

THE MILTON G. BASSIN

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

AT YORK COLLEGE

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YORK COLLEGE PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

THE WATER CARRIERS

BY MICHAEL WILLIAMS

TICKETS \$7 - \$10

MARCH

24 @ 4P

25 @ 7P

26 @ 3P

28 @ 12P

YORK

Our production of *The Water Carriers* is dedicated to the memory
of
beloved theatre professor, colleague, and friend,

Tim Amrhein





YORK COLLEGE THEATRE

Department of Performing and Fine Arts
Margaret Vendryes, Interim Chair

Little Theatre / March 24 – 28 2017

Presents

The Water Carriers

By Michael Williams

MUSICIAN - Freddy Dugard

SCENIC DESIGN

David Jones

COSTUME DESIGN

Courtney Butt

LIGHTING DESIGN

Ali Hall

MUSIC COORDINATION

Jonathan Quash

CHOREOGRAPHY

Christian Mar

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Joshua Warner

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Arline Tejada

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Eric Normil-Mendez

Directed by Tom Marion

CAST

**Rilwan Alaka Tuka Al Muhaisen Miya Bass Mona Bass
Eunique Doran Anjed Eloued Winnie Esther Gabriel Goulbourne
Leah Kessley Bertrand Nathanail Jean Isaac Lama
Ky'Qana McAllister Christian Mar Eric Normil-Mendez
Jabree Muhammad Ashley Oliver Jonathan Rodriguez
Kassandra Rodriguez Tuquan Clifton Smith Angelique Smythe
& Rasheid Thompson**

The Water Carriers was commissioned by Butler University -
first performance, November 12, 2014 -
Howard L Schrott Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN.

The Cast



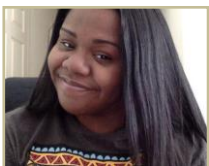
RILWAN ALAKA (*Benjamin*) is a Theatre Arts major with a minor in Philosophy. Last semester he played Orgon in the York College Theatre production of *Tartuffe*. After graduation he would like to continue to use his talent and art to influence society. He would like to thank God for this opportunity.

TUKA AL MUHAISEN (*Sigi's Wife*) is a junior majoring in Business Administration and Psychology. Tuka has had a passion for theatre from a very young age, and is happy to be pursuing her dream. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support and encouragement every step of the way.



MIYA "MAYO" BASS (*Ancestor, singer/dancer*) was last seen as Elimire in *Tartuffe* at York College Theatre where she has also played the title role in *Aida*, Maureen Johnson in *Rent*, and the voice of the plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Other credits include winning a singing competition hosted by Steve Harvey in Las Vegas.

MONA BASS (*Ancestor/Singer*) is a Queens native who is a longtime lover of the arts and not afraid to "jump out of the box!" She is excited to be in her 2nd performance at York College, alongside her daughter, Miya.



EUNIQUE DORAN (*Themba*) is a junior majoring in Communications Technology with a minor in Theatre Arts. This is her first play with York, but she has done numerous shows with a nonprofit organization called Vibe Theater. She would also like to thank her hardworking fellow cast members.

ANJED ELOUED (*Ancestor/Dancer*) is a sophomore at York exploring various majors. She is also a Tunisian immigrant who has lived with a mixture of Arab and African culture, and is never afraid to step out of her comfort zone to see what she can do.





WINNIE ESTHER (*Ancestor/Dancer*) is an artist who believes that her West African roots and British upbringing permit her the range and performance level of an as-yet-unrealized potential. The art of performance is something she holds dear because of the escape it provides for others.

GABRIEL GOULBOURNE (*Bendo*) is a Chemistry major with a minor in Business. This is his first time participating at York College Theatre, and he is really excited to act in a play so connected to the political problems of today's world.



LEAH KESSLEY (*Fatama's Grandmother*) is a York College alumna. Although she is employed full time in the field of social work, she is passionate about acting. Past shows at York include *The Tempest* (Gonzalo), *SpeakOUT* (Fannie Lou Hamer), & *Fame*. She is looking forward to opening night and many more York College Theatre productions to come.

BERTRAND NATHANAEEL JEAN (*Ancestor, singer/dancer*) hails from Jamaica, Queens. His most recent shows include the musical *Memphis* and *The Wiz*. Bertrand is also a videographer who can be found on YouTube under the name **Kiid_martian**. He is very excited to be in his first York College production.



ISAAC LAMA (*Refugee/Tokoloshi*) is an upper senior from the Dominican Republic who grew up in the Bronx. He works full-time at Metropolitan Jewish Health System and attends York College part-time. He is diligently working on a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Theatre. Previous York credits include *After* and *The Tuskegee Airmen Project*.

KY'QUANA MCALLISTER (*Fatima*) is a junior Psychology major and in her free time she loves watching videos, scrolling Instagram, and sleeping! She was in many plays during high school, and is happy to be back! She wants to thank her friends and family for always supporting her.



ERIC NORMIL-MENDEZ (*Lovemore's son*) is from Queens/Brooklyn and a recent graduate of York College. This play marks his fifth show with York College Theatre. Last semester Eric produced music for *Tartuffe*. He appreciates your support and hopes you enjoy the show!

JABAREE MUHAMMAD aka Jay F. Aseem (*Sigi*) is a junior studying Theater Arts. Born in Maryland and raised in Brooklyn, his York College Theatre credits include: *Tartuffe*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Live Laugh Love Cry*, *Twilight Los Angeles*, & *Aida*. Jay dreams about being an actor, director, stunt man, and so much more. He's very excited to be part of this important play.



ASHLEY OLIVER (*Themba's Sister*) is senior Journalism major and Editor-in-Chief of *Pandora's Box*. She is also the president of YC's Association of Black Journalists, and a member of the Student Government. A pre-professional dancer at Dance Theatre of Harlem until she was 17, she is excited about acting in her first play at York.

JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ (*Refugee/Tokoloshi*) is a lower junior from York College majoring in Speech/Theater Arts and minoring in Communications Technology. Last semester, Jonathan worked on the construction and running crews for *Tartuffe*. He would personally like to thank the cast and director for this wonderful opportunity.



KASSANDRA RODRIGUEZ (*Lovemore*) is a junior Speech Communications/Theatre Arts major with an Associate's Degree in Math & Science from LaGuardia Community College. Born in Brooklyn to Puerto Rican culture, she loves dancing salsa, bachata and meringue. She would like to thank her mother for her encouragement and support.

TUQUAN CLIFTON SMITH (*Sankho*) is an actor and writer: *Riding Big: The Movie* (2016) and *Travis Porter: Red Rock*. Tuquan is a senior Theatre Arts major. Last seen at York College Theatre in *Race*, other past shows include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon), *The Wanderers Game* (Chris), and *Life is Short, Cherish Every Moment* (Tre).



ANGELIQUE SMYTHE (*Bendo's Mother*) is an Art Studio major, and an Air Force veteran, but no stranger to the stage. She's had many opportunities to perform as a singer throughout her travels, but this is her first major theatrical performance. She's grateful to be part of this wonderful cast and for the acting experience.

RASHEID THOMPSON (*Ancestor, Singer*) is a senior Social Work major, raised in Far Rockaway, Queens. He inherits his singing talent from his mother, a performer who he lovingly watched and listened to while he grew up. Rasheid is excited to be in his first show with York College Theatre.



Production



Michael Williams (Playwright) is a prize-winning author of thirteen novels published in the USA, Europe and South Africa. He is an accomplished opera director and has written the libretti for numerous operas and musicals. He has received many commissions to write operas, musicals and plays, including the musical *Tiger Bay* which recently received its premier in Cardiff, UK. He has also created and directed *Mandela Trilogy* which toured to Durban and

Johannesburg and won the Naledi Awards in 2012 for Best Musical. It has been staged in Munich, Ravenna, Dublin and toured the United Kingdom in 2016. There will be further tours to Dubai and Hong Kong in 2017. He is currently the Managing Director of Cape Town Opera.



Freddy Dugard (Musician) is currently the music director at the 13st Repertory Theater's production of *Return to LALA Land*. Past credits include: Musical director for the Symphony Space production of *Dreamgirls* (2006), and percussionist for the York College productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* (2009) *Fame* (2010) and

Rent (2012). Freddy has been featured in *Modern Drummer Magazine*, and has recently developed his new MALE MENTORING PROGRAM.

Christian Mar (Choreographer / Dancer) A graduate of Cheney College of Pennsylvania, this is Christian's his first show with York College Theatre. He is really excited to be a part of this amazing cast. He would like to thank his family for always showing support.



Ali Hall (Lighting Design) is a Brooklyn-based artist working in the fields of performance art, theatre, and dance. Recent designs have included *Bad Jews* (American Academy of Dramatic Arts), *U.S. Drag* (The Night Owl Players), *Three Sisters* (5 Senses Theatre), and *Now We Start From The Arm* (Spotted Deer Productions). In addition to her own designs, Ali

works as an Assistant Lighting Designer. She is also a teaching artist for Town Hall, working with the students of Repertory High School and Gramercy Arts High School. Ali received her MFA in Lighting Design from Virginia Tech and her BA in Theatre with a concentration in Design/Management/Technology from Wagner College.

www.alihalldesign.com



Courtney Butt (Costume Designer) is a NYC - based costume designer and wardrobe supervisor. Originally from Massachusetts, she graduated from Drew University in Madison, NJ. Her previous designs include *Cabaret*, *The Music Man*, and *Our Town* (Packer Collegiate Institute) *Faust*, and

Uncle Vanya (On Wheels Productions) and *Footloose*, *Peter Pan*, *Legally Blonde the Musical*, (Wachusett Theatre Company). She wardrobes for such off-broadway companies as Theater Breaking Through Barriers and Keen Company.



Arline Tejada (Stage Manager) is a recent York College graduate who majored in Communication and Theatre Arts and minored in Journalism. Before graduating she performed on stage in five York College productions. *The Water Carriers* will be her first production working backstage as a stage manager. But she is thrilled to venture off in this new adventure and learn a couple off new things.

Backstage

NAOMI JOEDAH (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York College majoring in Psychology and minoring in Theatre Arts. She performed in *Live, Laugh, Love, Cry* written by Lindamichelle Baron. She is currently the Vice President at IVCF and is a street preacher who enjoys singing and writing poetry. *The Water Carriers* is her first production working backstage. She is thrilled to be able to take the skills she's learned in theatre arts into her career in counseling children.

KRISTEN JEFFRIES (Backstage Crew) is a junior at York College majoring in Political Science with a minor in Theatre Arts/Speech Communication. She is excited to be assisting backstage for the very first time. Kristen works very closely with the New York City Council and hopes to use the skills she's learned in theatre throughout her political career.

Special Thanks



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**Gloria Giraldo,
Kwame Clarke &
the MGBPAC Staff,
The York College Printing Staff**

Director's Notes:

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the number of displaced people is at its highest ever -- surpassing even post-World War II numbers, when the world was struggling to come to terms with the most devastating event in history. The total at the end of 2015 reached 65.3 million - or one out of every 113 people on Earth. Historically, the US has both welcomed and deterred the immigration of refugees. In 1913, fleeing genocide and national schism in Greece, my grandfather arrived in a small town in Massachusetts. Soon after, he fought for the US in WWI. Wounded three times, he later died of the shrapnel that plagued his body – but not before seeing the passage of the Immigration Act of 1924 which restricted immigration of Southern Europeans and Eastern Europeans, especially Italians, Greeks, and Eastern European Jews. The law also severely restricted the immigration of Africans and outright banned the immigration of Arabs and Asians.

Three years ago, *The Water Carriers* was commissioned by Butler University, with the desire to create a project utilizing African Physical Theatre. According to the playwright, Michael Williams:

“African Physical Theatre is a form of storytelling that prioritizes the use of performers' bodies, using voice, dance, mime, humor, song and puppetry. The idea for the play crystallized when I re-visited two old African epic stories - the Mali legend of *Sunjata* and Credo Mutwa's retelling of *The Tree of Life*, an old Ndebele story - and found in these two narratives an abundance of dramatic moments which illustrated tenets of African Physical Theatre. The merging of these two legends - one from the North and the other from the South of Africa - has given rise to a new story, told by present-day characters in *The Water Carriers*.

The characters are a diverse group of refugees who are leaving Africa illegally, stowed away in a shipment container, bound for who-knows-where. I wanted to contextualize the legends and look at contemporary social issues that affect many of the inhabitants of the African continent. The refugees are accompanied by their ancestors (who encourage the re-telling of the legends and also participate in its narration) which is a fundamental belief of many African societies. Aside from being a useful theatrical device, it also is one of the pillars of story-telling in Africa... ‘or so my great-grandfather told me.’”

- **Tom Marion**

THEATRE ARTS FACULTY

DAVID T. JONES (*Adjunct Lecturer of Theatre and Drama Club Advisor*) has designed most of York College Theatre's productions since 2008, including *Anna in the Tropics*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Tempest*, *Fabulation*, *Fame*, *Rent*, *Dreamgirls*, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Aida*, and York's recent *Race*. He is Resident Scenic Designer for The Village Light Opera Group in Manhattan, where he has designed nearly the entire Gilbert & Sullivan canon and countless musicals and operettas, including *Kismet* and *Bells Are Ringing*. Most recently he (re)designed the revival of *Scrooge and Gilbert and Sullivan*. He has also designed various productions in the tri-state area, including *The Merry Widow* at Hart College as well as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Urinetown*, and *Suessical* for Northern Highlands Regional High School in New Jersey. At York, he teaches Introduction to Theatre and Scenic Painting, among other courses.



TOM MARION (*Assistant Prof. of Theatre and Theatre Arts Coordinator*) holds an M.F.A. in Acting from Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts (with Bill Esper), a Certificate of Vocal Coaching from The National Theatre Conservatory (with Tony Church), and an internship with The Royal Shakespeare Company (with Cecily Berry and Andrew Wade.) He is a Designated Teacher of Linklater Voice, a founding member of the Linklater Center for Voice and Language, and an Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework. At York Prof. Marion has directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Fabulation*, *The Exonerated*, *The Tempest*, *Live Laugh Love Cry!*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and was the creator/director of *Istwa!* (Which performed at the 2011 International Fringe Festival, NYC) and *SPEAK OUT* (which performed at The Bowery Poetry Club in Manhattan and at York as part of Black History Month.) Last his winter with York theatre alumnae, he presented the York Outreach Ensemble original production of *Langston Hughes in Harlem* at LaMama ETC.



JOSHUA WARNER (CLT – Technical Direction) Recent Scenic Design: *Good King Wenceslas* (Stages on the Sound); Resident Scenic Designer/Technical Director for College Light Opera Company's nine show 2016 season; *Richard III*, *O Beautiful*, *The World Goes 'Round* (Emerson Stage); *West Side Story*, *Young Frankenstein* (Plaza Touring Productions); *Taming of the Shrew*, *Cymbeline*, *The Seagull* (EmShakes). Film/Television: *Muse*, *The Book of Living and Dying*, *The 34th Annual EVVY Awards*, *The Mike Cantalupo Show*. Recipient of two EVVY Awards. BFA Emerson College. www.joshuawarnerdesign.com



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I. Required Speech Communication and Theatre Arts Courses (12 Credits)

Speech Communication 182 - Voice and Diction
(3 Credits)

Theatre Arts 210 - History of Theatre (3 Credits)

Theatre Arts 211 - Basic Acting (3 Credits)

Speech Communication 303 - Ethics & The Freedom of Speech (3 Credits)

II. **Speech Communication 490** (3 Credits)

Independent Research
Or

Theatre Arts 490 (3 Credits)

Independent Research

III. **Speech Communication/Theatre Arts Electives** (18 Credits)

Students must concentrate in either Speech Communication or in Theatre Arts and complete at least twelve of their eighteen elective credits in the Concentration that she or he has declared. (A total of 12 credits of SpeechComm/TA coursework must be at the 300-level or higher.)

NOTE: Although Speech Communication students may take as much Theatre Arts *practica* as they please, *no more than 6 credits of Theatre Arts practica* may be applied towards the fulfillment of the Speech Communication Concentration; however, Theatre Arts students may apply 9 credits of Theatre Arts Practica towards the fulfillment of the Theatre Arts Concentration. Theatre Arts *practica* courses currently include TA215-19.

*All SpeechComm/TA majors must take SPCH 101 as a Prereq for completion of the Major. Majors in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts must fulfill their General Education Requirements in a discipline other than their major.

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