

YORK COLLEGE
THEATRE
presents

SPRING 2008

CALLALOO 12

*York College Theatre Students Read Literature
From Their Ethnic Backgrounds*

Friday, May 02 at 4PM
Saturday, May 03 at 8PM

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



NOTES ON *CALLALOO*

I have developed and directed twelve 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

Still Searching for a Major?
Consider Speech Communication/Theatre Arts at
York.

FALL 2008 Course Offerings:

TA 110: Introduction to the Theatre (WI)
TA 112: Voice and Stage Movement for Actors
TA 115: Stagecraft II
TA 211: Basic Acting
TA 215, 216, 217, 218 or 219: Theatre Practice
TA 391: History of American Musical Theatre (WI)
TA 411: History of Avant-Garde Performance
TA 490: Independent Research

SPCH 101: Oral Communication in Contemporary Society
SPCH 160: Fundamentals of Oral Interpretation
SPCH 182: Voice and Diction
SPCH 303: Ethics of Speech
SPCH 350: Persuasion and Propaganda in Television
SPCH 490: Independent Research

The theory and practice of communication, by way of signs and symbols across various media, are fundamental to the growth and learning process inherent in a liberal arts education. The speech discipline seeks, among many goals, to foster an understanding of the basic nature of all communication transactions; to promote critical and confident listening and thinking; and to train students in the performance of the theatrical, interpretive, and rhetorical arts.

The concentration in theatre offers the opportunity to participate in large and small scale productions; both on stage and backstage. Speech students make use of small group workshops, the media of audio-videotape, and theatrical productions.

In preparation for graduate school, industry, community service, and other employment, students are guided by a highly accessible faculty. Jobs for which a major in Speech and Theatre help to prepare students include: acting, announcing, broadcasting, law, politics, publishing, personnel, and speech therapy.

YORK COLLEGE IS 

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

Presents

CALLALOO 12

York College Theatre Students Read Literature
From Their Ethnic Backgrounds

Director
Dr. Barbara Nickolich

Scenic Designer
Timothy J. Amrhein

Lighting Designer
Paul Hudson

Technical Director
Bob Barnes

Musical Director
Jonathan Quash

Spring 2008
Friday, May 2nd at 4pm
Saturday, May 3rd at 8pm

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

*Cover photo courtesy of National Geographic

PROGRAM

POLISH, ITALIAN, and JAMAICAN

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| "Let Noboday Weep Over My Grave"..... <i>(Translated by Jerzy Peterkiewicz and Burns Singer)</i> | Stanislaw Wyspianski |
| "I Am Every Jamaican"..... | Jazz Johnson |
| "Beautiful Slave"..... <i>(Translated by Lucianno Rebay)</i> | Giambattista Marino |

Crystal Williams

SIERRA LEONIAN

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| "I Pray"..... | Fatu Forna |
| "A Promise"..... | Fatu Forna |

Fionia Amara

BAJAN and AFRICAN AMERICAN (South Carolina)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| "A Bajan Speaks"..... | H. Hagreaves |
| "Inspiring Mama"..... | Cassius Holmes |

Paul Yearwood III

French Haitian

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Excerpt from "Hadriana in All My Dreams"..... <i>(Translated by Carol F. Coates)</i> | René Depestre |
| "The Dog and Cat"..... <i>(Translated by Elizur Wright)</i> | Jean de La Fontaine |
| Song <i>If I'm Living Today, It's God's Grace</i> | Creole Church Hymn |

Christel Pinette

COMING EVENTS – SPRING 2008

MUSIC

Jazz Workshop Spring Concert
Saturday, May 10 @ 7:30 p.m.
Little Theatre

Blue Notes Spring Concert
Saturday, May 17 @ 7:30 p.m.
Little Theatre

Sacred Music Series
A Celebration of the music of Richard Smallwood
Conductor – Jonathan Quash
Monday, May 19th – 7:00PM
Performing Arts Center Lobby

ART

Student Juried Art Show Opening
Thursday, May 6 at noon
Fine Arts Gallery (1B01)

The Department of Performing & Fine Arts
presents

The Last Recital

May 4th, 2008
3PM



Kenneth G. Adams
Clarinetist

William Grossman
pianist

Lesley Zlabinger
Soprano

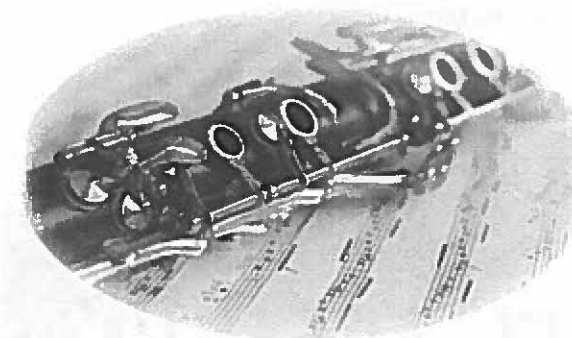
The Friends String Quartet

Sandra Billingslea
Violin

Mio Takada
Violin

Karen Rostrom
Viola

Maisol Espada
Cello



Music of Henri Rabaud, Franz Schubert, Mark Fax, & Carl Maria von Weber



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)
Janeen Ettienne (Portugese)
Coral King
Seneca Lovelace
Nelisa Roach (Venezuelan)
Lyra Toussaint

Uzbek (Jewish)
Arsen Khaimov

Vincentian
Camella Ballantyne (Scottish)

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**



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

- **Fionia Amara** (*Sierra Leonian*) is an upper sophomore at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. She has always participated in school productions even in her Pre-K years. Fionia enjoys listening to music, dancing, and reading plays, poems, Greek and African mythology, as well as the Sonnets by William Shakespeare. She is an aspiring actress and she believes that by working both as a performer and backstage, she will have a better appreciation of all the work that goes into a perfect show—not just good acting. Ms. Amara is looking forward to performing in many up-and-coming York College productions before she graduates. Two of her favorite quotations are, “Do what you love and love what you do!” and “You are what you think you are and not what they say you are!”
- **Christel Pinette** (*French Haitian*) is a junior at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. Ms. Pinette wants to earn her Ph.D. in addition to pursuing an acting career on Broadway and doing children’s Theatre. This is Christal’s second time performing. However, she is no stranger to the York College Theatre. Last year she appeared in the Department’s production of *Antigone*. Christal believes that, “No matter how many challenges come your way—continue to run the race.”
- **Crystal Williams** (*Polish, Italian, and Jamaican*) is an upper sophomore at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. It is her first time performing at York College. However she just finished working backstage on *No Exit*. Crystal has been acting for five years during which she has done three student films and is currently working on a feature film. Crystal plans to act in future shows at York and after graduation, she plans to continue her career as an actress and also hopes to do some directing.
- **Paul Yearwood III** (*Bajan and African American*) is a freshman at York College. He is a Pre-Med major, pursuing a career in Optometry, but loves the arts. This is his first performance at York College and he is looking forward to performing in more productions to come.

• APPEARING IN THEIR FIRST PERFORMANCE

THE PRODUCTION STAFF & CREW

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Scenic Designer..... | Timothy J. Amrhein |
| Lighting Designer..... | Paul Hudson |
| Technical Director..... | Bob Barnes |
| Stage Manager..... | Timothy J. Amrhein |
| Light/Sound Board Operator..... | Jarrell Lynch |
| Projector Operator..... | Medjine Chery-Parker |
| Poster and Cover Designer..... | Timothy J. Amrhein |
| Publicity and Tickets..... | Annabelle Belasco |
| | Maran-Atha Taylor |

Paul Hudson (Lighting Designer) has been working in dance, theatre, television, film and architectural public art in New York City for almost ten years. This is his first production with York College, and his fourth in the CUNY system. Other design highlights include: Scenery and Lighting on Jared Coseglia's award-winning production of "The Lightning Field" (The Flea, NYC and The Oval House, London); Lighting on Synaesthetic Theatre's "The Trial of K" (The Culture Project, NYC, and the International Festival of the Arts, Salamanca, Spain); the premiere of Amy Fox's "One Thing I Like to Say Is..." (Clubbed Thumb's Summerworks, The Ohio Theater); Bob Kalfin's "The Color of Flesh" (45th St. Theater); Art Director on the independent feature "The House Is Burning" (Holger Ernst, Dir.); and working as associate designer for artist Leni Schwendinger on her architectural public art project at the Seattle Opera House, "Dreaming in Color". Upcoming projects include remounting both "The Color of Flesh" and "A Brush with Georgia O'Keeffe" off-Broadway.

Jonathan Quash (Musical Director/Pianist) is a York College graduate, with a B.A. in music. He is currently a graduate student at the City College of New York, continuing his educational studies in African-American music and history. He serves as the Director of the York College Gospel Chorus and also teaches courses in the Department of Performing and Fine Arts and the Department of Adult and Continuing Education. He also serves as an administrator, as the Director of the York College Male Initiative Program and Men's Center.

Ceejay Abenn (Projector Operator) is an upper junior at York College majoring in Sociology, with a minor in Music. This is his third production at York. After graduation, he hopes to pursue a career as a music teacher and professional singer. One of Ceejay's favorite sayings is, "If you want to build big ships, you got to go where the water is deep."

Annabelle Belasco (Publicity and Tickets) is a upper senior at York College. As a young woman growing up in Trinidad, Annabelle was exposed to the performing arts through her father who was a musician. As a result she developed a love for all things theatrical. While this is her fourth time working behind the scenes on a production, she has performed in *Trojan Women* and *Lysistrata* and looks forward to acting in one more production before she graduates.

Gabrielle Calixte (Backstage Crew) is an upper junior at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. She has performed at many events at York, ranging from commencements to events sponsored by various clubs. This is Ms. Calixte's second time working backstage. She was previously in *The Harlem Speakeasy*. She believes that this course will help her better understand the theatre. One of her favorite quotes is, "Before you become a CEO, you have to pick up garbage."

Luz Chavarrio (Backstage Crew) is an upper sophomore at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. After graduation Luz wants to pursue her acting career.

Medjine Chery (Backstage Crew) is an upper senior majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. This is her fifth 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.

Fayona Ferguson (Backstage Crew) is an upper senior at York College majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Accounting. This is her first time working backstage and she took this course because she wanted to know what it felt like to work behind the scenes. After graduation in June, she hopes to work in her field for two years and then pursue her MBA in Human Relations.

PERFORMERS FROM PAST CALLALOO PRODUCTIONS

Afghan
Affandy Farooq

African American
Sandra Baxter
Amelia Blissett (Jamaican)
Dwayne Booker
Justine Cox
Stephanie 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
Jamie King
Travis Lee
Mozelle Lewis
Roberta McPherson (Sierra Leonian)
Tommie Moore
Sonji Phillips
Karolyn Rinehardt (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)
Staci Ishmael
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)
Tischesha Jones
Darion Malcolm
Marlon Mears
Douglas Seaton (Scottish)
Sonya Shaw
Tanishia Simpson
Tsahi Simpson
Deneisha Watson
Taryn Wright

Japanese
Daisuke Uchiyama

Nigerian
Deborah Akinyemi
Ifatola Ifabiyi

Panamanian
Selena Evelyn (Jamaican)

Pakastani
Kaleem Kamboj (Indian)

YORK COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

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Provost/Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs

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Acting Dean for Academic Affairs

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Ms. Cynthia Murphy
Director of Adult and Continuing Education

Jarrel Lynch (Sound Board Operator) is a senior at York College with a major in Communications Technology. In addition to being a full-time student, Jarrel is also working hard and finds it all worth while. The level of experience that he has gained working backstage has been the most rewarding. He has worked on 6 or 7 different performances including *Callaloo 11*, *Having Our Say*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Endgame* just to mention a few. These performances have always been something to look forward to every semester and this time it is no different.

Lawrence Minter (Backstage Crew) is an upper junior at York College. As a young man Lawrence was into sports and did not know much about theatre. Though this is his first time working backstage, he is really interested in learning how to organize, coordinate, and direct plays in the future. He looks forward to learning more about the art of theatre production.

Kendra Quashie (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. She is a mother of a three year old daughter. She decided to participate in this course because she believed it is interesting and fun.

Jawara Richards (Backstage Crew) is an upper senior at York College majoring in Psychology. Mr. Richards graduated from Middle College High School at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. This is his first time working in theatre and is looking forward to a good experience and to better understand theatre work.

Candice Sawney (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York College with a major in Psychology. This is her first time working backstage and after graduation, she would like to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy.

Maran-Atha Taylor (Publicity and Tickets) is an upper senior at York College. Although she is majoring in Information Systems and Finance, her love of literature and drama is the reason she has enrolled in a theatre course every semester since she started York in the Fall of 2006. This is her fourth time working behind the scenes on a production, and the experience has given her the desire to work on more productions in the future.

YORK COLLEGE THEATRE

Past Productions Directed by Dr. Barbara Nickolich



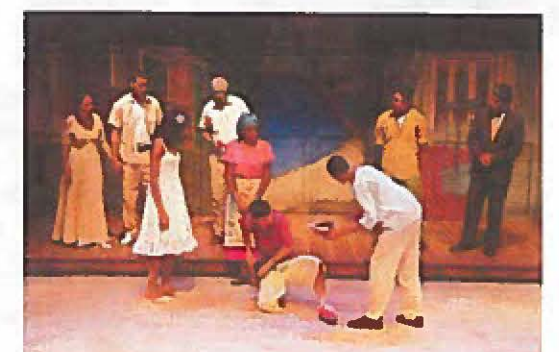
Callaloo 11



The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams



Endgame by Samuel Beckett



A Servant of Two Masters by Carlo Goldoni

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) and *Scenes from Hamlet* (directed by Sarah Schilling). His forthcoming book is *Why I Believe Narnia: Thirty-three Essays on 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. Some of his most recent productions include: *Twelfth Night*, *The Merry Widow*, the first New York City revival of *The Full Monty*, and *The Fantasticks*. Mr. Amrhein has designed for the Princeton Rep Shakespeare Festival, The River Rep Theatre, The Wings Theatre, and for Montclair State University. Mr. Amrhein has also designed for The Second City Comedy Group (Detroit and Toronto); 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*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Callaloo 11* 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.

Kenneth Adams-Chair

Joycelyn Heywood-Administrative Assistant
College Assistants – Reveca Gonzalez and Alexia Rose

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)

Prof. Simkin

MUSIC

Assoc. Prof. Adams (Chairman)

Prof. Ernst (Coordinator)

Instructor Zlabinger

Sr. CLT Dixon

SPECIAL THANKS

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