



## **Elbow Room - explores the complexities of Black Women's experiences with competition, ambition and self-reliance - opens at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Toronto Fringe Festival on Thursday, July 4, 2019**

### ***For Immediate Release***

Toronto: June 7, 2019 – ***Elbow Room***, a debut theatrical production from playwright Lana Lovell, of Gloria Grethel Productions, opens at the Toronto Fringe Festival on Thursday, July 4, 2019 at 8:15pm in the Annex Theatre. The one act play is directed by veteran actor Conrad Coates (***Star Trek: Discovery***, ***Degrassi: The Next Generation***), and features performances from a cast of burgeoning multi-racial Toronto actors.

***Elbow Room*** unites a group of actors at an audition for the lead role in a remake of the iconic “Cleopatra Jones,” Black exploitation film. The women of ***Elbow Room*** are ensnared in the competitive nature of the scenario, and find themselves trading barbs, information and insights as they jostle for psychic position.

“I’ve elbowed my way into this audition because I’m the person to play Cleopatra Jones”, says Nancy, the play’s antagonist. Together with her frenemy, acting rival Saada and newcomer Kia, tension boils hot as they revisit past differences, all the while giving the casting assistant, Hanna a bird’s eye view.

“This is a story rooted in women’s pursuit of excellence. The rivalries, victories, injuries and absurdities in ***Elbow Room*** provide a glimpse into that space where women experience growth as they become their better selves.” Lana Lovell, playwright.

During the past 20 years, Lana Lovell has written, directed and produced documentaries and factual based programs for CBC, Bravo television, and Omni Television. Since 1985, Conrad Coates has acted in theatre, film, television and radio and performed in over 60 stage productions across the continent. ***Elbow Room*** is his third directorial opportunity.

Gloria Grethel Productions  
Elbow Room  
Producer/Writer Lana Lovell  
Director Conrad Coates

***Elbow Room*** runs from Thursday, July 4 to Sunday July 14, 2019

### **Performances:**

July 4, 8:15pm  
July 6, 1:15pm  
July 8, 3:45pm, R  
July 9, 9:15pm, R  
July 12, 6:30pm  
July 13, 2:30pm  
July 14, 6:00pm

***Please note that latecomers will not be accommodated, except at relaxed performances (R).***

Annex Theatre  
736 Bathurst St  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 1Z5

Tickets, which go on sale on Monday, June 9, 2019, are available for purchase at:  
<https://fringetoronto.com/fringe/show/elbow-room>

By Phone: 416-966-1062

In Person: During the festival at POSTSCRIPT, the patio at the Toronto Fringe. Located in the Hockey Rink at 275 Bathurst Street (Dundas + Bathurst).

**Contact information:**

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