

THE MILTON G. BASSIN

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

AT YORK COLLEGE

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# BIG LOVE

BY CHARLES L. MEE

November 30	4pm
December 1	7pm
December 4	12pm
December 7	7pm
December 8	2pm

**Tickets** **\$9-12**

PRESENTED BY YORK COLLEGE  
THEATRE DEPARTMENT OF  
PERFORMING & FINE ARTS



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 / November 30 – December 8, 2018

*Presents*

# BIG LOVE

By Charles Mee

SCENIC DESIGN

**David T. Jones**

COSTUME DESIGN

**Jaclyn Cohen**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Christina Tang**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Joshua Warner**

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGEMENT

**Myrlevens Adrien**

STAGE MANAGEMENT

**Jabaree Muhammad**

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY

**Leah Schwartz**

ASSISTANT DIRECTION & SOUND PRODUCTION

**Rilwan Alaka**

*Directed by* **Tom Marion**

## CAST

Ishaq Cooke   Ryan Denis   Nataly Guzman   Akijah Hall  
Jun Hong   Jonathan Rodriguez   Katreena Stuart  
Yasiel Sanchez   Starshima Trent   Stephanie Velazquez

*with*

Myrlevens Adrien   Rilwan Alaka   Tiffany Hosein   Chevon Henry  
Micheal Young   Safiyah Wilkerson

# THE CAST



## **Ishaq Cooke** (*Nikos*)

Ishaq is a senior studying Biology. *Big Love* is the third York production he has performed in. His previous works include *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and *Reasons to Be Pretty*. He loves writing and looks forward to working further in theater and film.



## **Ryan Denis** (*Oed*)

is a junior majoring in Theatre Arts with a minor in Communications Technology. His passion is styling clothing. This is his first time performing in a York College play; the experience has been great. He also enjoys working backstage.



## **Nataly Guaman** (*Olympia*)

is an Aviation Management major – passionate about airplanes, music, dancing and acting. She won a local TV show competition with her song "Bailame" and is working on her clothing brand called JeyDoll. Nataly dedicates her victories to God and to making her mother proud.



## **Akijah Hall** (*Guiliano*)

is a junior Theatre Arts major. He was seen in last semester's musical production of *HAIR*. He would like to thank his friends, family, and professors for their support for his love of theater.



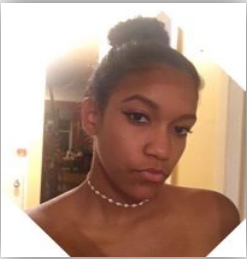
**Jun Hong** (*Constantine*)

is a senior at York College, majoring in Theatre Arts and minoring in Communications Technology. He aspires to continue a career as a stage technician after he finishes school. He is very excited to make his YC Theatre acting debut in *Big Love* (which he also helped build the set for) and see how life is on the "other side".



**Jonathan Rodriguez** (*Leo*)

is a senior Theatre Arts major and Communication Technology minor. He performed in YC Theatre's *HAIR*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and *The Water Carriers* at the Midtown International Theater Festival in Manhattan. He would like to thank his friends, family, and cast-mates for giving him the strength to perform for all of you this evening.



**Yasiel Sanchez** (*Piero*)

is in her last year at York and is performing in her second YC Theatre production. She is majoring in Business with a minor in Theatre Arts and hopes to continue her acting endeavors after graduation.



**Katreena Stuart** (*Thyona*)

is a senior Theatre Arts major and has participated in numerous productions during her time here. Katreena is recognized as an Irene Ryan Nominee and would like to thank God for this opportunity and her family and friends for the support they give.



### **Starshima Trent** (*Lydia*)

is a senior majoring in Speech Communication & Theater Arts. She was seen in the YC Theater musical *HAIR* as Jeanine. Recently, she starred, wrote, and directed a Kabuki performance called *Furōra*. She has been in multiple shows off-Broadway for the last ten years in Manhattan at The All Stars Project. She would like to thank all her family and friends for their support.



### **Stephanie Velazquez**

(*Bella/Eleanor*)

is a senior Journalism major and Theatre Arts minor with a passion for fashion. She also enjoys traveling and history. Stephanie aspires to be a fashion stylist and make fashion inclusive for all.

### **Chevon Henry** (*Groom*)

Chevon is a student at York College studying visual art. This is his first show ever here at York College. He is excited to be part of this performance and wants to explore the acting world.

### **Safiyyah Wilkerson** (*Bride*)

Safiyyah is a young visual artist that enjoys dabbling in theater and music. She currently studies animation and motion graphics at Borough of Manhattan Community College, but in her free time studies script writing and stage combat. She also enjoys watching improv and comedy shows.

**MYRLEVENS ADRIEN** (*also seen on stage as a Bride*) is a senior at York College majoring in Sociology with minors in Theatre Arts and Youth Studies. She is an EMT, started Nursing and will go back to school for Midwifery. Despite her love for medicine, she is really passionate about acting and has acted several times in high school and at BAM with her high school senior class. Her dream is to become an expert in Fetal and Maternal Medicine and to also be a world class actress.

**KENIEL FRANCIS** is a senior at York College. He is a Theatre major who found his love for theatre at Queens High School of Teaching. He is excited to share his passion for theatre with his friends and family and would like to thank them for their love and support as well.

**ANNETTE HAMPTON** is a sophomore at York College majoring in Speech Communication and Theatre Arts with dreams of being a photographer or director. Born in Brooklyn and now a Harlem Knight, Annette has always had a love for all forms of the arts around New York from street dance and graffiti to shows like “Broad City” and “Search Party.”

**TIFFANY HOSEIN** (*also seen on stage as a Bride*) is a Theatre Arts major at York College. She has done background acting and transferred to York this semester. It is her first time working on scenic painting for a stage production. She is very happy to participate both onstage and backstage.

**JUN HONG** is a senior at York College majoring in Theatre Arts and minoring in Communications Technology. He is excited to continue his career as a stage technician. This is his third semester working backstage at York and he’s had a lot of fun working on this show. He is making his acting debut in “Big Love,” which premieres in December.

**OSAYORYABOR IGBENOKUN** is a Speech Communication/Theatre Arts senior at York College. He plans on pursuing a career in Speech Pathology. His passion is music and he is excited to share his upcoming musical projects. He believes communication is the



quintessential part of humanity and wants to spread its importance through his music.

**MOQUDAS “MOMO” JAFFREY** 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.

**RENEE MORRIS** is a senior at York College majoring in Nursing. She is working toward becoming either a nurse practitioner or pediatric nurse. This is her first time working on a York College production. She enjoys the arts and is working on turning her hobbies into career paths.

**JERMAL VINCENT** is a sophomore at York College majoring in Theatre Arts. This is his first theatre experience at York, however he has been a performer since middle school. He was a student at the Harlem School of the Arts during his junior and senior years at high school, and he is now part of the school’s resident program, The Legacy Arts Program, which explores the students’ African background through dance, song, masks and storytelling.

**SHAKIERA WATSON** is a junior at York College majoring in social work. Her passion is to help others. She is new to the world of theatre and is excited to see what is in store for her working backstage for the first time. She is planning to start her social work field placement in foster care at the end of the current semester.

**MICHAEL YOUNG** (*also seen on stage as a Groom*) is an upper junior at York College majoring in Movement Science and seeking to minor in Theatre Arts. This would be his second semester working backstage for York’s productions. He is also a part of the Drama Club at York. Being around other Theatre majors and minors helps him keep an open and creative mind.



# 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). At York College: *Milk Like Sugar*, *The Water Carriers*, *HAIR*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. [christinaftang.com](http://christinaftang.com)

## **Jaclyn Cohen (Costume Design)**

is thrilled to be a part of this production. Past credits include *HAIR* (*Costume Design*, *YC Theatre*), *The Sorceress* (Assistant Designer, National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene), *Amerike: The Golden Land* (Assistant Designer, National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene), *Lizzie Stranton* (Designer, Emerson Stage), and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Co-Designer, Boston Children's Theater).

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

*YC Theatre: HAIR, Reasons to be Pretty, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, Five Guys Named Moe, Water Carriers, Tartuffe, Water Carriers* (MITF). He is also an award-winning scenic designer for theatre, film, and television. Design: York College: *Milk Like Sugar, A Comedy of Errors*; 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. [joshuawarnerdesign.com](http://joshuawarnerdesign.com)

## **Leah Schwartz (Fight Choreographer)**

has intensely studied stage combat for over five years in Massachusetts, New York, and London. She has worked as a fight choreographer for the past two years in NYC. Recent credits include *Poets Are The Destroyers* (film) and *Witch Please* (The People's Improv

Theatre, NYC). Additionally, Leah trains in Krav Maga and holds a practitioner level two certification. She would like to sincerely thank Tom and the cast for their faith in her work and their dedication to the play.

### **Rilwan Alaka (Assistant Director)**

is a senior majoring in Theatre Arts. He is Nigerian American, and has been seen in various YC Theatre productions including *Romeo & Juliet*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Water Carriers*. He plans to continue acting and directing. He gives all glory to God for where he is. He thanks all his friends and family for their unyielding support.

### **Jabaree A.M. aka Jay F. Aseem (Stage Manager)**

is a senior at York College studying Theater Arts. He is President of the Theater Club, and very excited to be stage managing the production *Big Love*. Jabaree has also performed in multiple shows at YC Theatre including *Hair*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *The Water Carriers*, *Tartuffe*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. This is his final semester at York College.



### *Special Thanks*

*Kwame Clarke &  
the Milton G. Bassin  
PAC Staff*

*Mark Adams*

*YC Printing Services*

*Gloria Amparo Giraldo*

## Director's Notes:

*Big Love* by Charles Mee is a modern realization of classic Greek Tragedy loosely based on *The Suppliants*, by Aeschylus. Mee states: "It's all about refugees and gender wars and men and women trying to find what will get them through the rubble of dysfunctional relationships, and anger and rage and heartache. ...You know, unlike so much drama on television, where there's a small misunderstanding at the top of the hour that you know is going to be resolved before the final commercial break. The Greeks start with matricide, fratricide..." In other words, it is perfect for today!

A 40th anniversary edition of *The World According to Garp* came out this month with a brand new introduction by the author. In it, John Irving describes how he had thought that the book would grow to irrelevance within a few years. A sharp and often funny novel, its themes include feminism, men and masculinity, sex, and respect for LBGTs. He had figured that soon the nation's attitudes would change and that new laws would be passed to protect those who are too easily looked over, oppressed, or harassed. He figured wrong. All these years later, these themes are more pertinent than ever.

Recently *Vanity Fair* magazine revisited the story of Lorena Bobbitt who cut off the penis of her philandering husband while he slept. "Twenty-five years ago, one woman's act of rage against her husband riveted the world. She's moved on. He hasn't." Interviewed for the article, the husband, John Wayne Bobbit, who after his dis-"member"-ment went on to capitalize on his fame, including a pornographic film called *Frankenpenis*, protests to the interviewer, Lili Anolik: "I didn't batter Lorena...I'm a Marine. I'm trained to protect people." To this Anolik writes: "He's waiting for me to respond and it suddenly dawns on me why his eyes unnerved me so that day. They're Trump's eyes – small, blue, panicky. In a rush, I realize how much the two have in common: tabloid covers, The Playboy Mansion, pornographic actresses ... It's the macho swagger coupled with the crybaby belief that the human race has wronged them, that it's a witch hunt or that they've been framed, fake news ...somehow John and Trump are the primitive men who are, paradoxically, the modern men. "

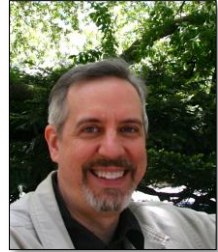
What's old is new again. Thank you for joining us!

## 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 Gentlehomme*, *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, 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, *The Comedy of Errors* at Queen's Central Library 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.



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## York College Theatre