**Editors**

Walidah Imarisha

Walidah Imarisha is a writer, organizer, educator and spoken word artist. Author of poetry book *Scars/Stars* (Drapetomedia Press), she was one of the editors of *Another World is Possible* (Subway Press), the first 9/11 anthology. Her work has appeared in many publications, including *Total Chaos: The Art And Aesthetics of Hip Hop, Letters From Young Activists, Word Warriors: 35 Women Leaders in the Spoken Word Revolution, The Quotable Rebel, Life During Wartime: Resisting Counterinsurgency, Joe Strummer: Punk Rock Warlord*, and *Near Kin: A Collection of Words and Art Inspired by Octavia Estelle Butler*. One of the co-founders and first editor of political hip hop publication AWOL Magazine, Walidah also helped found the Human Rights Coalition, a Pennsylvania organization led by prisoners’ families and former prisoners. Walidah directed the 2005 Katrina documentary *Finding Common Ground in New Orleans*. She has taught in Portland State University’s Black Studies Department and Oregon State University’s Women Gender Sexuality Studies Department.

Adrienne maree brown

Adrienne is a 2013 Kresge Literary Arts Fellow writing science fiction in Detroit, and also received a 2013 Detroit Knight Arts Challenge Award to run a series of Octavia Butler-based science fiction writing workshops. Learning from her 15 years of movement facilitation and participation, she approaches Octavia’s work through the lens of emergent strategy – strategies rooted in relationship, adaptability, and embracing change. Adrienne has helped to launch a loose network of Octavia Butler and Emergent Strategy Reading Groups for people interested in reading Octavia’s work from a political and strategic framework, and is building with Octavia E. Butler Legacy Network on other ways of extending Butler’s work.

**Contributors**

Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Alexis Pauline Gumbs is a queer black troublemaker, a black feminist love evangelist, an afro-caribbean grandchild, a prayer-poet priestess and a time traveler/space cadet who lives and loves in Durham, North Carolina. Alexis is the founder of the Eternal Summer of the Black Feminist Mind local and intergalactic community school and a co-founder of the Mobile Homecoming project, an experiential archive.
amplifying generations of queer black brilliance. Alexis was the first scholar to research the Audre Lorde Papers at Spelman College, the June Jordan Papers at Harvard University, and the Lucille Clifton Papers at Emory University while earning her PhD in English, African and African-American Studies, and Women and Gender Studies from Duke University. And her mother is a trekkie.

**Alixa Garcia**

Alixa Garcia is Co-Founder & Artistic Director of Climbing PoeTree, an internationally renowned activist, multimedia theater, and spoken word duo out of Brooklyn, NY. She has facilitated workshops and performed in hundreds of venues from Harvard University to Rikers Island Prison. Garcia has presented alongside powerhouses such as Angela Davis, Alicia Keys, and Alice Walker, to name a few. Her work has appeared in dozens of literary journals and magazines including *Art Forum* and *Colorlines*. Her visual artistry has been featured on large-scale walls from NYC, Cuba, and Jamaica, as well as galleries and museums, including the Smithsonian, and The African Museum in Philadelphia. She was the recipient of the Global Arts Fund/Astrea Visual Artist Grant, 2013-2014, and won Best Director at the Reel Sistah Film Festival, NYC, 2008 for “Unnatural Disasters and a Great Shift in Universal Consciousness.” Through multidisciplinary artistic mediums this multifaceted artist is on a mission to overcome destruction with creativity.

**Autumn Brown**

Autumn Brown is a mother, community organizer, theologian, artist, and facilitator. She is the Executive Director of the Central Minnesota Sustainability Project, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Common Fire Foundation. Autumn has facilitated organizational and strategic development with community-based and movement organizations, and trained hundreds of community organizers in Consensus Process, Facilitation, and Resisting Racism. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Autumn has also completed specialized study in Theology at Oxford University and the General Theological Seminary of New York. Autumn is a recipient of the 2009 Next Generation of Leadership Fellowship through the Center for Whole Communities, and the 2010 Creative Community Leadership Institute Fellowship through Intermedia Arts. She currently lives in Avon, MN with her partner, children, dog, and wildlife.

**Babatunde Olaniran**

Babatunde Olaniran is a community focused entertainer and educator, specializing in the areas of gender, sexual equality, sexual health and awareness. A long-time community activist and recording artist based in Flint, Mich., he excels in merging arts programming and events with social issues-based learning workshops as a way to present new ideas and viewpoints to a diverse audience. He holds a master’s degree in nonprofit administration from the University of Michigan-Flint and is the Manager of Outreach for Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan.

**Bao Phi**

Bao Phi has been a performance poet since 1991. A two-time Minnesota Grand Slam champion and a National Poetry Slam finalist, Bao Phi has appeared on *HBO Presents Russell Simmons’ Def Poetry*, and a poem of his appeared in the *2006 Best American Poetry* anthology. His first collection of poems, *Sông I Sing*, was published by Coffee House Press in 2011 to critical acclaim. He has been a City Pages and Star Tribune Artist of the Year.

**Dawolu Jabari Anderson**

Dawolu Jabari Anderson (b. 1973) lives and works in Houston. He studied fine arts at the Texas Southern University, University of Houston, and completed residencies at Lawndale Art Center, Houston, and Skowhegan School of Paint and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine. Selected solo exhibitions include *Dawolu Jabari Anderson: Black Film*, Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston; *The Birth of a Nation- Yo! Bumrush the Show: Works by Dawolu Jabari Anderson*, Arts League Houston, Houston. Selected group exhibitions include the *Whitney Biennial 2006: Day for Night*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; *System Error: Work is a Force that Gives Us Meaning*, 2007, Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena, Italy; *Who Goliards? Artists at the Turn of the Century*, the University Museum at Texas Southern University.
Dani McClain
Dani McClain is a journalist living in Oakland, California. Her reporting and writing have been published in outlets including The Nation, Colorlines, Guernica and Al Jazeera America.

David Walker
David F. Walker is an award-winning journalist, filmmaker, educator, comic book writer, and author. His publication BadAzz MoFo became internationally known as the indispensable resource guide to black films of the 70s, and he is co-author of the book Reflections on Blaxploitation: Actors and Directors Speak. His other work includes the young adult series The Adventures of Darius Logan, as well as comic book series Number 13 (Dark Horse Comics), and The Army of Dr. Moreau (Monkeybrain Comics).

Gabriel Teodros
To know that another world is possible, and bring it to life through music; this has always been the mission of emcee Gabriel Teodros. He first made a mark in the Pacific Northwest with group Abyssinian Creole, and reached an international audience with his critically-acclaimed solo debut Lovework. He has since set stages on fire all across the US, Canada, Mexico and Ethiopia. 2012 saw the release of 2 more critically-acclaimed albums, Teodros’ solo Colored People’s Time Machine, as well as CopperWire’s Earthbound; a space opera of a hip hop ride (set in the year 2089) that Teodros recorded with fellow Ethiopian-American artists Meklit Hadero and Burntface. In 2014 Teodros released Children Of The Dragon with Washington, DC-based producer AirMe, followed by Evidence Of Things Not Seen with Auckland, New Zealand-based producer SoulChef. For more information check www.gabrielteodros.com

Kalamu ya Salaam
New Orleans writer, filmmaker and educator, Kalamu ya Salaam is a senior staff member of Students at the Center, a writing program in the New Orleans public schools. Kalamu is the moderator of neo•griot, an information blog for black writers and supporters of our literature worldwide. Kalamu can be reached at kalamu@mac.com

Jelani Wilson
Jelani Wilson lives and writes in Jersey with his kick-ass family. If he’s not voraciously reading, watching cartoons, or practicing rapper hands, he’s off somewhere training jiu jitsu or subverting authority. He promises to start posting his fiction along with mercifully brief musings and socio-political commentary at pageswithoutpaper.com, but on the real, we’ll believe it when we see it.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha
Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha is a queer mixed Sri Lankan writer, performer, educator and healer. The author of the Lambda Award-winning Love Cake and Consensual Genocide, she is also the co-editor, with Ching-In Chen and Jai Dulani, of The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence in Activist Communities. She is the co-founder of Mangos With Chili and a lead artist with Sins Invalid. She has organized around issues of transformative justice, disability justice and radical teaching and learning for twenty years. Her next book of poetry, Bodymap, and memoir, Dirty River, are forthcoming.

LeVar Burton
LeVar Burton is an actor, presenter, director, producer, and author.
He published his science fiction book Aftermath (Aspect Press) in 1997. Burton is best known for his roles as Kunta Kinte in the 1977 award-winning ABC television miniseries Roots and Lt. Commander Geordi La Forge in Star Trek: The Next Generation. He was the host and executive producer of the long-running PBS children’s series Reading Rainbow, which ran for 23 years, garnering over 200 broadcast awards, including a Peabody Award and 26 Emmy Awards. Burton and his company RRKIDZ reimagined Reading Rainbow as an iPad app in 2012, which became the number one educational app within 36 hours. In 2014, Burton ran a successful Kickstarter campaign to bring Reading Rainbow back as a web-based show with free access available for schools in need.
Mia Mingus

Mia Mingus is a community organizer, writer and educator working for disability justice and prison abolition via transformative justice and community accountability. She identifies as a queer physically disabled korean woman transracial and transnational adoptee. She works for community, interdependence and home for all of us, not just some of us, and longs for a world where disabled children can live free of violence, with dignity and love. As her work for liberation evolves and deepens, her roots remain firmly planted in ending sexual violence. She works locally to build and support responses to child sexual abuse that do not rely on the state (i.e. police, prisons, the criminal legal system) with the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective. Her writings can be found at leavingevidence.wordpress.com. This is her first foray into writing fiction.

Morrigan Phillips

Morrigan Phillips is an organizer, writer, Hufflepuff and social worker living in Boston, MA. Over the years, she has been a campaign and direct action organizer to thwart the forces of globalization. At the moment Morrigan works in the HIV/AIDS community in Boston building networks of peer support and community based programs to combat rising rates of infection. As a part of the Beautiful Trouble trainers network Morrigan gets out and about doing direct action trainings. She is particularly enamored with creating and facilitating trainings that merge the power of imagined worlds with time honored direct action training tools to find new and exacting avenues for radical change in the realms of climate justice, health access, public transportation and more.

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist who chronicles the human condition. He was a resident of Pennsylvania’s death row for twenty-nine years, and is currently incarcerated at SCI Mahoney. Writing from his solitary confinement cell, his essays have reached a worldwide audience. His books Live From Death Row, Death Blossoms: Reflections From A Prisoner Of Conscience, All Things Censored, Faith Of Our Fathers: An Examination Of The Spiritual Life Of African And African-American People, We Want Freedom: A Life In The Black Panther Party, Jailhouse Lawyers: Prisoners Defending Prisoners V. The U.S.A, The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America with scholar Marc Lamont Hill, and the upcoming collection Writing on the Wall: Selected Prison Writings of Mumia Abu-Jamal have sold hundreds of thousands of copies and been translated into nine languages. Mumia Abu-Jamal was, in his youth, a Trekkie, and has read and loved sci fi; from Asimov to Herbert; from Butler to Bisson.

Sheree Renée Thomas


Soraya?

Tananarive Due

Tananarive Due is the former Cosby Chair in the Humanities at Spelman College. She teaches in the creative writing MFA program at Antioch University Los Angeles. The American Book Award winner and NAACP Image Award recipient is the author of twelve novels and a civil rights memoir. She recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award in the Fine Arts from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and in 2008 she won the Carl Bradon Society Kindred Award. Due and her husband/collaborator, Steven
Barnes, wrote and co-produced a short film, Danger Word, based on their novel Devil’s Wake, which was nominated for Best Short Narrative Film at the Pan African Film Festival and BronzeLens Film Festival. A leading voice in Black speculative fiction, Due’s first short story collection, Ghost Summer and Other Stories, will be published in the summer of 2015 by Prime Books. She lives in Southern California with her husband and collaborator, Steven Barnes, and their son, Jason.

**Tara Betts**

Tara Betts is the author of *Arc & Hue* and the libretto/chapbook *THE GREATEST!: A Tribute to Muhammad Ali*. Tara is a Ph.D. candidate in English/Creative Writing at SUNY Binghamton University. Her poems appear in *Near Kin: A Collection of Words and Art Inspired by Octavia E. Butler* and several other anthologies. Her writings have appeared in *The Black Scholar*, *Essence*, *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire*, *Callaloo*, *Xavier Review*, *Mosaic magazine*, and *Sounding Out!*, a journal in sound studies.  www.tarabetts.net.

**Terry Bisson**

Terry Bisson is a science fiction writer who lives in Oakland. He has also written biographies of Nat Turner and Mumia Abu Jamal. His latest novel, *ANY DAY NOW*, is an alternate history of 1968.

**Vagabond**

Born in Brooklyn NYC to a Jamaican father and Puerto Rican mother, vagabond’s interest in art led him to become an artist, writer and filmmaker. He studied Fine and Commercial Art at a specialized high school in NYC, and went on to study film at The School Of Visual Arts. He dropped out of school to work with Spike Lee on *Do The Right Thing* and has worked in the film industry since then. He’s worked in the Puerto Rican independence movement since 1997 and has organized rallies, protests and marches, created murals, pamphlets and agitprop with the artist collective he helped found, the RICANSTRUCTION Netwerk. His work has been featured in *Blu Magazine, AWOL, SALVO, Centro, Left Turn* and *Liberator Magazine*. His first feature film *MACHETERO* is about the ongoing struggle for Puerto Rican independence and has won awards in South Africa, Wales, England, Thailand, Ireland and New York.