

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Kuumba at Harbourfront Centre Presents *Dat Gyal Funny!* Featuring Gina Yashere from *The Daily Show***

Presented by TD Bank  
February 24, 2018 8pm at Fleck Dance Theatre

### **Annual Black History Month festival concludes with hilarious night of comedy, hosted by Trey Anthony and featuring stand-up comedian Gina Yashere and a stellar lineup of female comedians of colour!**

**TORONTO, ON (February 15, 2018)** -- Lucille Ball once said, "I am not funny. What I am is brave." Any woman finding success in the male-dominated arena of stand-up comedy is certainly brave, but to be a woman who is smart, funny and black requires a fearlessness that deserves to be heard. On Saturday, February 24, Harbourfront Centre is proud to welcome stand-up comedian and *The Daily Show* contributor **Gina Yashere, Trey Anthony** and a host of top female comedians for ***Dat Gyal Funny!***, an evening of side-splitting, rip-roaring comedy at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Kuumba Festival.

"Being a black woman influences how I am perceived in this world," says Trey Anthony. "We all have a story to tell so using comedy to show the funny side of black women's experience and doing that in a way that makes you laugh, but also makes you think, is memorable."

Through their comedy, sharp insights and unapologetic perspectives on everything from stereotypes, dating and glass ceilings, black women have carved a niche in the world of stand-up. Their success builds on a long and proud tradition in comedy, specifically dating back to and before ground-breaking comics like Moms Mabley and Whoopi Goldberg. All of these pioneers, along with the amazing trailblazers we see today, offer a unique perspective on challenges they face as women and as people of colour.

The funny ladies invited to the stage for the finale performance of the month-long Kuumba Festival include:

#### **Gina Yashere (U.K., U.S.)**

*The Hollywood Reporter* named Gina Yashere one of the top 10 rising talents on the circuit today. She is notably the only British comedian to ever appear on the iconic *Def Comedy Jam*, and known for her hilarious appearances on *The Tonight Show* (NBC); *Crashing* (HBO); *@midnight* on Comedy Central; her one-hour comedy special, *Skinny B\*tch*, on Showtime; and now as the British correspondent on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*.

#### **Trey Anthony (Canada)**

Award-winning playwright, executive producer, actor, creator and stand-up comedian Trey Anthony is known for the ground-breaking television and theatrical production *'da Kink in my Hair*. Critics have referred to Anthony as the Oprah of the Canadian theatre scene!

#### **Erin Jackson (U.S)**

Armed with a megawatt smile and a pocket full of dreams, Erin Jackson is poised to conquer the world of stand-up. Since first making a name for herself at colleges and east coast comedy clubs, Erin has gone on to be named a semifinalist on NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and co-hosted three seasons of *Exhale*, a panel-based talk series on the ASPIRE Network.

#### **Keesha Brownie (Canada)**

This montreal-born Canadian with Jamaican roots showcases her Canadian & West Indian Heritage. Keesha is a Canadian Comedy Award nominee, and has appeared on MTV and CBC: *The List*, as well as her own series, *Jokers Corner*. Brownie can be seen on Kevin Harts LOL Network from Montreal's *Just For Laughs* 2017.

#### **Crystal Ferrier (Canada)**

Actress, comedian, writer and producer Crystal Ferrier is the first Indian woman to headline Kenny Robinson's *Nubian Disciples of Pryor* and is the newest addition to Kevin Hart's LOL Network. A rising star, she is a raw comedic personality who is shaking up stages all over the world from Canada to New York to India.

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*For event information please visit [www.harbourfrontcentre.com/kuumba](http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/kuumba)*

### **About Harbourfront Centre**

Harbourfront Centre is a registered, charitable not-for-profit cultural organization operating a 10-acre campus on Toronto's central waterfront. A leading international centre for contemporary arts, culture, and ideas, we inspire audiences and visitors with a breadth of bold, ambitious and engaging experiences.

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