



Photos by jonathan hsu

S A M E B U T D I F F E R E N T

Creators and Performers

Christal Brown and Lida Winfield

Composers

Philippe Bronchtein and Farai Malianga

Director of Photography

Sam Kann

Assistant Camera

Matteo Moretti

Dramaturge

Michole Biancosino

Lighting Design

Jennifer Ponder

Costume Design

Carol Wood

Hair

Sandra Onanuga

Special Thanks

Ethan Murphy

Shari Majeski, closed captioning

This work is made possible through the generous support of the Flynn Center for Performing Arts, National Performance Network, Middlebury Performing Arts Series, and *Same but Different* Process Pass holders.

This work is dedicated to:

Ted Winfield - Lida's dad

Maurice and Jacqueline Brown - Christal's parents

Christal's Essential Eight: Tikela Evans, Curtesa

Farrow, Cenithia Tice, Alicia Hasan, Sheri Johnson,

Kamille Jones, Stefanie Stevens, and Lenita Willis

About Same but Different

In 2016, Lida Winfield and I were teaching at the Bates Young Dancers Festival. Although we had mingled in many professional circles, we didn't know each other very well. After watching Lida interact with the students and our colleagues, I began to notice how alike we were. I approached Lida, and in my flippant and visionary tone said, "We should make a piece called *Same but Different* that highlights our similarities but how because of what we look like the world may never connect the dots."

Subsequently, Lida became my colleague at Middlebury College and the hustle and bustle of academia and artistry put this idea on hold.

As I began to prepare for sabbatical in January of 2020, Lida and I began devising a rehearsal and collaboration schedule for *Same but Different*.

COVID moved us out of the studio and into my garage and instead of an in-person premiere, the sharing of this work is digital. Our collaborators Philippe Bronchtein, Michael Biancosino, Sam Kann, Farai Malianga, Jennifer Ponder, Carol Wood, and the Middlebury Performing Arts Series have been instrumental in keeping this project alive alongside the Flynn Center.

Our friendship, respect for one another, perseverance, and artistry have been inspiring and I can't wait to share this work with you.—*Christal Brown*



About the Creators

Christal Brown is the founder of Inspirit and Project: Becoming, the creator of the Liquid Strength Training Module for Dance, an Associate Professor of Dance at Middlebury College, and the CVO of Steps and Stages Coaching, LLC. Brown received a BFA in dance and a minor in Business from the University of North Carolina Greensboro, and her MFA in New Media Art and Technology from Long Island University. Brown is a native of Kinston, NC where, while serving as her mother's sidekick, she learned

the mechanisms of cultural organizing and the organic synthesis of art and activism. Her path of self-discovery has been influenced by trailblazers such as Chuck Davis, Bill T. Jones, Andrea E. Woods, Liz Lerman, Bebe Miller, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar.

Brown is a mover and a warrior of change and transformation. She combines her athleticism, creativity, love for people, and passion for teaching to create works that redefine the art of dance, the creation of identity, and structures of power.

For more information: www.christalbrown.com

Lida Winfield is an innovative and accomplished dancer, choreographer, spoken word artist, and educator who has created original work merging storytelling, dance, and visual art. As an artist, educator, and keynote presenter, she has performed and taught nationally and internationally in traditional and non-traditional environments.

Winfield's artistic practice is inextricably linked to her role as an educator and her pedagogy is rooted in inclusion, access, and the recognition that our brains and bodies work differently, and this difference is a valuable asset. She encourages her students and audiences to see themselves, their bodies, and their environment from new angles. She cultivates opportunities and experiences that are deeply transformative. What transpires within the teaching and performing environment is integrated and transferred out into the world, allowing it to live beyond the confines of the classroom or stage. Winfield studied at the School for New Dance Development in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and in 2011 earned a MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College, VT, with a focus on the transformative power of the expressive arts. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Dance Department at Middlebury College.

For more information: www.lidawinfield.com

We want to hear from you! Please share your experiences of this performance and your anecdotes of life with us on our facebook page @sdbdance

To share Same but different with your community or to schedule a workshop, drop us a line at crystal@crystalbrown.com or lida@lidawinfield.com

Land Acknowledgement

Middlebury College sits on land which has served as a site of meeting and exchange among indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The Western Abenaki are the traditional caretakers of these Vermont lands and waters, which they call Ndakinna, or "homeland." We remember their connection to this region and the hardships they continue to endure. We give thanks for the opportunity to share in the bounty of this place and to protect it.

Thanks to generous support from Raphael and Jane Bernstein,
the CMS: FRONT ROW broadcasts are free of charge
to our Middlebury campus and community.

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