

service

5th anniversary
maven.
Maven Leadership Collective

“I can’t believe
what you say,
because I see
what you do.”

—**James Baldwin**

LIP service explores the tension between the rhetoric used to hold power and the language of liberation. Compelling visuals, sound, light, and the written word create an immersive experience that invites us to interrogate the public discourse on identity, solidarity, and progress. The piece’s structure and rhythm mirrors the familiar call and response of some faith traditions by juxtaposing expectations of grace with demands for action. We are left to ponder our own contribution to building a more just, connected, and compassionate existence for all of us in society.

LIP service is presented to mark the fifth anniversary of Maven Leadership Collective.

Nadege Green (she | her)

Jasmen Rogers (she | her)

Arsimmer McCoy (she | her)

Juan Matos (he | him) Director & Cinematographer

Monica Sorelle (she | her) Editor

Vanessa Charlot (she | her) Portraits

Visit vimeo.com/mavenleaders to experience LipService

Maven Leadership Collective consistently invests in queer and trans social impact leaders of color and our allies to build more resilient communities that thrive even in crisis, tragedy, and transition.

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Lest We Forget

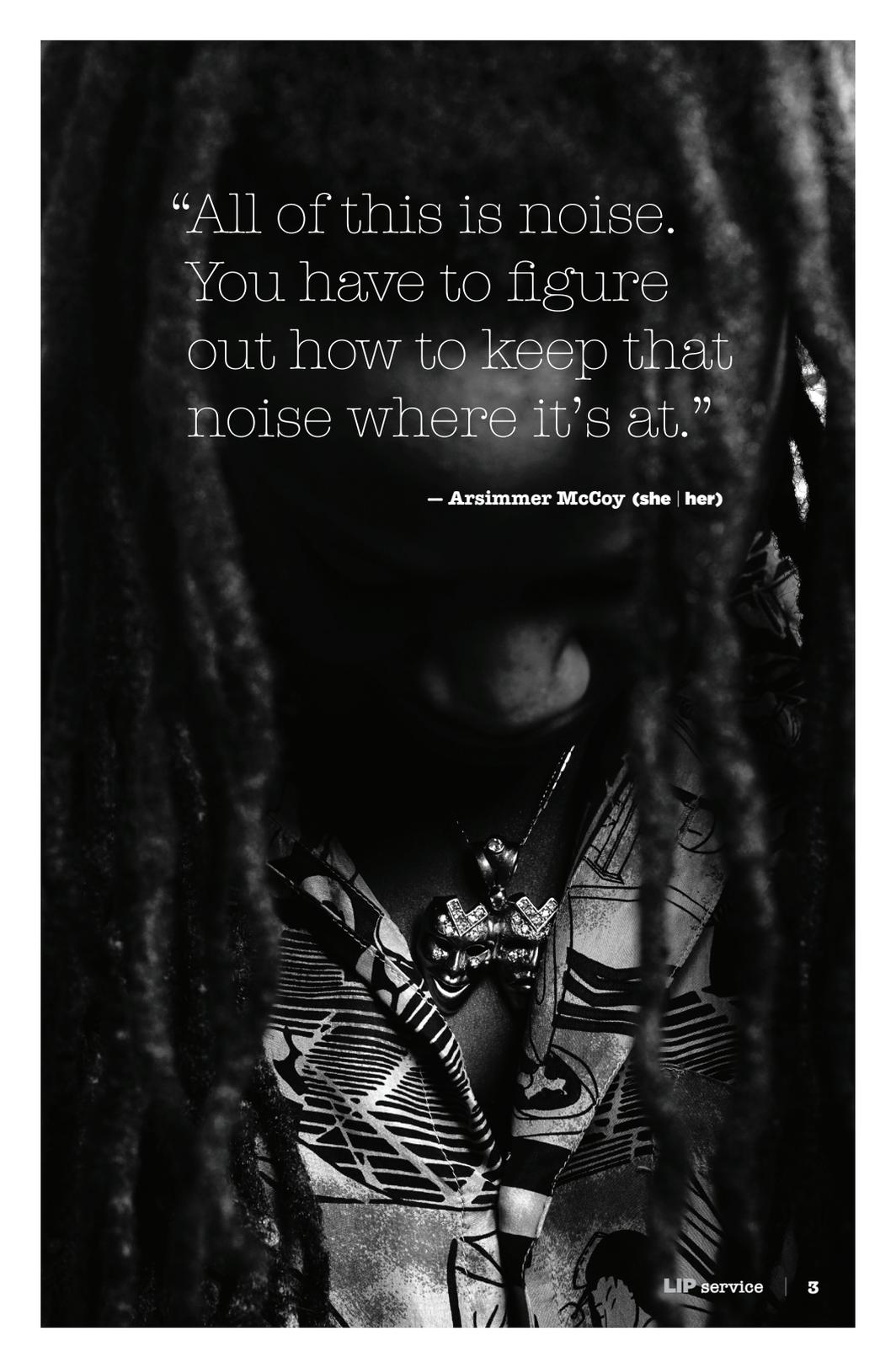
**By: Arsimmer McCoy
for the Maven
Leadership Collective**

We are Marvels
Molded from Pouring Pots of capable hands
And Tone Language
Our ears are fine tuned to harmonic
Progression
Everything else is noise
Dead words spat into
A box fan collecting
Dust
Anything that don't
Sound like the striking red sternum and jade
Rooster announcing the sun
Or a whispered blessing in a
crowded room
Is noise
Anything that don't sound
Like brush strokes
Or deep belly laughter
Is static
When your reach is above ground
Gravity can be loud
Can be confusion folded into commotion
That descending whistle wind
Luring you back down
Is a lie
There are prayers etched on our tongues
let your words float
Let your voice be both bass
& treble & grace & story
Let The threading of your vocal Chords
be silk stitched intentional Benevolence
Marvel
May you always be unchained melody
Over flat notes
Marvel
You turn noise,
turn static,
Turn calamity,
into song.

A black and white portrait of Nadege Green, a Black woman with short hair, looking upwards and to the left. She is wearing a dark, sleeveless top and large, ornate earrings. The background is a plain, light color.

“Words
mean
things.”

— **Nadege Green**
(she | her)



“All of this is noise.
You have to figure
out how to keep that
noise where it’s at.”

— Arsimmer McCoy (she | her)

“Knowing someone’s intentions are aligned with them wanting to be better and doing better is that they do it.”

— **Jasmen Rogers (she | her)**



Nadege Green (she | her) is an independent researcher, writer, editor, community archivist and audio producer based in Miami. Her work centers the lived experiences of Black people in South Florida. Her practice and approach to storytelling is deeply rooted in history and first-person narratives that explore and connect issues around race, culture, climate justice, health inequities, poverty, and displacement.

Arsimmer McCoy (she | her) is from Richmond Heights, FL. McCoy's work covers conversation about identity, self-reflection, human connectivity, legacy, validation, and transparency. McCoy's writings delve into her experiences of growing up in Miami; oftentimes exploring its underpinnings and community threading, through storytelling. Arsimmer has been a teaching artist for more than five years and creates and facilitates workshops in creative writing and performance.

Jasmen Rogers (she | her), Founder and Principal Visionary at Folding Chair Consulting, has worked for several years at the intersection of racial and gender justice, advancing legislation that centers Black women, co-creating curriculum that makes the political process accessible, organizing movements towards social change, and building a base of women of color committed to Reproductive Justice.

Juan Luis Matos (he | him) is a multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker based in Miami, FL. He studied at the Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg, Germany and received his BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. He is a member of Third Horizon film collective that hosts an annual film festival in Miami and he is a 2020 + 2021 Suncoast Regional Emmy Award Winner. He is currently an artist in residence at the Bakehouse Art Complex in Miami, FL.

Vanessa Charlot (she | her) is an award-winning photojournalist and documentary photographer, filmmaker, lecturer and curator. Her work focuses on the intersectionality of race, politics, culture and sexual/gender expression to explore the collective human experience. The purpose of her work is to produce visual representations free of an oppressive gaze. Vanessa seeks to humanize Black bodies through her photography, restoring the dignity and vitality of those often shot as subjects divorced from context, motives, and histories. Her work invites us all to question our relationship to what we think about when we see Black bodies as static images and in motion.

You're so eloquent. We appreciate your passion. **All of this is noise.**

You have to figure out how to keep that noise where it's at. I'm impressed with how articulate you are. Do you think you should have to be paid for this work? What research do you have to back that up?

Words mean things. Why do we need to center queer & trans people of color? I'm all for LGBTQ but then they threw that BIPOC thing in. Good thing we didn't fund you. It made you more resilient. We are having important conversations. **Knowing someone's intentions are aligned with them wanting to be better and doing better is that they do it.** You seem a little young to be doing this work. Can you tone down your energy please? It isn't professional. Smile more. Please fix your attitude. **Even while in the process of learning, you can see that someone is like 'oh I won't make that mistake again.'** I think more people would support you if you just changed the tone of your message. **Changed behavior creates more beautiful and more bountiful environments for everybody.** We are not bigots, but you doing this kind of work says that we are. You'd be surprised how strong people in a wheelchair are. They can just roll through the gravel. **No, that's not ok. No as an act of moving beyond lip service for myself and others.**

Just no. You're so brave. Can I just pick your brain? Why does everything have to be about race? But I am an ally! **I'm raising free Black children.** Why do you have to be so divisive? Can't we all just get along? I'm gonna take a step back and do some listening and reflection. I'm gay, I can't be racist or misogynist! **If the world is not gentle, Black children need to know radical gentleness. Radical love.** I have Black friends.