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## **CHIEF AYANDA CLARKE TAPPED AS *SYNCING INK*'S SPIRITUAL ADVISOR AND CULTURAL DIRECTOR. THE OFF-BROADWAY PRODUCTION IS COMING TO THE APOLLO'S VICTORIA THEATER: MAY 2024**

■ **WHO:** Chief Ayanda Ifadara Clarke [pronounced "ah-yan-DAH EE-fa-darah"], Ajibilu Awo of Osogboland (GRAMMY® Award-Winning Master Percussionist) is both Spiritual Advisor and Cultural Director of the upcoming Off-Broadway debut of *Syncing Ink*. Written and conceived by **Nsangou Njikam** [pronounced "San-GOO JEE-kam"], the play is a hip-hop centered, coming-of-age tale rooted in the art and value of ceremony and traditional African spirituality.

■ **WHAT:** *Syncing Ink* examines the evolution of a *wannabe* emcee, Gordon Morris. Gordon's epic journey to accept the power of his words is as relatable as it is humorous. **Common**, the GRAMMY Award-winning artist, describes the play as "a beautiful piece blending hip-hop and theater creating a revolutionary experience..."

The *Syncing Ink* story relies on hip hop's creative ceremonies and the ceremonies' connection to spirituality. That is where Chief Ayanda enters. Clarke (a Brooklyn-born-and-raised African) is an Orisa, Ifa, and Egungun (Ancestor) initiate who is widely respected for his adherence to traditional African culture, particularly as expressed (for hundreds of years) by native Yoruba and Yoruba in the Diaspora.

About his unique roles, Chief Ayanda shares: "*Syncing Ink is true to form in its authentic storytelling, its theater roots, and its hip hop expressions. In the same way that it masterfully upholds these customs, I seek to ensure that Yoruba and Orisa culture —from Yorubaland and its Diaspora, are baked into the essence of the play's language, music, fashion, and iconography.*"

■ **WHEN** and **WHERE:** Previews for this limited engagement begin **Tuesday, May 7, 2024** (at The Apollo's Victoria Theater located at 233 W. 125th Street | New York, New York 10027).

■ **ADDITIONAL CREDITS:** *Syncing Ink* is directed by **Awoye Timpo** and choreographed by **Adesola Osakalumi**. Original music is composed by **Kyleel "Proda" Rolle** and **Professor Sybil R. Williams** (Director of African American & African Diaspora Studies, American University) serves as dramaturg. **Victoria Weinberg** of Just V Productions and **Ezra Ezzard** of Artification are the producers and Nathan Gehan's ShowTown Productions is the executive producer of *Syncing Ink*. | [www.SyncingInk.com](http://www.SyncingInk.com)

Learn more about Chief Ayanda at [www.THEFADARAGROUP.com](http://www.THEFADARAGROUP.com)