Alley Theatre Presents World Premiere of
SYNCING INK

An Alley All New World Premiere, Syncing Ink by NSangou Njikam, combines poetry, Hip Hop and theatre.

HOUSTON- Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director of the Alley Theatre, announces the cast and creative team for the world premiere of Syncing Ink, which begins previews February 3, opens February 8 and runs through March 5 in the Neuhaus Theatre. Syncing Ink, a semi-autobiographical play by NSangou Njikam leads audiences on a mystical, lyrical Hip Hop ride to discover what it really takes to freestyle. Tickets are on sale now at alleytheatre.org or by calling the Box Office at 713-220-5700.

"Now what you hear is not a test/I'm rapping to the beat!" In Syncing Ink, Gordon wants to learn how to rap, thinking it will gain him respect, admiration, and the attention of a beautiful woman. What he doesn't know is that his journey to learn how to rhyme will take him not just deeper into Hip Hop, but deeper into his legacy and his purpose. Syncing Ink is directed by Niegel Smith, Artistic Director of New York’s Flea Theater.

"NSangou and Niegel are two singular talents in the American Theatre. Syncing Ink is an extraordinary theatrical piece about storytelling. The most exciting thing in the Theatre is to be part of the creation of new work, of introducing new voices, and we are thrilled to present the premiere of this play," said Boyd.

Njikam’s Syncing Ink was first seen at the Alley in a workshop performance in the Alley All New Festival last year and it was the first play to receive a full production at the Alley since the launch of the Alley All New initiative. The Alley All New Festival is one component of Alley All New, a major new work initiative that expands the Alley’s commitment to playwrights and to produce more world premieres. This year, Syncing Ink coincides with the 2017 festival which runs February 2-12.

The cast of Syncing Ink includes playwright NSangou Njikam, McKenzie Frye, Nuri Hazzard, Elisha Lawson, Adesola A. Osakalumi, Kara Young, and Robyn “DJ Reborn” Rodgers.

The Syncing Ink creative team features scenic design by Riccardo Hernandez, costume design by Claudia Brown, lighting design by Kevin Rigdon, sound design by Justin Ellington, and choreography by Gabriel "Kwikstep" Dionisio. The team also includes Assistant Director Joseph “JoeP” Palmore, Associate Scenic Designer Taisa Malouf, Research Consultant Sybil Roberts and Stage Manager Kristen Larson.

NSangou Njikam is an actor and playwright originally from Baltimore, MD. He is the author of Syncing Ink, Re: Definition, I.D., When We Left, Search For The Crystal Stairs, and one of the authors of Hands Up: 6 Plays, 6 Testimonials. Njikam’s work focuses mainly on identity stories and the empowerment of the human spirit by recognizing and embracing one’s personal gifts, utilizing Hip Hop theatre, poetry, and West African performance aesthetics. He also aims to develop new, diverse and younger audiences by creating “theatre of the now and for tomorrow.” He received his BFA in acting from Howard University. After tracing his roots to the Tikar people in Cameroon, West Africa, he was named NSangou by Sultan Ibrahim MBombo Njoya, 19th king of the Bamoun kingdom in Cameroon. He currently resides in New York.

The Alley celebrates the upcoming production with the creation of a custom Syncing Ink mural located at McGowen and Crawford in Midtown by Houston artist Brionya James. Brionya created a mural illustrating the themes in Syncing Ink—the power of Hip Hop, self-discovery and a passion for lyrics—and the mural was used as inspiration for the official production poster. The mural will remain even after the show has closed.

Performances of Syncing Ink are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Syncing Ink contains explicit language and adult content.
ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE: The Alley Theatre, one of America’s leading not-for-profit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Gregory Boyd and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. Home to a Resident Company of actors, the Alley creates a wide-ranging repertoire and innovative productions of classics, neglected modern plays, and premieres. Alley All New, the initiative to commission and develop new work year round, features the Alley All New Festival each season presenting workshops and readings of new plays and musicals in process. Additionally the Alley serves 65,000 students annually with award-winning education and community programs including in-school arts integration residencies, school tours and student matinees. A recipient of the Special Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, the Alley has brought productions to Broadway, 40 American cities including New York’s Lincoln Center and internationally to London, Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg throughout its 70 year history.

After a year-long, $46.5 million renovation during the 2014-15 season, the Alley Theatre now has one of the most technically advanced non-profit theatre complexes in the nation. With more than 450 performances in 2016-2017, the Alley will produce more shows than all other performing arts organizations in the Houston Theater District combined.