

**the  
process  
series**

NEW WORKS IN  
DEVELOPMENT

# *Ahkelo's Walk*

by visual artist **Annette Lawrence**  
and poet **Nikky Finney**

**April 17 & 18, 2026**

**Black Box Theatre at Swain Hall**

The UNC Process Series, Department of Communication,  
StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance,  
and the UNC Department of Art and Art History

UNC - Chapel Hill  
Department of Communications

## About the Artists



**Nikky Finney** is the author of *On Wings Made of Gauze*, *Rice*, *The World is Round*, and *Head Off & Split*, which won the National Book Award for Poetry in 2011. Her new collection, *Love Child's Hotbed of Occasional Poetry*, was released in 2020. Finney is Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, where she is also Director of the Ernest A. Finney, Jr. Cultural Arts Center.



**Annette Lawrence's** achievements include a 2018 MacDowell Fellowship, the 2015 Moss/Chumley Award, and participation in the 1997 Whitney Biennial. After teaching at the University of North Texas (1996-2021) and Bennington College (2021-2023), she now serves as Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Art and Art History at UNC-Chapel Hill. Lawrence divides her time between North Carolina and Georgia, where she is developing an artist residency called West Orchid.



**Okorie "OkCello" Johnson**, an Atlanta-based cellist-composer, looper, improviser, and storyteller, has been featured on the Tamron Hall Show, has been a recipient of the The Kennedy Center Office Hours Artist Residency, and was accepted as a sound installation artist for the Democratic Republic of Congo's 2022 Biennale. He has also earned a regional Emmy for his score of an *Atlanta Journal Constitution* documentary *Imperfect Alibi*, and a Suzi Bass Award for his score of an Alliance Theatre children's theatre show, *Head to Toe*. His work centers on themes and expressions of the African Diaspora, while also exploring the phenomenon of musical prayer. Drawing upon his experience as a teacher and writer, OkCello immerses his audiences in vivid stories and songs, creating a richly layered, transcendent concert experience, while also working with companies and educational institutions to leverage the power of music and storytelling to help solve problems and create community.

## Our Sponsors

Our 18th season is based in the Department of Communication, supported by StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance, and is co-sponsored by The College of Arts and Sciences, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, and these UNC Departments and Programs: American Studies, Art and Art History, Communication, Creative Writing, Dramatic Art, English and Comparative Literature, Music, and Philosophy. This project is also supported by the generosity of donors like you.

# **Ahkelo's Walk**

by **Annette Lawrence** (visual artist) and **Nikky Finney** (poet)  
accompanied by **Okorie "OkCello" Johnson**

directed by **Joseph Megel**

**Movements, in order, selected by chance:**

*Anything*

*Everything*

*Something*

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*The galactic images in the Everything Movement are made from more than 678 exposures taken by NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory in just over seven hours of observing time, the images explore details in the region containing the Trifid nebula, and the Lagoon nebula, which are several thousand light years away from Earth.*

Credit: NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory

## **Production Staff**

Founding Artistic Director.....**Joseph Megel**  
Acting Director.....**Irina Kruchinina**  
Technical Director.....**Will Bosley**  
Assistant TD & Board Op.....**Grant Sizemore**

## **Designs**

Graphic Design & Marketing Assistant.....**Grace Liu**  
Box Office.....**India Nykamp**  
Brochure Design.....**Lesley Landis**

## **Performers**

Consultant.....**Azul Ekundayo**  
Shadow Puppeteers.....**Nicole Winbush & Sharon P. Holland**

## **For Department of Communication**

Chair: **Avi Santo**

Department Manager: **Ning Sun**

Administrative Support Associate: **Tyler Gilmore**

Marketing Coordinator: **Jasmyn Fritz**

## **For StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance**

Producing Director: **Elisabeth Lewis Corley**

Artistic Director: **Joseph Megel**

# THANK YOU

*Thank you for supporting 18 seasons of The Process Series.  
You helped make this possible.*

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