



## FACT SHEET

# FELA!

Music and lyrics by **Fela Kuti**  
Book by **Bill T. Jones and Jim Lewis**  
(Additional music by Aaron Johnson and Jordan McLean)  
Co-Produced with Round House Theatre

## CAST

<b>Fela</b>	Duain Richmond*
<b>Funmilayo</b>	Melody A. Betts*
<b>Sandra</b>	Shantel Cribbs*
<b>Ensemble</b>	Bryan Archibald
<b>Ensemble</b>	Terrence J. Bennett
<b>Ensemble</b>	Simone Brown
<b>Ensemble</b>	Patrick Leonardo Casimir
<b>Ensemble</b>	Jyreika Guest
<b>Ensemble</b>	Bryan Jeffrey
<b>Ensemble</b>	Raquel Jennings*
<b>Ensemble</b>	Emmanuel Kikoni*^
<b>Ensemble</b>	Raven Lorraine*
<b>Ensemble</b>	Vaughn Ryan Midder*
<b>Ensemble/Djembe Player</b>	Themba Mkhathshwa
<b>Ensemble</b>	Yewande Odetoyinbo*
<b>Ensemble</b>	Jantanies Thomas
<b>Ensemble</b>	Galen J. Williams*
<b>Ensemble</b>	Jalisa Williams*
<b>Ensemble</b>	Kanysha Williams

## UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never appear for a listed player unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

Fela - GALEN J. WILLIAMS\*, Funmilayo - YEWANDE ODETOYINBO\*

Sandra - KANYSHA WILLIAMS

Swings: MALACHI ALEXANDER, SHAWNA WILLIAMS

Onstage Swings: EMMANUEL KIKONI\* & JYREIKA GUEST

## CREATIVE TEAM

<b>Director</b>	Lili-Anne Brown
<b>Choreographer</b>	Breon Arzell
<b>Music Director</b>	S. Renee Clark
<b>Scenic Designer</b>	Arnel Sancianco
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Rueben Echoles
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Sherrice Mojgani
<b>Projections Designer</b>	Kelly Colburn
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Matt Rowe
<b>Intimacy Consultant</b>	Jyreika Guest
<b>Dialect Coach</b>	Kim James Bey
<b>Production Stage Manager</b>	Jamie Berry*

\*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

^Dance Captain

## Band

<b>Conductor/Piano</b>	S. Renee Clark
<b>Drums/Assistant Music Director</b>	Lorenzo Sanford
<b>Congas/Percussion</b>	Carroll (CV) Dashiell
<b>Trumpet</b>	Joe Herrera
<b>Trombone</b>	Christopher Steele
<b>Tenor Sax</b>	Brent Birkhead
<b>Baritone Sax</b>	Leigh Pilzer
<b>Guitar</b>	Deante Haggerty-Willis
<b>Guitar</b>	Dokun Oke
<b>Bass</b>	Reginald Payne

Previews: **July 7 - 12, 2023**

Invited Press Opening: **Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 8:00 PM**

**Runs through August 13, 2023**

Regular performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 8:00 PM and matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 PM, and Wednesdays at 2:00 PM on July 12, 26, and August 2.

**Please note:** At select Saturday and Wednesday matinees beginning July 22, the role of Fela Kuti, normally played by Duain Richmond will be played by Galen J. Williams.

There will be a **sign-interpreted performance on Thursday, August 10 at 8:00 PM** and an **audio-described performance for the blind and visually impaired on July 19 at 8:00 PM**. Audience members who wish to use these services should contact Weldon Brown, Director of Sales and Audience Experience (wbrown@olneytheatre.org) to confirm.

GalaPro captions will be available on your personal digital device. Download the app for IOS or Android.

Effects Warning: This production of *Fela!* uses theatrical haze, fog, incense, and loud sounds of simulated gunfire.

Tickets are available from \$42 - \$100 and can be purchased at [olneytheatre.org](http://olneytheatre.org) or 301-924-3400. Discounts available for groups, seniors, military and students.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Effective March 27, 2023, face masks are recommended, but no longer required to attend events in any of our performance spaces. Proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test is no longer required.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### NIGERIAN STORY HOUR AT OLNEY LIBRARY

Sunday June 25, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Olney Public Library

Free

As part of our celebration of *Fela!*, we're sponsoring a morning of stories at the Olney Public Library hosted by Femi Fakinlede. This is a free family event appropriate for all ages, especially toddlers, preschoolers, and young children. Books to be read are chosen with the help of the Olney librarian.

### PAN-AFRICAN ART HAPPY HOUR AT ÈKÓ HOUSE

Friday June 30th 2023 at 5:00 PM

Èkó House

If you've been to Èkó House before, you know the restaurant is a feast for the stomach and the eyes! Join us for a happy hour hang-out that will transport you to the city of Lagos. African fine art will be on display, with some items up for sale, and a DJ will play suave and bumpin Nigerian beats.

### OPENING NIGHT PANEL: PERFORMANCE AND POLITICAL RESISTANCE

Thursday July 13, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Roberts Mainstage

\$10/Free for Olney Theatre members and Round House subscribers

Learn more about Fela Kuti and the history of political resistance through art and music with Stephanie Shonekan, professor of ethnomusicology and dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Maryland, poet and theatre artist and activist Christopher Prince, and multidisciplinary performance and visual artist Holly Bass.

### FASHION SHOW & TRUNK SALE

Saturday July 22, 2023 at 4:00 PM

1938 Original Theatre

Free

Our first ever fashion show features the works of local Nigerian designer Busayo Salahdeen, creative director of Bibiré International. Bibiré (bee-bee-ray) is a Black woman-owned business creating high-end clothing with an Afropolitan vibe.

### HOW TO DANCE AFROBEAT

Sunday July 30, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Omi's Pavilion

\$10

These Afrobeat-inspired dances will get you moving to music from all over West Africa.

### VIVA AFRICA! COMMUNITY NIGHT AT OLNEY THEATRE

Thursday August 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM

\$45 (Ticket includes Community Night mixer and theatre ticket)

Join us to celebrate VIVA AFRICA! Community Night with a special offer for \$45 tickets to the regional premiere of *Fela!* and pre-show mixer! This is an affinity space; an opportunity for those who identify as of the African diaspora to experience art and celebrate their heritage in community.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS (continued)

### SCREENING AT THE AFI SILVER: "FINDING FELA"

Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 6:45 PM

AFI Silver Theatre (8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910)

\$8 - \$13

**FINDING FELA** tells the story of Nigerian singer Fela Anikulapo Kuti's life, his music and his social and political importance. He created a new musical movement, Afrobeat, using that forum to express his revolutionary political opinions against the dictatorial Nigerian government of the 1970s and '80s. His influence helped bring a change toward democracy in Nigeria and promoted Pan-Africanist politics to the world. The power and potency of Fela's message is completely current today and is expressed in the political movements of oppressed people, who embrace Fela's music and message in their struggle for freedom. Directed by Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney (TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE). (Note courtesy of Kino Lorber.) DIR/PROD Alex Gibney; PROD Jack Gulick. U.S., 2014, color/b&w, 119 min. NOT RATED

## ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

### Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

### Vision

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

### History

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center (OTC) now produces world and American premieres of plays and musicals, and reimaginings of familiar titles year-round; presents the work of leading companies and artists; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors a more inclusive generation of theatremakers. For more than 8 decades, OTC has brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in the Washington, DC region.

Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia d'Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, among many, many others.

Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non profit organizations and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, and are a driving force behind the region's creative economy.

As of September 2021, Olney Theatre Center employed 40 full time staff, 20 part-time positions, 26 early career apprentices and players, and more than 400 professional artists. The Theatre intends to continue expanding to better meet the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit [olneytheatre.org/history](http://olneytheatre.org/history)

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok @olneytheatre and on Facebook at [facebook.com/olneytheatre](https://www.facebook.com/olneytheatre).

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