

SPRING 2004

York College Theatre  
presents

*CALLALOO 8*

Friday, March 19 at 4:00pm

Saturday, March 20 at 8:00pm

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

York College Theatre Students Read Literature  
From Their Ethnic Backgrounds

Document 11 - 18th century manuscript

1785

1785

1785

1785

## NOTES ON CALLALOO

I have developed and directed eight 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.

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

**York College**  
The City University of New York  
Department of Performing & Fine Arts  
James Como, Chairperson

**Presents**

# *CALLALOO 8*

York College Theatre Students Read Literature  
From Their Ethnic Backgrounds

**Director**  
**Dr. Barbara Nickolich**

**Scenic Designer**  
**Timothy J. Amrhein**

**Lighting Designer**  
**Roma Flowers**

**Technical Director**  
**Andy Smith**

**Spring 2004**  
Friday, March 19th at 4pm  
Saturday, March 20th at 8pm

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

## PROGRAM

### UZBEKISTAN

"Anor Anor".....	Folk Song
Untitled Poem.....	Alisher Navoi
"Five Fingers are Not The Same".....	Roshel Rubinov

Arsen Khaimov

### AFRICAN AMERICAN

"Those Winter Sundays".....	Robert Hayden
"Night Funeral in Harlem".....	Langston Hughes
"Strange Fruit".....	Abel Meeropol (aka Lewis Allan)

Patrice Gilbert

### COLUMBIAN

Excerpt from <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> .....	Gabriel Garcia Mårquez
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Yenny Marcela Rozo

### AFRICAN AMERICAN and CHEROKEE

"How the Bobcat Caught the Gobbler".....	James Mooney
"Song".....	Gwendolyn Bennett
"Cherokee Tobacco Prayer".....	Sa Yo Gah

Latima Johnson

### JAMAICAN

"Absence".....	Claude McKay
"Back to Africa".....	Louise Bennett
"Sammy Plant Piece of Corn".....	Jamaican Folk Song

Tishesha Jones

### AFRICAN AMERICAN

Excerpt from "What to the Slave is the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July".....	Fredrick Douglass
Excerpt from "How It Feels to Be Colored Me".....	Zora Neale Hurston

Sandra Denise Baxter

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

- **Yenny Marcela Rozo** (Columbian) is an upper senior majoring in Business Administration. This is her first production on the York College stage. After graduating from York, Yenny wants to pursue doctorate and become a college professor. Her inspiration in life comes from God and her Family: Oscar, Mom, Dad, Jake, and Cathy.

**Patrice Gilbert** (African American) is an upper freshman at York College majoring in History. Her grandmother's acting career and her father's occupation as manager of scenery at the ABC television network has inspired her to explore the arts. Ms. Gilbert was so delighted to perform in the York College Theatre production of *Galileo* that she has returned for her second performance on the York College stage.

**Sandra Denise Baxter** (African American) is a junior at York and is happy to be back for her fourth performance. She studied acting at Tennessee State University and the Lee Strasberg Theatrical Institute here in NY. "Just as a bird needs a limb, water for a fish to swim, so an artist needs a stage." She would like to thank God for this platform provided by the York College Theatre Arts discipline.

- **Tischesha Jones** (Jamaican) was born in the parish of St. Elizabeth. She is an upper senior majoring in Business Administration. After graduating in the spring, Ms. Jones plans to go on to law school and pursue a career in Immigration Law.
- **Latima Johnson** (African American/ Cherokee) is a junior at York College and is majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. She is the mother of a 12 year old son and teaches drama at the Lorraine Hansberry Police Athletic League. She has a passion for the arts and it is her mission to bring them back to the public school system.

**Arsen Khaimov** (Uzbek/Bukharian) is returning to the York College Theatre stage after his performances in *Galileo* and *Scenes and Readings from Shakespeare's Hamlet*. He is a Speech Communication/Theatre Arts major who's very excited about his third production here at York. One quote Arsen likes to live by is: "If you are passionate about your job you don't have to work a day in your life." He became very passionate about theatre after he got his first taste of it in high school, where he fell in love with the craft. He wants to always keep theatre a part of his life and to inspire others in one way or another.

- APPEARING IN THEIR FIRST PERFORMANCE

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Scenic Designer.....	Timothy J. Amrhein
Lighting Designer .....	Roma Flowers
Technical Director.....	Andrew Smith
Stage Manager.....	Keisha Williams
Light Board Operator.....	Gerald Thomas
Sound Board Operator.....	Basil "Tito" Omisanya
Projector Operator.....	Affandy Farooq and Ana Guncay
Poster and Cover Designer.....	Timothy J. Amrhein
Publicity.....	Coral King
	Kiszia Simmons
Tickets.....	Deneisha Watson

## **Scenic Construction and Running Crew**

Tayesha Cadore  
Mary Childs  
Juan Cruzmelendez  
Affandy Farooq  
Ana Guncay  
Renald Jean-Philippe  
Basil "Tito" Omisanya

Edward Pellew  
Kiszia Simmons  
Gerald Thomas  
Rachael Walton  
Deneisha Watson  
Keisha Williams

## THE PRODUCTION STAFF & CREW

**Tayesha Cadore (Backstage Crew)** is a senior at York College and a Speech Communication/Theatre Arts Major. After graduation, she plans to visit Australia to study abroad with the International Missions on Education. Upon returning, she plans to attend Graduate School to pursue a Master's Degree in Education and ultimately become an elementary school teacher. She is inspired and motivated to achieve her goal on behalf of her son Dahrel (age 2), her nephew Tavari (age 4), and her parents. In addition, she would also like to thank her parents for always believing in her.

**Mary Childs (Backstage Crew)** is a junior at York College. She is a Speech Communication/Theatre Arts Major. Mary is very active in her community. She enjoys spending time with, and helping, the senior citizens in her neighborhood. This is her fourth time working backstage. Mary is usually the first person you see on stage and has been privileged to introduce the last three productions. Mary enjoys being part of creating the Scenic Design. Painting is her first love.

**Juan Cruzmelendez (Backstage Crew)** is originally from the Dominican Republic and a senior here at York College. He is married and has two children. This is Mr. Cruzmelendez's second time working backstage in the theatre and taking a theatre course.

**Affandy Farooq (Projector Operator)** is a senior majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. He plans to continue with his education after graduating. He would like to thank all of his professors and his fellow students at York for their help and company along the journey of life.

**Roma Flowers (Lighting Designer)** is a member of United Scenic Artist, and has designed lighting, worked as technical director, and stage managed for theatre and dance. She is a recipient of a New York Dance and Performance Award (a.k.a. Bessie). She considers herself fortunate to have worked with such diverse artists in the field of dance such as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Urban Bush Women and Rennie Harris/Pure Movement. Her recent theatrical productions include: *Bat Boy*, *The Musical*, Joyce Carol Oates' *Bad Girls* presented by the off-Broadway Director's Company, Stephen Belber's *Tape*, and the premiere production of Brian Jucha's, *We Have Some Planes*.

**Ana Guncay (Projector Operator)** is an upper senior majoring in English/Journalism. This is Ms. Guncay's first York College Theatre production. After graduating, she plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Journalism. Her inspiration comes from God, her loving sisters, and the two most important people in her life: Rosa, her mother and Edgar, her father. Thanks mom!

**Renald Jean-Philippe (Backstage Crew)** is a transfer student from La Guardia community college. He is a Speech Communication/Theatre Arts major. This is Renald's third time working backstage. So far working in theater has been "pretty cool." He enjoys his work as well as all the new friends he has made.

**Coral King (Publicity)** is a senior majoring in Speech Communication and Theatre Arts. This is her first time doing publicity for a York College production. She is an actress, model, writer, and segment host who is usually in front of the camera or onstage. She has performed in three York College theatrical productions and is in the next production, *Blithe Spirit*. As a segment host she has interviewed people such as Buju Banton (singer), Louie Rankin (singer/actor), and Talent (actor/comedian/radio host). She has just completed her script, "A Model Life" and, for the first time, has written an article for a newspaper. Her profile on *Callaloo 8* can be found in the current issue of York College's newspaper Pandora's Box.

**Basil "Tito" Omisanya (Sound Board Operator)** is a lower junior at York College. This is his fourth time working backstage at York. He returned to the theatre because the first two plays that he worked on were such a success--he had to make more magic. As sound board operator, Tito is grateful for another chance to bring something to life. He knows this will not be the last time that he is a part of a great production at York!



**Edward Pellew (Backstage Crew)** is an upper senior at York College, graduating in the spring. He is a political Science major with great aspirations of pursuing a degree in International Law. This is Mr. Pellew's second semester working backstage and he certainly enjoys doing the "hands-on work". He is thankful to God for guiding him through this process of learning after having left college 37 years ago to build a career and a family. It is challenging, inspirational, and rewarding. God Bless all those who contributed to his success!

**Michael Spears (Backstage Crew)** is an upper freshman here at York College. Michael enjoys both playing and watching sports, reading and movies. Such good hobbies are probably the reason why Michael has been on the Dean's list and will return there again.

**Gerald Thomas (Light Board Operator)** is an upper junior here at York College majoring in Fine Arts. This is Mr. Thomas's first time working on a York College production. He has two children, both in the Performing Arts. One is an ice skater and the other one is a musician.

**Deneisha Watson (Tickets)** is a senior at York College. She has taken part in many theatre productions outside of York College such as: *For Colored Girls*, *The Mexican Miser* and *A Street Car Named Desire*. When she graduates from York, Deneisha plans on using her English and Speech Communication/Theater Arts degrees to pursue a career in teaching. She is also currently working as the stage manager for the upcoming show, *Blithe Spirit*.

**Keisha Williams (Stage Manager)** is an upper senior at York College majoring in Business Administration. She really enjoys the theatre, so she is returning for a second time to be a part of a York College production. Keisha is an active member in her church, Friendship of Christ Baptist. She is also involved in a production of *Satan We're Going to Tear Your Kingdom Down*. This production is being produced by Keisha and several other members of her church known as The Patricia A. Williams Drama Guild. The late Minister Patricia Williams is Keisha's mother. "Reach for the stars, and follow your dreams."

## FACULTY OF YORK COLLEGE THEATRE

**James Como** (Chairman of the Performing and Fine Arts Department, 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 12 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 and Readings from Shakespeare's Hamlet* (Polonius). His newest book is *Branches to heaven: The Geniuses of C.S. Lewis*.

**Timothy J. Amrhein** (Assistant 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: *The Comedy of Errors & The Merry Wives of Windsor* (The Princeton Rep Shakespeare Festival, Princeton, NJ). Some of Mr. Amrhein's past productions include: *Flea in Her Ear, Damn Yankees, & Bus Stop* (The River Rep Theatre, Ivoryton, CT); *The Crimson Thread* (The Wings Theatre) and *Chess* (The Gallery Players) Off Off-Broadway; multiple designs for The Second City Comedy Group (Detroit, MI and Toronto, Canada); the national tour for *Perilous Times*; industrial designs for Carnegie Mellon University; and several designs at the University of Pittsburgh, Montclair State University, and California University of PA. He is a member of United Scenic Artists (USA) Local 829 and a professional member of 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. Joseph Walker's *The River Niger, Antigone, Tartuffe, Six Plays by Dario Fo, Callallo 7, The Miser, Camino Real, The Imaginary Invalid, and Galileo* 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. Recently she 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*.

**Andy Smith** (CLT, Theatre Technical Director) received his BFA in Technical Theatre from Adelphi University. Mr. Smith has worked at several Manhattan and Regional theatres including the Juilliard School, The Public Theatre, Urban Stages, The Daryl Roth Theatre (*De La Guarda*), the Union Square Theatre, Park Playhouse, and the New York State Theatre Institute. He is a professional member of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT).

# **York College Performing and Fine Arts Department**

**James Como-Chair**  
**Joycelyn Heywood-Administrative Assistant**  
**College Assistant –Nelisa Roach**

**SPEECH COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE ARTS**  
**Prof. Como (Chair/ Speech Communication Coordinator)**  
**Asst. Prof. Amrhein (Theatre Arts Coordinator)**  
**Prof. Nickolich**  
**Assoc. Prof. Schilling**  
**CLT Andrew Smith**

**FINE ARTS**  
**Assoc. Prof. Vendryes (Coordinator)**  
**Prof. Simkin**  
**Asst. Prof. Buxenbaum**  
**College Assistant Richard Harvey**

**MUSIC**  
**Prof. Ernst (Coordinator)**  
**Asst. Prof. Adams**  
**Asst. Prof. Faulk**  
**Sr. CLT Walter Dixon**

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

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

**Wilfred Dawes**  
**Printing Services**

**Joseph Goffredo**  
**Buildings & Grounds**

**Sr. CLT Walter Dixon**

# **YORK COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION**

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**Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs**

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**Dean of Planning and Special Assistant to the President**

**Patrick S. Madama**  
**Acting Special Assistant to the President for External Relations**

**Adolphus Frazier**  
**Assistant Dean of Evening and Weekend Programs**

## PERFORMERS FROM PAST CALALOO PRODUCTIONS

### **Afghan**

Affandy Farooq

### **African American**

Sandra Baxter

Emelia Blissett

Dwayne Booker

Justine Cox

Stephanie Iris Elmore

Clare Fowler

Lisa Freeman (Blackfoot)

Sharese Gibbs

Iris Goode

Robert Hogan

Lizzi Jackson (German/Cherokee)

Jamal Jones

Karen Jones

Marcia Kelly

Travis Lee

Mozelle Lewis

Roberta McPherson

Tommie Moore

Sonji Phillips

Karolyn Rinehardt (German)

Gloria Lowery Tyrell

Sean White

### **Bengali**

Rumana Ahmed

### **Chinese**

Lou Ling Chen

Manyin Li

### **Columbian**

Harold Garcia

### **Dominican**

Jose Sanchez

### **Ecuadorian**

Janet Cruz

### **English/Romanian**

Nadine Pritchard (Italian)

### **Ghanian**

Kwasi Addo

### **Guyanese**

Lynda Bactawar

Richard Ishamel (Indian/Portuguese)

Ramona Mackhrandilal

Fazeeda Smartt (Indian)

### **Haitian Vietnamese**

Reginal Denise

Carine Ganthier

Lynda Bactawar

Ghislaine Sulmers

### **Jamaican**

Maureen Bell

Victor Campbell

Paulette Dixon-Williams (Scottish)

Eloney Grant

Michelle Grant

Marlon Mears

Diana O'Gilvie (Chinese)

Douglas Seaton

Sonya Shaw

Tanishia Simpson

Tsahi Simpson

Deneisha Watson

Taryn Wright

### **Japanese**

Daisuke Uchiyama

### **Nigerian**

Deborah Akinyemi

### **Polish**

Mathew Sarkowicz

### **Puerto Rican**

Cheyenne Aldamuy

Hector Hernandez

Carmen Torres

Gladys Rosario Vann

### **Romanian**

Claudia Lisena (Italian)

### **Salvadorian**

Reina Ventura

**Sicilian**

Nickolas Spagnolo (German/Irish)

**Sierra Leonean**

Jennifer Horton

**Trinidadian**

Christopher Diaz

Roger Drysdale (Portugese)

Coral King

Seneca Lovelace

Nelisa Roach (Venezuelan)

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

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

## COMING EVENTS

**Spring 2004**

***BLITHE SPIRIT* by Noel Coward**

**Friday, April 30 at 4:00pm**

**Saturday, May 01 at 8:00pm**

**Sunday, May 02 at 3:00pm**

**Tuesday, May 04 at 12Noon**

**York College Little Theatre**

### **YORK CHORUS**

**Sun. May 16 at 3 PM (Location TBA)**

**York College Atrium, May 23 at 3 PM**

### **JAZZ JAM SESSION**

**In Little Theatre at York College**

**May 10 at 7:30PM**

### **JAZZ WORKSHOP CONCERT**

**In Cafeteria of York College**

**May 04 at 12 Noon**

**In Little Theatre at York College**

**May 14 at 7:30PM**

1900-1901  
The first year of the century

1902-1903  
The second year of the century

1904-1905  
The third year of the century

1906-1907  
The fourth year of the century

1908-1909  
The fifth year of the century

1910-1911  
The sixth year of the century

1912-1913  
The seventh year of the century