

Spring 2014

York College Theatre presents

**AN EVENING
OF DURANG**

2 Short Plays by Christopher Durang

Directed by Timothy J. Amrhein

**'DENTITY
CRISIS**

**The Actor's
Nightmare**

**March 21 at 4pm
March 22 at 7pm
March 23 at 3pm
March 25 at 12pm**

YORKCollege

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Christopher Durang is known for his irreverent mixture of parody, satire, nonsense and sharp moments of wit and hilarity. Both *'Dentity Crisis* and *The Actor's Nightmare* ooze of these moments and address greater, universal issues. We all struggle to define ourselves in a way that can be both comic and frightful throughout our lives. Durang takes these insecurities and exaggerates them onstage in a way that leaves us wondering about the characters we have just seen and about what we personally believe defines "individuality" and "nightmares".

We often struggle with others in our life whose strong personality imposes his or her viewpoint on others. Durang takes this theme to an extreme with his characters in *'Dentity Crisis*. We are the spectators in an arena in which finding a singular identity turns into a cacophony of personalities, leading the main character (Jane) to a complete breakdown. As we attempt to identify who we are as individuals, like Jane, we are stuck trying to understand if our lives are defined by those around us who have stronger identities or if we can truly survive as who we think we are. And, if we can survive, do we put ourselves in a situation that leaves us without a script or a path to travel down?

The Actor's Nightmare is just that—a look at what would happen if we were dumped into a situation where everyone else knew their parts, but we didn't have a clue. No matter what situation we get into on a daily basis, we always feel we know the part we are to play. However, Durang examines our deepest fear of not knowing our role and presents it in a way that becomes completely theatrical. Like our quest for individuality, many nights we lie awake pondering about tomorrow. Will we be prepared? Will things go as planned? How do we deal with change? These universal questions drive us through our daily routines and shape us as we grow older. No matter what the situation, we never want to be completely "lost" in the action of the moment. Like George, we want to know our lines, know the play and be able to give the world our best performance.

Without self-identity and a somewhat scripted day, we all tend to feel like George...with our head on the chopping block. What better way to feel good about ourselves than to sit back and enjoy watching Durang's characters go through what we would prefer not to. And they do it in a way that leaves us in stitches. Enjoy!

~Timothy J. Amrhein

Performing and Fine Arts Department COMING EVENTS – Spring 2014

FINE ARTS

MALDITA PARED: Fotografía y Texto de Cuba
Jacqueline Herranz-Brooks
Fine Arts Gallery, AC – 1B01
March 6 – April 6

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Maker-Culture and You:
How 3D Printing and Hands-On Learning Can Augment Traditional
Pedagogy – Daniel Phelps
Maker-Space, Academic Core 4M04
April 3 from 12-1:45pm

MUSIC

Kenny Burdier's Senior Recital
Illinois Jacquet Performance Space
March 25 at 7pm

Lloyd Succes' Senior Recital
Illinois Jacquet Performance Space
April 01 at 7pm

Gerard Souffrant's Senior Recital
Illinois Jacquet Performance Space
April 08 at 7pm

Rhymes With Opera in Concert
George Lam, Co-Artistic Director
Illinois Jacquet Performance Space
April 29 at 7pm

THEATRE

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare
Directed by Tom Marion
May 2 – May 11

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)

II. Speech Communication 490 (3 Credits)

Research
Independent Res

Theatre Arts 490 (3 Credits)
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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YORK College

Little Theatre/ March 21 - 125, 2014

YORK COLLEGE THEATRE

Department of Performing and Fine Arts
Timothy J. Amrhein, Chair

Presents

An Evening of Durang

2 Short Plays by Christopher Durang

Directed by *Timothy J. Amrhein

SCENIC DESIGN
David T. Jones

LIGHTING DESIGN
Timothy Hart

TECHNICAL DIRECTION
Benjamin MacKrell

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
**Jessica Pecharsky



*Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, the Union & Professional Association of Designers.

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

DENTITY CRISIS CAST:

Bellene Fisher..... JANE
Vania St. Louis..... EDITH
Anthony Castro..... ROBERT
Jose Grafals..... DR. SUMMERS
Oyinkan Ogunleye..... WOMAN
Taniesha McBean..... ASST. STAGE MANAGER

There will be a brief 5 minute pause between plays.

THE ACTOR’S NIGHTMARE CAST:

Bellene Fisher..... MEG
Vania St. Louis..... ELLEN
Anthony Castro..... HENRY IRVING
Jose Grafals..... GEORGE SPELVIN
Oyinkan Ogunleye..... SARAH
Taniesha McBean..... VOICE & EXECUTIONER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Materials for the Arts, The Village Light Opera Group, TDF Costume Collection, Matthew Katz and the Performing Arts Center Staff, Printing Services and Buildings & Grounds.



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Cellular phones, beepers and watch alarms should be turned off or set to non-audible mode.



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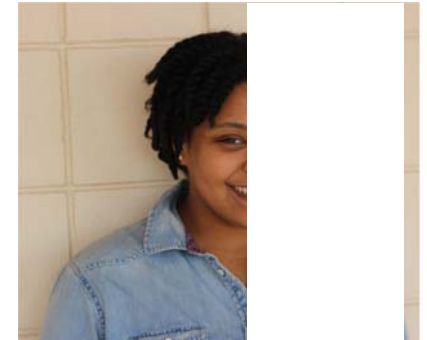
Vice President for Institutional Advancement Unit

THE CAST



ANTHONY CASTRO

(Robert & Henry Irving) is a freshmen here at York. This is his first show at York College. However, Anthony is no stranger to the stage. He has been various productions of both scripted and improvised shows throughout middle and high school.



BELLENE FISHER

(Jane & Stage Manager) is a junior at York College double majoring in English and Theatre Arts. This production is her debut on the stage but she is not a stranger to the York College Theatre. She has been part of the costume crew for *Dreamgirls* and *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. She is currently part of the York College Drama Royals. In the future she aspires to be an actress and playwright for both theatre and film. Bellene want to thank everyone who made this production possible. She would also like to thank all of the people that believed in her to do this play; she wouldn't be here without them.

THE CAST



JOS E GRAFALS

(*Dr. Summers & George Spelvin*) has been delighted to work closely with his team in an effort to pull off what is one of his first acting roles ever. Usually working behind the lens of a camera and doing the directing himself, Jose has temporarily switched gears in his learning experience to explore what it means to be an actor. His wish is to gravitate to more acting roles in the near future. With the support of those closest to him, his ultimate goal is to mold his imperfections as an aspiring filmmaker. He thanks all of his loved ones for standing by and watching him grow.



TANIESHA McBEAN

(*Asst. Stage Manager, Voice & Executioner*) is currently a senior at York College. She is majoring in Journalism with a minor in Theatre Arts. She has performed in a number of plays such as *The Hedge*, *Thursdays*, and *In our Home* to list a few. She enjoys singing and reading in her free time and hopes to become an anchor and have her own television show.

YORK COLLEGE PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

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

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Asst. Prof. Smith (Coordinator)
H.E.O. Phelps

FINE ARTS

Assoc. Prof. Buxenbaum (Studio Arts Coordinator)
Asst. Prof. Gillespie (Art History Coordinator)
Distinguished Lecturer Prof. Vendryes
Prof. Simkin (Emeritus)

MUSIC

Asst. Prof. Zlabinger (Coordinator)
Asst. Prof. Lam
Sr. CLT Dixon
Prof. Ernst (Emeritus)

SPEECH COMMUNICATION

Lecturer Corkery (Coordinator)
Asst. Prof. Metcalf
Asst. Prof. Gieseler
Prof. Como (Emeritus)

THEATRE ARTS

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

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 professional member of Actors Equity Association (AEA).

BENJAMIN MACKRELL

(*Technical Director / CLT*) holds a Bachelors Degree in Theater from Goucher College in Baltimore. As Technical Director for Manoa Valley Theater Hawaii's premier off-Broadway playhouse, he received the award for "Outstanding Technical Direction" from the Hawaii State Theater Council in 2010, a category created that year. He also received Po'okela Awards for his outstanding set designs for *Little Shop Of Horrors* (2011), *Sleuth* (2010), *Tuesdays with Morrie* (2009) all at Manoa Valley Theater. He was also awarded Broadwayworld.com Outstanding Lighting Design of a Play for *Sight Unseen* at Baltimore's Fells Point Corner Theater in 2006. His passion lies in helping theater artists realize their vision and making it possible for audiences to be emotionally and intellectually transported.



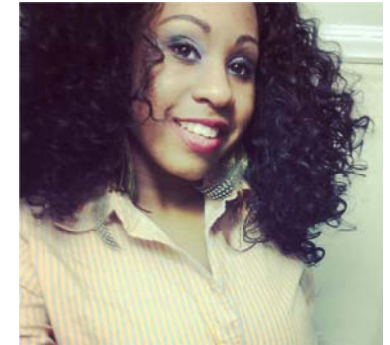
THE CAST



OYINKAN OGUNLEYE

(*Woman & Sarah*) is a senior at York majoring in Black Studies.

Her past credits include *Txt Msg*, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, *Charlie Victor Romeo*, *The Tempest*, *I Am Pan Africa* and *SuBurbia*. She has also danced in The Red Shoes Club's productions of *Once Upon a Time* and *Mix It Up*. She likes to keep herself occupied with many activities in and outside of school. Her career goal is to become an Obstetrician. She strongly believes that "You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead pursue the things you love doing and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off of you" ~ Maya Angelou.



VANIA ST. LOUIS

(*Edith & Ellen*) was last seen in both *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and *The Tuskegee Airmen Project*. She also appeared in the Drama Club's production, *The Love Magnet* and has danced in numerous Red Shoes Club productions. Last summer she performed in *Starving But Making It*, directed by Jessica Pecharsky, and she worked as Head Seamstress for last year's productions of *Dreamgirls* and *A Flea in Her Ear*.

GUEST ARTIST



TIMOTHY HART (*Lighting Designer*) is thrilled to be back at York College to be working on *An Evening of Durang*. New York City credits include: *Valentine* (Outcast Theatre Company), *Thank You For Being A Friend* (Spin Cycle), *The Tuskegee Airmen Project*

(York College), *Two Gentleman of Verona* (Shrunken Shakespeare), *Strange Rain* (NYC Fringe). Regional lighting design credits include: *Miracle On 34th Street* (Children's Theatre of Charlotte), *A Raisin In The Sun* and *The Little Prince* (Clarence Brown Theatre), *Rape Of Lucretia* and *La Boheme* (UTK Opera Theatre), *The Crucible* and *Crimes of The Heart* (Stagedoor Manor Theatre).

SPECIAL THANKS



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DAVID T. JONES (*Adjunct Lecturer of Theatre and Drama Club Advisor*) has designed more than 15 of York College Theatre's productions since 2008, including *Anna in the Tropics*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Speak Out*, *Scapin*, *The Tempest*, *Fabulation*, *Fame*, *Rent*, *Dreamgirls* and last year's *Le Boyurgois Gentilhomme*. 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 *Heartbeat*, *Macbeth*, *Fabulation*, *The Exonerated*, *The Tempest*, and was the creator/director of *Istwa!* (which was subsequently performed at the 2011 International Fringe Festival, NYC) and *SPEAK OUT* (which was subsequently performed at The Bowery Poetry Club in Manhattan and at York as part of Black History Month.) Most recently, he conceived *The Tuskegee Airmen Project* that was presented at York in October.



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.

THEATRE ARTS FACULTY



TIMOTHY J. AMRHEIN (Chair of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts and an Associate 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 past directorial credits

include: *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, *Dreamgirls*, *La Luz De Un Cigarrillo*, *RENT*, *SlapDASH*, *All in the Timing*, *FAME the Musical*, *Yo Soy Latina*, *Scapin*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *Oleanna*, *Into the Woods* and *Once Upon A Mattress*. Mr. Amrhein has also designed both costumes and scenery throughout the United States. Some of his most recent designs have been *No Exit*, *Galileo*, *Endgame*, *Charley's Aunt* and *Antigone* (York College), the first New York City revival of *The Full Monty* and *The Fantasticks* (The Gallery Players) and *Twelfth Night* (Princeton Repertory Shakespeare Festival). Other design and directing credits include work for the Village Light Opera Group, the Princeton Repertory Shakespeare Festival, the River Rep Theatre Company, the Wings Theatre, The Second City (Detroit and Toronto), Carnegie Mellon University, and the California Repertory Theatre. 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 *Scapin* and most recently the Award for Creative Excellence for his set design of *The Hedge* from the Arts in Christian Theatre. Prof. Amrhein has also translated the Dominican play, *La Luz De Un Cigarrillo*, by Marco Antonio Rodriguez from Spanish into English with the help of the cast. The English premier was performed in October of 2012 at York College. He is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829 and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

THE PLAYWRIGHT



CHRISTOPHER DURANG is a playwright whose plays include *A History of the American Film* (Tony nomination, Best Book of a Musical, 1978), *The Actor's Nightmare*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* (Obie award; off-Bway run 1981-83), *Beyond Therapy* (on Broad-way in 1982, with Dianne Wiest and John Lithgow), *Baby with the Bathwater* (Playwrights Horizons, 1983), *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* (Public Theatre, 1985; Obie award, Dramatists Guild Hull Warriner Award), *Laughing Wild* (Playwrights Horizons, 1987), *Durang/Duran*

(an evening of six plays at Manhattan Theatre Club, 1994, (including the Tennessee Williams' parody, *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*), *Sex and Longing* (Lincoln Center Theatre production at the Cort Theatre, 1996, starring Sigourney Weaver), and *Betty's Summer Vacation* (Playwrights Horizons, 1999; Obie award).

PRODUCTION CREW

Scenic Designer	David T. Jones
Lighting Designer	Timothy Hart
Technical Director.....	Benjamin MacKrell
Production Stage Manager.....	Jessica Pecharsky
Light Board Operator.....	Donnell Jones
Sound Board Operator.....	Benjamin Mackrell
Spotlight Operators.....	Maria Isabel Suero Santos
Deck Crew.....	Israel Lewis
.....	Shaniqua Weekes & Paige Williams
Backstage Crew.....	Lisa Belloni, Giovann Delacruz, Monique Johnson, Victoria Marquez & Carlin Williams
Wardrobe Crew.....	Anthony Alicea
House Manager.....	Shatiek Johnson
Box Office.....	Renee Whitfield, Monique Barrett, Nadia Fuzaylova & Shaliesha Heath
Poster and Cover Design.....	Timothy J. Amrhein

BACKSTAGE CREW

LISA BELLONI (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York College and is working in theatre for the first time. She is a Sociology major and Psychology minor, but loves painting and arts-and-crafts projects as some of her spare-time hobbies. She will be graduating in May and plans to pursue her Masters in Social Work. She feels that theatre (whether front- or backstage) is a great place to get in touch with your creative side.

GIOVANN DELACRUZ (Backstage Crew) is a sophomore at York College who is majoring in Theatre. This is his first time working backstage for a York production and he plans to work on many more. Giovanni is interested in the film industry and will continue to study this field of work.

MONIQUE JOHNSON (Backstage Crew) is an upper sophomore majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. This is her first production at York College.

DONNELL JONES (Light Board Operator) is majoring in Marketing at York College. This will be his first experience working backstage.

ISRAEL LEWIS (Deck Crew) is an upper sophomore at York majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts who loves acting and music. He has acted in some short films and plays at St. John's University and at York. He is currently in another play off-Broadway. His future plans are to become one of the greatest actors in history and a master of emotions. He lives by the motto: "Why settle for good when you can be great?"

VICTORIA MARQUEZ (Backstage Crew) is an upper freshman at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. In her younger years, Victoria participated in school productions. She loves to read anything from fiction to Greek mythology and enjoys listening to Indie Rock, Classic Rock, Hip-hop, Blues and Jazz. She also loves to work with her hands, building and sculpting. She hopes to become a speech therapist and help soldiers who have acquired speech impediments.

MARIA ISABEL SUERO SANTOS (Backstage Crew) is a lower senior seeking a BA in Spanish. She works for the SEEK program as a Spanish tutor. She loves to dance, play volleyball and laugh. She arrived from the Dominican Republic in 2006 and has a very strong accent! She loves to be happy and make others smile.

SHANIQUA WEEKES (Props) previously worked on *The Tuskegee Airmen Project* for York College Theatre. She is acquiring even more skills working backstage this semester and thanks Ben for showing her the ever more complex ropes!

PAIGE WILLIAMS (Props) is a Marketing major who is minoring in Theatre Arts. She hopes to become an Events Planner after graduation. She plans on using the skills learned in the backstage course toward future home improvement projects.

CARLIN WILLIAMS (Backstage Crew) is an upper senior at York College majoring in Sociology and happy to be involved with Theatre Arts once again. Last semester, she worked on both *The Tuskegee Airmen Project* and *The Bourgeois Gentleman*. She has a passion for fashion and enjoys designing and bringing old clothes to life! After graduating she hopes to get her Masters Degree in Social Work, working with children in the mental health field, and additionally to pursue her dream of becoming a stylist/fashion designer.



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