welcome to liberation a virtual festival of arts and culture honoring juneteen we are so grateful that you are here with us to uplift and to center black joy resistance and expression together we'll be on a journey with 10 amazing black artists musicians dancers and cultural workers radical black joy is not only revolutionary it is ingrained in our very makeup this festival is an embodiment of love community and expression all integral parts of our collective liberation and testaments of our legacy power and our beauty yeah so enjoy the performances learn about the artist stories and check out those daily prompts for self-reflection and community dialogue we hope this festival fills your cup so on behalf of the scg family let's honor june teeth and enjoy

liberation

let me tell you about my beautiful black skin before you say hello you see the depth of my melanin every pore crevice and nook of my back was meant to celebrate the rise of black they say the black of the berry the sweeter the juice well baby my black creed will give you a sweet tooth my sacrum sits with every curve hip and dip from the wines of calypso my mapoka and polyrhythmic music swing low sweet chariot my lumbar rises to resist carrying on the legacy of those we lost in the transatlantic but i rise up like always in the words of andre day like the wiz my thoracic stacks up for a brand new day but make no mistake my resilience was not given is earned relentlessly through the struggle for the mission i've been chosen my forefathers are the men who built the white house brick by brick and i descend from the matriarchs whose breast milk fed masses can across plantations i am royally blessed and with my sternum i profess my history stretches like my samusa's treasure chest black diamonds and pearls as if i ruled the world there would be endless opportunities for every little black and brown girl to the great mothers whom i adore let me first say ashay and allow me to salute you from my book of names let me start with congresswoman shirley chisholm for example thank you for reminding me that i always deserve a seat at the table nina simone your sultry tone was ahead of your era but an artist's duty to reflect the time is the challenge i remember mary church tyrell at the suffrage march crimson and cream was heavy on the scene fighting for women's voting rights truth be told sojourner made the memorable sacrifice she bared her breasts as a feminist to put the question ain't i a woman to rest now your bronze skin stands tall in the u.s capitol hall forcing the government to bow down and acknowledge your crown i thank you both rosa and claudette because before park set miss calvin resisted arrest allow me to honor young ruby you were the bridge to integration and septima poinsett was the link for blacks in the south to receive a decent education dr mary mcleod bethune founded the national council of negro women spelmanites and bennett bells respect to the hbcus with a woman's vision let me courtesy to the queen obama deemed as the godmother of civil rights your mission is to tall miss dorothy irene height and dr angela davis whose fists we cannot miss queen of the black panther party and revolutionary activist eoz i thank you for clearing the path for us to reign and in my most humble tongue i pay homage and again i say ashay so

let us adjust our crowns lift our head high and celebrate our melanin for ei is with us and this is our inauguration

hey

yes

you know we really do because i swear people are always

all right i know we all have things that we deal with all the time

just today because you know i've been getting my hands

oh

you know i like my inches and i'm standing there thinking don't you say nothing wrong girl i know that's right

and it happens to be equity inclusion diversity

look i had to tell them i am not the spokesperson for my race okay so they will ask you everything

um

oh

um

okay

i look back because i knew she was still staring

oh

right now i am not your negro oh

okay

two

so i gave it to him great with no chaser that's

of nature daddy just has a girl what

not the stories represent cycles of generations just as the print of the subra passing oral traditions and sisters to arrays your message beyond the bottle often lives within the waves

a

visa

the water the water

is

gods are gonna trouble

dark is it's hard

our power is within not to be

denied

is

water

the water

i think what you're trying to say is why am i so insistent upon giving out to them that blackness that black power that black pushing them to identify with black culture i think that's what you're asking well i have no choice over it in the first place to me we are the most beautiful creatures in the whole wide world black people and i mean that in every sense outside and inside and to me we have a culture that is surpassed by no other civilization but we don't know anything about it so again i think i said this before in the same interview my job is to somehow make them curious enough or persuade them by hook or crook to get more aware of themselves and where they came from and what they are into and what is already there and just to bring it out this is what compels me to compel them and i will do it by whatever means

necessary

oh

we'll walk right up to the sun hand in hand we'll walk right up to the sun we will land

we'll walk right up to the sun we won't land we'll walk right up to the sun hand in hand we'll walk right up to the sun

if i rule the world

do

do

so

you