

SPRING 2007

YORK COLLEGE THEATRE

presents



Having Our Say

The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years

A Play by Emily Mann

Friday, March 23 @ 4PM

Saturday, March 24 @ 8PM

Sunday, March 25 @ 3PM

Tuesday, March 27 @ 12Noon

YORK COLLEGE LITTLE THEATRE

94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.

Jamaica, NY 11451



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Those of you in the audience who saw *Having Our Say* on Broadway or on television may be surprised that this version has three Bessies and three Sadies. I wanted to give more students the opportunity to recreate the memories of these two extraordinary women who lived in such a crucial time. I also thought that by allowing a change of time for each set of the Delany Sisters, their incredible life span would be clearly realized.

Sarah Schilling

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

Presents

Having Our Say

The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years

By Emily Mann

Director
Sarah Schilling

Scenic Designer
Timothy J. Amrhein

Lighting Designer
Kyle Schoenfeld

Technical Director
Robert Barnes

Costume Designer
Raul A. Aktanov

Spring 2007

Friday, March 23 at 4 PM
Saturday, March 24 at 8 PM
Sunday, March 25 at 3 PM
Tuesday, March 27 at Noon

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

Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service Inc.

Costume Cleaning for York College
Theatre
Courtesy of

HALLAK CLEANERS
1232 Second Avenue (at 65th Street)
New York, New York, 10021

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

PROLOGUE

Mary Childs

Welcomes the audience and presents her own experiences from her childhood in North Carolina.

The play takes Place in the Delany living room in Mount Vernon, New York.
The year is 1995

ACT I

Scene 1

Sweet Sadie and Queen Bess

SADIE Willie Gaines
BESSIE Isabelle Pierre

Scene 2

Saint Aug's

SADIE Willie Gaines
BESSIE Isabelle Pierre

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Scene 1

Jim Crow

The Delany sisters as they might have appeared in 1915

SADIE Hope Daniel
BESSIE Nikkeya Hamilton

Scene 2

Harlem-Town

The Delany sisters as they might have appeared in 1950

SADIE Staci Ishmael
BESSIE Jamie King

Scene 3

Outliving the Rebbly Boys

The company of Delany Sisters

COMING EVENTS – SPRING 2007

MUSIC

Jazz Workshop at Art Opening
Thursday, March 29 at 6PM in 1B01

Music Discipline Fundraiser with the
Jazz Faculty Trio, Blue Notes, Jazz Workshop, and Gospel Choir
Saturday, March 31 at 6PM in 3D01 - \$10 Admission

Jazz Forum #17 w/ saxophonist Alex Foster
Monday, April 16 at 5PM in the PAC Lobby

Jazz Forum #18 w/ vibraphonist Bill Jacobs
Monday, May 07 at 5PM in the PAC Lobby

Jazz Workshop Spring Concert
Saturday, May 12 at 7:30PM in the Little Theatre

Blue Notes Spring Concert
Saturday, May 19 at 7:30PM in the Little Theatre

ART

From Our Rich Diversity Fine Art Alumni
Opening Reception - Thursday, March 29th at 6PM in the York
College Fine Arts Gallery (1B01)

Student Juried Art Show Opening
Tuesday, May 15 at noon in the Fine Arts Gallery (1B01)

THEATRE

CALLALOO 11

Fri. May 05 at 4PM in the Little Theatre
Sat. May 06 at 8PM in the Little Theatre

Thursday, May 17 at 6PM in PAC 106
Student 490 – Camella Ballantyne

*Please note that there will be one, ten minute intermission.

York College Performing and Fine Arts Department

Kenneth Adams-Chair

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

Walter Dixon

Printing Services

Joseph Goffredo

George Fellows

Buildings & Grounds

Nate Moore

Marketing Communications

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST...

Hope Daniel (Sadie, 1915) is a sophomore at York College. She is a Studio Arts major who is making her debut on the York College stage. Both her mother and her grandfather are the two people in her life that keeps her going day-to-day. They have set the base for the type of person she wants to be. Being around different people has allowed her to realize that she enjoys making people laugh more than anything else. Her life has its up's and down's, but through it all, she tries to remain humble.

Willie-Flora Gaines (Sadie, 1995) is a Senior at York College and very proud of it. She is a Psychology major and a member of the Psi Chi, an honors society for Psychology majors. This is her first time performing in a play. She would like to thank God for allowing different people into her life. It is those differences that have shaped her into the wonderful person who she is today.

Nikkeya Hamilton (Bessie, 1915) is an Upper Freshman who hopes to major in Business Administration. This is her first time performing in a play and she really enjoys it and her acting class.

Staci Ishmael (Sadie, 1950) is a Junior at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. This is her first 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 (Bessie, 1995) 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 this performance.

Isabelle Pierre (Bessie, 1995) is an English major at York College. She has always been interested in the theatre, so when the opportunity came to audition she pounced on it. Preparing for *Having Our Say* has been unlike anything she expected. She has challenged herself as an actress and as a writer/performer in *Callaloo 10* in a way that she felt would be informative, creative, and entertaining. "In essence I have learned a lot about myself."

YORK COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

PRODUCTION STAFF

Scenic Designer.....	Timothy J. Amrhein
Assistant Scenic Designer.....	Medjine Chery
Lighting Designer.....	Kyle Schoenfeld
Costume Designer.....	Raul A. Aktanov
Technical Director.....	Bob Barnes
Stage Manager.....	
Light Board Operator.....	Jessica Rollins
Sound Board Operator.....	Jarrell Lynch
Projection Operator.....	Judehia Dixon
Poster and Cover Design.....	Timothy J. Amrhein
Publicity and Tickets.....	Diana Henry

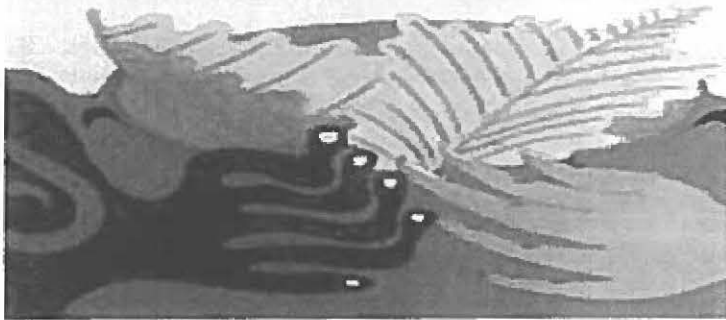
Scenic Construction and Running Crew

Mary Adelaja
Kemi Aiyedun
Josmerly Carreno
Judehia Dixon
Ifatola Ifabiyi
Edwin Illoh

Lisa Kushnick
Jarrell Lynch
Rachel Neequaye
Jessica Rollins
Bem Suggs

YORK COLLEGE THEATRE Announces...

Callaloo II



**Friday, May 04 at 4PM
Saturday, May 05 at 8PM**

**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**

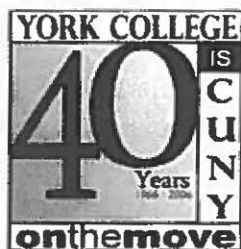
**Jean Phelps
Director of Student Activities**

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

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

**Ms. Cynthia Murphy
Director of Adult and Continuing Education**

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".



CREATIVE TEAM

Raul Aktanov (Costume Design) Recent Costume Design include: Octavio Solis' Gibraltar (Thick Description in San Francisco and San Jose Stage in San Jose, CA), Off-Broadway's critically acclaimed production of *Single Black Female*, *The Ballad of Eddie and Jo* (Hudson Guild), *Herakles and Phaedra* (La Mama ETC.), *Women on Fire and Tuesdays and Sundays* (Wood Stock Fringe Festival). Assistant Costume Design work include: *Zaide* (Dir. Peter Sellars, Lincoln Center/The New Crowned Hope Festival Vienna, Austria), *Marriage of Figaro* (Wolf Opera Company), *People's Temple* (Perseverance Theater, Alaska), *Revenger's Tragedy* (Red Bull), *Barnum* (Westchester Broadway Theater), and *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (City Theater Company). Raul has been sewing since he was four and was an intern for Gucci before his foray into Costume Design. Thank you, thank you Professors Amrhein, Schilling and Nikolich, the cast, and Colman Domingo.

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.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF AND CREW

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 were 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 the "vast world of theatre."

Josmerly Carrenco (Backstage Crew) is a freshman at York College majoring in Social Work with a minor in Theatre Arts. Ms. Carrenco graduated from East Brooklyn Congregation High School and is enjoying her new experience as a full time college student. Carrenco has already written three plays, one of which won her a first place prize and the other for which she gained recognition and a chance to meet with television editors and fellow authors . After graduation, she plans to continue her career in Social Work while operating a day care center. She expects to learn a great deal from this course and to apply such learning to her future.

Yolanda Christie (Backstage Crew) is a senior majoring in Psychology. After graduating from York College, she would like to pursue her Master's Degree in School Counseling. She loves children and hopes to make a difference in their lives as a School Counselor. This is her first time working backstage and she is enjoying the opportunity to be a part of this production.

Judehia Dixon (Projection Operator) is a senior at York College majoring in Political Science. She is looking forward to many experiences working as a back stage crew member.

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 to take a speech or theatre arts course because it teaches you to be more open and outgoing.

Ifatola Ifabiyi (Backstage Crew) is an upper freshman majoring in Music with a minor in Theatre Arts at York College. This is his first time working backstage. He aspires to be a music producer, songwriter and actor.

Edwin Illoh (Backstage Crew) is majoring in Media Arts with a focus in Directing and Acting. He has been inspired by great actors and directors and hopes to one day be great also.

Lisa Kushnick (Properties) is a senior at York College majoring in Speech Communication and Theatre Arts. She holds an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Queensborough Community College. Lisa has worked on several productions including, *The Crimson Thread*, *The Good Doctor*, and *Callaloo 7*. She extends much love and appreciation to her two sons, her parents, and her boyfriend.

Jarrell Lynch (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.

Rachel Neequaye (Backstage Crew) is a freshman at York College majoring in Occupational Therapy. This is her first time ever working backstage and finds the course fun and exciting. She loves the fact that she is learning something new.

Medjine Chery-Parker (Assistant Scenic Designer) 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 degree in Speech Pathology, where again she believes that the Arts can enhance a child's speech.

Jessica Rollins (Light Board Operator) is a sophomore at York College majoring in Liberal Arts. She enjoys the Theatre program here at York and is working on her second performance backstage. She has also worked on two off-Broadways shows and wants to continue working both on and off stage.

Bem Suggs (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York College. He holds an Associate in Arts Degree from Queens Borough Community College. His goal is to finish his bachelors degree in Speech Communication and Liberal Arts.

Faculty of the 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 Chailot* (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*.