouse**Live** for \$19.99 and is available through November 1, 2020. After the initial purchase, *Still*. can be watched on any of the Playhouse**Live** apps including Apple OS, Android OS, Roku, FireTV and more. Closed captioning will be available in both English and Spanish.

Additional information about Playhouse**Live** and its programming, including new announcements and pricing specials, are available at www.playhouselive.org.

About PlayhouseLive

Playhouse**Live** breaks down the physical boundaries of theater walls and opens access to audiences all over the world. It is also integrated into the Pasadena Playhouse's Community at Play program which remove barriers to arts participation and ensures free and low-cost ways to engage with the arts. Distribution channels include a standalone website, iPhone and Android apps, AppleTV, Amazon FireTV, Roku, Chromecast, and AirPlay, among others.

Powered by Pasadena Playhouse, Playhouse**Live** programming will include new filmed productions, staged readings, and cabarets, as well as original series, documentaries, and theater classes. It is a home for a wide array of theatrical voices through new and revisited work. Playhouse**Live** also serves as an online companion to the work that Pasadena Playhouse and partner theaters create on our stages once live theater performances resume.

About Pasadena Playhouse

Pasadena Playhouse is a place where people have gathered for 100 years to experience bold and important theater. It is one of the most prolific theaters in American history with a legacy of profound theatrical impact and courageous new work. In 1937, the Playhouse was officially recognized as the State Theater of California for its contribution and commitment to the dramatic arts. Today, it continues that tradition of excellence under the helm of producing artistic director Danny Feldman. Dedicated to enriching lives through theater, community programs and learning initiatives, Pasadena Playhouse is a living force in the community.