

York College Theatre

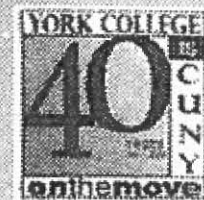
SPRING 2007

*presents*

# CALLALOO



Fri. May 04 at 4PM  
Sat. May 05 at 8PM



York College Theatre  
94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.  
Jamaica, NY 11451

## NOTES ON *CALLALOO*

I have developed and directed ten separate theatre events entitled *Callaloo: York Theatre Students Read Literature From Their Ethnic Backgrounds*.

The name Callaloo comes from a plant that grows in the Caribbean and a stew of which that plant is an ingredient. To use this name as the title of the performance piece (No one knew there would be another one.) was suggested by Christopher Diaz and Roger Drysdale, Trinidadians who appeared on the first *Callaloo*. *Callaloo 1* was presented March 1989, in an Academic Core lecture hall; *Callaloo 2* opened the new theatre.

Thornton Wilder once defined theatre as "one of the most immediate ways a human being can show another human being what it means to be a human being." This definition is especially applicable to *Callaloo*. As students introduce themselves and their selections, they recount family history and show family photo slides, giving a very personal flavor to their presentations. At times they tell about faraway places and unfamiliar experiences. For example: Manyin Lee (*Callaloo 2*) told about her incarceration in a Mao prison for nine years and nine months and Mercedes Contreras (*Callaloo 9*), about her father's murder in El Salvador.

The research of family history and appropriate literature by students is an important part of *Callaloo*, and this research often takes students into literary areas of which they have had no previous knowledge. As director, I try to help each student find the best vehicle for his/her performance development while keeping a balance between contemporary culture and the classics. Students with multi-ethnic backgrounds may perform material representing more than one aspect of their heritages.

All the literature and family stories point to diversity, yet at the same time reveal what we have in common, "what it means to be a human being."

Previous *Callaloo* performers are listed elsewhere in this program.

Barbara Nickolich

**Polish**  
Matthew Sarkowicz

**Puerto Rican**  
Cheyenne Aldamuy  
Hector Hernandez  
Carmen Torres  
Gladys Rosario Vann  
Ailee Wiscovitch (Venezuelan/Croatian)

**Romanian**  
Claudia Lisena (Italian)

**Salvadorian**  
Mercedes Contreras (Nicaraguan)  
Reina Ventura

**Sicilian**  
Nickolas Spagnolo (German/Irish)

**Sierra Leonean**  
Jennifer Horton

**Trinidadian**  
Christopher Diaz (Scottish, Venezuelan)  
Roger Drysdale (Portugese)  
Janceen Ettienne (Portugese)  
Coral King  
Seneca Lovelace  
Nelisa Roach (Venezuelan)

**Uzbek (Jewish)**  
Arsen Khaimov

**Piano:** Dr. Dennis Moorman, Professor of Music

**Percussion:** John (John Crow) Alexander

**Callaloo Band:**

Burton Ishmael, Keyboard

Timothy Rumdeen, Bass

Richard Ishmael, Drums

**Costume Cleaning for York College Theatre**  
Courtesy of

**HALLAK CLEANERS**  
1282 Second Avenue  
New York, New York, 10028

## PERFORMERS FROM PAST CALLALOO PRODUCTIONS

### Afghan

Affandy Farooq

### African American

Sandra Baxter  
Amelia Blissett (Jamaican)  
Dwayne Booker  
Justine Cox  
Stephanic Iris Elmore (Mohawk)  
Clare Fowler  
Lisa Freeman (Blackfoot)  
Sharese Gibbs  
Patrice Gilbert  
Iris Goode  
Robert Hogan  
Lizzi Jackson (German/Cherokee)  
Latima Johnson (Cherokee)  
Donnell Jones  
Jamal Jones  
Karen Jones  
Marcia Kelly  
Travis Lee  
Mozelle Lewis  
Robert McPherson (Sierra Leonian)  
Tommie Moore  
Sonji Phillips  
Karolyn Rinhardt (German)  
Cheryl Roundtree (Cherokee)  
Gloria Lowery Tyrell  
Sean White

### Bengali

Rumana Ahmed

### Chinese

Linh Brown (Vietnamese)  
Lou Ling Chen  
Manyin Li

### Colombian

Harold Garcia (Spanish)  
Yenny Marcela Roza

### Dominican

Jose Sanchez

### Ecuadorian

Janet Cruz

### English

Nadine Pritchard (Italian)

### Ghanian

Kwasi Addo

### Guyanese

Lynda Bactawar (Indian)  
Richard Ishamel (Indian/Portuguese)  
Ramona Mackhrandilal (Indian)  
Sindamine Ramsammy (Indian/Portuguese)  
Fazeeda Smartt (Indian)

### Haitian

Reginal Denise  
Carine Ganthier  
Isabelle Pierre (French)  
Ghislaine Sulmers (French)

### Honduran

Mark Dunn (NY Jewish/Jamaican)

### Indian

Heena Mehta

### Jamaican

Maureen Bell  
Victor Campbell  
Paulette Dixon-Williams (Scottish)  
Mable V. Eaton  
Eloney Grant  
Michelle Grant  
Diana O'Gilvie (Chinese)  
Tishesha Jones  
Darion Malcolm  
Marlon Mears  
Douglas Seaton (Scottish)  
Sonya Shaw  
Tanishia Simpson  
Tsahi Simpson  
Deneisha Watson  
Taryn Wright

### Japanese

Daisuke Uchiyama

### Nigerian

Deborah Akinyemi

### Panamanian

Selena Evelyn (Jamaican)

### Pakastani

Kaleem Kamboj (Indian)

York College  
The City University of New York  
Department of Performing & Fine Arts  
Kenneth Adams, Chairperson

## Presents

# CALLALOO II

York College Theatre Students Read Literature  
From Their Ethnic Backgrounds

### Director

Dr. Barbara Nickolich

### Scenic Designer

Timothy J. Amrhein

### Lighting Designer

Kyle Schoenfeld

### Technical Director

Bob Barnes

### Spring 2007

Friday, May 4th at 4pm  
Saturday, May 5th at 8pm

York College Theatre  
94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.  
Jamaica, NY 11451



## PROGRAM

### VINCENTIAN and SCOTTISH

"Nostalgia" .....  
"A Red, Red Rose" .....  
Excerpt from "I Am a Garifuna" .....  
Excerpt from "Independence Day Speech", Oct. 27, 2001 .....

Camella Ballantyne

June Isaacs-Mascoll  
Robert Burns  
Rita Palacio  
Dr. Ralph Gonsalves

### AFRICAN AMERICAN

"Offspring" .....  
"Forty Acres and a Mule" .....  
"Love Song for Alex" .....

Jamie King

Naomi Long Madgett  
Oscar Brown Jr.  
Margaret Walker

### TRINIDADIAN

"Trini 2 De Bone" .....  
"The Soucouyant" .....  
(From the book *Folklore and Legends of Trinidad and Tobago*)  
"We Trinis" .....  
(From the *Harts Carnival Website*)

Lyra Toussaint

David Rudder  
Arranged by Gérard Besson

Unknown

### NIGERIAN

"Africa My Africa" .....  
"Africa" .....

Ifatola Ifabiyi

Toris Okotie  
Olivia Thomas

### GUYANESE, INDIAN, PORTUGUESE, and SPANISH

"Tekkin' Mo Breeze" .....  
"Stream of Life" .....  
"Last Night As I Was Sleeping" .....  
"To Late for the Reunion" .....  
(Translated by Jonathan Griffin)

Staci Ishmael

Romesh Singh  
Rabindranath Tagore  
Antonio Machado  
Fernando Pessoa

### AFRICAN AMERICAN

"The Slave's Complaint" .....  
"A Dream Deferred" .....

Sandra Denise Baxter

Thomas Moses Horton  
Langston Hughes

### GUYANESE, INDIAN, and PORTUGUESE

"Where the Mind Is Without Fear" .....  
"Post Card" .....  
"Do Not Stare At Me Lady" .....

Sindamine Ramsammy

Rabindranath Tagore  
Egito Goncalves  
Martin Carter

## YORK COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Marcia V. Keizs**  
President

**Dr. Linda R. Barley**  
Acting Vice President, Academic Affairs

**Dr. Paniotis Meleties**  
Acting Dean for Academic Affairs

**Dr. Janis W. Jones**  
Dean for the Executive Office  
Acting Vice President for Student Development

**Jerald Posman**  
V.P. and Chief Operating Officer for Administration and Finance  
Interim Administrator for Enrollment Management

**Earl Simons**  
Assistant to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement

**Dr. Paula Middleton-LaLande**  
Acting Associate Dean for Student Development

**Sharon Davidson**  
Registrar

**Dr. Diatra Jones**  
Assistant Dean for Career Services

**Jean Phelps**  
Director of Student Activities

**Yvette C. Urquhart**  
Associate Dean for Faculty and Staff Relations

**Ronald C. Thomas**  
Dean for Administration Affairs

# York College Performing and Fine Arts Department

**Kenneth Adams-Chairman**  
**Joycelyn Heywood-Administrative Assistant**  
**College Assistants – Nelisa Roach and Reveca Gonzalez**

## **SPEECH COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE ARTS**

**Prof. Como (Speech Communication Coordinator)**  
**Assoc. Prof. Amrhein (Theatre Arts Coordinator)**  
**Prof. Nickolich**  
**Assoc. Prof. Schilling**  
**CLT Barnes**

## **FINE ARTS**

**Asst. Prof. Buxenbaum (Coordinator)**  
**Assoc. Prof. Vendryes**  
**Prof. Simkin**

## **MUSIC**

**Assoc. Prof. Adams (Chairman)**  
**Prof. Ernst (Coordinator)**  
**Instructor Zlabinger**  
**Sr. CLT Dixon**

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

**Joycelyn Heywood, Administrative Assistant**  
**Performing & Fine Arts**

**Prof. Charles Coleman**

**Walter Dixon**

**Printing Services**

**Joseph Goffredo**  
**George Fellows**  
**Buildings & Grounds**

**Nate Moore**  
**Marketing Communications**

## **WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST**



- **Camella Ballantyne** (Vincentian and Scottish) is a graduating senior majoring in Psychology with a minor in Theatre Arts. She is a member of the honors society for psychology majors. *Callaloo 11* is her first theatre performance at York College. She also has an independent show, *One Perfect Rose*, being performed on May 17, 2007. Ms. Ballantyne decided on Psychology because she liked helping people, and her interest in theatre arts stems from her hope that performing will help her to open up and be less contained in the future.



**Sandra Denise Baxter** (African American) is a junior majoring in Speech Communication/ Theatre Arts. This is her 8<sup>th</sup> performance at York College. Sandra's dream is to play a major role in a Broadway production. She said, "I'm ready for the challenge." Philippians 4:18



- **Ifatola Ifabiyi** (Nigerian) is an upper freshman majoring in Music with a minor in Theatre Arts at York College. Mr. Ifabiyi worked backstage on *Having Our Say* and this will be his first time working performing at York College. He aspires to be a music producer, songwriter and actor.



**Staci Ishmael** (Guyanese, Indian, Portuguese, and Spanish) is a junior at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. This is her second appearance on the York College stage and she thanks her brother Richard Ishmael (a professional performer and star of many past York College Theatre productions) for being her inspiration. Staci is who she is today because of her family and God. "Submit your plans to God and watch him prepare a way." I love you mom!



**Jamie King** (African American) is a freshman at York College majoring in Social Work. Although she is not planning to pursue a career in theatre, she enjoyed taking part in *Callaloo 11* and in *Having Our Say*.



**Sindamine Ramsammy** (Guyanese, Indian, and Portuguese) is a senior at York College majoring in Communication Technology with a minor in Theatre Arts. Ms. Ramsammy has been involved in the performing arts since 1996 and has done work both on and off stage doing make up. She has produced a couple of pageants and has won several competitions herself in Guyana. She hopes to work in the film industry one day.



- **Lyra Toussaint** (Trinidadian and Grenadian) has not declared a major as of yet. She was a theatre major in high school, and this will be her first time on stage at York College.

• APPEARING IN THEIR FIRST PERFORMANCE

## THE PRODUCTION STAFF & CREW

Scenic Designer.....	Timothy J. Amrhein
Lighting Designer .....	Kyle Schoenfeld
Technical Director.....	Bob Barnes
Stage Manager.....	Kimberly Gutzmore
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Kichelle Monet-Green
Light/Sound Board Operator.....	Jarrell Lynch
Projector Operator.....	Medjine Chery-Parker
Poster and Cover Designer.....	Timothy J. Amrhein
Publicity and Tickets.....	Diana Henry

**Kyle Schoenfeld** (Lighting Designer) received his BFA in Technical Direction at the North Carolina School of the Arts. He has recently worked for the Wilson Center for the Arts in Wisconsin as Technical Director, and for Skylight Opera Theatre as their Assistant Technical Director.

**Mary Adelaja** (Backstage Crew) is a freshman at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. Growing up, she vowed that she would never go to York College because it was too close to home. Fortunately, she was able to realize that going to York was one of the best decisions she has ever made. Miss Adelaja strongly believes that she will be the next Oprah Winfrey, or even better. This is her first time working backstage and she hopes to one day conquer her fear of performing on stage. She wants everyone to enjoy the show and to remember that she will be famous one day.

**Kemi Aiyedun** (Backstage Crew) is a freshman at York College majoring in the Physicians Assistant Program. Her early acting interest developed in elementary school and was further nurtured in her first semester at York College by performing an African American Student Club production. In addition to working with the crew she is also taking acting classes which have exposed her to the "vast world of theatre."

**Kichelle M. Green** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior at York College. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. She has worked in a television setting in the past in Atlanta, where she attended school for many years. Her goal is to graduate with honors and achieve her acting goals. If acting does not work for her, she will continue college to pursue a master's degree in communications and look forward to work at a new station.

**Kimberly Gutzmore** (Stage Manager) is an upper sophomore majoring in Speech Communication/Theater Arts. This is Ms. Gutzmore's first time participating in a York College production. Her interests include speech pathology, dancing, acting, and television production. After graduating, Ms. Gutzmore plans to pursue a Master's degree in Speech Pathology

**Diana Henry** (Publicity and Tickets) is a senior at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. After graduation, she plans to attend to law school and possibly pursue entertainment law. She recommends every one take a speech or theatre arts course because it teaches you to be more open and outgoing.

**Jarrell Lynch** (Light/Sound Board Operator) is a sophomore at York College. This is his second time working with the backstage crew. He operated the sound board in *The Glass Menagerie* and thought it was a rewarding experience. He is excited and eager to learn more about backstage production.

**Medjine Chery-Parker** (Projections) is an upper senior majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts with a minor in Elementary Education. This is her third production at York. Medjine currently mixes colors with her kindergarten class and enjoys working with children. This experience at York has taken colors to another level for her, and it has motivated her to complete her second children's story book entitled, *Colors: From the Classroom to Broadway*. Teaching children about the history of colors, enhancing self-identification, and believing in their dreams is what keeps her going. Medjine also plans to pursue a Master's degree in Speech Pathology, where again she believes that the Arts can enhance a child's speech.

## FACULTY OF YORK COLLEGE THEATRE



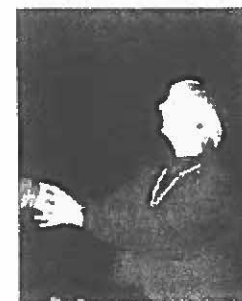
**James Como** (Professor of Speech Communication) came to York in 1968, when he founded the speech discipline. He chaired the Department of Performing and Fine Arts for 15 years. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Language, Literature and Communication from Columbia University. At York, he has appeared in *The Madwoman of Chaillot* (directed by Barbara Nickolich). His newest book is *Remembering C.S. Lewis*.



**Timothy J. Amrhein** (Associate Professor of Theatre Design) holds an MFA from Wayne State University. He has designed sets and costumes for various productions throughout the United States, and most recently: *Twelfth Night*, and *The Merry Widow*. Some of Mr. Amrhein's past work includes the first New York City revival of *The Full Monty*, *The Fantasticks*, and *Yeoman of The Guard*. He has designed at the Princeton Rep Shakespeare Festival, The River Rep Theatre, The Wings Theatre, and Montclair State University. Mr. Amrhein has also designed for The Second City Comedy Group; Carnegie Mellon University; the University of Pittsburgh, and the California Repertory Theatre. He has received the Best Scenic Design award from the NJ Star Ledger for his production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and the Detroit Free Press's Theatre Excellence Award for *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* and *Scapin*. Mr. Amrhein is a member of United Scenic Artists (USA) Local 829 and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT).



**Barbara Nickolich** (Professor of Theatre) received her formal theatre training from Wheaton College, Northwestern University and New York University. In addition, she has been a student of Bobby Troka, voice coach, in New York City. She has appeared as a performer and director with the CUNY Readers Theatre. She developed a one-woman show, *American Counterpoint*, which she performed in Munich, Germany, Nashville and New York City. Most of her work has been as a director of legitimate theatre in university settings. *Antigone*, *Tartuffe*, *Six Plays by Dario Fo*, *Callaloo 7*, *The Miser*, *Camino Real*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Galileo*, *Callaloo 8*, *A Servant of Two Masters*, *Callaloo 9*, *Endgame*, *Callaloo 10*, and *The Glass Menagerie* have been her most recent productions.



**Sarah Schilling** (Associate Professor of Theatre) received her training at Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Playhouse. After graduation, she joined a professional acting company in Erie, PA and played summer stock in Wisconsin. Upon arriving in New York City, she performed for over a year in the role of Heloise in a play by the same name at the Off Broadway Gate Theatre. While teaching, first at Packer Collegiate Institute and then at York, she worked as one of the directors at the Off-Off-Broadway Actor's Place Theatre at St. Luke's in the West Village. She has appeared in Samuel Beckett's *Cascando* at LaMaMa and as a Guide in the Off-Off Broadway production: *A Woman's Work is Never Done*.



**Bob Barnes** (CLT, Theatre Technical Director) spent many years touring throughout Europe and the United States, working with companies such as the Atlanta Contemporary Dance Company, The Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, and The Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble. Mr. Barnes is a member of Actors Equity and has performed under the direction of Word Baker, Howard DaSilva, and Marshall Mason of the Circle Rep. He has designed lighting for dance and theatre, and has worked on several feature films as a recording engineer. His television audio credits include *The Ricky Lake Show*, *The View*, and *Law and Order*. He has most recently come to us from CNN. Robert's greatest accomplishment thus far in life, he says, is his son Ruben. "I am also very pleased to be a part of the theatre staff for the Performing and Fine Arts Department at York College".