



PINKSTER

JOY IS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE!

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PINKSTER: JOY IS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE **A CONTEMPORARY CELEBRATION OF PINKSTER** *JUNE 4, 5, AND 8, 2022 IN KINGSTON, NY!*

KINGSTON, NY --- TRANSART & Cultural Services (TRANSART) announces its first annual *Pinkster: Joy Is An Act of Resistance* celebration with a three-day event that is rooted in the shared history of Ulster County residents and those who value African American traditions. It will take place **Saturday, June 4 - Sunday, June 5, 2022**, and **Wednesday, June 8, 2022**, at various venues in the Mid-Hudson Valley. The program highlights are varied, dynamic, and include a day party, public discussions, reenactments, live performances, food tasting, vendors, and more! Programs are free and open to the public. For the full calendar of events, please visit: <http://www.transartinc.org/pinkster>

WHAT IS PINKSTER?

The celebration of Pinkster was brought to North America by Dutch colonists and settlers in the 17th century and flourished as a primarily African American holiday celebrated by enslaved African Americans and freed Black people. The Dutch observed Pentecost (*Pinksteren* in Dutch) as a religious holiday by attending church services and functions. For Africans, it was an opportunity to meet up with the family and loved ones they were ordinarily separated from and have agency over their lives. It was also a time to share, express, and pass on their African culture and traditions. TRANSART's Pinkster is a contemporary expression of this historic celebration. The three-day celebration reimagines the event and ponders the question "How would we celebrate Pinkster if it had never been abolished?" The answer is an Afrofuturist exploration that is both respectful of the traditions and focused on the future.

Greer Smith, founder and CEO of TRANSART, explains: *Pinkster: Joy Is An Act of Resistance* aims to celebrate and illustrate "what is central to the identity of the people of New York State and the culture that informs what is America today. For over two decades we have done groundbreaking work in cultural programming here in the Mid-Hudson Valley. This year we look at the Africans who landed on the shores of New Netherland and what they brought with them. In this program, joy translates into spirit – the spirit of our people that shows up in dance, music, food, and cultural practices. Joy is the spirit that sustained an enslaved people in the face of dire circumstances and often extreme hardship. So, from a religious perspective, Pinkster is the joy of spring expressed in Pentecost and it is also the joy of spirit that lives in all people in a shared community. Rooted in both the African and Dutch experiences of the 17th Century, Pinkster belongs to us all."

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ABOUT THE PINKSTER2022 CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

On **Saturday, June 4th**, attendees will experience the roots of the Congo with a performance by **Mfouambila Kongo Dance Company**, a New York City-based dance and drum collective that preserves the traditional rhythms of the Congo fusing it with infectious energy and hypnotic groove. The event will take place at the Sojourner Truth Statue/Walkway Over the Hudson Park Visitor's Center, Highland, NY.

Additionally, the program features ***Raw Truth, A Short Play About Sojourner Truth***, as well as ***Seeking Truth***, a virtual museum that tells the life story of Sojourner Truth. Attendees can participate online from anywhere or in-person at the Kingston Library.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

The celebration continues at the Old Dutch Church and will explore Pinkster through spirit, music, and discussion with a **Pinkster Talk & Performance: Joy Is An Act of Resistance!** The event features **Chief Baba Neil Clarke**, a master percussionist, scholar and key member of the **Pinkster Players**; **Lavada Nahon**, Interpreter of African American history, New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation; **Alex LaSalle**, a spiritual leader and founder of **Alma Moyo** (a NYC-based bomba musical ensemble); and **Dr. Cesi Davidson**, an author, playwright and scholar. The program will be moderated by artist, curator, and lecturer **C. Daniel Dawson**, an adjunct professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies Department Columbia University.

The **Pinkster Walk**, led by the Pinkster Players, Chief Baba Neil Clarke, and **Pastor Rob** will celebrate the religious roots and joyous spirit of Pinkster. The community will "dance the plank" from the Old Dutch Church to St. James Church (where Sojourner Truth worshipped), and then to the Pinkster celebration at Academy Green. The celebration at Academy Green will include music by **DJ Stormin Norman**; tastings of Afro-Dutch inspired foodways with **Tonya Hopkins: The Food Griot**; performances by the Pinkster Players featuring Chief Baba Neil Clarke, Keith Johnston, and Marcha Tracey; Congolese dance by **FUSHA Dance Troupe**; a presentation of *Raw Truth: A Short Play About Sojourner Truth*; and a percussion and dance performance by **Alma Moyo**.

As an additional unique feature, families will be able to share their stories at the **Family History Booth**, as well as shop from a variety of cultural inspired vendors throughout the day.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

The Pinkster celebration continues at the Rosendale Theater with award-winning filmmaker **Haile Gerima** for a discussion and a screening of his celebrated classic work, **Sankofa!** The film follows Mona (Oyafunmike Ogunlano), a Black American fashion model on a photoshoot in Cape Coast, Ghana. Through Mr. Gerima's imaginative storytelling, Mona undergoes a journey back in time to a plantation in North America. There, she confronts her African ancestral identity and experience.

6 PINKSTER2022 EVENTS (with Registration Links)

1. Saturday, June 4: [Pinkster2022: Moufuambila Kongo Dance Company](#)
2. Saturday, June 4: [Pinkster2022: Raw Truth, A Short Play About Sojourner Truth](#)
3. Saturday, June 4: [Pinkster2022: Seeking Truth, A Metaverse/Virtual Reality Project](#)
4. Sunday, June 5: [Pinkster Sunday at the Old Dutch Church](#)
5. Sunday, June 5: [Pinkster2022: The Pinkster Walk](#)
6. Sunday, June 5: [Pinkster2022 Celebration: Day Party and Market at Academy Greene](#)
7. Wednesday, June 8: [Pinkster2022 Film Screening: Sankofa by Haile Gerima](#)

DIRECTIONS and INFORMATION REGARDING PINKSTER2022 VENUES

1. Walkway Over The Hudson (Visitor Center): Click [HERE](#).
2. Old Dutch Church: Click [HERE](#).
3. Academy Green Park: Click [HERE](#).
4. Rosendale Theatre: Click [HERE](#).

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- National Park Services: <https://www.nps.gov/afbg/learn/historyculture/pinkster.htm>
- Hudson Valley: <https://hudsonvalley.org/article/what-is-pinkster/>
- National Park Services: <https://www.nps.gov/afbg/learn/historyculture/pinkster.htm>

PINKSTER2022 PARTNERS

The project is supported in part with an award from the **National Endowment of the Arts (NEA)**. TRANSART acknowledges its other distinguished partners: **Radio Kingston, Old Dutch Church, Center for Creative Education, YMCA, Kingston Interfaith Alliance, Kingston Ministerial Alliance, City of Kingston, Kingston Library, My Kingston Kids, Ulster County, Rosendale Theater, Rondout Valley Growers Association, ImageNation Film Festival, and Sundae Sermon.**

MEDIA CONTACTS

Pinkster2022 organizers, artists, and performers are available for interviews. Requests are directed to April R. Silver pr@akilaworksongs.com and/or Lea Byrd lea@akilaworksongs.com at AKILA WORKSONGS. Call (718) 756-8501 (office) or DM [@akilaworksongs](https://twitter.com/akilaworksongs) on Twitter and Instagram.



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