

THE MILTON G. BASSIN

# PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

AT YORK COLLEGE

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REASONS TO BE

# pretty



BY NEIL LABUTE

PRESENTED BY YORK COLLEGE THEATRE  
FRI, MARCH 23 @ 4P • SAT, MARCH 24 @ 7P  
SUN, MARCH 25 @ 3P • TUES, MARCH 27 @ 12P

TICKETS: \$7 STUDENTS / \$10 GENERAL



For the sake of the performers, your fellow audience, and the theatre facility:

Please!



# YORK COLLEGE THEATRE

Department of Performing and Fine Arts  
Margaret Vendryes, Chair  
Little Theatre / March 23 -27, 2018

*Presents*

## *Reasons to Be Pretty*

By Neil LaBute

SCENIC DESIGN

**David Jones**

COSTUMING ASSISTANCE

**Jaclyn Cohen**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Christina Tang**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Joshua Warner**

STAGE MANAGEMENT

**Jose Joel Cruz**

PERFORMANCE COACH

**Adrianna Riolo**

ADVISOR TO THE PRODUCTION

**Tom Marion**

*Directed by* **T. Clifton Smith**

### CAST

Gandhy Beauvil

Ishaq Cooke

Eunique Doran

Noella Mubiala

# THE CAST



## **Gandhy Beauvil (Greg)**

is a Theatre Arts Major finishing out his junior year. He's excited to be in his first play here at York College and dedicates his performance to his mother and godmother. He's a passionate stand-up comedian & performs at a wide variety of comedy clubs around the city. With his hard work and dedication he has high hopes of being a phenomenal entertainer.



## **Ishaq Cooke (Kent)**

is an upper junior with a major in Biology and a minor in Theater Arts. He has a passion for acting and play-writing, and enjoys watching theatrical productions. This is his second play at York College Theatre; last semester he played Dr. Sigmund Freud in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*.



## **Eunique Doran (Carla)**

is a senior with a major in Communications Technology and a minor in Theatre Arts. She has hosted workshops, created podcasts and performed with the nonprofit organization, Vibe Theater. Last season at York College Theatre she played Themba in the *Water Carriers* which was also presented at the Midtown International Theatre Festival last summer. She would like to thank everyone who has supported her with such tremendous opportunities.



## **Noella Mubiala (Steph)**

is a recent York graduate with a degree in Speech Communication and Theatre Arts. This is her first lead role at York College Theatre. Last year she did a short film for NYU with Professor Hadi Tabbal. She will be attending grad school in fall 2018, studying television and film production.

# *BACKSTAGE CREW*

**KEVIN CAMPBELL** (Backstage Crew) is a junior at York College currently majoring in Movement Science. He also plays volleyball at York. While taking Introduction to Theatre 110 with Prof. Duffy, she mentioned the availability of backstage classes. Kevin finds it to be a great experience. In this class, he plans to obtain information and hands-on experience in building and theatre technology.

**NADIA ETKINS** (Props) is a freshman and this is her first time working backstage on a York College production. She enjoys the hands-on experience of working backstage and seeing how everything happens in the theatre arts.

**JUN HONG** (Backstage Crew) is a junior who recently transferred from Queensborough Community College. He is a Theatre Arts major and a Communications Technology minor. This is his second semester at York College. He had a lot of fun working backstage on *Judas Iscariot* last semester and hopes to continue working for the theatre in the future. He would like to thank all his professors for their instruction and patience. He has aspirations to one day become an expert theatre technician.

**MOQUDAS “MOMO” JAFFREY** (Backstage Crew) is originally a Biology major who has a love for Theatre Arts-- two very different fields, but equally loved. She started taking part in shows during her adolescent years. At first, participation was mandatory, but she ended up falling in love with the stage. Her interest began at a very young age. Watching her cousin grow up and acting for television back home in India developed a sense of respect and love for all actors.

**MARIA JEAN** (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York College majoring in Political Science and minoring in Pre-Law. She was born and raised in Haiti. In her spare time, she enjoys sketching, writing, reading and listening to music. This is her first time working backstage on any sort of production for theatre and she does so with excitement and fascination. This is her way of exploring more than the political world and being diverse in knowledge.

**PIERRE VAILS** (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York majoring in Communications Technology. He is an aspiring screenwriter and wishes to create content for the web and television in the future. This is his first production and he looks forward to doing more work behind the scenes.

**STEPHANIE VELAZQUEZ** (Props) is an upper junior at York College majoring in Journalism with a minor in Theatre Arts. She has a passion for fashion and plans to pursue runway fashion after she graduates. This is her first time working backstage and she is enjoying every minute of it. However, she cannot wait to perform in future plays.

**MICHAEL YOUNG** (Backstage Crew) is a junior at York College majoring in Movement Science. He likes playing pool and basketball and likes to work out. Mike is also a part of the Drama Club and is looking forward to working backstage during our productions.

## PRODUCTION

### **Christina Tang** (*Lighting Design*)

is a lighting designer based in NYC. Recent credits include *Distant Star* (CABORCA), *The Glory of Living* (Rising Sun Performance Company - Winner, Outstanding Lighting Design, *Planet Connections* Theatre Festivity), and *Tiny Hornets* (The Drunkard's Wife). Formerly at York College: Associate Lighting Design, *The Water Carriers*. [christinaftang.com](http://christinaftang.com)

### **Jose Joel Cruz** (*Stage Manager*)

is a senior Theatre Arts major born & raised in the Bronx. He made his debut at York College Theatre as Paris in *Romeo & Juliet*. Last season he played the title role in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. This semester he is excited to be interning at Teatro Circulo on West 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. A lover of acting since an introduction to Dr. Glory's Youth Theatre at the age of thirteen, he hopes to make theatre his life-long career.

### **Joshua Warner** (*Technical Director*)

York College: *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Water Carriers*, *Tartuffe* (Theatre Arts), *Water Carriers* (MITF). He is also an award-winning scenic designer for theatre, film, and television. Design: Off Broadway: *Boys from Syracuse* (Musicals Tonight!). Off-Off: *Cleopatra: The New Pop Experience* (TNC), *Ciao Bambino* (13th Street Rep). Tour: *Twelfth Night*, *Noel: a Brooklyn Christmas Story*, *Macbeth*, *Good King Wenceslas* (Stages on the Sound). 2016 & 2017 resident scenic designer for CLOC. Recipient of two EVVY Awards. He is currently full time staff and teaches TA 105- Introduction to Scenic Design and TA 314 Computer Design for the Stage. BFA Emerson College. [www.joshuawarnerdesign.com](http://www.joshuawarnerdesign.com)



T. Clifton Smith

## T. Clifton Smith (Director)

is a recent York Theatre Arts graduate. He was seen at York College Theatre as Satan in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* last semester. Other York roles include *The Water Carriers* (Midtown International Fringe Festival), *Race*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. He hopes to make acting his life-long career. An actor & writer, he has worked on *Riding Big: The Movie* (2016) & *Travis Porter: Red Rock*.

### Director's Notes:

***Reasons to Be Pretty*** opened on Broadway written for a cast playing white characters. By casting Black actors, I wish to initiate important conversations about race and beauty. Given our country's history of slavery and its coursing virus of racism, American standards of beauty have been based perpetually on the idealized depictions of White women's physical features - fair skin, long straight hair, thin lips, a small nose. These images are reinforced incessantly through various platforms – commercial advertisements, television, film, friends, community, work, family, and as revealed in this play, intimate relationships.

How does the unceasing pressure of these standards affect a Black woman's feeling of self-worth and ownership of her personal body image? How does it affect the expectations, social status, and desire of Black men? How can something as shallow as beauty, by itself, infect a long-term relationship or even a marriage based on true and faithful love when its importance is magnified and distorted through the lens of American perception?

Thank you for attending and I hope you enjoy the show.

--- T. Clifton Smith

## 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 Bourgeoise Gentilehomme*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Aida*, *Race*, *5 Guys Named Moe*, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. 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** (*Associate 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. 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.) Recently, he presented the York College Theatre OUTREACH original production of *Langston Hughes in Harlem* at LaMama ETC, and the new play *The Water Carriers* at the Midtown International Theatre Festival.



**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.





## YORK COLLEGE DEPARTMENT PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS

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**Angela Robinson** - CUNY Office Assistant  
**Evangelista Goris** – College Assistant

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**Assoc. Prof. Phelps**

### FINE ARTS

**Assoc. Prof. Hajikano** (Coordinator)  
**Assoc. Prof. Buxenbaum**  
**Asst. Prof. Sandoval De Leon**  
**Assoc. Prof. Vendryes**  
**CLT Fraser**

### MUSIC

**Asst. Prof. George Lam** (Coordinator)  
**Lecturer Mark Adams**  
**Asst. Prof. Zlabinger**

### SPEECH COMMUNICATION

**Asst. Prof. Gieseler** (Coordinator)  
**Asst. Prof. Tung**  
**Prof. Como** (Emeritus)

### THEATRE ARTS

**Assoc. Prof. Marion** (Coordinator)  
**CLT Warner**  
**Prof Barbara Nickolich** (Emeritus)

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