

NOTE: Font type denotes lead speaker. Movement/layering text/choral telling are integral to the telling.

delta dandi

Ritual/Jazz Theatre

Written by Sharon Bridgforth

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the room was dark always dark. standing in the dark i watch her in the
mirror as she brush her long black hair. flowing down her body her long
black hair the brush brushing she look herself in the eye and smile.
come here gal she whisper. every night every night the same

she hit me she hit me she always hit me with brush and broom with stick
and fist she hit me in the night. cursing she drag me to the shed in the
woods and slam and chain the door. nobody hear you crying gal cept the
devil out here in the dark. scared to scream to tremble to moan i stop
breathing don't breathe till morning. shed not big enough to stretch. i
stand in pools of piss with maggots swarming. wake in a ball on the floor
in wet with stink and bugs and heat and haunting. i hear her through the
broken slats. always she fling the door open with the sun and pull me out
by my hair. must tend field and house before eat.

why nobody come. why they not come get me. why i here i wonder every
day every day every day i hate her. must hide thoughts. can't
breathe. no talk. no mumble. no scream. my kin live down the dirt road.
they sold me i think to the devil for a few chickens and
a barrel of shine.

with bruised body and heavy eyes i sag in my spirit and spine.

i five. i think.

~ ~ ~ ~

the first hands that took me was black/dark as the night.

grabbed my mama

used our own traditions to take us/used prayers we prayed

to hold in place what already was .

our king sent them to carry away carry away many.

they got my mama. i was in she.

nobody knew.

i grow in the pen/in mama.

they keep her caged

wait till price high enough to sell she.

they feed and watch till then.

thunder. drums. fire. dance.

red white.

bananas green.

friday saturday.

good times.

okra. corneal. rooster. apples.

double axe. 6. ache now ache you

ache king. ache.

full moon. blood red. follow follow mama.

packed sealed.

below deck.

backs open.

flesh stench.

blood vomit. bowels loosed.

mucus and. broken spirits.

she born to that

~ ~ ~ ~

she was a boy born a girl till she became a man then a woman now both
i i i he was a girl then a woman till she became a young man with flowing
hips and hair i i i he a man then a boy i i i she a man she a woman i i
i him. she perfect perfectly made perfectly made for us for we himshe
boygirl manwoman girlwoman man young woman spirit man girl child boy
grown now now now himshe now now now herhe now now now weus i i i

~ ~ ~ ~