

**BALTIMORE  
CENTER  
STAGE**

**LAB 410**

# **410FEST**

A CELEBRATION OF BALTIMORE'S NEW WORKS



**APRIL 5, 2025**

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## Honor Native Land

Responding to a call from our Indigenous colleagues, collaborators, and neighbors, Baltimore Center Stage is working toward building meaningful and accountable relationships with the land we occupy. As a first step on this path, you'll see a land acknowledgement in each of our programs. Acknowledgement is itself a small gesture, and we look forward to continuing our efforts toward decolonization in a meaningful way. If you're interested in more information feel free to visit the US Department of Arts and Culture's "Honor Native Land" guide.

Baltimore Center Stage acknowledges that the land beneath us, this place, this community, owes its vitality to generations who have come before. Some were brought forcibly to this land, some came here in search of ownership or simply a better life, and some have lived and stewarded this land for countless generations. In a spirit of making erased histories visible, we acknowledge that we are standing on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Piscataway peoples. The Susquehannock, Lenape, and Lumbee peoples have also cared for this land. These peoples are not relics of the past. They continue to steward this land today with care, vitality, and tradition. Their relations are numerous throughout Turtle Island, and they continue to grow. We pay respects to their elders: past, present, and future. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

Additionally, in the spirit of reconciliation, you can honor the Indigenous peoples of this land by donating to Native American Lifelines, donating to or visiting the Baltimore American Indian Center & Heritage Museum, and supporting local Indigenous artists. These are only a few suggestions of the many ways we can move towards reconciliation.



BALTIMORE AMERICAN  
INDIAN CENTER

## THE INDIGENOUS ART GALLERY

Free to the public,  
open during regular  
BCS box office hours,  
Tue - Fri 12PM to 5PM



This program is published by:

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**Please consider making a tax-deductible donation now by scanning the QR Code or visit [centerstage.org/donate](https://centerstage.org/donate)**

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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- 11:30 AM **410BRUNCH**  
*COFFEE, MIMOSAS, AND BITES BY  
CHEF MO OF CRE8TIVE MINDZ CAFE*
- 12:15 PM **THE SLAM**  
BY KENNETH SOMETHING &  
UNIQUE ROBINSON
- 1:45 PM **410ARTIST MARKET**  
LOCAL VENDORS AND  
VISION BOARDING
- 3:30 PM **CANTON WATERFRONT**  
BY KAREN LI
- 5:00 PM **410KICKBACK** SOUNDS BY DJ  
AFRODELIC, FOOD BY HUNGRY  
HEARTS, MURAL MAKING
- 5:45 PM **THE LAST OF POWDER CREEK**  
BY HESS LOVE
- 7:00 PM CLOSING REMARKS



**410FEST**

A CELEBRATION OF BALTIMORE'S NEW WORKS

# THE SLAM

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BY **KENNETH SOMETHING & UNIQUE ROBINSON**

DIRECTED BY **CHARLIQUE C. ROLLE**

## THE CAST

---

**MECCA VERDELL**  
DESTINY

**JACOB 'BLACK  
CHAKRA'  
MAYBERRY**  
REFLECTION

**STEPHANIE  
SCHULTZ**  
PAUSE

**SHAKILL JAMAL**  
REGGIE

**MALACHI  
'MALPRACTICE'  
BYRD**  
HYPERBOLE

**TAMARA 'MS.  
TEEKAY' KUMOJI**  
PASSION

**LADY BRION**  
DENISE

**ROBERT BATTLE**  
SASS

# CANTON WATERFRONT

---

BY **KAREN LI**

DIRECTED BY **TERRANCE DAYE**

## THE CAST

---

**MOMO NAKAMURA**  
CYNTHIA/KEISUN

**TUYẾT THỊ PHẠM**  
BONNIE/KEIHEEN

# THE LAST OF POWDER CREEK

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BY **HESS LOVE**

DIRECTED BY **CHANIA HUDSON**

## THE CAST

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**KAY-MEGAN WASHINGTON**  
MAHALIA LANE

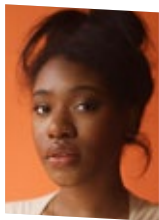
**BRANDON DION GREGORY**  
THE MAN / DAVID LANE JR.

**LLOYD MARCUS**  
JASPER LANE

**MONIQUE BARNES**  
NATASHA LANE



# BIOGRAPHIES



**MECCA VERDELL**  
DESTINY, *THE SLAM*

Mecca  
'Meccamorphosis'  
Verdell is an  
Internationally winning  
spoken word poet,  
teaching artist and

actor of ten years. Mecca uses her anger and passion to speak on the 'soff' and 'pink' of Black culture. Her writing fearlessly ventures and unveils Black American shadows from generational trauma. She centers the pain, joys, and beauty of Blackness through the lens of womanhood and queer experiences. As a Teaching Artist, they've used their work to connect teachers and students to create emotionally intelligent responses in an academic space. Mecca has molded poetry for marketing and commercials as a Visit Baltimore Ambassador and or the National Education Association. Through her success, she has been performing at universities, embassies, and theaters, showing audiences how poetry can peek into the spirit and turn healing into ritual. Their debut book, *The Things I've Unlearned*, is an example of that process. In 2024, she is proud to have opened for Saul Williams, created her fundraiser Pass the Mic that raises money for local black organizations. She is a 2024 Map Fund fellow producing her one-woman show Da Art of Letting go.



**SHAKILL JAMAL**  
REGGIE, *THE SLAM*

Shakill Jamal is an  
actor, rapper, teaching  
artist and playwright.  
Previous credits  
include: *The Code*  
*Switch* (Sisters Freehold,

playwright) *The Last Martyr* (Imagination Stage, Flame) *Comedy of Errors* (CSC, Antipholus), *RUR* (We Happy Few, Busman) *Merry Wives of Windsor* (CSC,

Falstaff) *Othello* (National Players Tour 69, Othello) He loves Ableton, chicken wings, and comic books.



**LADY BRION**  
DENISE, *THE SLAM*

Lady Brion is an  
international spoken  
word artist, activist,  
organizer and  
educator. Lady Brion  
currently serves as

the executive director of the Black Arts District, an organization she founded in 2019. In 2024 she was appointed by Governor Wes Moore as the Poet Laureate of Maryland, making her the youngest Poet Laureate in Maryland's history and the only spoken word artist to ever hold this position. She received her B.A. in Communication and Culture from Howard University and her MFA in Creative Writing & Publishing Design from the University of Baltimore. During her slam career she has won the 2016 and 2021 National Poetry Slam, the 2017 and 2019 Southern Fried Regional Slam, and the 2019 Rustbelt Regional Slam. In 2021 she became the Women of the World Poetry Slam Champion making her the number one ranked woman slam poet in the world.



**JACOB 'BLACK  
CHAKRA' MAYBERRY**  
REFLECTION,  
*THE SLAM*

Black Chakra is a  
spoken word and hip-  
hop artist whose talents  
have been showcased

on stages across America. In his time competing in poetry slam competitions he has been a 2x national poetry slam champion, 4x Southern Fried Slam champion and a plethora of others too long to list. Black Chakra embodies the city of Baltimore through aggressive performance and incredible writing.

Next to being the talented writer that he is what he takes most pride in is being a youth poetry teacher for Dewmore Baltimore. He helps Baltimore youths cultivate their talent and showcase it on national stages.



**MALACHI 'MALPRACTICE' BYRD**  
*HYPERBOLE, THE SLAM*  
Malachi 'MalPractice' Byrd is an African-American artist, author, and educator from Northeast Washington,

D.C. The District's Inaugural Youth Poet Laureate and the Founder of the Crowning Too Early Scholarship Fund, Malachi has committed his craft and career to guiding students through language and performance. A graduate of Princeton University and now full-time artist, MalPrac believes in educating inside and outside of the classroom and using the pen to help people pursue their passions. Having taught in over 100 schools in the DMV, Malachi still maintains aspirations of opening his own performing arts school in the area. He is the self-proclaimed first Senator of Washington D.C., (Vote Byrd 2032) and will use his experiences to tackle problems of inequality and inequity in inner cities.



**STEPHANIE SCHULTZ**  
*PAUSE, THE SLAM*  
Steph is a queer writer, poet, and community advocate who lives in Baltimore with her partner, their two dogs, and three cats. She

graduated from Aberystwyth University in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature and Creative Writing with a focus in poetry and Victorian literature. As her day job, she works in sales and marketing within the cannabis

industry and helps to destigmatize the plant in hopes it can help more people manage their mental health and medical conditions.



**TAMARA 'MS. TEEKAY' KUMOJI**

*PASSION, THE SLAM*  
Ms. TeeKay is a Baltimore native, poet, international keynote speaker, writer, and fashion designer with

over 25 years in the arts. A former early childhood educator with 16 years in healthcare administration, she now serves as an Art Wellness Coach, using creativity for healing and growth. A published author (*Vibrations of Love*) and founding member of FYBR, LLC, she fosters local talent and community connections. Balancing motherhood and entrepreneurship, she remains dedicated to inspiring and uplifting through artistic expression.



**ROBERT BATTLE**  
*SASS, THE SLAM*

Rob is excited to join this production in the role of Sass. A passionate artist, educator, and musician based in Washington,

DC, Rob spends his days managing music and performing arts programs for DC Public Schools and his nights creating and performing in the city's vibrant arts scene. With a love for storytelling, community building, and live performance, Rob believes in the power of the arts to spark joy, reflection, and connection. He is grateful to share the stage with such a talented cast and crew and dedicates this performance to all who keep creativity alive.

# BIOGRAPHIES



## UNIQUE MICAL ROBINSON

(she/her)  
PLAYWRIGHT,  
*THE SLAM*

Unique Mical Robinson is a poet/  
MC, professor,

community educator, host, public speaker, and proud Baltimore City native. She received her MFA in English/Creative Writing from Mills College, and a BA in Creative Writing/Black Studies from Hampshire College. Creatively, her work engages the power of language to transmute systemic harm. Professionally, Unique has a background in Community Organizing and national Reproductive Justice work, and is a lifelong activist, with 20+ years of performance experience throughout the US and Havana, Cuba. She was the cover feature for *Baltimore Magazine's* GameChangers issue in 2022. Unique is currently the Director of MICA's MFA Community Arts Program, and a writing workshop facilitator with intergenerational communities, promoting healing through creativity.

Unique has released three poetry collections: *the chapbook, flicked/forgotten/FREED* (2014), a full length book, *Four Wings & A Prayer: A Charm City Churn* (2019), and her most recent work, *(not) in service*, published with homie house press (2024). Unique has also released musical projects under the moniker klefta\*maniak, including *vesica piscis EP* (2019), *Tha 27th Letter, Vol. I* (2019), *Tha 27th Letter, Vol. II & Vol. II: Tha Remix* (2020), *GETCHA LIFE! EP* (2021), *Cosmic Drama* (2022), and *Elevator Excursions* (2023).



## KENNETH SOMETHING

(he/him)  
PLAYWRIGHT,  
*THE SLAM*

Kenneth Something is an author, spoken word artist, organizer, educator and

playwright. However he best described as an activist. Kenneth is a four time national poetry slam champion and coach for the Baltimore Slam Team. Kenneth is the former executive director of the Pride Center of Maryland and a former professor at MICA. Currently, Kenneth is the lead producer of Charm City Slam and Program Director of Black Arts District.



## CHARLIQUE C. ROLLE

DIRECTOR, *THE SLAM*

Charlique C. Rolle is a visionary multi-disciplinary producer, storyteller, and community and cultural design specialist whose

work amplifies Black and marginalized voices while blurring the lines between art and action. Producing across theater, film, dance, and visual arts, she creates pathways for artists to expand storytelling capacity.



## MOMO NAKAMURA

CYNTHIA/KEISUN,  
*CANTON WATERFRONT*  
Momo Nakamura is

a theatre artist in the DMV area, with BA in Theatre Arts from Towson University. Momo worked as an actor at Imagination Stage, Constellation Theatre Company, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, and several other theatre companies in DMV. Momo also directed staged readings and performances for Keegan



Theatre, and locally for Strand Theatre and Baltimore Playwright Festival. Next up: film premiere of *The Ultimate Bias* (post production) and *Boiler Room Series* at Keegan.



**TUYẾT THỊ PHẠM**

BONNIE/KEIHEEN,  
CANTON  
WATERFRONT

Tuyết Thị Phạm  
is a Helen Hayes  
Award-winning artist  
recognized for her

contributions to theater, television, and film. With a career spanning over twenty years, she's participated in more than forty theater productions at venues including Everyman Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Arena Stage, Olney Theatre Center, Signature Theatre, Ford's, and The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. Her play *Dinner and Cake* premiered at Everyman Theatre in the fall of 2022. In the spring of 2023, she was commissioned to write and co-direct *Generation Rise*, which was produced by Ping Chong and Company at the Reston Arts Center. Additionally, her one-act play, *A Dozen Paper Tissue Roses*, premiered at The Gallery Players in Brooklyn, NY, in the winter of 2024. Currently, she holds the position of Associate Artistic Director at Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, MD.



**KAREN LI**

(she/her)  
PLAYWRIGHT,  
CANTON  
WATERFRONT

Karen Li is a Baltimore  
based performer with  
a Theatre and Dance

double degree from UC San Diego. She appeared onstage at Baltimore Center Stage in the ensemble of the Young Playwrights Festival '24. Recent DMV area work includes *Exclusion* (Arena

Stage), *Babel* (Contemporary American Theater Festival), *AAPL Voices* (Kennedy Center), *Boundary* (Submersive Productions), *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* (Strand Theater), and *alight, sweet hearted* (Strand Theater). Other favorite credits include *The Great Leap* (Perseverance Theatre), *The Rice Eaters* (KaniniFest), *Sunset Park* (Theaterlab), *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* (La Jolla Playhouse), and *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* (Chinese Pirate Productions). TV credits include "Dancing with the Stars" (Season 10). Karen is a collective member of Submersive Productions, and was a playwright in the Horticulture Playwrights Workshop '23-'24 cohort with Sisters Freehold.



**TERRANCE DAYE**

DIRECTOR, CANTON  
WATERFRONT

Terrance Daye is an  
award winning poet  
and filmmaker from  
Long Island, New York.

Daye received his

Bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and his Master's in Fine Arts in filmmaking at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Terrance is a two-time Spike Lee Production Fund recipient and a 2023 NewFest New Voices grant winner. Terrance's other awards include the 2020 NewFest Film Festival Emerging Black LGBTQ+ Filmmaker Award and the 2020 Outfest Film Festival Programming Award for Emerging Talent. His short film *Cherish* was selected in a Topic Original Series curated by Academy Award winner Roger Ross Williams. Also in 2020, his film - *Ship: A Visual Poem* was awarded a Short Film Jury Prize for U.S. Narrative Fiction at Sundance Film Festival and an Industry Jury Award at TheWrap's ShortList Film Festival. Terrance's most recent credits include writing on the 3x Emmy-nominated BET+ series,

# BIOGRAPHIES

"The Ms. Pat Show" and the upcoming Netflix series, "Forever", by Mara Brock Akil. His highly anticipated animated short film, *Prifty*, made possible with Powerhouse Animation Studios, is currently in development. His directorial debut feature film script, *Mandingo*, was selected top 10 in 2024's AT&T Untold Stories Competition and is also currently in development.



**KAY-MEGAN WASHINGTON**  
(she/her)  
MAHALIA LANE, *THE LAST OF POWDER CREEK*  
Kay-Megan Washington is

a seasoned stage actress in the Baltimore/DC region. Recent roles include Mrs. Muller in *Doubt* (Vagabond Players), Beatrice in *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* (Spotlighters), Vivian in *Wit* and Hermia in *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (FPCT), Ethel Green in the premiere of *Pillar Rabbit* (Baltimore Playwrights Festival), and featured roles in Dan Rodricks's plays, *Baltimore*, *You Have No Idea* and *Baltimore Docket*. Kay-Megan is also a film and television actress and an intimacy director, when not on her Muggle job with Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Website: [kay-meganwashington.com](http://kay-meganwashington.com)



**LLOYD MARCUS JASPER LANE**, *THE LAST OF POWDER CREEK*  
Company member of Chesapeake Shakespeare Company and a member of

the Black Classical Acting Ensemble, His recent credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo, Benvolio, Paris, Tybalt),

*Macbeth* (Ross, First Witch, Macduff), *The Oresteia* (Ensemble/Orestes u/s), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Asagai), *Art* by Yasmina Reza (Vagabond Players) and a staged reading of *The Last of Powder Creek* by Hess Love (Baltimore Center Stage).



**BRANDON DION GREGORY**  
THE MAN / DAVID LANE JR., *THE LAST OF POWDER CREEK*  
Brandon Dion Gregory's acting experience extends

through out large and small U.S. and international markets. Visit [www.BRANDONGREGOR.net](http://www.BRANDONGREGOR.net) for details. Critical Review: New York Times, Broadway World, Plays to See. Playhouse: S. African National Arts Festival, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Baltimore Center Stage, Pennsylvania Centre Stage and Syracuse Stage. Television: ABC, SHOWTIME, BET, TVOne. Commercial: TOYOTA, REESE'S, CRUNCH, TIM HORTON'S, and the COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME. Training: NYC, Pennsylvania State University(MFA), London, ATL. Instruction: Penn State University, New York Film Academy, Newberry College, Baltimore School for the Arts, Various Private Coaching



**MONIQUE BARNES**  
NATASHA LANE, *THE LAST OF POWDER CREEK*  
Monique is grateful to be back at Baltimore Center Stage where she made

her professional debut in the 2022 production of *Our Town*. She is a PG County native and graduate of Howard University. Recent roles include Pilar in The City of Fairfax production of *Legally*

*Blonde*. When not on a stage you can find Monique expanding young minds as a teacher at C4 Performing Arts. She deeply appreciates her village for their constant love and support over the years. She leaves you with her favorite quote for 2025, "There is no backup plan in success" - Kenan Wayans



**HESS LOVE**  
(they/them)  
PLAYWRIGHT, *THE LAST OF POWDER CREEK*

Hess Love is a poet, playwright, ethnographer, Hoodoo historian, naturalist, and environmental educator focused on Maryland's African American folk traditions and the Chesapeake Bay. Founder of the Chesapeake Conjure Society and an MFA candidate in Creative Writing, they study under Arthur Flowers in Literary Hoodoo. Hess's work documents Hoodoo as a living practice rooted in Black geographies, ritual performance, descendant stories, and AfroChesapeake memoryscapes.

A Sundress Best of the Net nominee, Hess has received support from Roots Wounds Words, Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing, Tin House, Bread Loaf Environmental Writers Conference, Voices of Our Nation (VONA), Scribente Maternum, American Folklore Society, Sundress Academy for the Arts, Lucille Clifton House, Maryland State Arts Council, and the Obsidian Foundation. They serve as Curator of Black American Religion and Spirituality for *The African American Folklorist Magazine*. In Maryland, Hess also works with descendant communities at archaeological and heritage sites, advocating for cultural care and responsible repatriation to honor AfroChesapeake heritage.

Learn more about their work at [HessLove.com](http://HessLove.com)



**CHANIA HUDSON**  
(all pronouns)  
DIRECTOR, *THE LAST OF POWDER CREEK*  
I'm Chania, co-founder of Astral Ground Productions and multidisciplinary artist

based in Baltimore. Poetry and directing are at the helm of my artistic journey at the present moment. Immersive theatre, performance, and writing are among the many other mediums that fill my cup. Previous directing credits include: *SCAT: An Ode to the Bright Eyed and Bushy Tailed* (Astral Ground Productions/The Voxel), *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Asst. Director/Baltimore Center Stage). Upcoming credits include: *Theatre-in-the-Dark Series* (Co-Producer, Co-Director, Writer/Submersive Productions/Astral Ground Productions). Check out my website, [chaniahudson.com](http://chaniahudson.com) and keep up with me on insta @chaniasungia



**AVON HAUGHTON**  
410FEST PRODUCER  
Avon Haughton is a dramaturg, film/television writer, and current steward of Baltimore Center Stage's new works

program. He is of the belief that narrative is integral to the function and preservation of community. Born and raised in Baltimore, Avon grew up seeing theatre at Baltimore Center Stage and is now thrilled to be stewarding the narratives developed and produced by the same theater that has proved epoch-making to his own artistic development. It is Avon's esteemed honor to welcome you to Baltimore

Center Stage and to the inaugural 410Fest! If you're local to Baltimore and interested in developing your play at BCS, be on the lookout for Lab410's call for submissions to join our 2025-2026 playwright's residency! Enjoy the festival!

## **ABOUT LAB410**

As part of Baltimore Center Stage's dedication to making art and cultivating artists in and around our beautiful city of Baltimore, Lab410, our playwright's residency for local writers, is grounded in our belief that our city is one of the world's greatest arts incubators. Every production we do starts with an idea, perhaps expressed in words, mostly in the form of scripts, and Lab410 gives us the chance to cultivate some of the world's best works of theater right here at home. We believe the diversity, terrain, and depth of Baltimore's culture deserves the best platforms, and this season-long playwriting residency is just one of the ways we plan to put Baltimore on the world stage. This year's cohort has worked tirelessly, shaping these new plays and readying them for 410Fest. It is important that these plays are presented to our community before they are presented to the world in perpetuity. Our fellowship, our laughs, and our applause, right here at Baltimore Center Stage, is the exact force that catapults new works into the realm of classics. Thank you for being part of what makes theatre great. Be on the lookout for Lab410's call for submissions to join our 2025-2026 playwright's residency! Learn more about us at [centerstage.org/lab410](http://centerstage.org/lab410)

## **ABOUT THE COMMUNITY MURAL AND VISION BOARD**

In celebration of the current new works of art in our city and in affirmation of the many works of art to come, Lab410, Baltimore Center Stage's local playwrights residency is calling our community to join us in creating a mural that will live in our theater; serving as an emblem of who we are and who we will continue to be: a buzzing community of artists, patrons, and supporters who believe that art is a pillar of our community. Give a word, draw a picture, leave a handprint— leave something so when new people come by or when you return, everyone can see that some of the greatest works of art are made right here at home.

# ABOUT BCS

Founded in 1963 and designated the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, Baltimore Center Stage provides the highest quality theater and programming for all members of our communities, including youth and families, under the leadership of Artistic Director Stevie Walker-Webb and Managing Director Adam Frank. Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations and imaginations by producing an eclectic season of professional productions across two mainstages and an intimate 99-seat theater, through engaging community programs, and with inspiring education programs. Everything we do at Center Stage is led by our core values—chief among them being Access For All. Our mission is heavily rooted in providing active and open accessibility for everyone, regardless of any and all barriers, to our Mainstage performances, education initiatives, and community programming.

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BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

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## I LOVE MY CITY, I LOVE MYSELF

Let's continue a 40-year legacy of honoring the power of the stories created by our state's youth who are the future of Maryland and much beyond it.

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ONE NIGHT ONLY!

**MAY 15 - JUNE 15**

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WORDS OF HIS GREATEST  
ADMIRER... *HIMSELF*

WRITTEN BY

**MATTHEW WEINER**

DIRECTED BY

**STEVIE WALKER-WEBB**

STARRING **BEN AHLERS**



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