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AT YORK COLLEGE

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MAY 6 -15, 2016

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**YORK** College

# Please....



The taking of photographs or video, with or without flash, is **strictly prohibited.**

Texting or checking phones during the performance creates light emissions which are extremely distracting to the performers and other patrons.

**No food** is allowed in the theatre; please, no eating during the performance.

# **SPEECH COMMUNICATION/THEATRE ARTS MAJOR**

## **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)

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

Independent Research

or

**Theatre Arts 490 (3 Credits)**

Independent Research

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## **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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[www.yctheatre.com](http://www.yctheatre.com)

**YORK COLLEGE DEPARTMENT PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS**

Timothy J. Amrhein – Chair  
Joycelyn Heywood - Administrative Assistant  
Angela Robinson - CUNY Office Assistant  
Evangelista Goris – College Assistant

**COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

Asst. Prof. Smith (Coordinator)  
Assoc. Prof. Daniel Phelps

**FINE ARTS**

Assoc. Prof. Hajikano (Studio Arts Coordinator)  
Assoc. Prof. Buxenbaum  
Assoc. Prof. Prof. Vendryes  
CLT Fraser

**MUSIC**

Asst. Prof. Zlabinger (Coordinator)  
Asst. Prof. Lam

**SPEECH COMMUNICATION**

Asst. Prof. Gieseler (Coordinator)  
Asst. Prof. Metcalf  
Asst. Prof. Larry Tung  
Prof. Como (Emeritus)

**THEATRE ARTS**

Asst. Prof. Marion (Coordinator)  
Prof. Amrhein  
Prof. Nickolich (Emerita)  
CLT Hamm  
CLT Pecharsky

# **YORK** College

## **Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center**

Kwame Clarke, Acting Director

### **YORK COLLEGE THEATRE**

Department of Performing and Fine Arts

Timothy J. Amrhein, Chair

*Present*

William Shakespeare's

# *Romeo & Juliet*

SCENIC DESIGN

Andrea Nice

LIGHTING DESIGN

Ali Hall

COSTUME DESIGN

Ariel Pellman

CHOREOGRAPHY

Sai Somboon

FIGHT DIRECTION

Nathan Decoux

ASST. COSTUMER

Courtney Butt

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Jessica Pecharsky\*

TECHNICAL DIRECTION

Nate Hamm

**DIRECTOR**

Tom Marion

**PRODUCER**

Kwame Clarke

### **CAST**

Ashlee Alexander   Rilwan Alaka   Kevin Cauvin   Jose Joel Cruz  
Mildred Gil   Claudia Gregory   Taren Hastings Mangual  
Jaimie Coulter-Jacobs   Shatiek Johnson   Naimul Islam  
Jabaree Muhammad   Kelvin Mata   Nkosi Nurse   Solomon Peck  
Clinton Powell   Rauf Rabbani   Christina Rivera   Diana Ross  
Sidney Scott   Tuquan Smith   Arline Tejada   Enrique Valdez  
*and* Genesis Yano

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers

## Setting:

**Place:** Verona and Mantua, as seen by the light of the East.

**Time:** The past and foreseeable future.

*There will be one ten-minute intermission*

## Director's Notes:

Shakespeare wrote *Romeo & Juliet* in the mid-1590s. Based on writings of the time, to him it was a rather recent tale. So understandably, Shakespeare's story is often "updated" nowadays. For instance, it was set in upper west side Manhattan for the 1957 musical *West Side Story*, and a very modern place called "Verona Beach" by Baz Luhrmann in his 1996 film with Leonardo DiCaprio. However, the tragic romance of forbidden love is a universal and ancient story. Consider the legend of Shanbo and Yingtai from the Jin dynasty in China (265-420 AD) or Layla and Majnun from 5th Century Arabia. (Interestingly, Shakespeare uses the word "ancient" nine times in the play.) With these thoughts in mind, we have set our story in a place of both *historic* significance and *modern* gravity – the Levant. The Levant has historically referred to the lands of the eastern Mediterranean – the point of the rising sun; it is the earth of the Fertile Crescent and the dawn of human civilization. (The word "levant" derives from the same Latin root as "leavening," *leva*, which means *to rise*.) To our eyes, the Levant is a place that has for "millennia been a mosaic of faiths and ethnicities...that...might now be shattered beyond repair." (Fordam, NPR News 11/15/15) It is in this light that we ask you to view our world. We have not changed Shakespeare's text to perform his play. All the words are his. But the tragedy, unfortunately, is owned by all of us.

**-Tom Marion**

## YORK COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Marcia V. Keizs**

President

**Panayiotis Meleties, Ph. D.**

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Ronald C. Thomas**

Vice President for Administrative Affairs

**Ismael Perez**

Assistant Vice President for Planning and Budget

**Donna Chirico, Ed. D.**

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**Charles Gengler, Ph D.**

Dean, Business & Information Systems

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Dean, Executive Office

**Vincent Banrey, Ph. D.**

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**Earl Simons**

Director of Government and Community Relations

**Peter Tighe**

Chief Information Officer





**DAVID T. JONES** (*Adjunct Lecturer of Theatre and Drama Club Advisor*) has designed more than 16 of York College Theatre's productions since 2008, including last semester's *Twilight L.A. 1992*. Other York credits: *Anna in the Tropics*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Tempest*, *Fabulation*, *Fame*, *Rent*, *Dreamgirls*, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and last spring's *Aida*. 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 Hartt 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. He has taught at several studios and professional actor programs in NYC, including NYU, The Actors' Center, Marymount Manhattan College, The New School, and Columbia University. He is a former member of Actors' Equity. At York Prof. Marion has directed *Live Laugh Love Cry!*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Fabulation*, *Charlie Victor Romeo: CVR*, *The Exonerated*, *The Tempest*, and his original translation of *A Flea in Her Ear* by George Feydeau. He created/directed *Istwa!* (which was subsequently performed at the 2011 International Fringe Festival, NYC), *SPEAK OUT* (which was subsequently performed at The Bowery Poetry Club in Manhattan and at York as part of Black History Month), and recently received a PSC-CUNY grant for his original production of *Langston Hughes in Harlem* presented at LaMama ETC in Manhattan.

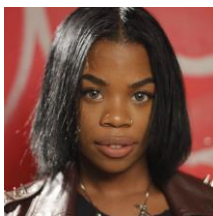


**BARBARA NICKOLICH** (*Prof. Emerita of Theatre*) received her formal theatre training from Wheaton College, Northwestern University and New York University. In addition, she has been a student of Bobby Troka, voice coach, in NYC. She has appeared as a performer and director with the CUNY Readers Theatre. She developed a one-woman show, *American Counterpoint*, which she performed in Munich, Germany, Nashville and New York City.

# THE CAST



**RILWAN ALAKA** (*Watchman*) received his associates degree from QCC. He's now a Theatre Arts major at York with a minor in Philosophy. His recent productions include *Columbinus*, *Othello*, and *Dog Sees God* (stage manager). He is excited to be part of his first production at York College.



**ASHLEE ALEXANDER** (*Dancer/Servant/Citizen*) is Theatre Arts major at York. Credits include: Performer and co-creator of the productions of *Run That Back*, *Visiting Ours*, and *Off the Record* presented Off-Off Broadway. At York, she was a part of *Twilight LA 1992*, *AIDA*, and *Live, Laugh, Love, Cry*.



**KEVIN CAUVIN** (*Romeo*) is a York senior Theatre Arts major. He has performed Lysander in *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, and Pinky in *Our Lady of 121 Street* at York College Theatre. NYC showcases include *Don't Dress for Dinner*, and *Mountain Language* with Theatre in Exile.



**JAIMIE COULTER-JACOBS** (*Lady Capulet*) is a York College transfer student majoring in Music. Jaimie was recently selected to sing at the Apollo Theater for "Amateur Night at the Apollo." She is very passionate about both music and theatre and hopes to make a career out of both.



**SHATIEK JOHNSON** (*Mercutio*) is a York alum and is very excited to be back on the York College stage! Past York shows include *DreamGirls* (Curtis Taylor Jr.) Shatiek hopes to use his degree to work with and inspire children and teens who love to express themselves through all types of theatre.



**JOSE JOEL CRUZ** (*Paris*) is a York Theatre Arts major. Prior to *Romeo & Juliet*, he worked backstage on a number of York College Theatre shows. Born and raised in the Bronx, Jose is bilingual, studies Tae Kwon Do, and likes to make people smile.



**MILDRED GIL** (*Juliet*) is a B.F.A. acting major at Marymount Manhattan College. Previous shows: *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *South Pacific* (Bloody Mary). She wants to thank Tom Morin for encouraging her to pursue Shakespeare, and this show in particular.



**CLAUDIA GREGORY** (*Lady Montague*) is a sophomore Theatre Arts Major. This is her first play at York College and she is very excited to be a part of *Romeo & Juliet*. She started acting in high school, and has loved theatre ever since.



**TAREN HASTINGS MANGUAL** (*Nurse*) participated in many productions as an actor including *King Lear* with Charles S. Dutton, *The House of Bernada Alba*, and *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* by Suzan Lori Parks. [www.tarenhastingsmangual.com](http://www.tarenhastingsmangual.com)



**NAIMUL ISLAM** (*Gregory*) is a York college student and has been performing ever since he was little. He is proud of Paki Bengali heritage and loves acting and entertaining people almost as much as he loves roti.



**CLINTON POWELL** (*Friar Laurence*) graduated from Alfred University with a BA in Theatre and English. Recent roles include *The Bacchae* (Cadmus) at Queens Shakespeare; *Much Ado About Nothing* (Leonato) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Friar) at Barefoot Shakespeare Co.



**RAUF RABBANI** (*Benvolio*) is a York upper senior Theatre Arts major. *Romeo & Juliet* is the first play he has acted in. He has mostly worked backstage. Rauf is also a dancer and performs Bollywood dancing and Punjabi Bhangra.

## THEATRE ARTS STAFF



**JESSICA PECHARSKY** (*Production Stage Manager / CLT*) is a graduate of Hofstra University in dance and theatre. Once at Hofstra, Jessica moved her focus to stage management. She has been stage managing professionally since 2000. She has held resident stage management positions with Streetlight Productions and The Jekyll and Hyde Club. Other companies she has stage managed for include Classical Theatre of Harlem, Centenary Stage, Ma-Yi

Theatre, Chester Theater Company, Boomerang Theater, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Working Theater, Audax Theatre Group, Capacitor, Theatre LILA, Clubbed Thumb, American Globe Theater, Heartists Productions, and Moonwork. Jessica is a member of Actors Equity Association (AEA).



**NATE HAMM** (*Technical Director / CLT*) Nate Hamm is happy to be joining York as Technical Director for the first time this semester. Most recently he spent 5 seasons as Technical Director for The New Players Company in Ridgewood NJ. Before that he spent time as a carpenter and welder for The Julliard School and both the Pennsylvania and Orlando Shakespeare Festivals. Originally hailing from New Tripoli, Pennsylvania, Nate now lives in Rahway, NJ with his wife Marlene, their cat Penny, and their dog Baxter.

## THEATRE ARTS FACULTY



**TIMOTHY J. AMRHEIN** (*Chair of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts and a Professor of Theatre*) holds an M.F.A. from Wayne State University in Theatre Design and Technology. Prior to his arrival at York College, he served as the faculty technical director and designer at the University of Pittsburgh and the faculty designer at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, MI. Though Mr. Amrhein is known for his scenic and costume designs on the York College stage and throughout the tri-state area, he has directed several productions as well. Some of his recent directorial credits include: *Aida*, *An Le*

*Bourgeois Gentlehomme*, *Dreamgirls*, *La Luz De Un Cigarrillo*. He received the Best Scenic Design award from the NJ Star Ledger for *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, the Detroit Free Press's Theatre Excellence Award for *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* and most recently the Award for Creative Excellence for his set design of *The Hedge* from the Arts in Christian Theatre. He is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829 and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

# BACKSTAGE

**MASHI ALAM** (Backstage Crew) is a stalwart supporter of theatre arts and is working as a volunteer on this Spring's productions. She is a sophomore at York majoring in Biology. She loves the arts and sciences, is an instrumentalist and amateur astronomer.

**RUDIANA A. BUNBURY** (Backstage Crew) is majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts and Childhood Education. This is her second semester working "backstage." She aspires to be a drama/writing teacher.

**ARGENIS CONTRERAS** (Backstage Crew) is working on her second show for York College Theatre. She is in her third year at York, majoring in Nursing. Argenis is from Colombia and is a volleyball player who likes arts & crafts and decorating for parties. She works as a nurse's assistant.

**CARLO LUCIEN** (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York majoring in Political Science. Because of his interest in comedy, acting and public speaking, he is minoring in Theatre Arts. For two years he has been doing stand-up comedy at the hottest open mics in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. His dream is to be the next Comedy King.

**ROMEA NOEL** (Backstage Crew) is a Speech Communication/Theatre Arts major at York. She enjoys swimming competitively, writing, dancing, acting, family and friends.

**JEANIE PAUL** (Backstage Crew) is a Psychology major with a minor in Theatre Arts. She enjoys church, family and education. She has an appreciation for theatre and musical talent and/or performances.

**RAYDELL SANDERS** (Backstage Crew) is a veteran crew member working on his fourth production at York College. He is a junior majoring in Theatre Arts with a minor in Television Production. Outside of York, Raydell teaches hiphop to children at the South Jamaica Cornerstone community center.

## Special Thanks

Gloria Giraldo,  
Keith Marshall & Printing Services,  
The Performing and Fine Arts staff,  
Buildings & Grounds



**KELVIN MATA** (*Tybalt*) returns to York College Theatre after performing in *Twilight LA 1992*, and *Live Laugh Love Cry!* He is an upper senior, and is excited to be a part of another York College Theatre production before graduation.



**JABAREE MUHAMMAD** (*Watchman*) is majoring in Theatre Arts to be a director. He is super excited to be in his third performance at York College Theatre. Past shows include *Twilight LA 1992*, and *Live Laugh Love Cry!* This actor is ready to take on the theatre world.



**NKOSI NURSE** (*Balthazar*) is a York senior Journalism major. A love of story has ensured that he has always had a fascination with theatre.



**CHRISTINA RIVERA** (*Dancer/Servant/Citizen*) is a graduating senior majoring in Psychology. She has sung in events for the Red Shoes Club, the Student Government Spring Benefit Concert, and the York National Society of Leadership and Success. This is her first performance as a dancer!



**DIANA ROSS** (*Dancer/Servant/Citizen*) is a York College upper freshman majoring in Occupational Therapy. Her admiration of actors in other plays has motivated her to participate in her first play. As excited as she is now, she's hoping to be in shows to come.



**SOLOMON PECK** (*Lord Capulet*) is an alum of York College ecstatic to return to the stage for such a production. As an actor and vocalist Solomon performs on many New York stages and in regional productions. *Philippians 4:13*



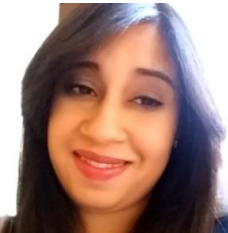
**SIDNEY SCOTT** (*Abraham*) is a senior at York College with a major in English and a minor in Theatre Arts. His main reason for taking theatre as a minor is to learn more about acting, theatre history, and playwrights. In his spare time he practices music engineering.



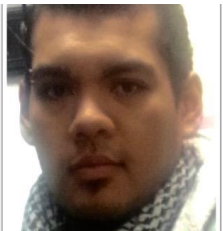
**MARLON SUÁREZ** (*Prince*) graduated from Bernard Baruch with a BA in Finance and Investments. Previous roles include *Boys Life*, *All in the Timing*, and *The Sorrows of Stephen* at Baruch College.



**TUQUAN SMITH** (*Lord Montague*) attended Rollins College and QCC before transferring to York. Past shows include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon), *The Wanderers Game* (Chris), and *Life is Short, Cherish Every Moment* (Tre). He is glad to be in his first York College Theatre production.



**ARLINE TEJADA** (*Chorus/Dancer/Citizen*) is a senior at York College. Theatre Arts is her major and is something that she is passionate about. Past shows at York include *Twilight LA 1992* directed by Jonathan Horvath, and *Teach for America* directed by Hadi Tabbal.



### **ENRIQUE VALDEZ**

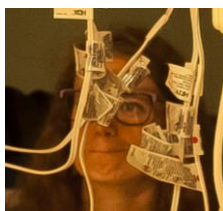
(*Sampson/Apothecary/Watchman*) is a senior Theatre Arts major at York. He has aspirations of becoming an actor, writer, comedian, and published author. Past York shows include: *Twilight LA 1992*, *Our Lady of 121st Street*, and *Soul Samurai*.



**GENESIS YANO** (*Servant/Dancer/Citizen*) is a sophomore at York College. She performed last year with the York College drama club, The Drama Royals; this is her first main stage show and she is very happy to be part of it.

# DESIGN

**NATHAN DECOUX – Fight Director:** Nathan is a SAFD (Society of American Fight Directors) Certified Teacher and has been choreographing in NYC since 1999. Before that he was an actor who got his start at NYU's Tisch School. He later studied with combat teachers Todd Loweth, Payson Burt, J. Allen Suddeth, and Joe Travers. Nathan also studies Kenpo, Kung-Fu, laido, and Jodo in his spare time.  
[www.gothamarmory.com](http://www.gothamarmory.com)



**ALI HALL – Lighting Designer:** Ali is a Brooklyn-based artist and received her MFA in Lighting Design from Virginia Tech working in the fields of performance art, theatre, and dance. Recent designs: *Twilight LA 1992* at York College, and *Now We Start From The Arm* (Spotted Deer Productions). She is also a teaching artist with the students of Repertory High School and Gramercy Arts High School. [www.alihalldesign.com](http://www.alihalldesign.com)

**ANDREA NICE – Set Designer:** Andrea holds an MFA in Scenic Design from Boston University's School of Theatre. Credits: *Live Laugh Love Cry!*, *Our Lady of 121<sup>st</sup> St.* at York College Theatre, *Godspell* (Algonquin Arts Theatre), *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* (Boston Center for American Performance). Andy has also worked with the Glimmerglass Festival and as well as assisted designers Alexander Dodge and Beowulf Boritt. [www.anice03.wix.com/anicedesign](http://www.anice03.wix.com/anicedesign)



**AREIL PELLMAN – Costume Designer:** Recent New York credits include, Adam Rapp's *The Eggs* (NYU Tisch grad acting), *Get me a Guy* (Moonlight Productions), *Slaughterhouse 5* (TrueFalse), *Fringe Encoures Off Broadway*, Assistant Designer for Signature Theater's *The Liquid Plain*. MFA from NYU Tisch Design for Stage and Film. [www.ariellpellman.com](http://www.ariellpellman.com) - [NerdSparkle.etsy.com](http://NerdSparkle.etsy.com)

**SAI SOMBOON – Choreographer:** Sai is an actor, choreographer and dancer originally from Bangkok, Thailand. He received his MFA in Dance from The Ohio State University, performing in works by Susan Hadley, Ming-Lung Yang, and Melanie Bales. Sai performed Off-Broadway in *Sleep No More* and the world premiere of *Sunfish - A New Musical*. He currently works with dance and theater artists in NYC.  
[www.saisomboon.com](http://www.saisomboon.com)

