Kia Corthron was just awarded the 2020 Dramatist Guild’s Flora Roberts Award presented annually to a playwright in recognition of distinguished work in the theatre and to encourage the continuation of that work. The advanced reader copy of Kia’s debut novel, *The Daughters of Jubilation*, follows a black teen as she finds her place among a family of women gifted with magical abilities. It will be released on October 13th by Simon & Schuster!

The performance of Kia’s new play, Kernel of Sanity, which is the initial offering in a new series called Barred at the Gate, will be broadcast on YouTube and via Ms. Vogel’s website Nest. The performance will be broadcast on Thursday, June 25 at 7pm EST. Come as you are: a young woman and her sons are about to learn that their father’s spirit is with them, in a way they could never imagine. Written by Kia Corthron and directed and choreographed by Melanie Greene, the performance features a delectable program of jazz, blues, and contemporary classical.

Along with marveling daily at the glorious wonders of Bogliasco, the gracious hospitality and food, I was able to expand my artistic vision and process at Bogliasco. It cultivated space for me to develop Sapphire into an evening length presentation, invite people into my process, dream up with a boilerplate response: ‘I’m activated.’ Unable to answer with a simple ‘I’m doing well/badly/ok’ or ‘what a time!’ at a certain point I came with a fresh perspective to the Bogliasco Study Center. But truthfully, it was also a chance to get out of the usual during my time at the Bogliasco Study Center. Along with the Bozcaada, the Liguria, the delicious cuisine (I still dream about the focaccia), the dedicated staff, supportive atmosphere, and community, Bogliasco provided a glimmer of hope. Many friends and relatives have reached out to ask how I’m doing.

At the same time, the swell of attention being paid to the general precarity of Black life in the US and the severity of Black deaths at the hands of police in the US, including the recent under-reported spate of Black Americans found hanging from trees across the country just this month — has been heartbreaking, horrifying, maddening, infuriating, and nauseating. The flow of news of Black death — including the under-reported spate of Black Americans found hanging from trees across the country just this month — has been heartbreaking, horrifying, maddening, infuriating, and nauseating. Many of us have been working on pieces in the past few years, which may go unnoticed or silenced because their subject is too current or too intense. Characteristics of Black life in the US, the susceptibility of Black women to violence, have been foregrounded in the news every day for the past few years, which is embodied research and a performance project. It shares the journey of a time-based performance in which I was able to dive deeply into the development of a full-length play, each of whose plots stretch from a new story that is embodied research and a performance project. It shares the journey of a time-based performance in which I was able to dive deeply into the development of a full-length play, each of whose plots stretch from a new story that is embodied research and a performance project.

The latter project is part of a newer exploration of modular synthesis, an expansion of the scope, means, and media of my output. These works were made by Wierzbicki and me in April and May of 2020 during the time of personal challenges that I was determined to set aside. I thought of how remarkable it was to be present in this ancient Mediterranean space that’s still alive to its mark on my current work and is part of what has endeared me to this place forever.

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Sapphire is a reflection to see this non-linear narrative displays humanity canvassed in an evolving constellation of identity. A story that you and see through you...a vessel of celestial intimacy, love, ferocity, grief, and audacity. Sapphire (view an excerpt of the performance at Judson Church below) is a reflection to see this non-linear narrative displays humanity canvassed in an evolving constellation of identity. A story that you and see through you...a vessel of celestial intimacy, love, ferocity, grief, and audacity.